

# 'What could be'

## City unveils conceptual plan for downtown area

BY NORM CANNADA  
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SENECA — Seneca City Council members saw a vision Tuesday night of what downtown could look like in the future with an amphitheater, splash pad, more parks, a city stage and a more pedestrian-friendly downtown.

The ideas are part of a conceptual downtown

master plan presented at Tuesday's council work session. City administrator Scott Moulder stressed the plan is conceptual and would likely change as council and the public respond to it.

Shannon Calloway of McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture presented the plan to council. His

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company worked with Seamon Whiteside and the Clemson University parks and recreation department on the plan.

"Most of the feedback from the respondents that we got was that most people were interested in general improvements or new amenities that served the general public," Calloway told council. "That, I think, was the guiding principle to the downtown master plan."

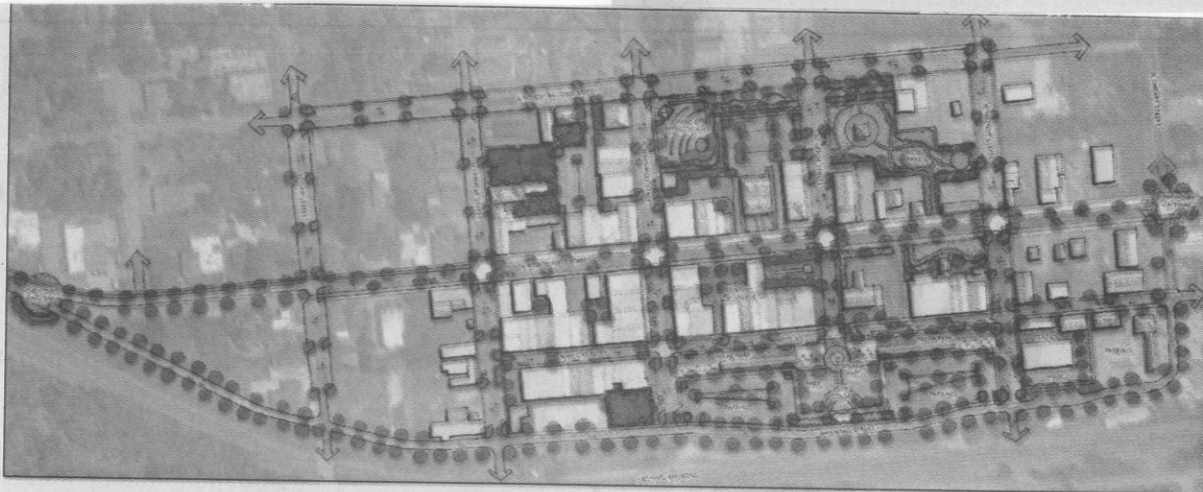
The plan includes a city stage and splash park on Railroad Street, and an amphitheater at property near North Townville and North 2nd streets. A focus of the plan is to make the streets more pedestrian-friend-

ly throughout the downtown area, but especially on North 1st Street.

"Some of the ideas that were generated by staff, as well as the consultants, I think, will be a huge asset as we look forward to a rebirthing of downtown," Moulder said. "The whole idea is to generate a more pedestrian-safe and friendly environment. Right now it's an automobile-friendly environment, so we've got to expand the safety and the accessibility for people to come down and hang out."

Mayor Dan Alexander said he liked the pedestrian-friendly emphasis.

"If you look at success of other cities that have done revitalization, that's the main thing



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This plan for the downtown area was presented to Seneca City Council members on Tuesday night.

they have done to make it more pedestrian-friendly, make it more inviting and more of a destination," he said. "I feel like a lot of people would be very open to that. They would like to see us make North 1st Street more pedestrian-friendly from the Ingles intersection all the way to Miracle Circle."

Moulder said there would be

changes to the plan and that it would take grant money to fund the estimated \$10 million to \$15 million anticipated in street improvements.

"Council members will start weighing in and we'll have public members as it gets out and they'll start weighing in on the impact of the plan," he said. "I expect it to change over time and be a

living document that's going to bring new ideas, hopefully. A lot of times these plans are nothing more than a seed that's planted to get people thinking about what could be. I'm hoping that will happen and we'll see other people get excited and thinking about where we can take downtown."

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