

DOWNTOWN LITTLE ROCK MASTER PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIZATION

[LINK TO THE WEBSITE](#) - SURVEY CLOSES MARCH 15, 2024

Projects are undertakings that result in permanent physical changes. These are often seen as a catalyst to, or result of development that affects the built environment.

- Extend dedicated transit service down Main Street to connect Downtown to neighborhoods south of I-630, with considerations for east-west expansion in future.
- Improve existing bridges over highways to improve pedestrian and bike connectivity into downtown
- Construct a new park in the River Market where the I-30 ramps have been removed.
- Create a trail network that finishes the Arkansas River, Southwest and Southeast Trails; establishes a new Capitol Greenway; and utilizes the State Capitol Grounds to connect to the Rose Creek Greenway.
- Construct a Cultural Loop Trail that connects key historic and cultural assets within Downtown.
- Establish neighborhood hearts in each district, with investment in streetscape and infrastructure enhancements in key nodes that build off existing assets like popular businesses and historic buildings.

Policies define requirements and incentive programs to control and influence future changes. They are physically immaterial but affect real-world change.

- Operate a dedicated transit route connecting destinations such as UAMS, the Capitol, Children's Hospital, Philander Smith, the River Market, and East Village.
- Establish streetscape design guidelines to inform the construction of green streets and corridors that lead to the river and green spaces.
- Enhance placemaking and branding that reinforce downtown's unique distinct identities through placemaking and branding.
- Implement shared parking and parking benefit districts in key locations to better utilize existing parking resources and enable infill development.
- Incentivize the construction of new "daily needs retail" such as a grocery store and a pharmacy.

Programs are actions taken to control and influence elements of the Study Area but do not require permanent physical changes. These are tools that can help to generate revenue and maintain investments.

- Create a new Downtown Parks Conservancy to serve as a philanthropic support organization for park and trail enhancements.

- Improve street grid functionality, prioritizing conversion of streets to two-way and implementing road diets to improve multi mobility on key corridors.
- Establish a Downtown Public Events Revolving Fund and a Public Art Fund to finance public events and public art within Downtown.
- Establish a Black Entrepreneurship and Incubator Hub located on West Ninth Street to provide affordable space for start-up businesses.
- Develop a residential development toolkit and guidebook to encourage new residential construction.

Partnerships are arrangements between public, private, and/or non-profit entities to collaborate on the delivery of a desired outcome.

- Partner with Rock Region Metro to reimagine the River Cities Travel Center for affordable housing and development while maintaining the site as the central transit hub.
- Reimagine the Arkansas River frontage, removing barriers and developing adjacent land to create an active urban waterfront.
- Partner with Arkansas-based higher education institutions to expand their presence in Downtown to drive innovation and activity.
- Build new mixed-income, affordable housing and other development on publicly-owned land through public-private partnerships in order to deliver infill development and more housing options.