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Downtown Glassboro plan will upgrade community

The long-planned project to turn the borough's downtown into a college town center will pay off for students and residents.

The news that Glassboro will soon break ground on an overhaul of the borough's downtown is a welcome development.

Rejuvenating Glassboro's downtown and connecting it with the Rowan University campus have been on the planning board for years. Now, it has finally received a green light, Mayor Leo McCabe announced Thursday. At a time when credit is hard to get and Wall Street is jittery, the Glassboro project is moving forward on the strength of numerous partners, loans and grants. The project also is moving forward because of the tenacity of borough officials and Rowan University President Donald Farish, who kept pushing to turn a proposal into reality.

Construction is expected to start this summer on Rowan Boulevard that will connect downtown Glassboro with the university. The \$100 million plan aims to turn the borough into a typical college town, with a vibrant downtown of small boutique stores and restaurants, anchored by such common college-town establishments as Barnes & Nobel and Starbucks.

Rowan plans to build off-campus student housing near the new businesses, but college folks won't be the only ones to benefit from the redevelopment of downtown Glassboro. So will borough residents, particularly as the businesses drawn to the area start to provide new job opportunities and taxes.

This rejuvenation could be the start of a turnaround for a borough that was beginning to look worn down. A college center also will help Rowan recruit students.

This project will be good for everyone in the community.
