

# Executive Summary



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## R/UDAT recommendations for downtown revitalization include:

1. an urban design framework for the downtown and connected areas;
2. specific recommendations for the capitol complex area;
3. recommendations on the “vista block”;
4. historic preservation recommendations;
5. transportation and parking programs;
6. a list of major projects;
7. and guidance for effective implementation and finance.

The urban design framework highlights the important role of the Old State Capitol with the adjacent Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) complex in the downtown. Important linkages and design ideas have been identified. The north-south corridor along 6<sup>th</sup> Street and the east-west corridor along Capitol Avenue connect the downtown to the Capitol Complex and adjoining neighborhoods.

The capitol complex is singled out for specific recommendations including the demolition and replacement of the Stratton Building. New underground and above-ground parking ramps should be built to allow a greening of the Capitol Complex. Special attention should be paid to reclaim the Capitol Complex from 20 years of neglect.

Recommendations for the vista block focus on improvements on the north half to create a park/plaza and to allow for possible future development. No existing buildings on the south half, facing the old state capitol should be removed.

## **E x e c u t i v e   S u m m a r y**

Framework plans for neighborhoods propose programs, policies and financing to help increase home ownership and stabilize these areas through rehabilitation and infill. For downtown, approaches for securing more residential uses, as well as enhanced retail opportunities, improved cultural venues and reuse of many existing buildings are proposed.

Historic preservation recommendations suggest policies and methods to stop the loss of significant buildings not only in the downtown area, but also in the surrounding neighborhoods. The team recommends a more comprehensive and reasonable preservation ordinance including revisions to the current ordinance that would require only a simple majority of property owners to create a historic district and provide for demolition delay for locally and nationally designated historic structures.

Transportation proposals will support a friendlier pedestrian environment downtown and start the process of converting surface parking lots to ramps or other infill development.

Major project recommendations start with the renovation of the Masonic Temple as the Springfield Performing Arts Center, a project to which the team assigns a very high priority. Other important projects include creating a special vocabulary for improvements to the 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Capitol Avenue corridors and the development of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Transit Center.

Finally, the report addresses implementation strategies including: why, who, sources of funding and follow up.

