

## From the Planners' Bookshelf...

### Designing Urban Corridors

(Planning Advisory Service report, #418  
American Planning Association)  
by [Kirk R Bishop](#) (Author)

#### Overview.

The literature that addresses the needs of urban corridors is sparse. The classic study was authored in 1989 by Kirk R. Bishop: *Designing Urban Corridors*.

The paucity of studies is indicative of the general neglect of the subject, which reflects the general neglect of the resource – the corridors themselves. Urban corridors in many communities are the blighted strips with marginal businesses found on the federal highway that is the main entrance into many towns. The properties along these strips were once prime commercial real estate; now marginal at best. But, their location and physical traits are still valuable, they just have a bunch of junk cluttering their use. Some need remediation, but once ready for development they have great visibility, usually great access to the town's neighborhoods and downtown. Urban corridors are ripe for infill and redevelopment. The tools and processes used to revitalize downtowns can work their same magic on blighted corridors.

Most useful information is found in specific corridor redevelopment plans and studies. APA provides many corridor specific articles and reports in in **PAS EIP-29, Commercial Corridor Revitalization**.

#### From Amazon:

"Some communities have begun to demand more attractive and functional roadside development. This report shows how to use corridor-specific plans to create a sense of order and place in an increasingly cluttered landscape. These plans integrate well-known regulatory techniques to improve the function, safety, and appearance of corridors. The report includes strategies to improve unsightly and unsafe commercial roadway corridors and techniques to identify and protect scenic corridors. Includes sample corridor development standards from three communities."

LINK: <https://www.amazon.com/Designing-Urban-Corridors-Kirk-Bishop/dp/1611900271>

