



Dexter Avenue Revitalization

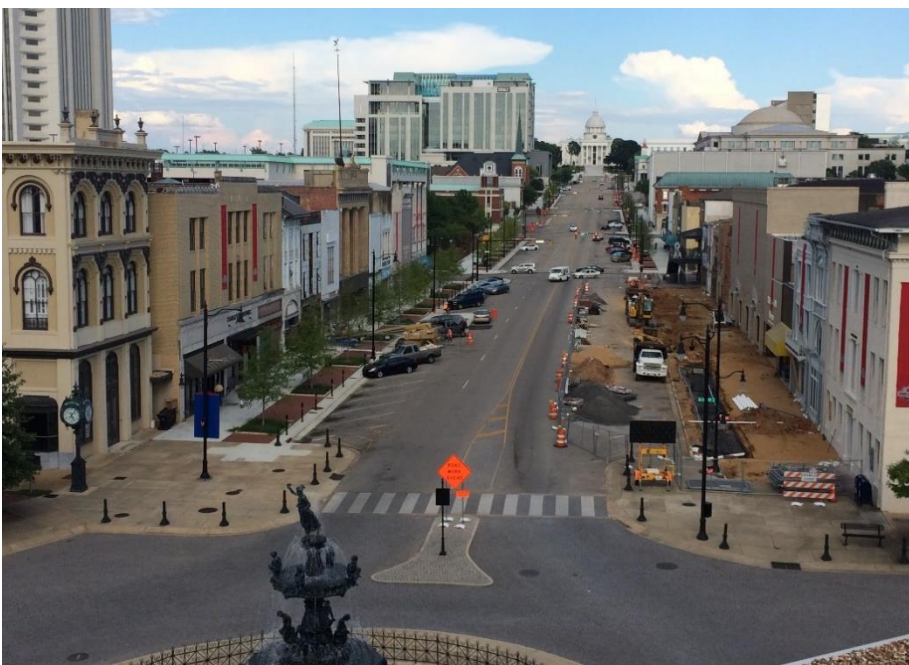
The history that has taken place on Dexter Avenue is significant for Alabama and for our country as a whole. The telegram that started the Civil War, providing orders to fire upon Fort Sumter, was sent from Dexter Avenue. The first electric trolley in the United States, called the “Lightening Route,” started on Dexter Avenue. Dexter Avenue was the final leg of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in 1965. Dexter Avenue is the location of the Montgomery church where Rev. Martin Luther King preached, and it is the location of the Alabama State Capitol and Supreme Court Buildings.

By the 1970s, however, Dexter Avenue would fall into a period of significant decline and disinvestment. Despite becoming a national historic district in the mid-1980s, many of its buildings would be torn down. Others would be boarded up and stood empty for decades.



Thriving Lower Dexter Avenue in 1950s 1

With a specific goal to spark revitalization and private investment, the City of Montgomery began to acquire many of the Lower Dexter Avenue properties. Starting in 2011, the City then began to sell them to developers committed to renovations. By 2014, three were sold and public investment into the streetscape was underway.



September 2014 streetscape renovations 1

By 2016, twelve different Dexter Avenue properties were sold by the City or being renovated for two new public spaces. In addition, other private owners on the block began to follow the City’s lead and invest in their buildings.

By fall 2017, there has been an estimated \$30 million of investment into one block, with the most historic and intact buildings, commonly referred to as “Lower Dexter.”