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You can purchase copies of Main Street from Words Bookstore in Maplewood, NJ, or request a copy at your own local bookseller.

A Score for Main Street

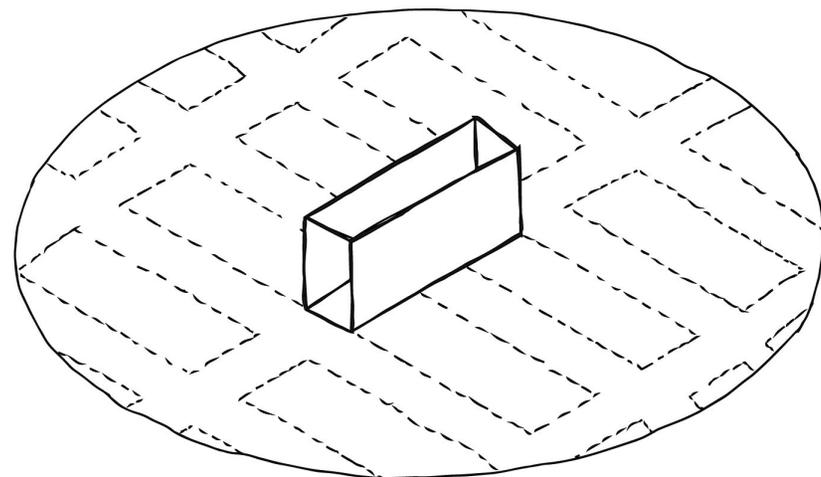
This score accompanies Main Street: How a City's Heart Connects Us All by Mindy Fullilove, MD. It was prepared by Dr. Fullilove and the University of Orange Urbanism Team. You can use this score on your own, with a friend, or invite a small group to join you.



Welcome from UofO

The University of Orange is a free people's urbanism school in Orange, NJ. At UofO we practice Restoration Urbanism and we are dedicated to education for equitable cities. Walking around the city is one of our core practices. When we walk around not only can we see the ways that racism and inequality have shaped US cities but also we can see local culture and the millions of ways people shape their places. Restoration urbanism acknowledges our history and respects people's investments.

We learned about making scores from Bill Morrish. A score guides how we move together through time and space. We want you to experience your Main streets as you read this book. We encourage you to take the time to see what is there. This is the first step towards creating Main Streets that can, as Mindy writes, "create the spaces and sentiments for collective problem solving, embracing the great diversity of our nation to find the way forward."



Doing the box/circle/line walk

For this walk, your task has three parts. You want to walk the Main Street itself (the Box). There is lots to see on a Main Street: look for the age of buildings, the kinds of store windows, places you'd love to visit, the "collection of main things" like the library, grocery store, and movie theater.

Then you want to walk on some of the streets around the Main Street box -- this is the circle. What are buildings like in the circle? Do you see lots of buildings in good condition, or are there vacant lots and vacancies? What do you see that you'd like to know more about?

Finally, you want to take in the line -- the street itself. Where did it come from? Where is it going? Go a little ways in one direction or another to get a sense of how the Main Street box becomes something else.

A Box/Circle/Line Walk

The box/circle/line is the heart of the analysis of Main Streets presented in the book. This diagram is presented on p. 53.

BOX

The 'box' of Main Street is formed by buildings, streets and sky. The buildings on either side create the walls, and the sidewalks and streets create the bottom, and the sky creates the top. The feeling of the box- is a sense of enclosure- an amalgam of useful spaces like the post office, candy store, shoe store, grocery market, movie theatre or bank- it is "A good collection of main things"

CIRCLE

An area surrounding the box that is integrated and interconnected with the Main Street. A Main Street with a very strong interpenetration between it and the surrounding neighborhood is much more likely to flourish.

LINE

"An uninterrupted public thoroughfare passing through the heart of downtown" is an excellent definition of what I mean by "line." The key issue of the line is that, when thinking of Main Streets we focus on the civic and commercial center: the box. But the street that passes through that commercial center must flow if that center is to prosper. The lines of Main Street can take on many emotions.



The Score

Take a Stroll and Scroll

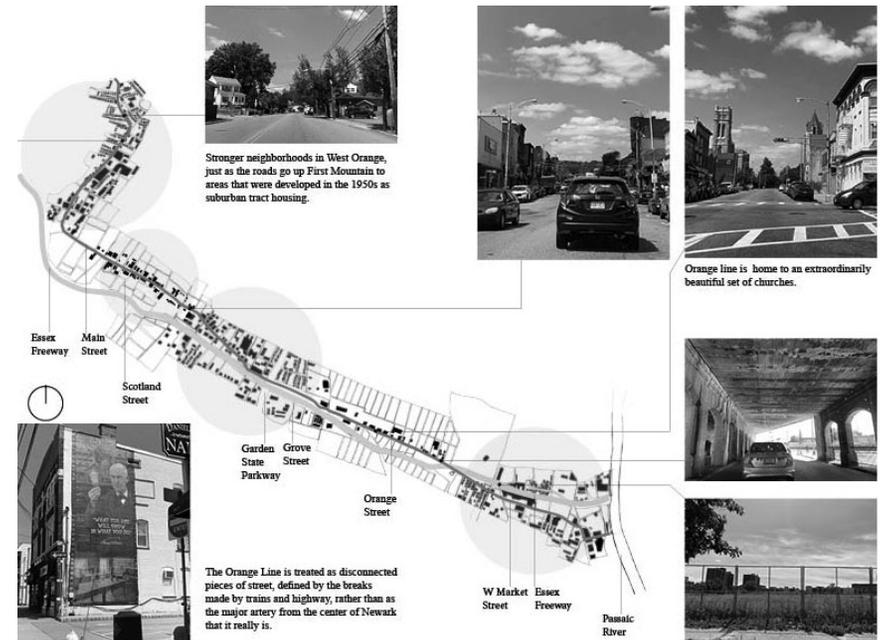
The idea of a "stroll and scroll" comes from Japanese environmental psychologist Hirofumi Minami. Mindy Fullilove interpreted this as having two parts. The "stroll" is the urban walk. Your goal is to walk a Main Street -- either the "box" and its surrounding "circle" or a long transect. During the walk, you are enjoying the weather, the people, the buildings, and the unexpected. You can use your phone to take photos, if you like, and a small piece of paper or a map to write some notes.

For your stroll,
select a Transect or a Box/Circle/Line

A Transect

A transect is a line through an ecosystem. Walking a transect is useful for understanding Main Streets as a "line" and also for understanding the "tangle" of Main Streets that we find in a region. Often these Main Streets vary in the "collection of main things" they have (p. 140), in the investment that has been made in them, and in the people who use them. Seeing this variation helps us to understand the resilience of our region.

In Main Street, we can read about the Orange Line, which runs from the Passaic River through Newark, East Orange, Orange, and West Orange to end at a church (see pages 110-111). Aditi Nair made a diagram of that transect, which shows the various Main Street centers, as well as the highways and vacant lots that interrupt the continuity of the street. New Jersey is a great place to walk a transect because we have 559 cities packed into our little state. In other places, the cities are so large that you could walk a transect through many neighborhoods. In rural areas, it might be harder to find a long transect through a number of towns and cities, so a Box/Circle/Line walk might be better.



Thinking about the diagram of Orange Street, we have the following thoughts about walking a transect:

- Get a map of what you are walking
- Make notes on the map of what you see and take photos that correspond to those notes
- Look for the ways in which the Main Street boxes begin and end -- what are the "punctuation marks" that you can see?
- Note changes in factors like investment and disinvestment -- are there boarded up stores? Lots of new paint? What vintage is the signage?
- Find places to refresh yourself as you go along.
- If you find leaflets or postcards or free newspapers, take them! These are great for making your "scroll."