



The plan focuses on Lowell's Lower Locks as the most promising site for long-term investment.

Speck & Associates led a team including AECOM Transportation Planning and Rock Maple Studio to create a comprehensive plan for the continued development of downtown Lowell. To complete the work, Jeff Speck moved his family to the city for a month long “slow charrette,” in which he led many dozens of meetings and public sessions while receiving constant feedback from his client, the non-profit Lowell Plan.

The plan addresses all aspects of the physical form and programming of the downtown, including:

- A full redesign of the street system, converting many one-way streets back to two-way, implementing “road diets” on oversized thoroughfares, and introducing a comprehensive bike system where none existed;
- An “urban triage” study of the downtown area to determine where future investments are likely to have the most positive impact on the city’s livability and future success;
- Based on that study, a series of short-term, mid-term, and long-term proposed interventions for public and private investment in downtown Lowell; and
- Specific proposals for several key challenges facing the city, including the location and design of its high school.

In the decade since the plan’s completion, many of its recommendations have been implemented, including the controversial reversion of the downtown street network from principally one-way to principally two-way traffic—now a widely heralded decision. The plan is featured in *Planning* magazine and as a best practice in the international design textbook *New Urbanism and Beyond*, edited by Tigran Haas.

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