

## Main Street Enhancements

Main Street serves as the primary entrance to the downtown and was identified by the community as a priority area for enhancements. In order to highlight the importance of this street to visitors as well as improve user accessibility and safety, the following enhancements are shown in Photo 1 Edit.

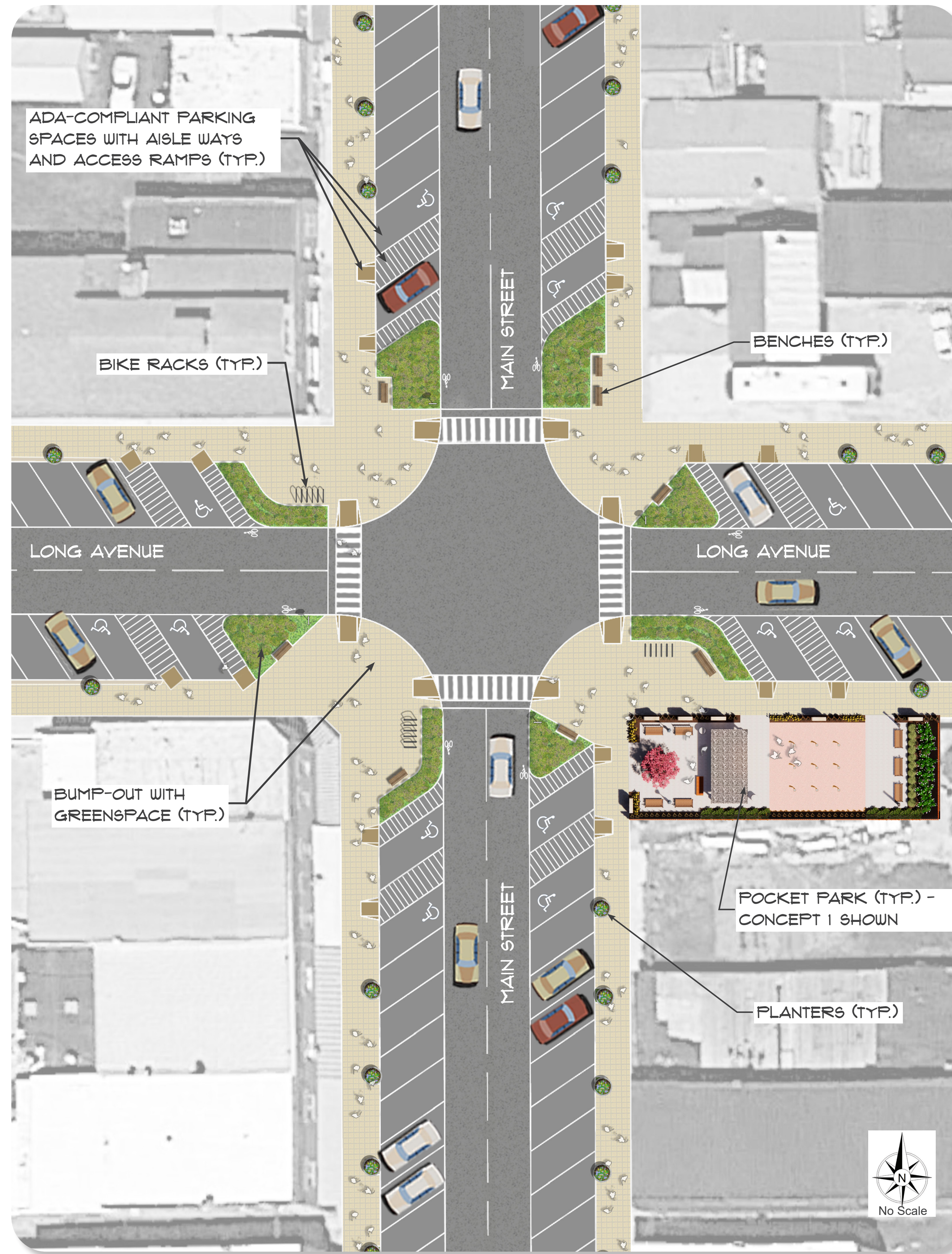
- **Sidewalks:** 6' wide sidewalk on east side of street, ADA-compliant ramps at intersections
- **Separated Trail:** 10' wide separated trail (paved) on west side of street, turning westerly just south of the cemetery.
- **Decorative Lighting:** Decorative lights to match the style used elsewhere to enhance nighttime safety as well as improve visual connectivity and reinforce city identity to visitors.
- **Banners:** Continuing banners on lighting from the downtown area to highlight the importance of the corridor. Permanent metal banners are shown.
- **Drainage:** Modify existing surface drainage to accommodate sidewalk and bike trail improvements



Photo 1: Looking northerly along existing North Main Street just north of its intersection with Railroad Avenue



Photo 1 Edit: Proposed enhancements include a paved separated trail, ADA-compliant sidewalk, decorative lights with banners, and drainage improvements to accommodate the enhancements.



Downtown Concept Plan

## Downtown Enhancement

SUMMER 2020 10

Updating the downtown to be more aesthetically appealing and accessible ranked high on the community's desired improvements. The downtown enhancements proposed to address these issues are illustrated in the concept plan shown on this board, and in the photo edits shown on board 11 (Downtown & Pocket Park). The downtown enhancements shown in the image edits on board 11 are based on retrofitting. Adjustments to the existing pavements, utilities, and amenities will only occur as necessary to accommodate the specific improvement and its goals. With retrofitting there is not the complete demolition and replacement of everything (i.e.: vehicular and pedestrian pavement, light fixtures, traffic signage, etc.).

Images of the pocket park concepts shown on board 11 illustrate retrofitting with minimal impact in the downtown. In these edits only broken sections of the sidewalk are removed and replaced, and only sections of the sidewalk and street are removed as necessary to allow for ADA ramps and intersection bump-outs. The downtown image edit on board 11 shows a more aggressive retrofit with the complete removal and replacement of the existing sidewalk in addition to the removals necessary to accommodate the intersection bump outs and a widened sidewalk.

Retrofitting of streetscape enhancements has been done by other communities to keep costs down. One such community is Fairfield, Iowa, where they retrofitted their six-block downtown/business district with site furniture, lights, and pavers.

Major elements proposed for the downtown enhancement include the following:

- **Bump-Outs:** Reduce impermeable surfaces, shorten pedestrian crossing distance, allow for incorporation of green space to improve aesthetics and micro-climate, and help reduce traffic speed. Accommodates semi-traffic.
- **Site Amenities:** Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, and planters enhance user experience and when their style and color are coordinated they enhance community aesthetics and improve community identity.
- **Exposed Walls:** Whether facing an empty lot or alleyway, painting murals on empty exterior exposed walls can be an effective way to transform the aesthetics of an area while contributing to its sense of place.
- **Accessibility:** Curb ramps, sidewalks in good repair and of appropriate width and slope, well marked ADA parking stalls, well defined crosswalks, and appropriate signage improve accessibility as well as enhance user comfort.
- **Vehicular Lighting:** Painting existing vehicular lights in downtown and along Main St. to match the color of site furniture and decorative pedestrian lighting will create a unified look. Themed metal banners on the light poles can introduce color and art, create unity, strengthen community identity, and highlight primary corridors while reducing maintenance associated with typical banners.

(continued on board 11)

**Lost Nation**

Main Street & Downtown

**FLENKER LAND ARCHITECTURE CONSULTANTS, LLC**

LA: Meg Flenker, PLA, CPESC, CPSWQ

Intern: Haoyue "Karma" Yang

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

