A Vision for Eight Mile Boulevard

Statement of Problem

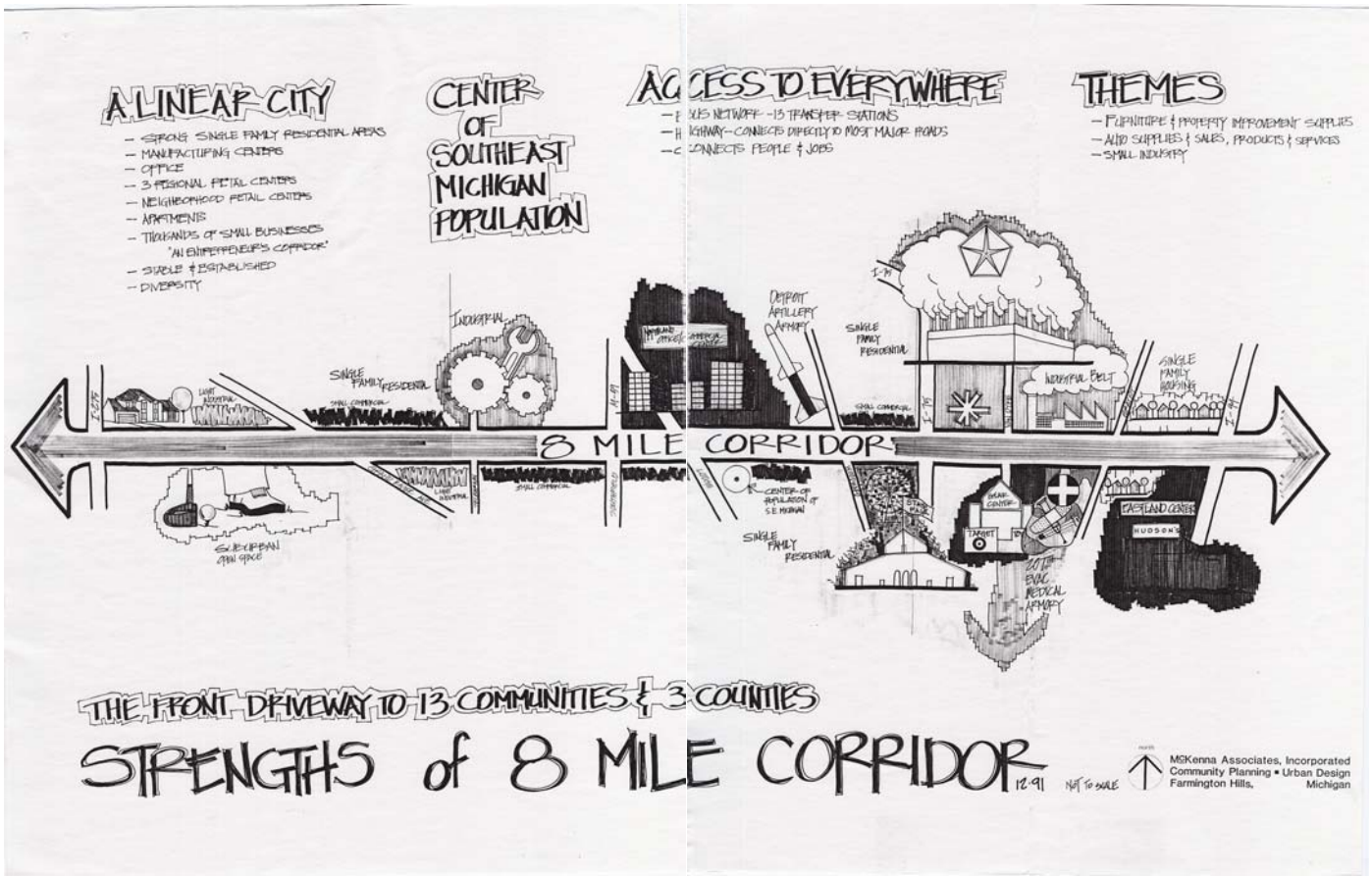
The six pack, an ad hoc committee of representatives from the Oakland County, Wayne County, Macomb County, City of Detroit, MDOT, and the state's economic development organization determined that something needed to be done to eliminate Eight Mile Road as a road dividing Detroit from its neighboring suburbs to a road bring all of the parties together.

The Process

The six pack obtained a grant from MDOT to prepare a corridor study to improve 8 Mile Road. After going through a competitive proposal process, the proposal submitted by McKenna Associates was selected. Al Bogdan was the Project Manager.

The first step of the process was to establish a steering committee made up of the thirteen communities located on both sides of 8 Mile Road. The 26 mile corridor was too long to treat as a unified location. It was divided into three parts and followed by a series of focus groups with representatives from both sides of the road. The purpose of the focus groups was to set up small groups that can focus on their Vision for 8 Mile Road.

In parallel, a land use map was prepared so we could have an understanding of the kind of activities we had along the road. A list of all the businesses, prepared by SIC Codes was prepared. Also in parallel, Bogdan prepared a market analysis to get a handle on the opportunities for 8 Mile Road. We then brought all of the communities together to prepare a final Vision for 8 Mile Road.

Final Report

The final report changed the title to a Vision for Eight Mile Boulevard in order to convey the improvement every expected to take place. In order to assure that the strategic plan got implemented, we recommended a new corridor organization to be called Eight Mile Boulevard Association. The organization still exists and the big four elected officials meet annually to stretch the hands across 8 Mile Road. Much more needs to be done.