



*Several blocks of mixed-use buildings have replaced a large strip center in Ada Village.*

With Progressive A/E

Led by Jeff Speck and now largely implemented, the Envision Ada plan reorganized a village downtown that had been undermined by a large 1970s-era strip mall at one end. In addition to replacing local, walkable retail with auto-oriented businesses, this shopping center cut the main street off from its riverfront, hiding it behind parking and dumpsters.

Several large moves outlined in the plan and subsequent design efforts are bringing the village back to its roots:

- More than 1000 feet of Headley Street has been rebuilt and lined with development parcels, to give Ada Township a proper face to the highway it enfronts;
- The main/main intersection along Ada Drive has been shifted east to Headley Street, bringing the village's center of gravity closer to the Thornapple River;
- Ada Drive has been rebuilt to a less highway-like geometry;
- Two blocks of new mixed-use buildings lining Ada Drive have replaced the demolished strip shopping center;
- A new street between these two blocks terminates on a relocated historic schoolhouse; and
- The riverfront has been remade as a public park.

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