

EARLY COUNTY 2025 MASTER PLAN, BLAKELY, GEORGIA PLACEMAKERS, INC.

HPE RESPONSIBILITY:

Address walkability and transportation planning design for a master plan in Blakely, GA. Prepare transportation analyses, street sections, and intersection design recommendations to improve walkability.

CLIENT'S NAME & ADDRESS:

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Hall Planning & Engineering, Inc. participated as a subconsultant with PlaceMakers, Inc., to develop a Master Plan for the future growth and redevelopment of Early County and Blakely, Georgia. HPE provided the design team with expertise on street design for walkability, transportation planning issues such as traffic volumes and capacity, and intersection redesign for walkability.

Results included the following:

- Identification of problem areas for pedestrians
- Provision of concept designs for solutions to pedestrian problem areas
- New street sections to address walkability concerns and create greater walkability
- Proposed redesign of Blakely Town Square to provide traffic calming and improve walkability
- Coordination with local traffic engineering and emergency services staff to address concerns about traditional street design, vehicle capacity, and emergency access

A primary challenge to this team was the reclamation of Blakely's town square. During the 1960's, the town square had been widened to allow passage of large truck traffic. Truck traffic can now use a by-pass, but the large turning radii and travel lanes imposed on the town square encourage vehicle speeds too high for good walkability. HPE worked with Georgia DOT and local officials to create a conceptual plan for returning the town square to its original dimensions.