

W LIVABLE CITY YEAR

City of Auburn

A CONNECTIVITY AND PLACEMAKING ELEMENT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Executive Summary

Our objective is the development of a connectivity and placemaking element to be delivered to the City of Auburn for review and possible adoption in their Comprehensive Plan. The goal is to provide a framework for the city to address challenges and opportunities related to cultivating vibrant places and strengthening the networks that link people to them. This element also aims to assist Auburn in building community cohesion and applying city values in practice.



Historic Auburn, looking east down E Main Street.
Photo Credit: City of Auburn

Methods

Transportation networks, community resources, and neighborhood identity were analyzed via:

- Precedent studies
- Literature reviews
- Community engagement
- Stakeholder interviews
- Spatial analysis



Mapping Downtown Auburn's places, hubs, and connections.
Photo Credit: Student team member

Connectivity:

How people navigate their physical environment and digital, economic, and social networks

Placemaking:

Developing spaces that are attractive, engaging, and vital for the community

Recommendations

Our policy suggestions will follow from preliminary objectives like these, which in turn support broader goals.

- Connect Downtown to adjacent neighborhoods
- Enhance access to amenities by all travel modes
- Make city values visible
- Encourage compact, sustainable projects in placemaking
- Strengthen network of community service organizations
- Reinforce social and commercial neighborhood character
- Engage new residents through inclusive, informative outreach

Next Steps

In developing the Element, goals, objectives, and policies are linked to the City values they support. The Element envisions an Auburn whose neighborhoods unify cohesive communities by connecting residents to social and commercial services. Civic engagement connects people to Auburn and gives them the information they need to best access the vibrant

places that define its character. Early policy suggestions range from enhancing bicycle and pedestrian circulation Downtown to hosting community events based on City values. A community meeting will be held in Auburn on June 8 to share our findings with residents. Element adoption is contingent upon further review by City staff, the City Planning Commission, and the City Council.

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