



# Recreation



### High-Level Goals

1. Ensure access to high-quality parks and recreational areas are available to all citizens.
2. Foster the development and preservation of parks.
3. Promote a connected and accessible greenbelt and pathway system.
4. Support the health and well-being of residents through recreational opportunities.
5. Enhance economic vitality through the development of regional recreation destinations.

### Supportive Strategies

#### 1. Ensure access to high-quality parks and recreational areas available to all citizens.

##### 1.1. Develop new parks and enhance existing ones to ensure all residents have access to park space.

- 1.1.1. Develop a Facilities Maintenance Plan to plan for the enhancement and maintenance of City parks.
- 1.1.2. Develop a Parks, Pathways, Master Plan in collaboration with Greater Middleton Parks and Recreation District to plan for new parks and ensure adequate service for area residents.
- 1.1.3. Annually assess the Parks Impact Fee CIP to ensure the impact fees collected are appropriate to help fund the future Parks and Pathways planned. Update the Parks CIP as needed.

##### 1.2. Expand the walking and bicycle network adjacent to parks to improve accessibility and promote active lifestyles.

- 1.2.1. Update development code regulations to require connectivity to adjacent parks to be constructed within new developments.

##### 1.3. Coordinate park plan implementation through public land investment, partnerships with private developments, and the Greater Middleton Parks and Recreation District.

- 1.3.1. Update development code regulations to require park amenities be included in new development proportional to the size of the project.
- 1.3.2. Provide incentives for additional development or density based parks.

#### 1.4. Promote community events and programs that encourage use of parks and recreational areas.

- 1.4.1. Regularly host events within parks such as the Farmers Market, Rake Up Middleton, National Night Out, Concerts in the Park, Car Shows, Motor Meets, dances, craft fairs, and community breakfasts.



### 2. Foster development and preservation of parks.

#### 2.1. Plan for sustainable development and conservation efforts simultaneously.

- 2.1.1. Maintain a comprehensive Parks Inventory and Needs Assessment to understand current resources and identify gaps in service.
- 2.1.2. Maintain the recommended Parks, and Pathways Master Plan by conducting regular reviews and updates.

#### 2.2. Update development code regulations for open space to include and address key elements.

- 2.2.1. Define a minimum size for parking new developments, encouraging developers to aggregate parks in one large area rather than dispersing it into smaller pieces.
- 2.2.2. Coordinate with developers to create more impactful parks between different developments.
- 2.2.3. Construct parks consistent with pathways plans to ensure community access.

### 3. Promote a connected and accessible greenbelt and pathway system.

#### 3.1. Establish a greenbelt vision and pathways plan for the Boise River corridor, supporting the Boise Trails Coalition vision of a connected pathway along the Boise River from Lucky Peak Dam to the Snake River.

- 3.1.1. Prepare a master plan for the greenbelt that includes cost estimates and a funding acquisition plan.
- 3.1.2. Conduct necessary property acquisition or easements.
- 3.1.3. Continue to work with the Foundation for Ada/Canyon Trail Systems (FACTS) to further close the gaps in the Boise River greenbelt trail system from Lucky Peak Dam to the Snake River confluence.

- 3.2. Expand the walking and bicycle network to connect parks, schools, and key community destinations.



Walking Path in Middleton Place Park  
Source: Middleton City

- 3.2.1. In collaboration with the Parks and Pathways Master plan, develop a Capital Improvement Plan to identify estimated costs and sequencing of critical projects for future incorporation within City budgets.
- 3.3. Strengthen requirements for pathway development within the Development Code to ensure all new large-scale developments include recreation-oriented accessible and connected pathways.
- 3.3.1. Update development code requirements to include standard pathway dimensions and features by typology and require consistency with the Parks and Pathway Master Plan.
- 3.4. Develop signage and wayfinding systems to enhance the usability and connectivity of the greenbelt and pathways network.
- 3.4.1. Create signage standards for parks and recreational amenities.
- 3.4.2. Incorporate the signage standards within the Parks and Pathways Master plan.

#### 4. Support the health and well-being of residents through recreational opportunities.

- 4.1. Promote the development of diverse recreational facilities, including playgrounds, sports fields, and community centers, to support active and healthy lifestyles.



Playground in Roadside Park  
Source: Middleton City



- 4.1.1. Support increased recreational sport and cultural programming from GMPRD.
- 4.1.2. Allow local health providers to facilitate local and regional health initiatives.
- 4.1.3. Examine the need for additional recreational facilities, such as parks, open air theaters, and connector pathways.
- 4.2. Strive towards recreational facilities that are accessible to all residents, including those with disabilities.
  - 4.2.1. Include accessibility upgrades as a facility upgrade criteria recommendation for future city projects.
  - 4.2.2. Ensure public spaces are designed with safety in mind, including adequate lighting, clear visibility, and play areas for children.
- 4.3. Incorporate natural features into the design of public spaces to create serene and visually appealing environments.
  - 4.3.1. Identify and define “passive” vs. “active” park requirements within the city.
  - 4.3.2. Create a policy for creating new passive park amenities within existing parks, as the budget allows.
- 5. Enhance economic vitality through the development of regional recreation destinations.
  - 5.1. Identify and prioritize improvements to specific regional recreation destinations.
    - 5.1.1. Master plan the River Walk Park, a 93 acre park south of Hwy 44 and north of the Boise River between Middleton Road and Hartley Lane to serve as a signature park and regional attraction. Include a Capital Impact Plan to establish a phasing plan and cost estimates for improvements.
    - 5.1.2. Develop basic infrastructure and amenities to support increased visitation, such as parking and restrooms.
    - 5.1.3. Include the River Walk Park CIP within Impact Fee updates to dedicate appropriate funding towards construction.
  - 5.2. Identify opportunities to establish regional public sports facilities.
    - 5.2.1. Identify the current and projected demand and supply for regional sports facilities, such as tournament-sized ball fields.
    - 5.2.2. Identify lands that would suit the development of regional sports facilities.
    - 5.2.3. Work with the GMPRD to support the development of regional sports facilities by adding it to the City’s CIP.

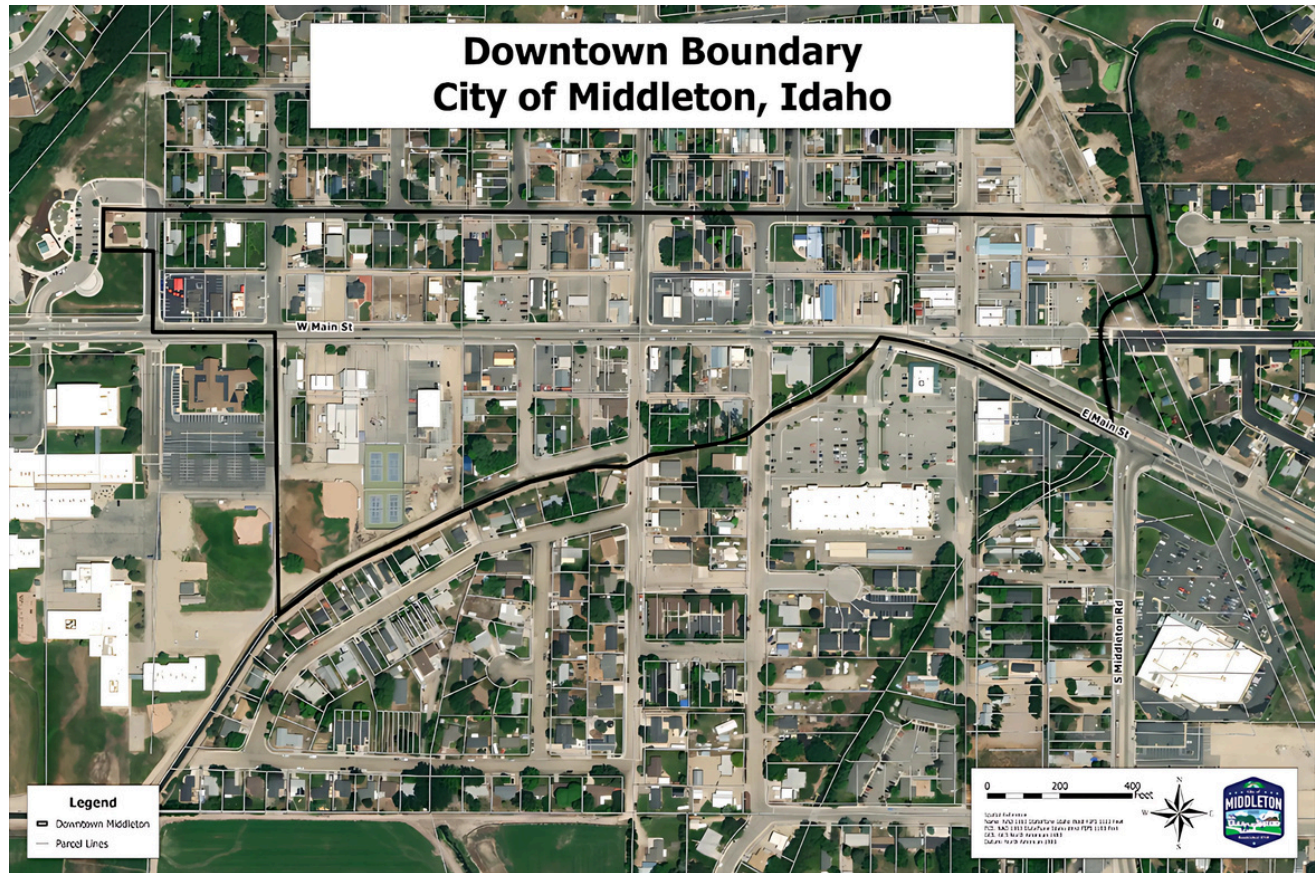




# Downtown Revitalization

Example of new construction with more historic architecture | Source: ArcSitio Designs





### High-Level Goals

1. Ensure the downtown area supports a thriving local economy through strategic mixed-use developments and business support initiatives.
2. Enhance the visual appeal and functionality of downtown Middleton to create inviting and engaging public spaces.
3. Promote strong community engagement and participation in the planning and revitalization of the downtown area.
4. Strengthen infrastructure and transportation networks to support downtown growth and accessibility.
5. Foster a safe and welcoming downtown environment for all community members.

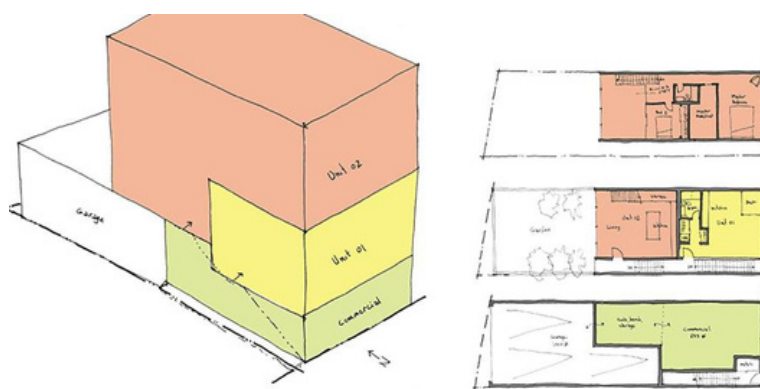


## Supportive Strategies

### 1. Ensure the downtown area supports a thriving local economy through strategic mixed-use developments and business support initiatives.

#### 1.1. Develop a mixed-use zoning ordinance to integrate residential, commercial, and office spaces within the downtown area.

- 1.1.1. Prepare content for a mixed use zoning district, including building typology, uses, and forming/massing requirements.



Example of Mixed-Use building uses and massing | Source: Moss Design

- 1.1.2. Draft a mixed-use zoning ordinance, and facilitate required public hearings that provide context and explanation.
  - 1.1.3. Adopt and refine the downtown zoning district over time as constraints and opportunities change and become clearer.
- #### 1.2. Create a local business directory and marketing campaign to promote downtown businesses and attract visitors.
- 1.2.1. Partner with the Middleton Chamber of Commerce to gather information about existing businesses.
  - 1.2.2. Create a municipal database of local business and property owners.
- #### 1.3. Review the zoning and building codes to ensure that well-intentioned codes are not creating adverse operating environments for entrepreneurs and businesses.
- 1.3.1. Perform a detailed assessment of current zoning and building codes for compliance with modern standards.
  - 1.3.2. Planning & Zoning staff, Planning Commission, and the City Council should hold workshops/meetings as needed to draft and adopt changes to the zoning and building codes.





Example of new construction with more historic architecture  
Source: ArcSitio Designs

## 2. Enhance the visual appeal and functionality of downtown Middleton to create inviting and engaging public spaces.

2.1. Develop and enforce architectural design guidelines that reflect Middleton's small-town character and historical heritage, ensuring new developments are visually cohesive and respectful of the town's identity.

- 2.1.1. Perform an architectural and community design public input process, involving residents, property owners, and business owners in or near the downtown area.
- 2.1.2. Draft design guidelines for built form and public space design that are informed by public input and feedback. Once drafted and reviewed, the City should adopt and enforce the final document.
- 2.1.3. Utilize the funds available in the Downtown Urban Renewal Project to improve public amenities and infrastructure in the Downtown District.

2.2. Partner with Greater Middleton Parks and Recreation to increase public park space on or near their Community Center facility in town by converting publicly owned lots.

- 2.2.1. Meet with Greater Middleton Parks and Recreation to discuss their current assets in the downtown area, the future of those assets, and opportunities for expanding parks and recreation in the downtown area.
- 2.2.2. Facilitate discussions about growth and development in progress to allow Greater Middleton Parks and Recreation to plan accordingly.

2.3. Prepare and implement appropriate streetscape amenities to attract a vibrant mixture of pedestrian centric businesses in downtown.

- 2.3.1. Identify an appropriate intensity of site amenities along the state-owned Main Street (SH 44) and municipal rights-of-way.
- 2.3.2. Create an implementation plan for fulfilling underserved site amenities.
- 2.3.3. Place a modest allocation in the municipal annual budget for placement of missing amenities.

### 3. Promote strong community engagement and participation in the planning and revitalization of the downtown area.

- 3.1. Host town hall meetings/workshops to gather input from residents on major downtown revitalization projects.
  - 3.1.1. Provide an annual 'State of the Downtown' to update the community residents about recent development and revitalization projects
  - 3.1.2. Gather feedback about the downtown's existing conditions and trajectory, defining a vision for the future of the area and its impact on the community.
- 3.2. Utilize social media platforms and the city's official website to regularly update residents on downtown projects, upcoming community events, and opportunities for involvement.



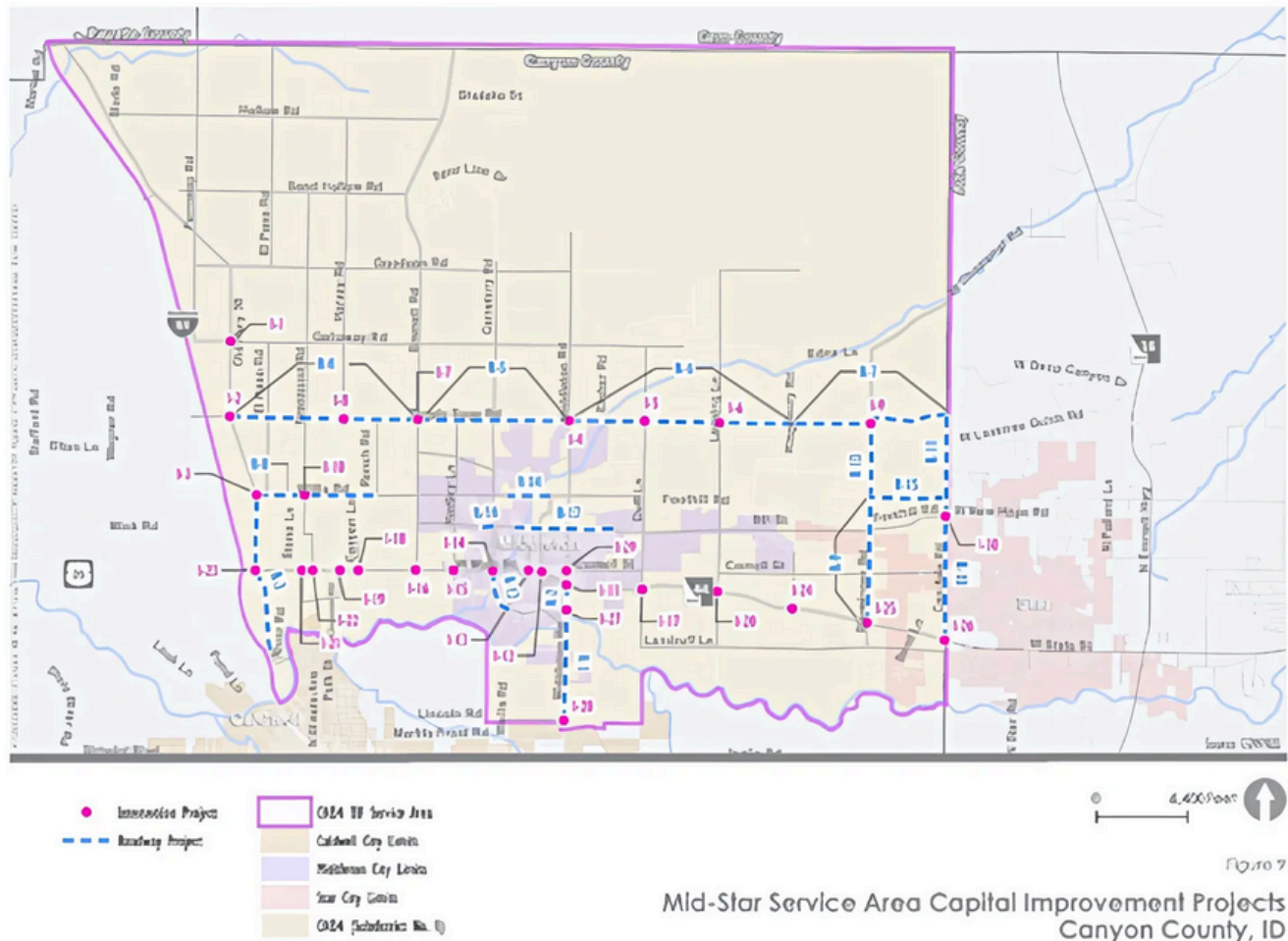
- 3.2.1. Enable and support a low-maintenance community calendar on the city's website that is useful for both residents and visitors.
- 3.2.2. Share the new community calendar on utility bills and the website, or other high-visibility locations
- 3.3. Explore creating a Main Street program to enable volunteer opportunities for community members to participate in downtown revitalization efforts.
  - 3.3.1. Engage with the Idaho Department of Commerce to facilitate an 'Introduction to Main Street' community visit.

#### 4. Strengthen infrastructure and transportation networks to support downtown growth and accessibility.

4.1. Upgrade and maintain downtown infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, and utilities, by prioritizing projects in the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and seeking state and federal grants.

4.1.1. Develop a network of planned or upgraded alleyways and multi-use paths throughout downtown, aimed at decreasing the block size and improving pedestrian and bicycle circulation.

4.1.2. Working from the CIP, identify attainable projects for downtown infrastructure improvement.



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Mid-Star Service Area Capital Improvement Project Map | Source: Mid-Star Service Area Capital Improvement Plan

4.1.3. Develop an implementation calendar, and share the projects' schedule with the public.

4.1.4. Facilitate an engagement effort to ensure disturbances or impacts are known by all local businesses.



## 4.2. Explore opportunities for shared off-street parking facilities, public or private, within the downtown.

- 4.2.1. Develop and adopt an ordinance that enables a simple process of entering into a shared-parking agreement.
- 4.2.2. Create necessary forms to apply for and enter into shared parking agreements.
- 4.2.3. Create and publicize guidelines for downtown area businesses and other tenants that details the benefits and process of shared parking agreements, per the adopted ordinance.

## 4.3. Pursue east-west bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along the southern border of the downtown area and along 1st Street to facilitate safer and more comfortable non-vehicle activity away from State Route 44.

- 4.3.1. Work with ITD to identify preferred alignments for bike and pedestrian infrastructure to intersect and run parallel with state-owned right-of-way. These routes should enable thorough and safe circulation for all modes of transportation.
- 4.3.2. Work with ITD to move through all phases of work for various projects, including approvals and necessary upgrades to both municipal and state-owned infrastructure.
- 4.3.3. Identify opportunities and apply for grant funding such as SS4A or Multimodal Transportation Funds for implementation.



Shared Parking Graphic | Source: Nelson/Nygaard

- 4.4. Coordinate with the Idaho Transportation Department to improve multimodal traffic flow and safety along State Route 44, ensuring any changes support the downtown revitalization efforts.
  - 4.4.1. Continue to work with ITD to outline safe and efficient multimodal transportation along state-owned corridors.
  - 4.4.2. Continue to work with ITD on the potential alignments and construction of a municipal bypass that benefits both Middleton and regional traffic. In this context, the recommendation is to consider the potential effects on transportation within downtown and the effects on multimodal transportation.
- 4.5. Design and install wayfinding signage to help residents and visitors navigate the downtown area and find key destinations easily.



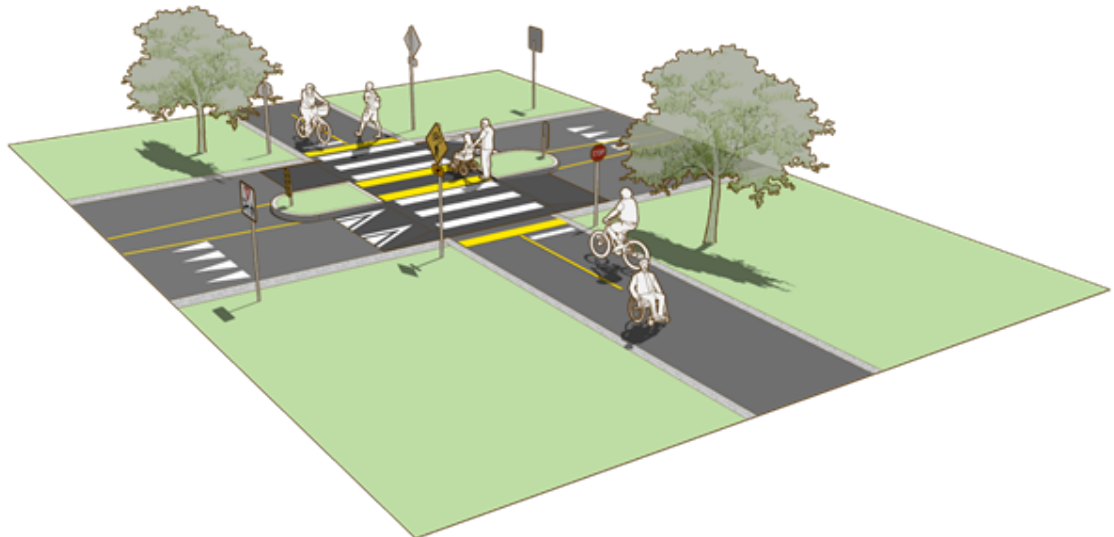
- 4.5.1. Develop a wayfinding signage plan that is specific to downtown, addressing signage that caters to vehicles and to bicyclists and pedestrians.
- 4.5.2. Develop designs and identify locations for pedestrian/bicycle-scale wayfinding signage. These are signs that are smaller displays, smaller fonts, and more elaborate designs.
- 4.5.3. Develop designs and identify locations for vehicular-scale wayfinding signage. These are signs that read well for drivers passing by at speeds of 35 mph, featuring elements such as large displays, large fonts, and simpler designs.
- 4.5.4. As necessary, work with property owners to obtain necessary easements or with ITD to gain approval for placing signs in their right-of-way.
- 4.5.5. Implement a modest budget, as supported by the City's revenue, to support wayfinding signage development and placement. A minimum budget of \$25,000 is recommended for the first year to place a gateway sign and a post-it sign. Money should also be earmarked for ongoing maintenance and updates to these signs.

## 5. Foster a safe and welcoming downtown environment for all community members.

- 5.1. Coordinate with the Middleton School District to discover more efficient and safe drop-off and pick-up locations and procedures for the Middleton Middle School located along Hwy 44/Main Street.
- 5.2. Work with local law enforcement to increase patrols during peak hours and community events to ensure a safe environment.
  - 5.2.1. Work with Middleton Police to identify the high and low times of service calls for the downtown area and increase presence during the high-reporting timeframes.
  - 5.2.2. Review and analyze the impact to determine if schedule changes should be permanent or temporary.

**5.3. Implement traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps and raised crosswalks, to ensure pedestrian safety along non-state routes in the downtown.**

- 5.3.1. Identify and prioritize opportunities for traffic calming roadway designs based on traffic injury/fatality data, crash data, and the concentration of pedestrians in the area.
- 5.3.2. Develop tactical urbanism interventions, i.e., temporary installations, for each of these projects to test the proposed solution. If the intervention does not work, then the City should go back to the 'drawing board' to identify a solution that does address the need in a cost-effective manner.
- 5.3.3. Design and implement permanent traffic calming measures in priority areas throughout the downtown area.
- 5.3.4. Apply for state and federal transportation grants that will help cover part or all of the traffic calming measures design and implementation.



Raised crosswalk | Source: Rural Design Guide