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Redevelopment planned for MLK, Jr. corridor

Updated: Nov 15, 2009 12:54 AM EST

[Richard Essex](#)/Eyewitness News

Indianapolis - The city took the first steps Saturday to change the perception of a busy downtown street.

Another \$2 million is coming to Martin Luther King, Jr. Street for streetscaping that is intended to spur redevelopment.

"Down Home Cooking" is a new restaurant on the street. A mural on the side of the building of Martin Luther King, Jr. is more than a symbol, it's a brand that is part of a marketing strategy for redevelopment.

"I think this is another step via the streetscaping project. It's another important step that is going to set the pace for more businesses to invest," said Bill Taft, Executive Director of Indianapolis LISC.

An artist's rendering of the street after completion shows the current right-hand travel lanes - both north and southbound - turned into parking space.

"The biggest change will be going from four lanes to two lanes with a middle turn lane and on-street parking," said Meg Storrow, Storrow Kinsella Associates.

The lane reduction starts at I-65 to the north, continuing south to Fall Creek. Along the way, all the intersections will have new walkways. Banners and story boards will be featured in the center median and MLK's initials can be seen in the designs at the intersections.

"This will open the door for a vision of a better community. We have businesses that we have seen all of our lives on MLK that are expanding," said Kim Flowers, UNWA Incorporated.

The entire redevelopment is designed to honor Dr. King and use his likeness to attract business and development, with the hope of ultimately attracting customers.

"This is a destination place for the rest of the country, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Indianapolis," said Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams.



Parking, a median and improved intersections are planned for the new MLK Jr. Boulevard.



Dr. King's initials will decorate signposts.



Sign boards will show Indiana history along the median.



A mural of King adorns the side of a new restaurant on the street.

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