City of Americus and Archway study options for Tripp Street Corridor
Prepared by: Barbara Grogan, Matt Bishop & Anna Ferguson

Both South Georgia Technical College (SGTC) and Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) are tangible economic engines for the Americus-Sumter community. The community recognizes the rich cultural, historic and educational opportunities offered to its citizens through these institutions of higher education.

City officials and business leaders are always examining ways to strengthen the town—gown relationship. Since its inception, Sumter Archway Partnership has worked to assist those efforts by creating opportunities for interaction between SGTC/GSW and citizens.

An example of Archway’s efforts has been the Tripp Street Corridor Study – an analysis of design options for redeveloping the Tripp Street corridor from Forsyth Street to the entryway to GSW.

Tripp Street connects the main arteries of the downtown and business community to the north entryway of GSW. Many community and college visitors use Tripp Street as an entryway to the University campus and the City hopes the street can be tapped to be an official community entrance.

The Archway Partnership commissioned the University of Georgia Fanning Institute to conduct the Tripp Street Corridor Study. As part of the study, Fanning Institute faculty met with Sumter County Archway Executive Committee members as well as City of Americus officials and Tripp Street property and business owners who would be impacted by future growth and development of the corridor.

Additionally, GSW President Dr. Kendall Blanchard and administrators provided input. With more than 30 local community participants weighing in on recommendations, the Corridor Study looked at multiple options for the right of way, streetscape and parking along the corridor. Design options included a look at the number of road lanes, tree and vegetation schemes, and sidewalk/bike path alternatives. The study’s recommendations provide the City with long-term design options for the corridor for the next 15 to 20 years.

Advancing Community Priorities: During recent months, SGTC, GSW and the City of Americus have worked diligently with the Archway Partnership to strengthen the community’s town-gown relationship. With a goal of mutually understanding of the needs and desires of faculty, staff and students at SGTC and GSW, and citizens of the community at large, Archway is working to make Americus an outstanding college town in the state.