

Concurrent Projects / Activities

Strong sustainable partnerships between public and private resources are the foundation upon which effective revitalization will thrive.

Facade Improvements

Building facade improvements are an important ingredient in the revitalization of the downtown. A facade improvement program should be initiated to encourage

- Design
- Organize
- Promote
- Invest

private property owners to rehabilitate and enhance their buildings. One option is to seek funding from a grant program whereby private owners petition for funds to make

improvements. If grant funds are unavailable, assistance can be sought from local financial institutions to pool resources for a low interest revolving loan fund. A successful loan fund program should include the following elements:

- Participation by local lenders;
- Establishment of clear and concise guidelines for project eligibility;
- Availability of “sketch designs” to show property owners and tenants how they can make attractive facade improvements at modest costs, including technical assistance on cost estimates; and
- Intensive promotion of the program by the City.

Coordination with FDOT

The City of LaBelle should continue to work with the FDOT and their consultant regarding the SR 29 PD&E, which will determine the

alignment of SR 29 and the Bridge. This effort should be coordinated with Hendry County.



Public, private, partnerships (P3) should also be sought to enhance the City’s position with FDOT with regard to design

and the timing of improvements.

Phased Streetscape Improvement Program

The City of LaBelle should adopt a phase program for streetscape improvements. If funds allow, an initial effort should include a pilot streetscape project whereby an east/west street is chosen to make landscape, signage and parking improvements. Other efforts, including unified signage and landscaping, should be sought at the onset to help set the stage and create energy and participation.



Conceptual Streetscape

Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Amendments

The City of LaBelle should amend its Comprehensive Plan to implement this Downtown Plan. Specific items relate to redefining the Walking District and adopting codes that implement the Master Plan.

Seek Funding Mechanisms

The City should seek funding at all levels and from all sources in order to implement the Downtown Plan.

Ongoing Marketing / Promotion

Promoting the downtown will be as important as the improvements or programs themselves. The promotion should emphasize the elements of downtown that make it the special place, such as walkability, riverfront recreation, history and culture.



*LaBelle Chamber of Commerce and
Hendry County Economic Development Council*

Although every effort should be made to bring in as many existing organizations as possible, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council, these efforts will need to be centrally managed to maximize their effectiveness and continuity. The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is the typical organization that has been used to manage these types of activities.