

**IMAGINE SOCIAL CIRCLE  
VISION 2040  
SOCIAL CIRCLE MS/HS PTO  
FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

**Vision**

A pretty city, with authentic historic character, separate from the Atlanta metropolitan sprawl, surrounded by scenic rural vistas, with attractive entrances from all directions

The city is a nest within the Georgia heartland where small town feel, friendliness, and community pride and involvement thrive

A welcoming , friendly community

Unique local businesses, locally owned, few franchises and faceless outlets

Historic character where authentic historic structures are complimented with new construction sensitive to context

Maintain the uniqueness of the City

A community built on ethics, character, honesty, and integrity

A network of internship opportunities in local businesses for Social Circle Youth

Local business partnerships, Social Circle School System preparing all youth to succeed in college or skilled jobs

Opportunities for youth leadership roles in the community- committees, focus groups, task forces

Youth aides for elected officials, to promote understanding of local government and community involvement

Programs that nurture and build the people in the community, not just infrastructure and physical elements

Programs for Mentoring of youth by professionals in the community

Extensive Bike trail network separate from traffic that connects neighborhoods, parks, downtown

Walking trails and sidewalks throughout the community

Cultural Arts

Opportunities for all youth, to be employed in well paying skilled labor jobs, or be prepared to be successful in college

An outdoor plaza or square downtown with frequent community concerts

A safe community

Greenride programs/ bike rentals

Festivals for all ages

A variety of activities for youth

An appealing downtown with decorations, such as Christmas lights, that change to maintain interest and atmosphere

Well planned growth that maintains the small town feel

A network of collaboration between businesses and the schools and community for mentoring and development of future business leaders and entrepreneurs

Outdoor resources

Low tax burden

Sense of community, responsive leadership

Retail and restaurants

Local satellite higher education facilities  
Transit available to kids, students, and working adults  
Tutoring Centers, Youth community service and leadership programs  
An exceptional school system- as measured from a national perspective  
A weekend destination for the region

### **Strengths**

The downtown is the center of town and within walking distance of all neighborhoods  
The City community is developing a vision and intended future in advance of looming growth pressures  
Small town feel  
Safe community  
Sense of community, familiarity  
Continuing progress, a strong and improving local (Social Circle City Schools) school system  
Local Transit system  
Positive, personal direction of education and school administration, personal involvement with the students  
Professional Police department, CHAMPS program in the schools, Cooperation and collaboration between the City Police and County Sheriff  
High School athletic facility which is superb and promotes community connection with school activities  
JROTC program in High School  
Christian Learning Center and opportunity for City school students to attend classes at CLC  
Extensive community volunteerism and involvement, helping each other (Community in Schools Clothing Bank, Back to School Bash, Community Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter services, Book Drive,...)  
Social Circle Parkway allows for industrial growth and accommodates traffic out of downtown and neighborhoods  
Retirees in the community are very involved in volunteer activities and are a resource

### **Weaknesses**

Speeding traffic in front of Middle School/high school make pedestrians less safe  
There are no Bed and Breakfasts  
The City needs a recreation center, perhaps a community pool for more activity options  
More amenities are needed that appeal to younger people, high school and young professionals  
Teen activity areas are needed- indoor trampoline, rock climbing, RUSH, gametime, skyzone  
Bike paths are needed in and around the City  
There is no Welcome packet for the City . Should create and update annually and sell advertising  
City needs to recruit more destination type attractions, to pull visitors and tourists  
Need more parks, outdoor seating  
Farmers market is needed

Need to bridge the generational gap. Create more opportunities for all ages to work together, committees which include traditional perspectives with current trends and desires- this could be a service opportunity

There are empty buildings downtown and the condition of some downtown buildings is very poor  
City should enforce building maintenance downtown

More police presence is needed to address emerging crime/gang issues early- and prevent

Board and Committee memberships need to rotate so that new perspectives can be included and heard

A kiosk or large board sign is needed advertising events upcoming

A larger variety of retail options is desired, close by , in downtown, quaint, cute modern conveniences

Local advertising needs to be expanded, ie. With facebook to promote local businesses

Local communication on construction projects, plans, opportunities for involvement, happenings

### **Opportunities**

Involve focus groups to help solve issues or create ideas and work plans

Develop a brochure of designated downtown parking opportunities

Partner with schools for outreach on issues of community concerns

Build committees within the community and within the schools to address safety issues- such as pedestrian safety, speeding, neighborhood watch, etc.

A retro- video arcade downtown would be a nice attraction

Golf cart shuttles from remote parking areas to downtown would be a business opportunity

The Blue Willow Village has vacancies to support new businesses

A dance studio in the City would be well received

A Bakery Caterer business would be well supported.

Magnolia Manor and Social Circle Theater are wonderful community amenities and need to be more fully programmed and utilized

Some type of Shop or Space that is attractive to Men would benefit the downtown , i.e. sports, outdoor supplies – so that visitors would linger more downtown and spend money

There is a demand for small housing in and near downtowns that is unmet

More promotion of shop local and support local mom and pop businesses

A friendly and well lighted local exercise gym is needed

Current Trend of demand for smaller, yet high quality homes creates opportunity for housing rehab downtown

Many downtown parking lots exist, but are private (church). Shared use of the lots would benefit all without excessive pavement downtown.

Partnerships with Jersey and Rutledge to build traffic and activity between the Cities and Social Circle

A FROYO would be well supported downtown

### **Threats**

New growth of commercial areas pulling shops from existing downtown and commercial areas

Succession planning is needed to maintain strong community leadership, public servants, police, fire...

The volume of traffic at festivals and events can be detrimental if not planned and prepared for

The seniors do not pay school taxes, this weakens the schools. Suggest a partial, not full exemption