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ELEVATE

DOWNTOWN PIEDMONT

DOWNTOWN VISION PLAN
PIEDMONT, OKLAHOMA

Piedmont Community Stakeholders

Joshua Williams – City Manager
Kurt Mayabb – Mayor
Julie Steele – Community Development Director
Joyce Leach
Jacci Cardwell
Christen Hannegan
Thania Mayfield

OU Gibbs College of Architecture Institute for Quality Communities

Dr. Amber Wiley – IQC Executive Director
Vanessa Morrison – IQC Interim Director
Layne Ferguson – IQC Project Manager
Afrah Faheem – Graduate Assistant
Alisa Barzellone – Graduate Assistant
Anahita Niknejad – Graduate Assistant
Philip Moll – Graduate Assistant
Sanjita Basnet – Graduate Assistant

Association of Oklahoma Governments (ACOG)

Mark Sweeney, AICP – ACOG Executive Director
Sharon Astrin – Community & Economic Development Manager
Rachel Meinke – Public Information Director

Introduction

The Community Economic Resiliency Initiative (CERI) Program is designed to give small cities in the Central Oklahoma region the opportunity to develop plans modeling strategic investment, sustainable economic recovery, and long-term resiliency. The CERI Program was originally created in 2021 by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACOG originally partnered with the University of Oklahoma (OU) Institute for Quality Communities (IQC), an outreach arm of the Gibbs College of Architecture, to collaborate in shaping the program and to provide services to communities selected to participate in CERI. This innovative partnership, now in its fourth year, continues, and through a competitive application process, the City of Piedmont was selected for 2024-25.

Piedmont’s CERI application focused on revitalizing its historic downtown into a vibrant social and economic hub. Centered on the downtown core, the IQC held steering committee and public engagement workshops that resulted in three core recommendations: establishing a Main Street organization to drive economic development, implementing streetscape and traffic safety improvements, and creating new public gathering spaces.

ELEVATE Downtown Piedmont compiles design and programming recommendations developed by the IQC, based on research and in response to community input. The intent of this report is to provide City administration and the community tools to identify, plan, and prioritize projects, policies, and funding mechanisms that will lead to sustainable economic development in Piedmont.



History of the City of Piedmont

Piedmont is a rural town located northwest of Oklahoma City with an official population of 7,402. With a historic downtown, suburban neighborhood developments, and an abundance of rural and agricultural lands, Piedmont was founded in 1903 and eventually grew into a bedroom community of Oklahoma City throughout the mid-1900s to the present day.

Initially a Land Run settlement of 1889 after Native American peoples were removed, Piedmont was connected to both El Reno and Guthrie through a rail line. While the town’s population slowly grew from its founding into the 1950s, it has rapidly increased over the last 70 years. Situated just a few miles north of Northwest Expressway (State Highway 3) and with State highway 4 running

through the center of Piedmont, the population significantly increased over the last 50 years, but downtown development has not kept pace with that population growth. Today, Piedmont sits at 43.85 square miles, and the development pattern consists of a downtown, and suburban development intermixed with tracts of farmland and open land.

Piedmont’s comprehensive plan, completed in 2024, and a handful of recent studies identified a shared goal of investment and targeted growth in the downtown core. The plan calls for Piedmont to have a range of amenities typical of a small Oklahoma town—retail, restaurants, housing, placemaking, and connectivity to surrounding areas of Piedmont.

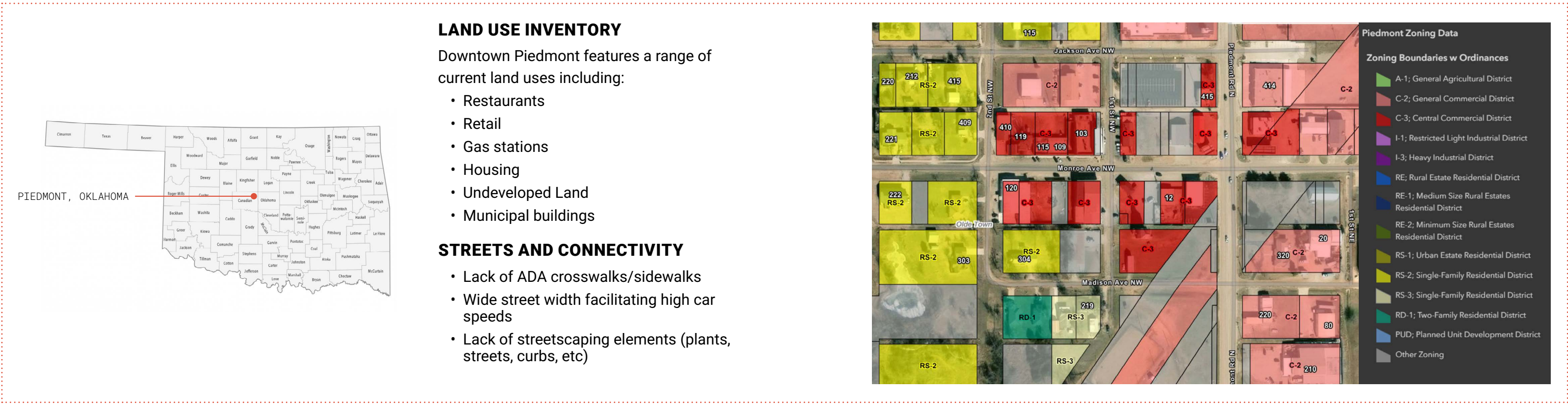
Exisiting Conditions

Downtown Piedmont is a six-block area in the heart of the community. It currently features a mix of local businesses, residential properties, and undeveloped parcels. While several well-attended community events are already held in the area throughout the year, much of the district remains underutilized, presenting a unique opportunity for reinvestment and transformation into a true civic and commercial heart of the city.

The built environment is characterized by a patchwork of active businesses, public uses, and vacant lots. Several parcels remain undeveloped, providing a blank canvas for strategic infill, placemaking, or public gathering spaces. Though community events demonstrate clear public interest and engagement with the area, the

public realm currently lacks the infrastructure to support everyday pedestrian activity or informal gathering. Sidewalks are narrow, fragmented, or in poor condition, limiting walkability and accessibility. The streets are primarily designed for vehicle traffic, with minimal accommodations for pedestrians or cyclists. Dedicated bike lanes are absent, and there is little traffic calming or pedestrian safety infrastructure in place.

State Highway 3, which runs through downtown, functions as a major corridor but contributes to the auto-oriented nature of the district. The city has plans to assume control of the road from ODOT in order to implement a “road diet” that would allow for angled parking, improved sidewalks, bike lanes, and a more balanced street



design. Parking in the area is currently informal but sufficient; future plans could enhance its efficiency and support downtown businesses with better layout and signage.

The downtown area currently lacks defined public spaces such as plazas or pocket parks, and amenities like shade structures, public seating, and restrooms are minimal or nonexistent. Streetscape elements such as lighting, landscaping, signage, and coordinated design features are also limited, resulting in a lack of identity or sense of place. Despite this, the area shows strong potential for placemaking, given its central location and the public’s demonstrated interest in attending events there.

Economically, downtown Piedmont hosts a small number of locally owned businesses but has significant opportunity for growth. Several vacant buildings and lots offer potential for redevelopment or adaptive reuse. With hundreds of visitors already coming to the area for local sports events, there is an opportunity to encourage

spillover economic activity by enhancing the downtown experience.

This momentum aligns with broader city planning efforts. The recently completed year-long update to the Comprehensive Plan included extensive community engagement, which revealed a clear desire for more gathering spaces, visitor attractions, and economic vitality downtown. However in the fall of 2024 a bond election was unsuccessful to align infrastructure investments. With this in mind, the City has the opportunity to use lighter, quicker, cheaper tools for improving the downtown area.

In summary, downtown Piedmont has high potential and relatively low barriers to transformation. Its underutilized land, central infrastructure, and engaged community provide the foundation for a revitalized downtown that is more walkable, vibrant, and economically active. With careful planning and design and timely investment, the area can evolve into a welcoming hub for residents and visitors alike.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Steering Committee Meetings

The IQC sought support and engagement with a steering committee representative of Piedmont’s city leadership, downtown business leaders, and residents. Engagement with the steering committee fostered project alignment and identified priorities both for the following community wide engagement and for recommendations. The steering committee participated in a Walk Shop based upon the Project for Public Space’s “Place-Game,” that identifies four elements of a place: comfort and image, access and linkages, uses and activities,

and sociability. Steering committee members were asked to rate Piedmont’s downtown on a scale of 1-4 according to these categories.

The insights from the place game indicated that Piedmont offers strong social ties, a unique small town culture, and historic downtown buildings amenable to revitalization. The activity also helped identify design recommendations that most improve economic resilience, accessibility and safety, and public spaces.

DOWNTOWN PIEDMONT PLACE GAME RESULTS:

- Comfort and image: 1.9/4
- Uses and Activities: 1.7/4
- Access and Linkages: 2.5/4
- Sociability: 2.7/4

THEMES FROM STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Assets:
 - » Strong local culture
 - » Frequent events downtown
 - » Hometown feel and character
 - » Open Land/Lots
- Desires:
 - » Communal desire for more businesses and uses downtown
 - » Lighter, quicker, cheaper tactics of sidewalks, crosswalks, benches, signage, and lighting
 - » Activity and visitors beyond large annual events
- Challenges:
 - » High vehicle speeds through downtown
 - » Limited pull to walk, meet, and stay downtown



Key Insights from the Place Game:

The insights from the place game indicated that Piedmont has strong social, cultural and physical assets, and can create a more vibrant downtown through addressing specific weaknesses. The activity helped develop design recommendations that most improve economic resilience, accessibility and safety, and public spaces.

Community Outreach Event

During Piedmont’s Annual Christmas Festival and Parade, the IQC engaged in a pop-up event at a partnering local business to collect feedback from residents and visitors. Gaining feedback regarding aesthetic preferences, programming priorities, design preferences, and infrastructure priorities, the IQC staff offered four engagement activities for residents to participate in: a wish wall, a build your dream city mapping exercise, a survey, and priority voting.

Build Your Dream City

This activity offered participants the opportunity to design downtown Piedmont how they most desired. Participants decorated a map of downtown Piedmont with land uses of retail and or restaurants, housing, parks and public spaces, and municipal buildings. Participants could also add infrastructure to the map, including benches, lighting, trees, stop signs and stop lights, crosswalks, speedbumps, and sidewalks.

Wish Wall

A wish wall activity invited residents to place their desires for downtown Piedmont on a banner. Participants were able to voice desires, concerns, and dream scenarios for downtown Piedmont through adding as many sticky notes as they wanted on the wall.

Survey

The community-wide survey was answered by 54 residents of Piedmont and sought insight on a range of topics including: desired street improvements; desired land uses downtown; the character, image, and identity of Piedmont; and desired frequency and types of programming for downtown Piedmont. With a diverse range of respondents, the survey revealed a strong desire for more frequent smaller events and programming, utilization of public and open spaces as community gathering spots, and a continuation of Piedmont’s small town character and feel through signage, and placemaking efforts

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Community Engagement Synthesis

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES:

- Elevated Public Life
- Improved Streetscapes
- Enhanced district Identity

PUBLIC LIFE:

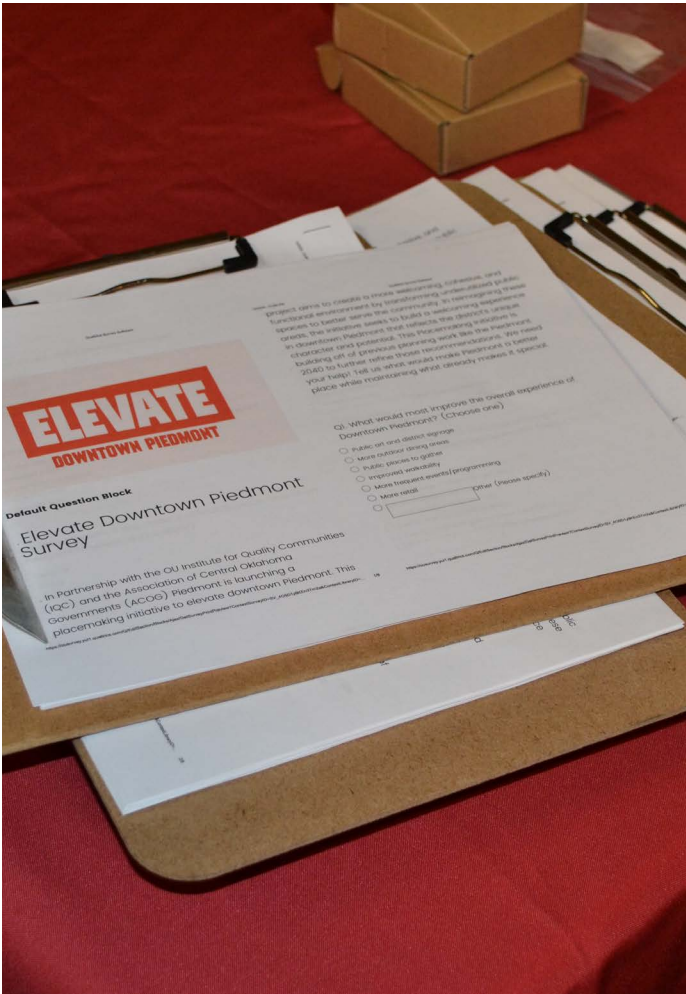
- Desire for daily, weekly, and monthly purposes to visit downtown
- Child friendly spaces
- Regular meeting spots:
 - Parks, plazas, child friendly activities, and a central public gathering place
 - Morning and evening dining and evening life destinations
 - Farmers and pop-up markets

STREETSCAPES AND ACCESSIBILITY:

- Crosswalks and sidewalks
- Lighting, street trees, and district signage
- Parking management

IDENTITY:

- Public art and murals
- Frequent small scale events and gatherings





**DESIGN
INSPIRATION**

Design Precedents:

Painted Crosswalks

A quick and cost-effective intervention, painted crosswalks enhance pedestrian safety while also reinforcing district identity. These colorful elements can serve as visual gateways, signaling arrival and departure points within a district and drawing attention from nearby areas. By turning ordinary intersections into landmarks, they help create a stronger sense of place and invite exploration.



PAINTED CROSSWALK (CHAPEL HILL, NC)

Interim Sidewalks

Sidewalks don't have to be expensive—paint and planters can be used to create temporary walkways that feel safe, beautiful, and welcoming. Interim sidewalks can extend existing walkways or introduce pedestrian space where none previously existed. These simple interventions encourage movement, enhance the sense of place, and add vibrancy through the use of color and greenery. In Austin, Texas, the city nearly doubled sidewalk

widths along the bustling 6th Street corridor using these kinds of tools. While 6th Street was already a popular destination, the widened walkways led to increased foot traffic and boosted activity for nearby businesses.



INTERIM SIDEWALKS (AUSTIN, TX)



INTERIM SIDEWALKS (NACTO)

Adaptive Reuse

Aging industrial and metal buildings aren’t always a blight—when thoughtfully adapted, they can become beloved gathering spaces. In Oklahoma City, The Pump Bar transformed a former filling station into a vibrant bar and eatery that now anchors the Uptown district. Similarly, Fair-Weather Friend, a brewery and pizzeria located in an old industrial neighborhood, repurposed

a former garage and brick building into a lively indoor-outdoor venue. A neighboring structure was converted into a small concert space, turning the area into a hub for food, drink, and community. These projects show how even the most utilitarian buildings can become assets when paired with creativity and a welcoming public environment.



ADAPTIVE REUSE (THE PUMP BAR, OKC, FAIR-WEATHER FRIEND, OKC)

Pop-Up Shops and Micro Retail

Small-scale retail doesn’t have to come with a big price tag. Across the U.S., temporary and low-cost retail structures are activating vacant spaces and supporting emerging businesses. In Midtown Oklahoma City, the Holiday Pop-Up Shops transform an empty lot into a vibrant shopping village for over a month each year, drawing thousands of visitors. In Nashville’s

Five Points Alley, micro-retailers lease compact spaces at affordable rates, creating a diverse and dynamic retail environment. Sitting somewhere between tents and permanent storefronts, many of these setups use shed-style structures—offering entrepreneurs a low-barrier, high-impact way to engage with the public and test new ideas.



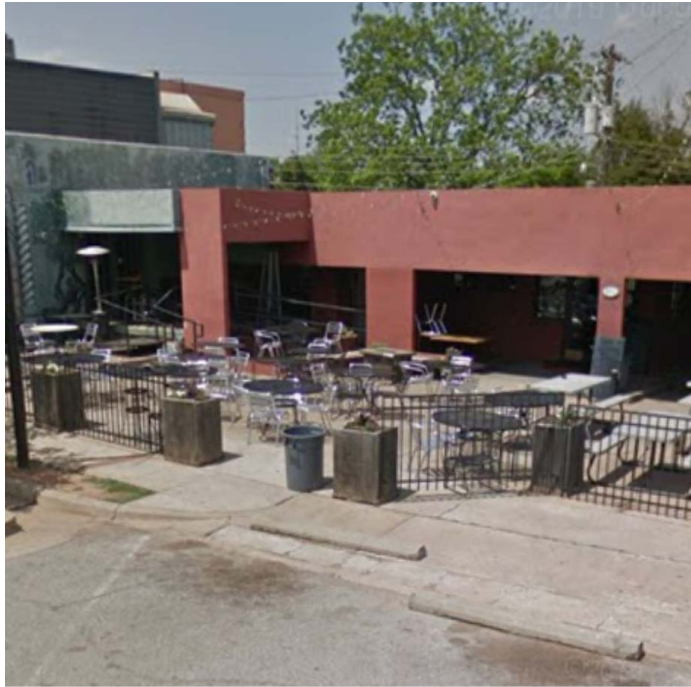
POP-UP SHOPS AND MICRO-RETAIL(FIVE POINTS ALLEY SHOPS, NASHVILLE, TN; MIDTOWN HOLIDAY POP-UPS, OKC, OK)

Outdoor Dining Improvements

Small improvements to outdoor seating can make a big difference in how a space is experienced. At Sauced on Paseo in Oklahoma City, a recent remodel enhanced both the indoor environment and the outdoor dining area—adding shade structures and seating upgrades that make the space more comfortable and inviting, especially during the summer months. A new pergola not

only provides shade, but also creates a defined edge and entryway that catches the eye of passersby and encourages them to stop and stay. These private enhancements are supported by recent public investments: OKC’s Better Streets, Safer City bond program has brought new sidewalks and street trees to the corridor, further boosting walkability and comfort around the site.

BEFORE



AFTER



OUTDOOR DINING IMPROVEMENTS (SAUCED, OKC)

Food Truck Parks

Food trucks have become staples in neighborhoods across the U.S., but formal food truck parks take the concept a step further—creating consistent, lively gathering places where community and commerce thrive. These spaces go beyond one-off events by offering regular programming, shade structures, and seating that invite people to linger. In Oklahoma City, Delmar

Gardens is a standout example. While food trucks rotate through weekly, the space also hosts chili cook-offs, yoga classes, small concerts, and informal gatherings throughout the week. Though privately owned, Delmar Gardens operates like a true public space—open, welcoming, and designed for everyday use.





IDEAS FOR DOWNTOWN PIEDMONT

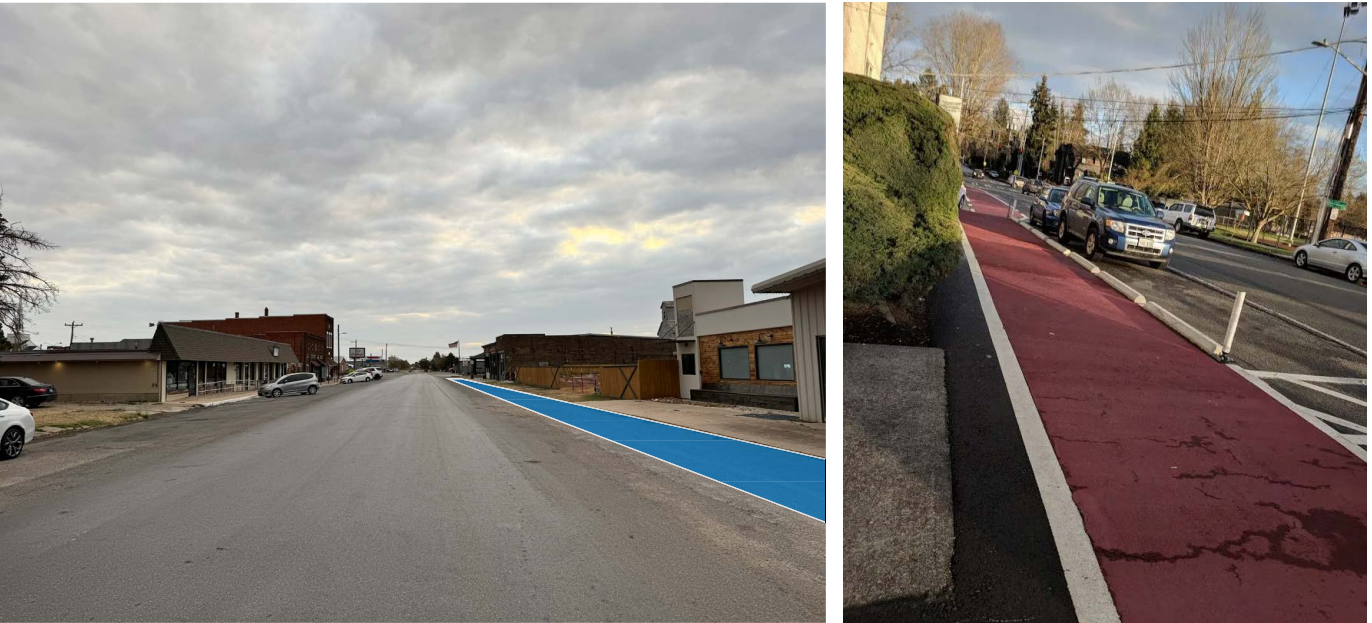
Streetscaping and Accessibility



RECOMMENDATION #1:
Interim Sidewalks and Protective Planters

Spanning east to west along Monroe Avenue, interim painted sidewalks can visually and physically connect both sides of the street, enhancing safety while strengthening the downtown experience. Paired with improved crosswalks, these walkways will offer a safer environment for pedestrians and create a more

unified corridor. Beyond functionality, the painted sidewalks also present an opportunity to introduce street art that reflects local identity—beautifying downtown Piedmont and turning everyday infrastructure into a canvas for community expression. Parallel parking can create another barrier of protection for pedestrians using pathway.



RECOMMENDATION #2:
Painted Crosswalks

To enhance pedestrian safety and strengthen the visual identity of downtown Piedmont, we recommend the installation of painted crosswalks at the intersections of Monroe Avenue with both 1st Street and 2nd Street. These crosswalks will not only improve visibility for drivers and create safer crossings for pedestrians, but they also offer an opportunity to incorporate color, pattern,

or local motifs that reflect the community’s character. Whether through a simple high-contrast design or a more creative, artistic treatment, these crosswalks will help calm traffic and signal to residents and visitors alike that this is a walkable, welcoming district.

RECOMMENDATION #3:
Creating a Complete Monroe Avenue

Monroe Avenue’s current width of over 30 feet presents both a challenge and an opportunity. While the wide roadway may appear to accommodate traffic well, it encourages high vehicle speeds and creates safety concerns for pedestrians. A truly complete street should serve all users safely and efficiently, including drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and those with mobility needs.

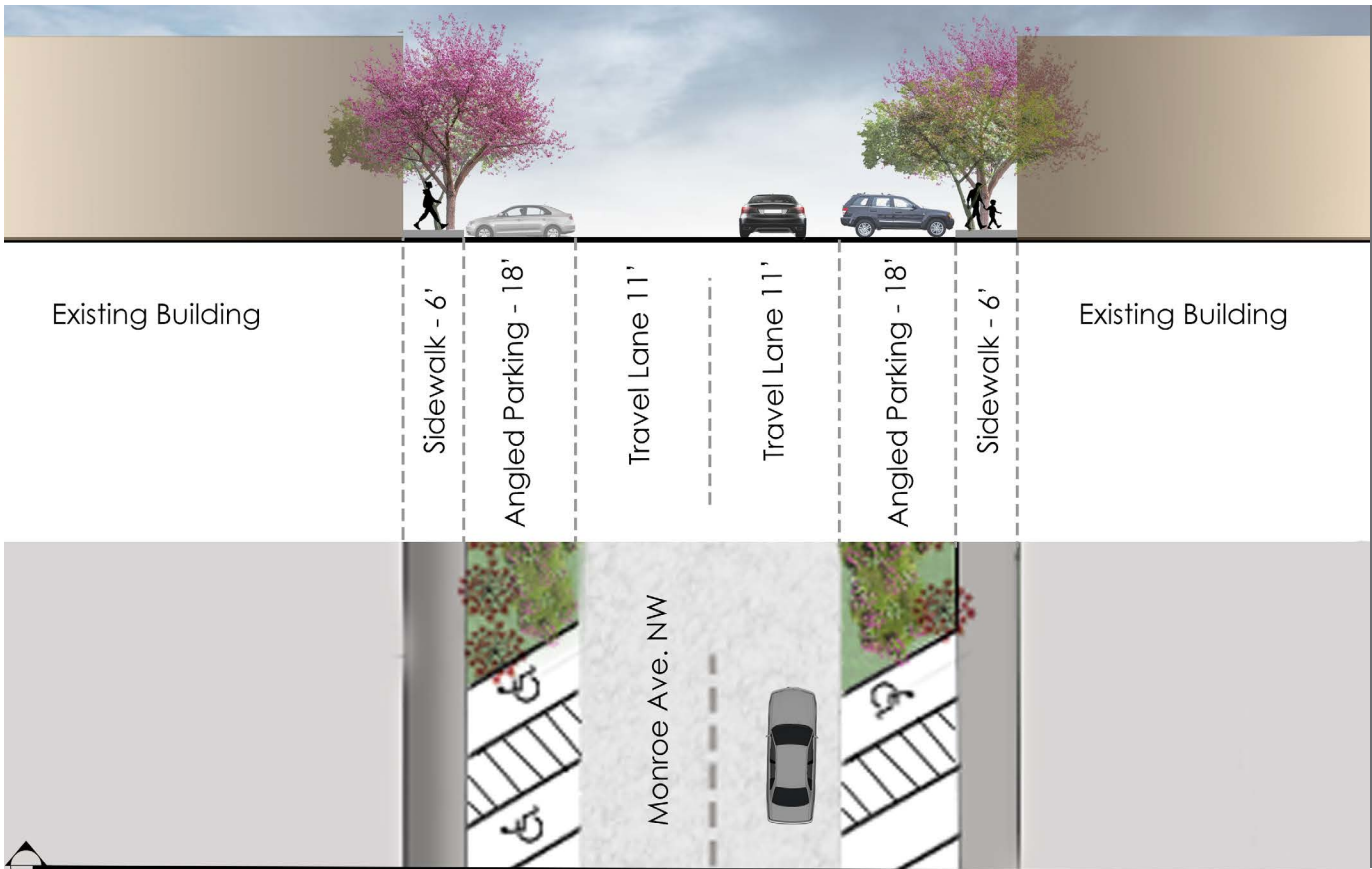
To support this goal, we recommend converting the existing parallel parking on the south side of Monroe Avenue to angled parking. This change would shorten pedestrian crossing distances, calm traffic by visually narrowing the roadway, and add approximately [XYZ#] new parking spaces to support downtown access.

We also propose narrowing the total street width to 22 feet, consistent with guidelines from the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), which recommend lane widths as narrow as 9 feet in pedestrian-priority areas. Reducing lane width will help lower vehicle speeds and create a more comfortable and safe street environment. In addition, curb bump-outs

at intersections and midblock crossings will reduce pedestrian crossing distances, improve ADA accessibility, and provide space for green elements, seating, or small-scale public activation.

Parking demand in the area is well supported by existing assets. Monroe Avenue currently includes 45 on-street parking spaces, with over 200 off-street spaces located nearby. These are more than sufficient for daily business needs. For larger and less frequent events, the city could explore lease agreements or temporary exemptions that allow grass parking in adjacent fields. This approach is similar to practices in Norman, Oklahoma, where grass parking is restricted except during football gamedays. By utilizing available lots near Madison Avenue, this strategy could add approximately 150 additional parking spaces when needed.

Together, these improvements would help transform Monroe Avenue into a complete street. The changes would improve safety and accessibility, support local businesses, and create a more vibrant and welcoming downtown environment.



RECOMMENDATION #4:

Crossing Piedmont Road

To improve safety and create a stronger sense of arrival into downtown Piedmont, we recommend a series of strategic enhancements at the intersection of Monroe Avenue and Piedmont Road. First, the installation of a stoplight is essential to ensure safe crossings for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, especially given the speed and volume of traffic along Piedmont Road. Sidewalks should be added on both sides of Monroe Avenue to create a continuous, accessible path into downtown, encouraging walkability and better connecting nearby neighborhoods. Highly visible crosswalks—potentially using bold patterns or artistic treatments—should be installed across Piedmont Road to calm traffic and clearly mark the area as a pedestrian-priority zone.

To further establish a sense of place and signify the transition into downtown, gateway elements such as signage, public art, or decorative pillars could be introduced with messages like “Welcome to Downtown Piedmont.” Additional placemaking strategies might include landscaping and street trees to soften the streetscape and slow traffic, decorative lighting and branded banners to reinforce identity, and a public art installation or mural to create a memorable landmark. Together, these improvements would make the intersection not only safer but also more vibrant, welcoming, and reflective of Piedmont’s unique character.



Placemaking and Gathering Spaces



RECOMMENDATION #1:

Redevelopment of Public Works Building

The redevelopment of the former public works garage site in downtown Piedmont offers an exciting opportunity to create a dynamic, multi-use space that activates the area both day and night. At the heart of this vision is a community courtyard—a flexible outdoor space that serves as a gathering hub for the community. By day, the courtyard would provide a shaded, relaxed atmosphere with seating, casual meetups, and outdoor activities like chess tables, cornhole, or a small play feature. As evening falls, the space would transform into a vibrant social venue with ambient lighting, overhead string lights, and occasional events like acoustic performances or film screenings, giving Piedmont a unique nighttime experience. This multi-use courtyard would create a welcoming environment for both

locals and visitors, providing a place to connect, relax, and enjoy Piedmont's downtown.

To complement the public space, a privately operated café-bar could anchor the site, offering food and drink throughout the day and into the evening. A small building could serve as a coffee shop by day and a wine/beer bar by night. With indoor-outdoor seating, garage-style doors that open to the courtyard, and a walk-up window for casual service, this space would offer a relaxed atmosphere that seamlessly blends with the surrounding space. The venue could host trivia nights, acoustic sets, or themed drink specials, ensuring there's always something happening. A light food menu would make it a perfect spot for evening gatherings and casual meals.



RECOMMENDATION #2:

Food Truck & Retail Plaza

The opportunity to create a vibrant public square in downtown Piedmont is an exciting prospect. By establishing a food truck park in front of the grain silo, the heart of downtown can be activated for weekly or monthly food truck nights, drawing in locals and visitors alike. The addition of seating, string lighting, and the use of the existing stage transforms this area into a daily gathering place, as well as a versatile event space. Designated electrical hookups and truck stalls will ensure that events can focus on live music and community

engagement, rather than the noise of generators, further enhancing the overall experience.

Seasonal pop-up retail sheds can complement this activation by providing flexible, low-cost spaces for local artisans, entrepreneurs, and small businesses to showcase their products. These small-scale, modular structures can rotate vendors seasonally or monthly, creating a dynamic, ever-changing marketplace that keeps people coming back to discover something new.



RECOMMENDATION #3:
Cohesion and Connections (Breadcrumbs)

Together, the planned improvements—including newly painted sidewalks, crosswalks, sidewalk extensions, curb bump-outs, district signage, and enhanced front-dining areas for restaurants—will create a unified and welcoming downtown district. These elements will work in tandem with the food truck plaza and the converted Public Works

building to establish a clear sense of place, with well-defined boundaries and a cohesive identity. This thoughtful design will not only improve circulation but also foster a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly environment that invites both locals and visitors to explore every corner of downtown.



RECOMMENDATION #4:
Outdoor Patios and Streeteries

Downtown Piedmont has a strong opportunity to increase vibrancy and foot traffic by encouraging more outdoor dining and streeteries-style spaces. These types of dining areas—typically created in curbside zones or along sidewalks—can help activate the street, support local businesses, and create a more social, inviting environment.

The Chinese Diner could enhance its outdoor presence by incorporating elements like shade umbrellas or overhead string lighting to make the space more comfortable throughout the day and evening. Framing the area with planters or decorative screens can help create a cozy, defined space that still feels connected to the street. Incorporating culturally inspired design elements—such as lanterns, artwork, or branded touches—can make the space more distinctive and attractive to passersby.

Sharp's BBQ has the potential to bring a lively, community-focused feel to its outdoor area. Using rustic, BBQ-inspired design features like wood seating, picnic tables, or casual lighting can reflect the restaurant's identity and draw people in. The space could also benefit from simple programming like live music or themed nights to encourage repeat visits and give the downtown area a regular rhythm of activity. A walk-up window or quick-service counter could also encourage more casual, spontaneous interaction with the street.

By investing in thoughtful, well-designed outdoor dining, both restaurants can not only expand their seating and improve customer experience, but also play a key role in making Downtown Piedmont feel more vibrant, social, and welcoming.



Economic Development & Programming

RECOMMENDATION #1:

Monthly Art Walks

Piedmont could build momentum and foot traffic downtown by launching a monthly art walk—an evening each month when residents and visitors know to gather for art, food, and live music. Like Norman’s 2nd Friday Art Walk, OKC’s Live on the Plaza, or Edmond’s Heard on Hurd, this event could feature local artists, student showcases, musicians, food trucks, and pop-up vendors. These events create regular rhythms that help reinforce

district identity and support small business growth.

Held along Monroe Avenue and centered around the food truck plaza, the art walk would offer a consistent, low-barrier opportunity for creative expression and economic activity. Over time, it can become a signature community tradition and a key driver of downtown revitalization.



RECOMMENDATION #2:

Downtown Identity

As revitalization efforts take shape, now is the time to establish a clear and compelling brand for downtown Piedmont. A strong identity can unify physical improvements, support economic development, and create a sense of pride and place. Branding should reflect Piedmont’s unique character: welcoming, creative, and community-oriented, while also signaling a new chapter for the downtown district.

We recommend a simple, flexible name and visual identity that can be used on signage, online,

and at events. This could include a logo, color palette, and messaging that reflect the district’s blend of small-town charm and emerging activity. Wayfinding signage, painted crosswalks, and sidewalk extensions can carry this brand visually throughout the area, while consistent event names such as a monthly art walk help reinforce it in residents’ minds.

Ultimately, a strong brand invites people to return often, participate in local culture, and invest in the future of downtown Piedmont.

**OLD'E TOWN
PIEDMONT** **WHERE TRADITION MEETS
POSSIBILITY.**



RECOMMENDATION #3:

Place Management

To ensure the long-term success and vitality of downtown Piedmont, we recommend establishing a dedicated place management structure. This could take the form of a downtown association, advisory board, or staff role tasked with overseeing events, maintenance, marketing, and ongoing business support. A reliable place manager or team creates continuity, builds relationships with stakeholders, and helps keep public space improvements and programming active and responsive over time.

This structure aligns well with participation in the Main Street America program, which provides a proven framework for revitalizing historic downtowns through four key points: Economic

Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. Place management supports all four—especially Promotion and Organization—by coordinating events like monthly art walks, overseeing district branding, managing pop-up or vendor activity, and serving as a liaison between the City, businesses, and the community.

Joining the Main Street America network can also unlock access to training, funding opportunities, and a peer community of successful main streets across the country. Combined with recent investments and community interest, place management offers the capacity and structure needed to help downtown Piedmont thrive for years to come.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Recommendation Timeline:

SHORT TERM:



Interim Sidewalks, Protective Planters, Painted Crossings

Painted sidewalks offer cheap and effective short term wins. Funded through city dollars or grants focused on public space, downtown can receive a facelift of paint in the near future.



Parking Management

Simple agreements with property owners and the city can provide overflow parking during annual large events.



Grain Elevator Plaza & Monthly Programming Schedule

Coinciding with a monthly programming calendar, a “first friday” schedule filled with food trucks, pop-up vendors can complement the growing farmers market in Piedmont.



Public Art & Murals

With minimal funding from partnerships with Piedmont High School, arts grants, and or city funds, murals can fill in “missing teeth” downtown and promote local arts programming.

MEDIUM TERM:



Grain Elevator Plaza & Monthly Programming Schedule

After launching of monthly events, formal gathering structures like a pavilion with seating, lighting, and even semi-permanent vendor stalls can formalize the Grain Elevator Plaza site.



Establish Main Street America Program & Patio Improvements

Requiring minimal budget save for dedicated time and commitment, this key step towards elevating downtown nevertheless takes training and commitment over a few years to become an accredited Main Street City. Often begun with seed money, main street programs frequently offer micro-loans and grants to business owners for facelifts and regular building maintenance. These funds could also support establishing of street facing patios and eateries to enhance the connection of anchor restaurants to Monroe Ave.



Redevelopment of Piedmont Public Works Site

If the public works site is to be torn down, interim uses like a pocket park can facilitate interest and connection to the space in the short and medium term. While the interim use garners interest, the city may redevelop it into an anchor park for Downtown Piedmont, or may put together a request for proposals with favorable conditions that spur the type of development that the city wishes to see.

LONG TERM:



Signage and Patio Improvements

Likely a long term project, improved district signage along Piedmont Rd and Monroe avenue will combine with outdoor patio seating to create a district with vibrant streetlife. City funds and placemaking grants are likely sources for these projects.



Streetscaping Monroe Avenue

Larger ticket items like sidewalks, rearranged street parking, and a stoplight at Piedmont Rd and Monroe can be accomplished through a range of grants and city funds. Bond programs do not have to be the only source of city funds. Tax increment financing (TIF) can capture and spur redevelopment, which in turn can assist in basic infrastructure like sidewalks and streets. With a TIF district, taxes are not levied, but instead revenue from redevelopment is captured within the district and spent there as well.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FUNDING & RESOURCE GUIDE

Pedestrian, Cyclist, and Safety Traffic Safety Infrastructure

Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)
ODOT’s Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Provides funding through a competitive application process for local projects that support additional transportation options, strengthen local economies, improve quality of life, protect the natural environment, and enhance transportation infrastructure. An 80/20 match is required for populations over 5,001.

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
Community Challenge Program

The AARP Community Challenge program offers grants to fund projects focusing on making communities more livable for people of all ages. The Flagship Grant includes a category for projects creating vibrant public places and a category focused on increasing connectivity, walkability, and bikeability. The Capacity-Building Microgrants include opportunities for bike audits and walk audits.

Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET)
Built Environment Grants

Built Environment Grants fund a variety of project types, including planning, design, and policy development, and construction implementation. Projects aligning with TSET’s mission to improve Oklahoman’s health and quality of life by achieving targeted improvements in the health of Oklahomans. Planning and policy grants are eligible for up to \$150,000 with no match required. Construction projects can receive up to \$500,000 for up to two years with a match based on population size.

US Department of Transportation (USDOT) DOT’s
Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Program provides two types of grants: Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants. Funding is provided to projects seeking to prevent roadway deaths and injuries.

FUNDING & RESOURCE GUIDE

Historic Preservation, Public Spaces, and Public Art

T-Mobile

T-Mobile’s Hometown Grants fund projects that foster local connections, like technology upgrades, outdoor spaces, the arts, historic preservation, and community centers. Awards are up to \$50,000 and available for towns with populations less than 50,000.

Project for Public Spaces

Project for Public Spaces Community Placemaking Grants are available for non-profits and local government agencies up to \$100,000 to transform public spaces or co-create new ones.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Hart Family Fund for Small Towns encourages preservation at the local level in small towns with populations under 10,000. Grants range from \$2,500-\$15,000 through a competitive application process.

Oklahoma City Community Foundation (OCCF)

The OCCF Culture and Community Grant supports projects seeking to celebrate and preserve Oklahoma’s cultural heritage. Grants can be up to \$40,000 and are available to projects within Canadian, Cleveland, Oklahoma, and Logan counties.

Independent Retail Community Initiatives

The Pop-Out Grant is available to independent shop owners in Oklahoma strengthening their communities, including through beautification efforts. Grants are up to \$1,500.

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Oklahoma Arts Council

The Oklahoma Art in Public Places Act invests in public art in community spaces to support state capital improvements. The Program brings together governments, artists, and communities to create art representing Oklahoma values and history.

The background of the entire image is a solid orange color. Overlaid on this background are numerous thin, white, wavy lines that resemble topographic map contour lines. These lines flow across the page in various directions, creating a sense of movement and depth. In the bottom center, the words "ELEVATE" and "DOWNTOWN PIEDMONT" are printed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. "ELEVATE" is on the top line and "DOWNTOWN PIEDMONT" is on the line below it.

ELEVATE
DOWNTOWN PIEDMONT