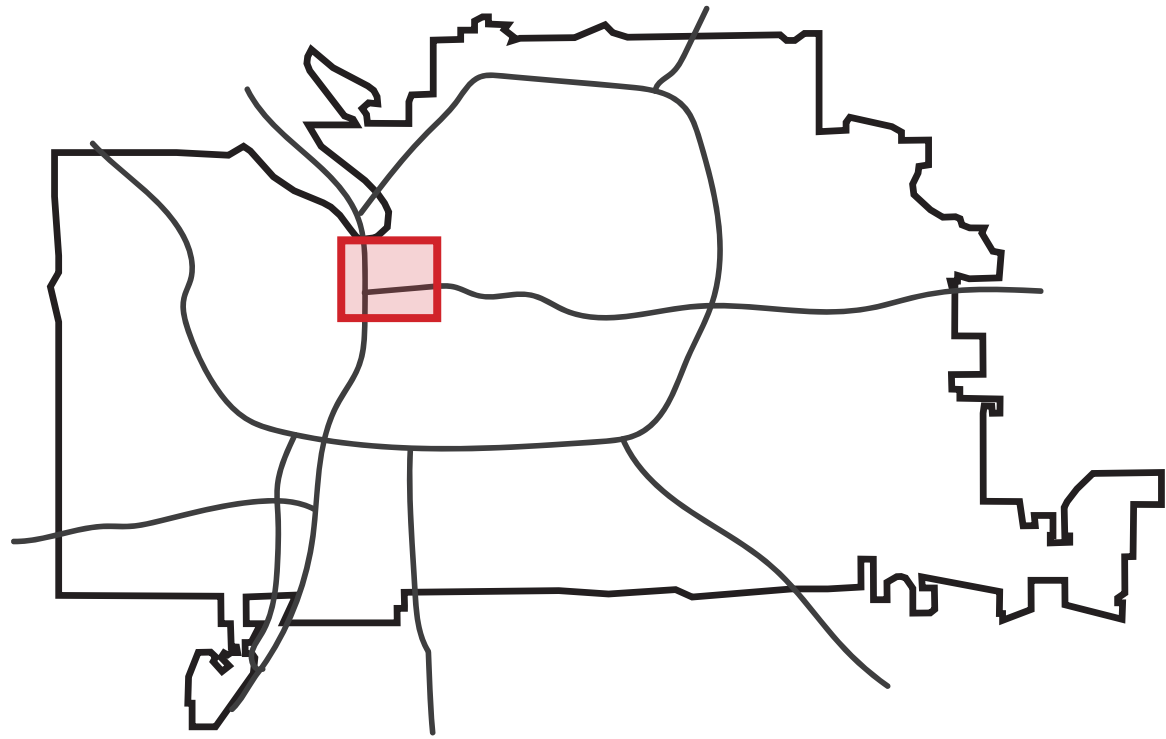


Montgomery's

MOBILE STREET REVITALIZATION



PT. 2



NARRATIVE

Mobile Street is a historic neighborhood and landmark of downtown Montgomery, and it has been home to many significant moments of the Civil Rights Movement, most notably the Selma to Montgomery Voting Right's March. However, Mobile Street has seen many vacant homes be demolished and many businesses abandon the area. It was also severely fractured during the construction of I-85 and I-65 and the neighborhood has since struggled in both economic growth and real estate development. One way to unite the fractured neighborhoods

would be to use the existing vacant land, along Mobile Street and throughout other parts of the community, for growing and harvesting plants and vegetation. As a community, the underpass could be used to turn the negative impact of the overpass into a positive one. The infrastructure is in place to serve as a space for meeting and selling produce grown in the area (think small-scale farmers market), civic meetings, an avenue with established historic memorials, and a public exhibit for local artist to display work to overall improve the quality of the neighborhood and those who live there.



PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES #6

Tuskegee just won a \$50,000 ADECA grant to build an office + farmers market + outdoor learning classroom on its new site 595 Grady. You can join the team as MCP partner if you create a robust neighborhood plan that demonstrates how Tuskegee and the Historic Peacock Tract neighborhood co-create a robust regeneration in relation to the New National Memorial and Center, and EAT South, which is an urban teaching farm that engages our local community by gathering around, learning about and growing food.

Idea

- Use existing plot(s) of land to use for farming/ growing greenlife and vegetation to benefit those in the community. This could go beyond Mobile Street.

Recreational Development

- Community garden space, recreational activities, benches, etc.

Costs

- The garden costs could vary depending on how much land is allocated for such purpose. It could also be discussed if these areas could be used as a community, individual garden, or market garden, or all three (depending on the size of the plot(s)). The cost of the garden, for a 500x500 Ft. plot of land and basic elements could cost between \$2,500 and \$5,000 (Source: UC Davis). Costs include establishing the garden near a source of water, maintaining city fees, insurance and contractor wages.

PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES #7

The 60th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Right's March will be March 7th, 2025. For many the 60th is even more significant than the 50th as it marks a whole generation. Develop a plan for Mobile St. that is structured around remembering and honoring the significance of the neighborhood while revitalizing its role in the 21st century, annually, seasonally and on special days.

Recreational Development

- Close off the section of S Holt St. under the overpasses, permantley or conditionally, to provide space for such events (Ex: Voting Right's March).

- Space to display art/ historic/ cultural pieces provided by local artists or donors.

- Gathering space for people in surrounding neighborhoods

Idea

- Redevelop or redesign existing underpass areas into places for civic gatherings, a place for art/ cultural exhibits, and a place that can even be used by surrounding communities.

Costs:

- Underpass development and redesign would vary much more than costs for a community garden. It is all dependent on the extent of the project and development, although a broad range could be expected to be from \$20,000 (using some paint and cleaning up around the area) to \$2,000,000 in the most extravagant and overdone underpass redesign.

Commercial Development

- Opens the opportunity for local vendors, retail, and other businesses to come into this area.



There is approximately 235,000 ft.² highlighted along Mobile St.



Although there are exceptions to every rule, community gardens should almost always include:

- At least 15 plots assigned to community members. Raised bed plots, which are more expensive, should be no more than 4 feet wide, and between 8 and 12 feet long. In-ground plots can be from 10 x 10 up to 20 x 20 feet.
- A simple irrigation system with one hose bib or faucet for every four plots. Hand watering with a hose is the most practical and affordable for individual plots (and it's almost a necessity when you start plants from seed).
- An 8-foot fence around the perimeter with a drive-through gate. In our experience, this is a key element of success. Don't count on eliminating all acts of vandalism or theft, but fencing will help to keep these to tolerably low levels.
- A sign with the garden's name, sponsors, and a contact person's phone number for more information. If your community is bilingual, include information in this language. (Source: UC Davis)

The major programs involved would be the City of Montgomery and the private landowners that possess the land located along Mobile Street. Without their participation and assistance, creating a community garden would no be possible. It is also important for the City of Montgomery to be willing to work and redesign the underpass to accommodate for community gatherings, art/ cultural/ history exhibits, etc. There would also need to be a strong partnership between public/ private these communities, groups, and individuals.

Individual plots: Each participant is assigned their own plot to grow and harvest for themselves.

Communal garden: Everyone works in the whole garden together and decides as a group what to do with the produce.

Market gardens: Produce is grown and sold for income and sometimes donated. These gardens might include individual or group plots. (Source: Conservation Fund)



Individual Plots

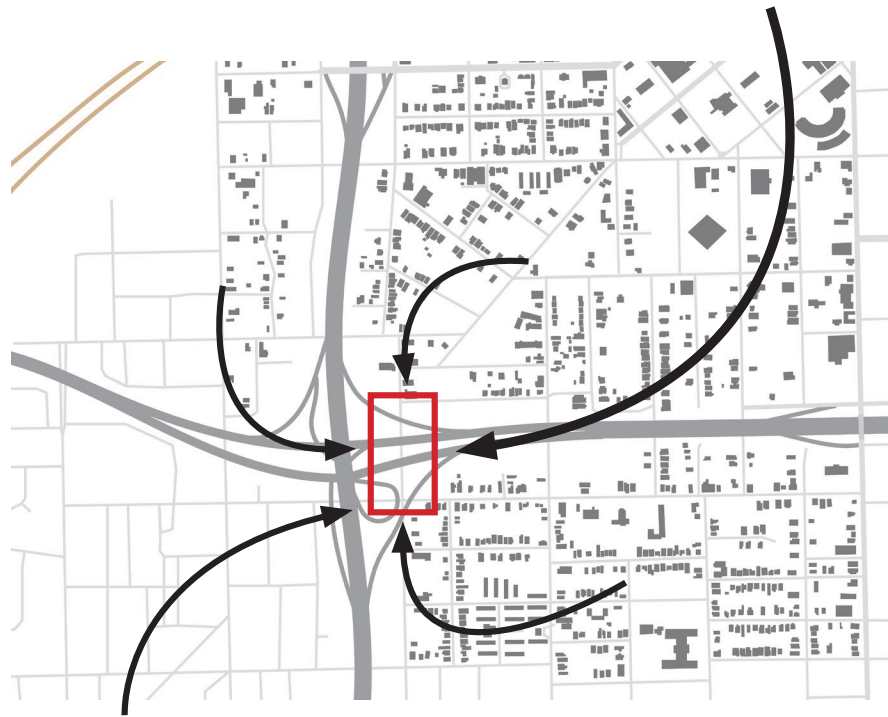
Market Garden

Communal Gardens

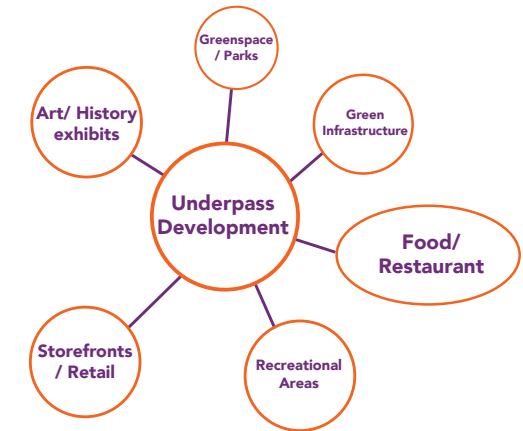
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus/DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Elevated highways and rail lines were long overdue for a makeover. While freeway cap parks—or removing freeways entirely—have become increasingly popular to reunite cities fragmented by urban highways, capping isn't always feasible. Instead, many cities are turning transit underpasses into public parks or promenades— replacing trash, overgrown weeds, and dark passageways with art installations, funky lights, and pedestrian thoroughfares.

Outsource the creativity to the community to actually have a massive impact on their own environment



As discussed in the narrative, these events or gatherings could bring people together from surrounding communities and neighborhoods. .



Existing Infrastructure: ■ Roadway/ Street ■ Sidewalks ■ Fence(s)

