



**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
March 11, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Location:
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL**

PRESENTATION ON CATHOLIC CARE PACKS PROGRAM (JEAN PAGGEN)

MIDWEST HIGH SPEED RAIL ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DOWNTOWN
REVITALIZATION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

Documents:

[DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN PROGRESS COUNCIL STUDY
SESSION 03-11-2019.PDF](#)

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Downtown Revitalization Plan

Progress Report



CITY OF ROCK ISLAND **DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN**

ADOPTED MAY 2015 • PREPARED BY HOUSEAL LAVIGNE ASSOCIATES

What is the Plan About?

- Written in 2015, the DRP built on previous plans (10+) to layout a flexible framework for improving downtown Rock Island.
- Developed with significant input from the public, businesses, and other stakeholders.
- Addresses administrative actions, regulatory actions, partnerships, resource prioritization, and funding.

Development Regulations

- Zoning ordinance is currently being updated to be more in line with the plan.
- Streetscape guidelines have been developed.
- Downtown National Register District nomination is underway.
- Other work continues on multiple fronts.



Development Promotion

- Staff encourage a diversified business community and are not looking for any one industry.
- Every development is carefully evaluated on a case by case basis to achieve the highest quality design possible.
- New partnerships are always being sought.
- Façade Improvement Program, Commercial Revolving Loan Fund (CRLF), and Enterprise Zone will be a focus of new economic development manager.

Sense of Place

- Streetscape guidelines are a major part of this.
- Increasing/improving public art has been an ongoing effort of the Arts Advisory Commission and staff.
- An inventory of all downtown businesses, including performance venues, will be an ongoing effort of the new economic development manager.



Improved Transportation

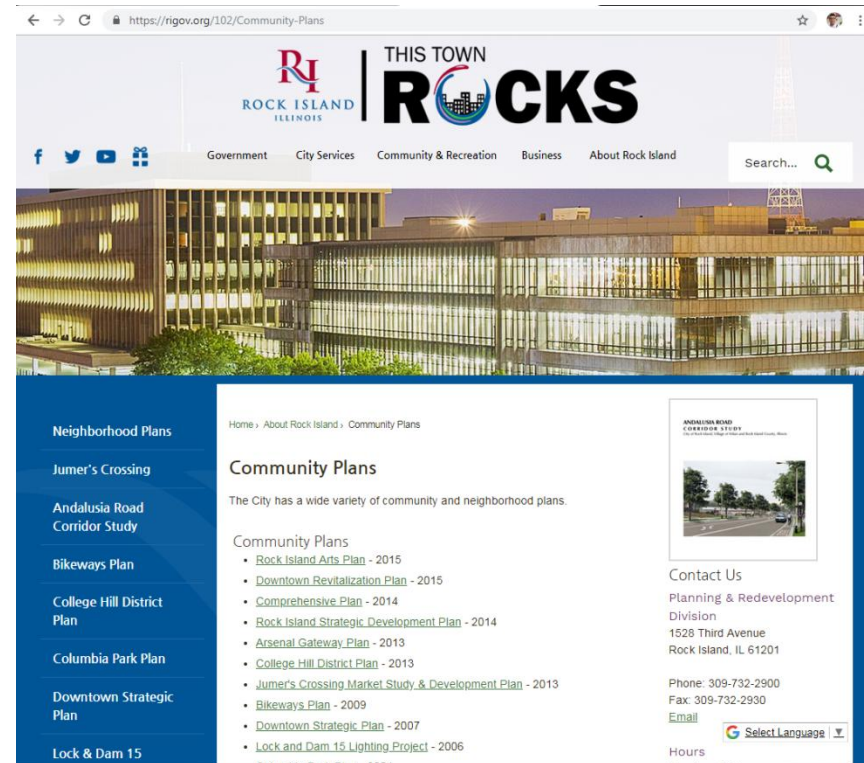
- Improving pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure is a continuing conversation between IDOT, Public Works, and others.
- 1st Avenue “road diet” remains an ongoing dialogue that will continue long term.
- Interest remains in working with MetroLINK to improve public transportation options.

Improved Parking

- Existing parking garage will undergo substantial repairs in the near future.
- Additional parking garages are not feasible in the near term.
- Multiple improvements have been made by Finance and Public works to both parking enforcement and signage.
- Further changes to parking are on the table as part of any streetscaping improvements.

Plan Promotion

- The plan is available on the city website.
- Staff can do more regular updates, like this presentation, on the progress of this plan.
- There is a clear need to communicate our successes in a better way. Staff is thinking more intentionally about this.



Follow Up Actions

- Establish a walking committee and a multi-model task force to get some more detailed feedback about enacting streetscaping.
- Have the Preservation Commission, the Arts Advisory Committee, and other bodies review their respective plan components.
- Explore parking lot sharing options with Modern Woodmen.

Follow Up Actions: Great River Plaza

- Major changes to the plaza are not financially feasible at this time.
- How the plaza and stage can be better utilized is an ongoing conversation that will require more public input.
- Short term improvements include deep cleaning, improved plantings, and minor modifications to the stage.



Follow Up Actions: Partnerships

- Various city departments (CED, PW, P&R) are responsible for the downtown and must increase their collaboration.
- The city must continue to partner with organizations like DARI and others.
- Business owners and residents in the downtown must be major participants in discussions (walking committee).

Summary

- Plan remains active as a living document.
- Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats are all the same as before.
- Minor things have changed, but that is okay.
- Staff continue to use the plan, it is a good one.
- Slow and steady, we are making progress and should celebrate that!



Questions?