

Streetscape Plan

Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Savannah, GA

Project Overview

Total Project Area:

River Street to Exchange Street

Purpose:

Both the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) and Montgomery Street Corridor Revitalization Plan, River to Gwinnett Street (adopted by Council October 1999) and the MLK and Montgomery Urban Redevelopment Plan, Jones to 52nd Street (adopted by Council December 2002) recommended gateway and pedestrian enhancements to:

- Improve the health, safety, welfare and general quality of life for all who live in, work in, visit or travel the Corridor
- Improve the economic vitality of the area
- Enhance the visual appeal and functioning of the Corridor as a major gateway into the City of Savannah

Public Process:

A comprehensive public process was initiated in 2000 to develop a vision, community goals, redevelopment, land-use and infrastructure strategies for improvement to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Montgomery Street Corridor. A citizen advisory committee of 360 area residents, business owners and property owners and partner organizations was engaged through a series public workshops, meetings and design charrettes.

Design Components:

- Sidewalk Improvements
- Pedestrian Crosswalks
- Waste Receptacles
- Bus Stop
- Shelters/benches

- Ornamental Street lights
- Landscaping
- Median Enhancements

Streetscape Plan

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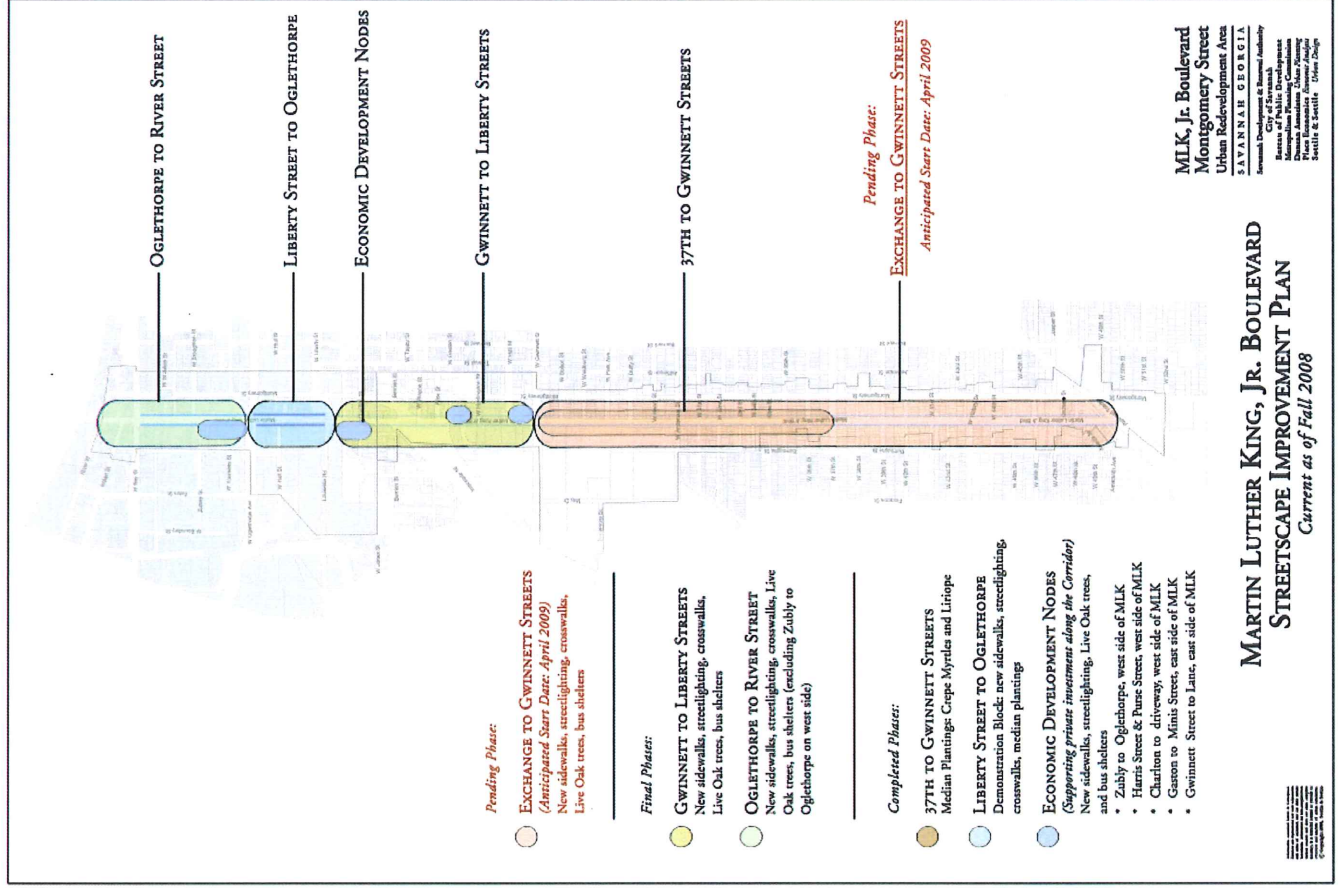
Phased Implementation Plan

- Phase I:**
- o Model Streetscape Block (Oglethorpe to Liberty)
 - o Median Enhancements (37th to Gwinnett)
 - o Economic Development Nodes (Varied sites to support private investment)

- Phase II:**
- o Exchange to Gwinnett Street

- Phase III:**
- o Gwinnett Street to Liberty Street

- Phase IV:**
- o Oglethorpe Avenue to River Street



Streetscape Plan

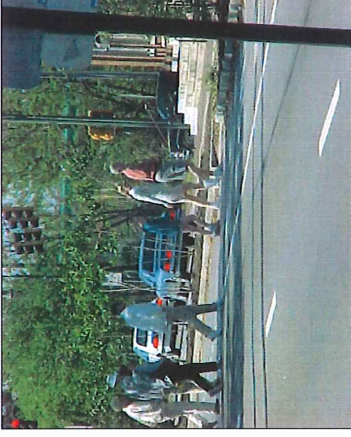
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Phase I: Completed

Model Streetscape Block

Everyday several thousand Savannah College of Art and Design students cross Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (MLK) to access dormitories, classroom space, administrative offices and the schools only bookstore which is located along MLK. Annually, more than 1.6 million tourists and 2500 tour buses carrying 170,000 visitors check in at the Visitor Center on MLK., while some 60,000 visitors make the Battlefield Park and Historic Railroad Roundhouse Museum also located along MLK their point of destination on this western gateway into Savannah and our National Landmark Historic District.



In 2001, the City and its development agency, the Savannah Development and Renewal, moved forward with a phased implementation of comprehensive streetscape improvements to the Corridor, starting first with development of a model block between Oglethorpe and Liberty. This segment of the Corridor includes the Visitor Center and primary buildings of the Savannah College of Art and Design. The model block improvements were focused on this segment to address the immediate issues of pedestrian safety, traffic calming and enhancement of the western gateway into Savannah. A combination of state/DOT and CIP funds were used to support this project.

Gwinnett to Exchange Street

In 2001, at the urging of the business owners, residents and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the City moved forward with landscape enhancements and irrigation to the medians south of Gwinnett to Exchange Street. (CIP funds were used to support this project.)



Economic Development Nodes:

In 2004, the City moved forward with funding streetscape improvements to support private investment along MLK. Sidewalks and lighting was installed to support 5 private investments along the Corridor. (CIP funds)

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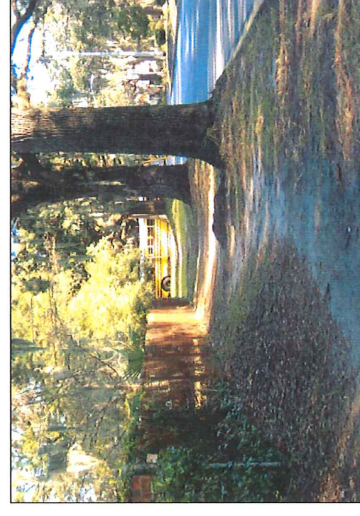
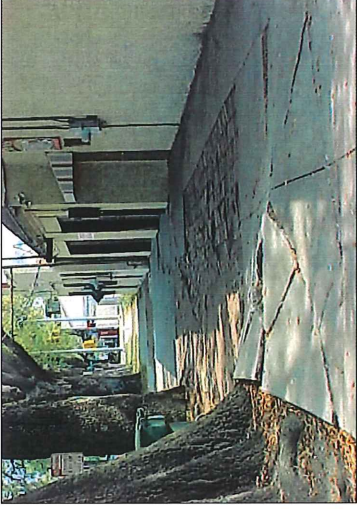
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Phase II: *Pending*

Exchange north to Gwinnett Street

This critical segment of the Streetscape plan will stretch 30 blocks from Exchange Street, south to Gwinnett Street.

This area is bound by eight historic neighborhoods, 15 churches, a 16 acre public housing complex (Simon F. Frazier Homes) which provides more than 230 affordable housing units and a growing small business community. At the foot of the corridor—Exchange Street—Savannah College of Art & Design has adaptively re-used the former Mill and Carriage Factory to house their world renown digital arts program bringing some 3000 students daily to this area.

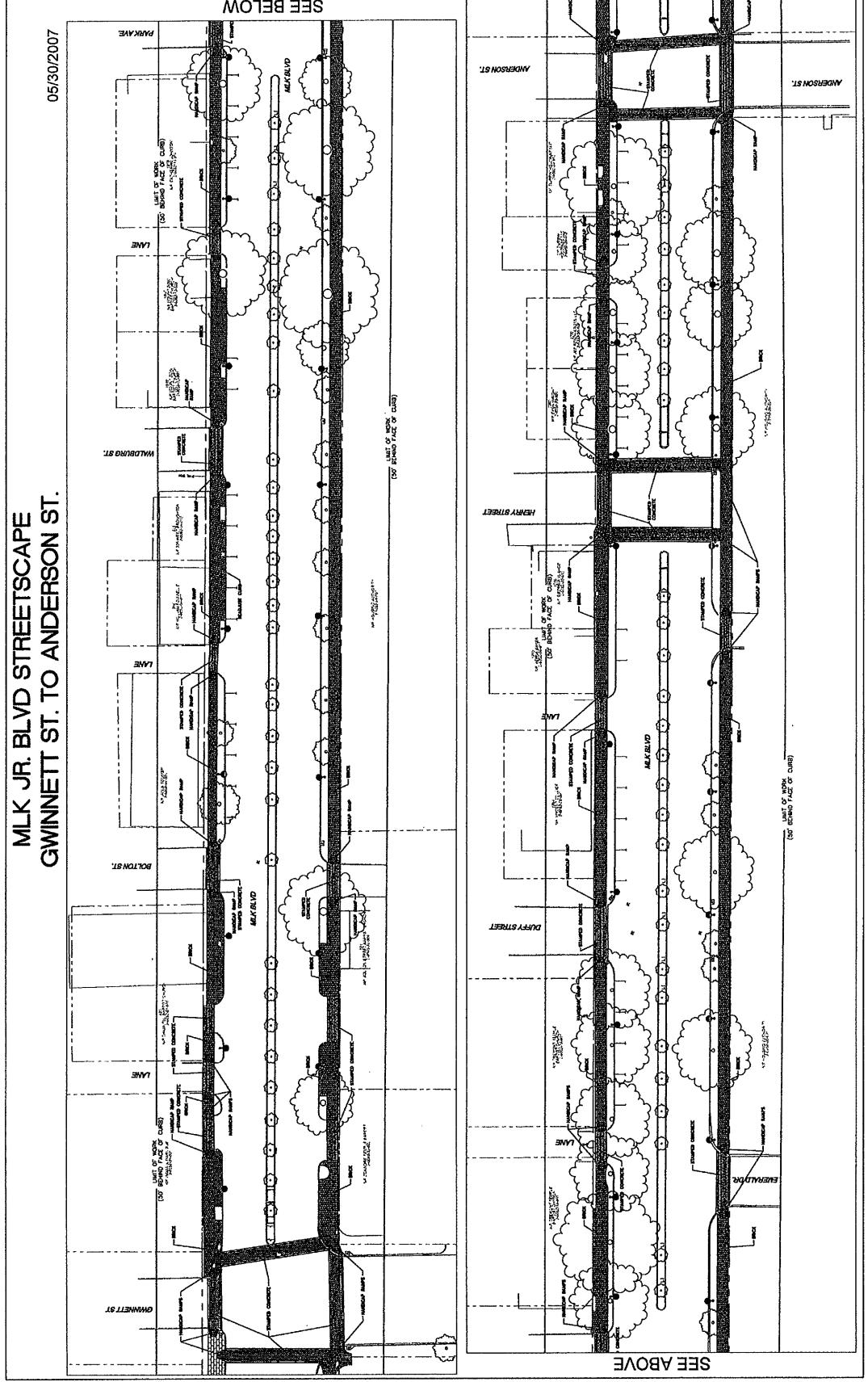


- Issue:** Aging and inconsistent streetscape provide a negative image and limited access to the area for both pedestrian and vehicular modes. Lack of appropriate lighting and pedestrian amenities limits neighborhood/commercial feel.
- Purpose:** Improvements to streetscape will enhance quality of life for these historically African American neighborhoods and provide maximum opportunity for existing and prospective business and property owners to benefit from the revitalization of this important gateway corridor.

Improvements: The pending streetscape improvements to this 30 block stretch will bring sidewalks where none currently exist, will replace existing older sidewalks, replace inappropriate highway cobra lighting with attractive ornamental fixtures and sidearm traffic signaling, will add pedestrian crosswalks, ADA accessible curb ramping, improve drainage issues, and provide appropriate landscaping to support enhanced private investment.

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Phase II Streetscape Plan Segments

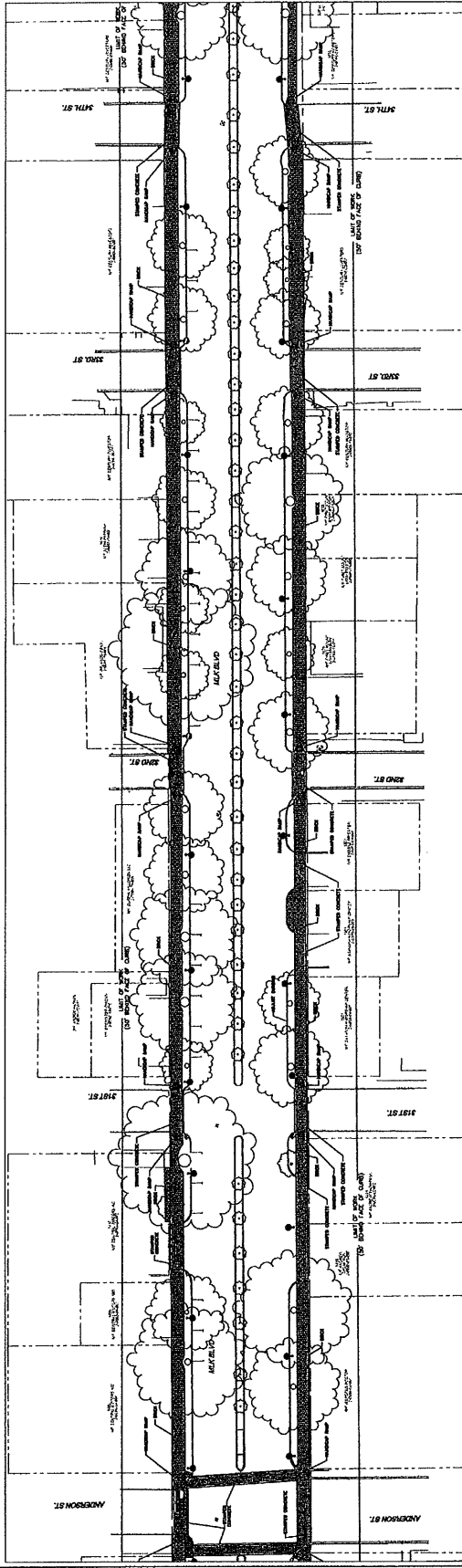


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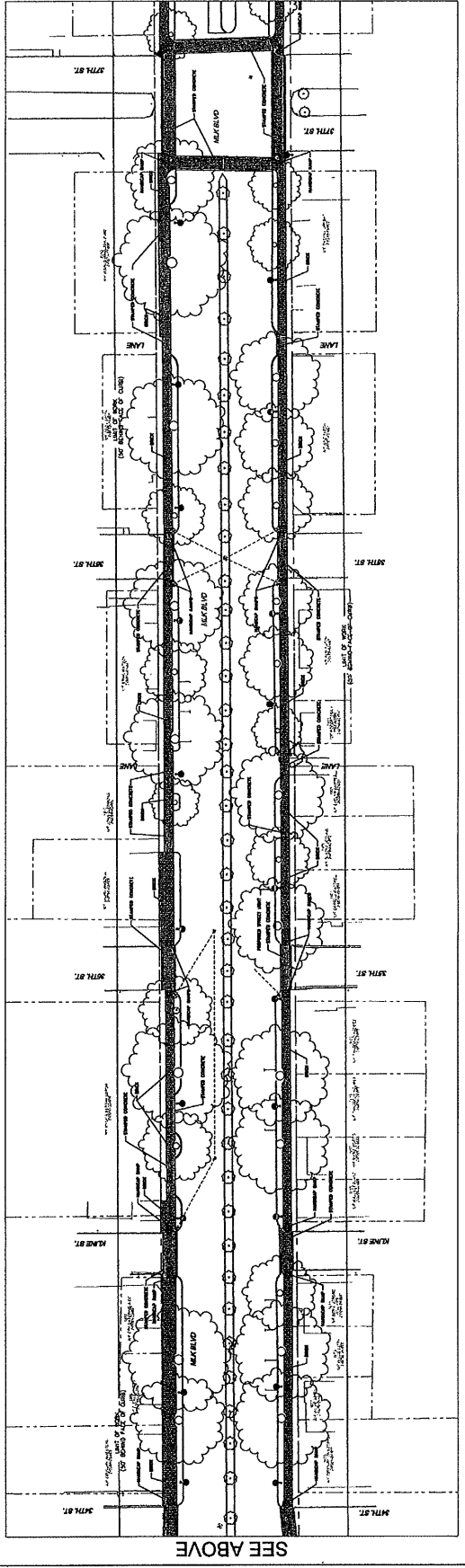
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MLK JR. BLVD STREETSCAPE

05/30/2007

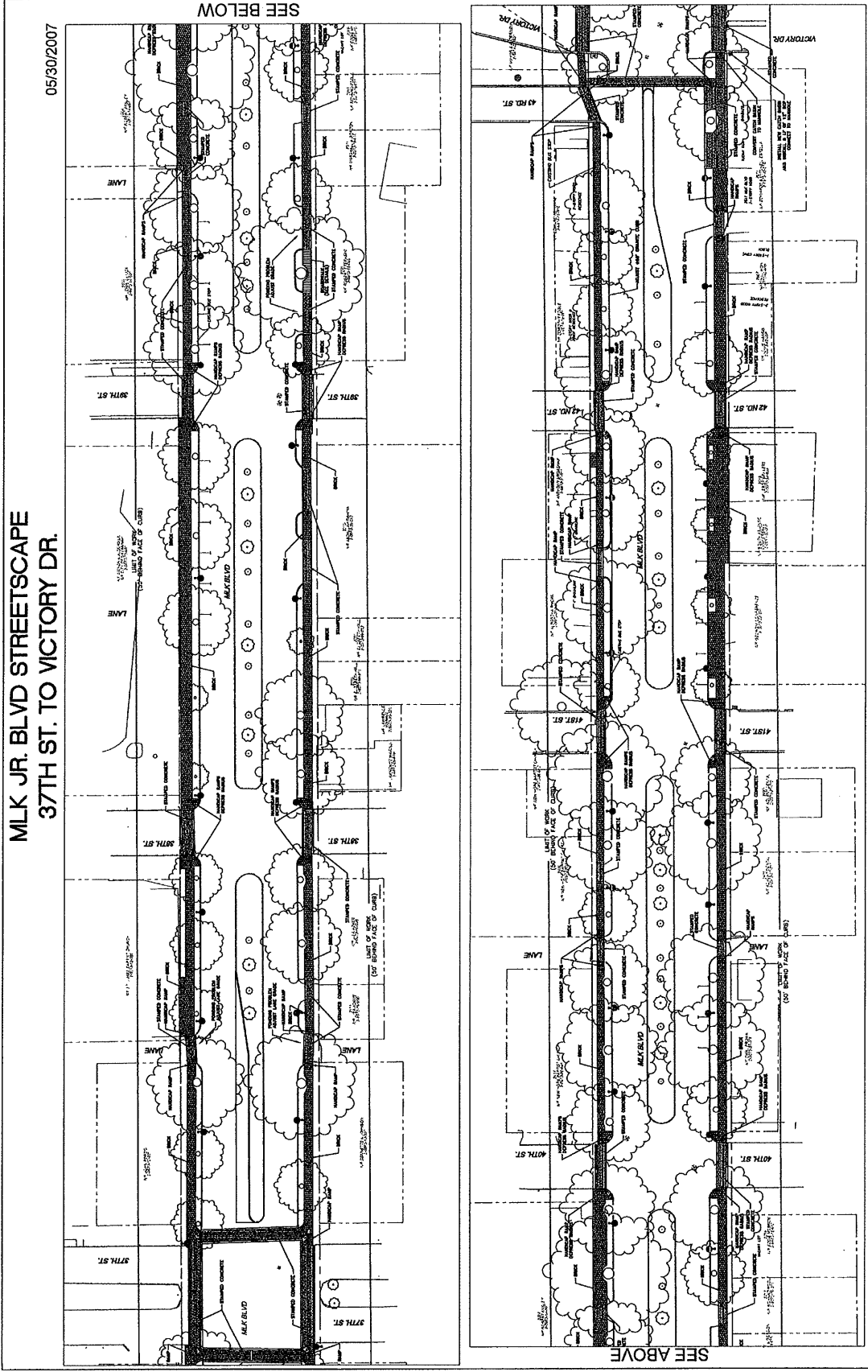


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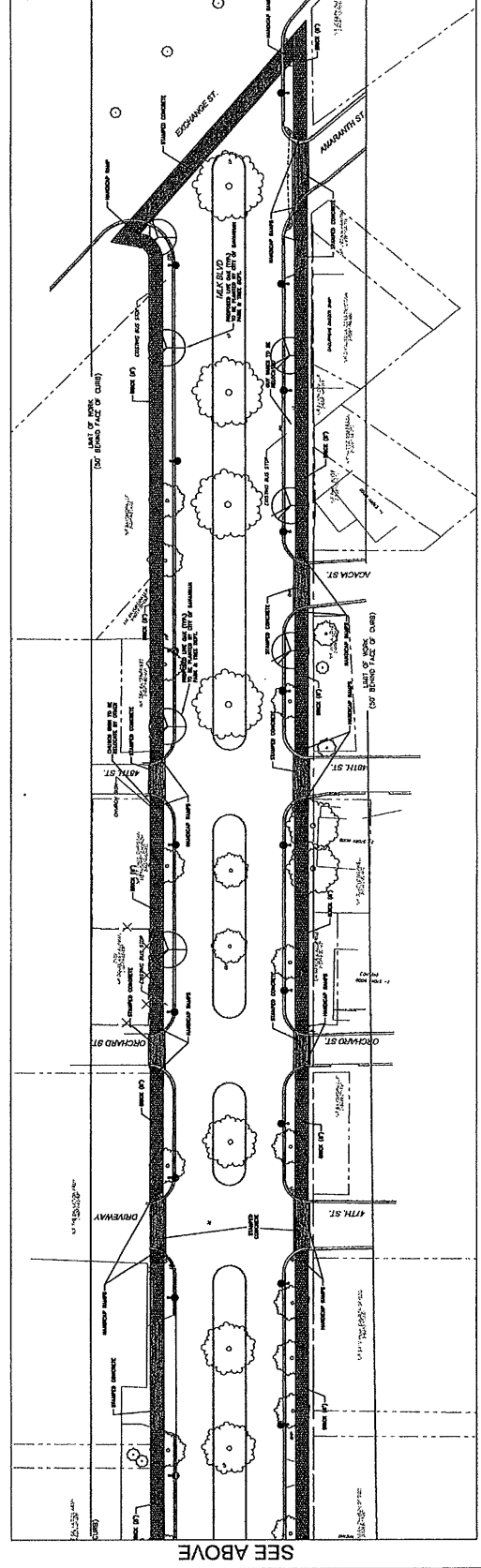
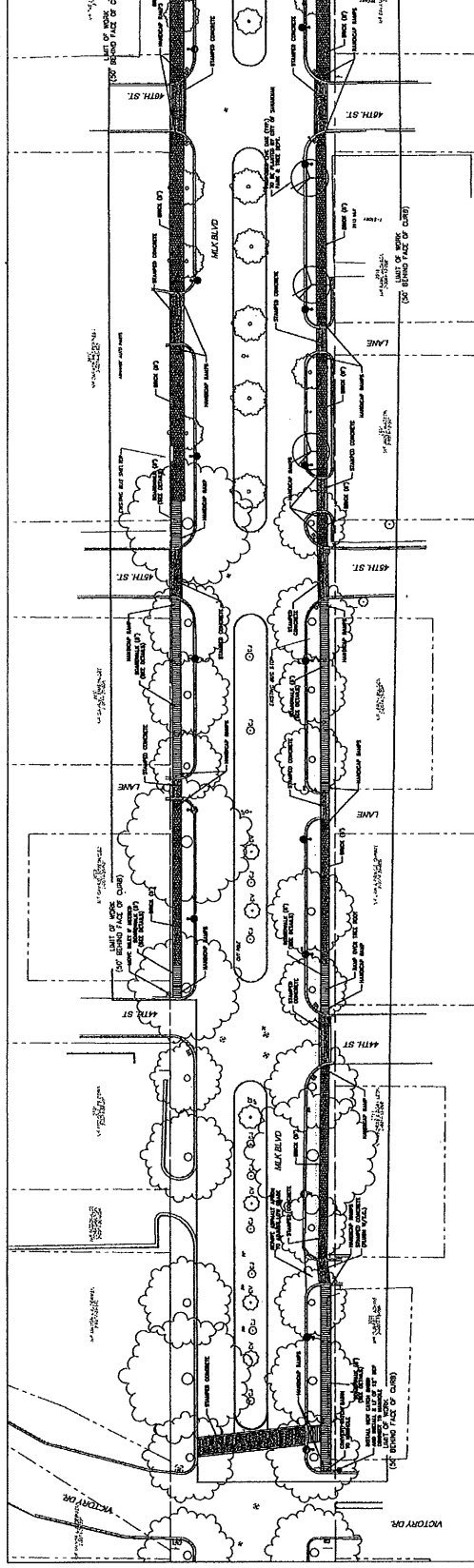
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MLK JR. BLVD STREETSCAPE VICTORY DR. TO EXCHANGE ST.

05/30/2007



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Phase II:

Segment of MLK: Exchange to Gwinnett Street

Projected Costs: \$2,601,218

Section		Total
Exchange to Victory Drive		\$580,620
Victory to 37 th Street		\$716,598
37 th Street to Gwinnett Street		\$1,304,000
Total estimated Cost		\$2,601,218