



Downtown Trail Connection

Carlisle Trail Connection

Currently, the Summerset trail ends at the trailhead located just to the southeast of Casey's and Fiss'. There is a great opportunity to extend this trail and bring cyclists into Carlisle's downtown. A proposed Highway 5 crossing and new gateway signage will lead cyclists and visitors into the heart of the community rather than having them turn back at the trailhead. Safety is an important component in trail planning. The combination of the intersection improvements shown on board #11 and additional signage will allow for a safe and easily identifiable crossing. Once cyclists arrive in downtown, they are led on a shared lane route along School Street to a proposed community park and bike hub that serves as a trailhead within downtown.

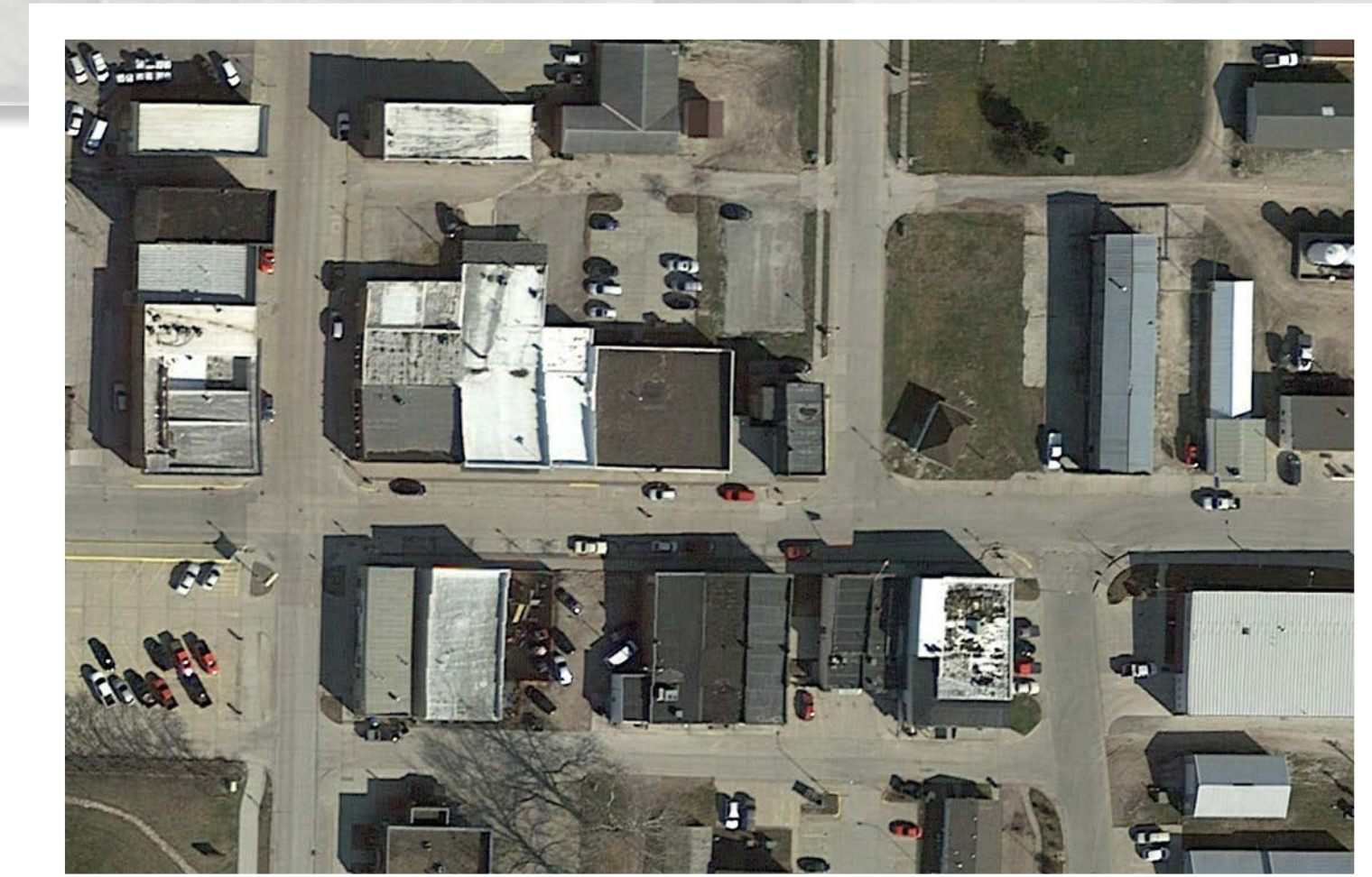
Downtown Plan

To create a biking destination within downtown Carlisle, a community park is proposed to be located adjacent to Garfield Street. School Street, a main route through downtown, is proposed to include additional bump-outs to assist in pedestrian safety and serve as a traffic-calming mechanism. In addition, proposed tree wells provide much appreciated shade and buffers between parked cars. These improvements create a more vibrant, active, and pedestrian-friendly downtown, which is beneficial to local businesses and provides the community with additional space for activities. The proposed park and bike hub will be a space that the community can use to host events and concerts. In addition, it serves cyclists by giving them a place to rest, grab a bite to eat, and/or tune up their bicycles at the end (or beginning) of a trail ride. Opposite the park on Garfield street a new parking lot is proposed to support an increase of vehicular traffic downtown. This downtown park also has the opportunity to grow even larger than what is shown on the plan graphic to the right of this page if certain properties become available. Additional space could allow room for a larger programmable green space or implementation of a small parking lot to serve the park and downtown businesses.

The combination of these proposals encourages more traffic in downtown, whether by vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian. By creating a destination for cyclists, Carlisle can begin to draw more riders to their community. Additional signage to note where trails are, such as the shown "Cycle Carlisle" sign, will bring awareness to where the existing trails and routes are. These proposed improvements also benefit other trail initiatives currently taking place within the Des Moines metro including the future connection of a bike trail north from Carlisle to Des Moines.



Proposed Downtown Enhancements Plan



Existing Downtown

Carlisle

Downtown Plan + Trail Connection

Landscape Architect and Intern: RDG Planning & Design - Bruce Niedermyer, PLA and Sara Davids

Iowa Department of Transportation

Trees Forever

ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

IOWA'S
LIVING
ROADWAYS

Summer 2016