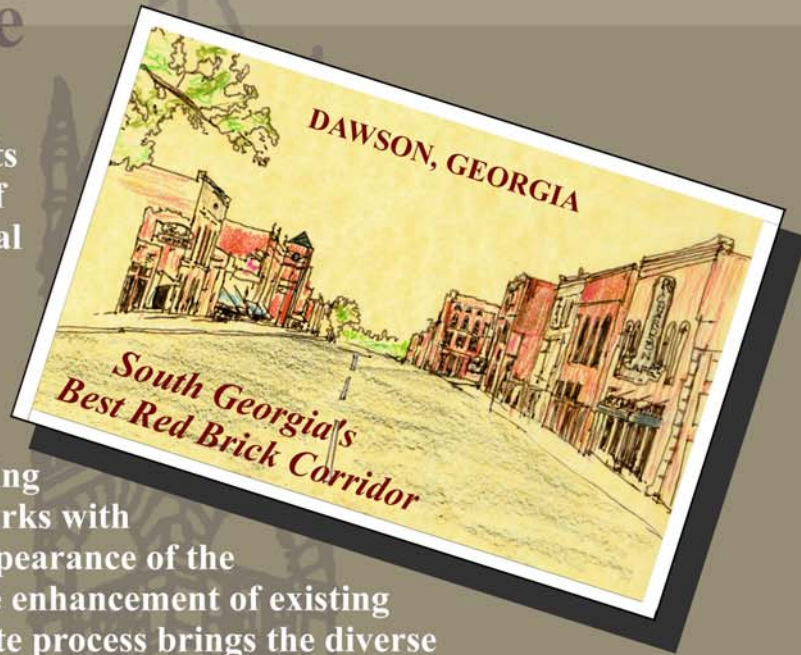


Dawson, Georgia

Design Charette

Dawson, a Better Hometown city, hosted a team of graduate students and faculty from the University of Georgia's School of Environmental Design, along with preservation professionals from around the state for an intensive five day design charette.

A charette is a design brainstorming session in which a design team works with the community to evaluate the appearance of the town and formulate a plan for the enhancement of existing resources. The community charette process brings the diverse talents and resources of the University to small towns to help them articulate their vision into focused plans for action.



Design Goals

- Interpret and promote Industrial and Agricultural resources
- Enhance existing and potential design assets
- Improve the appearance of Dawson for the benefit of residents and visitors alike

Study Areas

- Downtown Historic District
- Corridor Z (520 bypass)
- Entrances to Downtown



Through enhancement and improvement, Dawson can give tourists a reason to stop and residents a reason to be proud.

Dawson, Georgia

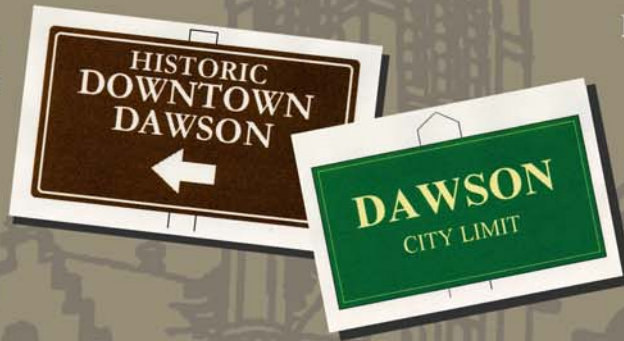


Consulting with cellular phone companies may provide an avenue for funding the construction of the tower.

Motorists can be reminded of historic downtown Dawson while traveling along Corridor Z. A large bell tower, reminiscent of the courthouse tower, can mark the entrance to the downtown business district. Interest in Dawson can be further sparked by the creation of a historic peanut museum honoring Dawson's agricultural heritage. The reuse of a historic building near the proposed bell tower site will help link the bypass to downtown.



The recognizable brown of cultural tourism signs mounted on a white signpost guides visitors into the historic downtown area.



More attractive than the average city limit sign, this new signage lets motorists know they are approaching Dawson. The new city limit sign, with a more sophisticated lettering and a white signpost, makes a statement to visitors.

When driving along the bypass, motorists' view of downtown Dawson is the backs of their historic buildings. While not the primary entrances for downtown businesses, the rear facades also need to be attractive and well maintained. This is achieved through clear signage and landscaping. Planting trees and shrubs helps screen service areas, parking and trash receptacles as well as beautify the rear of the buildings. In combination with a planting initiative along the opposite side of the bypass, motorists are given the perception of being on the outside edge of an attractive community.

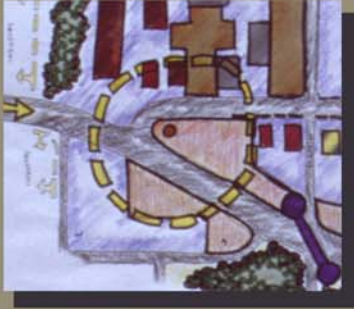


A pedestrian overpass would provide a safe crossing for visitors and residents headed downtown. The proposed design is reminiscent of Dawson's industrial architecture. The location suggested for an overpass is an area already heavy with pedestrian traffic.



Corridor Z

Dawson, Georgia



The initial entrances into the downtown are the intersections of Main Street with the bypass. These entrances provide the first windows into the city and, therefore, the first impressions of Dawson. By keeping these areas neat and clean with sidewalks and trash receptacles they will invite motorists into the city.

New construction at the entrances should be compatible with the existing buildings. This may mean requiring front gabled roofs, wood framing, or traditional storefront arrangements to complement the historically residential character of the areas.



Buildings which do not fit the character of the area can be softened through landscaping. Adding small trees and bed plantings can turn oversized parking areas into inviting spaces.

Establishing a park at the north entrance will show motorists Dawson's friendly atmosphere. By retaining the bungalow of the motorcourt for park facilities the historic character will show as well. Adding trees and other landscape items will promote the park as a convenient picnic stop. Placing Dawson's Exile Camp Historical Marker in the park can be an additional point of interest. Undertaking a planting initiative at the south entrance will visually extend the character of the historic cemetery.



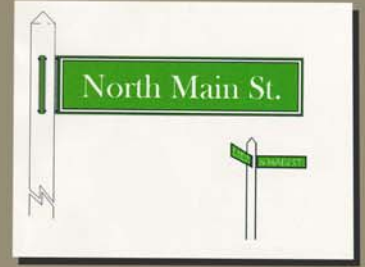
Entrances

Dawson, Georgia



Making simple changes to the buildings and streets can greatly enhance downtown Dawson.

Installing street signs that are easily read and keeping sidewalks clean and in good repair are examples of beneficial alterations to downtown.



- * Remove applied facade and clean exposed original with a light pressure wash
- * Retain original openings such as transoms and side windows
- * Repaint facade as needed

- * Use separate but matching awnings on the two facades of the business
- * Use a wood signboard above the awning corresponding to the entry
- * Open the upper story windows, possibly using the space for loft apartments or offices



- * Stabilize facade, perhaps removing falling stucco from the facade
- * Clean building with a light pressure wash before repainting
- * Rebuild stairs to upper floor as shown and repair/replace all windows
- * Use appropriate signage above transoms as shown

Downtown