



Speck & Associates was a lead planning consultant on this project that has remade the city's central business district.

Completed with The Office of James Burnett and Murase Associates.

In 2009, Speck Dempsey (then Speck & Associates) completed its first Walkability Study, for downtown Oklahoma City. The effort was timely, as it coincided with plans just underway to remake the center of the city. In conjunction with a new high-rise being constructed by Devon Energy, a \$140M TIF was being issued to rebuild every street in the 180-acre downtown core. While this effort had initially focused on streetscape, it became clear to its patrons that a pedestrian-friendly outcome depended not only on the quality of the sidewalks but also on the trajectories between the curbs, which the Walkability Study had criticized for encouraging high speeds. At the recommendation of City Manager James Couch and Devon Energy CEO Larry Nichols, the design team led by Jim Burnett asked Jeff Speck to create a curb-to-curb design for every street in the 50-block downtown core.

The resulting plan, produced in consultation with AECOM, reverted a largely one-way system back to two way, added comprehensive biking facilities, and more than doubled the amount of on-street parking. These changes, all valuable in their own right, contribute to a lowering of the design speed of most downtown streets to within a range that is appropriate to an urban setting and inviting to pedestrians and bikers as well as motorists.

Called "one of the most ambitious downtown transformations in the country," the plan's construction is largely complete. As discussed in Mayor Cornett's recent book:

"Jeff's job in our city and many others is to ask really big questions and get us to set higher standards for ourselves. He pushed exactly the buttons I wanted him to push. . . We launched into what felt like the most ambitious work we'd ever done in Oklahoma City. . . By changing what we thought was possible in our streets and blocks, we opened the door to much bigger actions."

Contact: Mayor Mick Cornett

mickcornett@me.com