

## **THE HISTORIC BRASELTON TOWN CENTER**

### *The Citizen Committee's Vision for Quality Revitalization*

This picture overlooking the historic downtown core was taken in April 2007. This is the view as you drive down Highway 124 towards the intersection of Highway 53.



A citizens committee prepared a 20 year redevelopment plan for the Historic Downtown area of Braselton. The Town adopted the committee's recommendations in 2003 and began to move forward laying the groundwork to implement the citizens committee's vision.

The picture below is an enhanced view of the historic downtown core. Our citizens committee recommended the creation of a "Town Green" to become the community focal point of the Historic Town Center. Highway 124 has been rerouted behind the historic store buildings and new private investment has lined the "Town Green" with shops and restaurants.



## *The Citizen Committee's Vision for Quality Revitalization*

The pictures below show the existing road behind the historic store building and an enhanced view of the new realigned intersection of Highway 53 and 124.



This intersection improvement will greatly enhance safety and traffic flow in downtown and also provide much needed pedestrian crosswalks. Parking for the store has been added, and the small historic telephone building has been relocated to allow for private investment to construct a mercantile style building on that corner.

### **STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CITIZEN COMMITTEES REVITALIZATION PLAN:**

- *2002 Citizens committee and consultants prepared a 20 year revitalization plan.*
- *2003 Plan was adopted and a future land use map was developed.*
- *2004 Historic Overlay Zoning allowing "mixed use" development within the district was established including architectural guidelines for all new infill development.*
- *2005 Hired an engineering firm to design the Hwy 53 -124 intersection improvements. Paid for with existing SPLOST funds.*
- *2005 Placed the Town's share of the current SPLOST funding from Jackson County into road projects. Approximately estimate \$680,000.*
- *2005 thru 2007 The Town invested approximately \$9 million dollars in the Historic District with a new Police and Court facility, a new Library, and a Planning & Public Utilities building.*
- *2006 Adopted a resolution seeking legislation from the State to allow the Town to utilize redevelopment powers in the downtown district.*
- *2007 Created an economic development video of the downtown using the revitalization plan established by our citizens committee.*
- *2007 The Governor signed legislation (HB#312) allowing Braselton citizens to consider, by voter referendum, redevelopment powers and the option of creating a "Tax Allocation District" a TAD.*