



Existing Center Street from Page Street to Main Street looking north highlighting areas of desired improvements.



Proposed Center Street with desired improvements.

Downtown Street Amenities

Downtown is the heart of Monona. Recent streetscape updates, attract both residents and visitors into the core of Monona, offering resources such as the library, city hall, post office, eateries, and other businesses.

Currently, the downtown area has several limitations regarding accessibility, safety, and aesthetics. Many store fronts are not ADA accessible with door entrances ranging anywhere from 6 inches to 2 feet above the current sidewalk level. Several businesses have a sidewalk ramp with handrails prevent people from falling off the elevated sidewalk. Although effective, handrails and ramps at every storefront is not feasible nor desirable.

Second, Monona has newer light fixtures that do not provide sufficient lighting levels for people to feel safe at night. One proposed solution is to lower the light bulbs in the existing street light fixtures so that they are lowered below the fixture hood, sending light out at a wider angle. The second solution is to add more lighting. These light poles are meant to be spaced 25' to 30' between each light pole, but currently the spacing between light poles in 50' to 60'. The distance causes large gaps in the field of light creating an uncomfortable setting that many residents noted during the assets and barriers workshops. More information from a photometric analysis is needed to determine locations of light poles.

Lastly, it is a priority to make downtown more pedestrian-friendly. Site furnishings such as benches help pedestrians enjoy downtown by providing places to rest. Trash and recycling receptacles are items Monona currently has and continue to be utilized for beautification and upkeep. A mid-block curb bump-out, as shown above, adds much-desired pedestrian space for gathering and respite. Additionally, small improvements like awnings, planter boxes, and pots can be purchased by stores or jointly with the City to promote the beautification of the downtown core.



Existing facade and entrance of a typical downtown office.



Proposed improvements including ADA-accessible entrance ramps, flower boxes, and solar-powered awnings.

Monona

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Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development