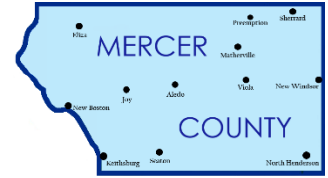




Mercer County: Better Together

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Social Media Feedback Shaping Future of Downtown Viola

Mercer County, IL – March 15th, 2019 – The Village of Viola has joined forces with Mercer County: Better Together (MCBT), University of Illinois Extension and the University of Illinois’ Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) to identify a sustainable future for “The Crossroads of Mercer County”.

Since February, this group has begun researching and exploring development options for the area near the intersection of US-67 and IL Route 17 in downtown Viola. Over the next few months, DURP will design site development options, gather public feedback and meet with Viola residents. In April, a model of the consensus design choice will be built and presented to the Viola village board.

Social media feedback will be key in developing public consensus.

“We welcome feedback and ideas from the community,” said DURP student Raye Fields. “By sharing site development options via social media, residents will have a quick, easy way to share input on what is wanted and needed for the downtown area. Any and all feedback will be used in designing potential site options.”

To view site design options and give feedback, visit [facebook.com/thevioladowntownproject](https://www.facebook.com/thevioladowntownproject) or follow [@viola_downtown_project](https://www.instagram.com/viola_downtown_project) on Instagram.

A community open house will be held later this spring, where residents will have the chance to provide additional feedback on site design options through a voting process.

For more information on this project, MCBT or the *Mercer County Strategic Plan*, contact MCBT at the information below or visit www.mcbettertogether.org.

CONTACT:

Kyle McEwen

Executive Director, Mercer County: Better Together

PO Box 73 / Aledo, IL 61231

(309) 574-3123

kyle@mcbettertogether.org / www.mcbettertogether.org
