

DOWNTOWN BOULEVARD

ELEVATIONS

Roundabout dreams



A veterans memorial as envisioned by Andrew Stewart of StudioArchitecture. He designed an alternative for the elevated new boulevard that will replace the alignment of the old Interstate 40 in downtown Oklahoma City. COURTESY RENDERINGS

BY BRIANNA BAILEY
 THE JOURNAL RECORD

OKLAHOMA CITY – Inspired by the grand boulevards of European cities, Andrew Stewart’s concept for a new downtown boulevard here includes a large traffic circle with a public monument at its center.

Frustrated by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s plan to elevate much of the new boulevard that will replace the alignment of the old Interstate 40 downtown, Stewart, an associate AIA of Oklahoma City-based StudioArchitecture, came up with an alternative design for the roadway.

“Development near an elevated highway tends to be stunted in many ways,” Stewart said.

Stewart said he hopes the idea will inspire people to search for another solution for the new boulevard.

“By no means is this the only solution, but it’s an idea that gives people a vision of what could be; it’s a visual aid,” he said.



A group, Friends for a Better Boulevard, is fighting against plans for the elevated roadway. It has posted Stewart’s designs on its Facebook page to get a public conversation started about plans for the new boulevard.

Stewart looked at boulevards in Europe, as well as famous traffic circles in American cities such as

DuPont Circle in Washington, D.C., and Columbus Circle in New York City, for inspiration.

StudioArchitecture sits on the northeast side of a small traffic circle that links N. Walker Avenue and NW 10th Street near St. Anthony Hospital.

He has dubbed his resulting concept for the new boulevard “Oklahoma City Market Circle.”

The design would link the new downtown boulevard with Classen Boulevard and Exchange Avenue, connecting downtown with the Stockyards City district to the southwest.

The design shows broad, tree-lined streets that meet at a large traffic circle with a massive fountain at the center.

The center of the traffic circle would be a good place for a local veterans memorial or some other type of monument to give the area a sense of place, Stewart said.

“It really needs something important there because it’s a gateway to the city,” he said.