**Background**

In the late 1960s, Moorhead was hit hard by urban renewal. The downtown area lost not just buildings, but an urban scale, replaced by parking lots and enlarged building footprints. At the time, it was thought that progress meant that the older buildings needed expensive maintenance and new building. In 1955, a study every five years, to keep up appearances as places to do business in the modern world. Many of the previous buildings that were torn down were built with stones facing outwards, and with an architecture welcoming to the human scale. With the change in thinking, the idea was to build a new, modern, enclosed shopping center, surrounded by parking for automobiles in the center of the city, with a City Hall. The structure we are left with today faces inward, leaving its largely featureless exterior and parking lots to face the downtown.

**Premise:**

The main premise for my thesis is that development will occur around the most commonly used form of transportation. Therefore, the built environment will be altered by this change to suit the needs of the predominant form of transportation.

**Idea:**

Changing the predominant form of transportation can encourage a change in the architecture within a city.

**Solution:**

My proposed solution to the depopulation and loss of interest in the downtown Moorhead area is to erect a transportation center built around the existing Moorhead Center Mall. This proposal will provide a catalyst for new urban growth within downtown Moorhead by adding residential units and urban venues to explore. By designing the new center with primarily pedestrian ideals in mind, and developing free of the parking lot dilemma, this allows us to begin to move toward a human scaled architecture that responds to people.

This thesis explores the opportunities and implications of modifying the modes of transportation within Moorhead and its effects on urban growth. Instead of establishing new development on the fringes of the city, this will seek to reinvigorate the centers of the two cities with a vibrant, active and pedestrian-based center.

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**Social**

After the mall redesign, many of the stores will continue as retail shops that Moorhead residents and visitors can shop at. Other stores will be part of the hotel, such as a coffee shop and gift shop.

**Hospitality**

Located adjacent to the bus terminal, and visually from the train station, is a hotel. This hotel is for guests of the community, transient guests, and other people. The structure we are left with today faces inward, leaving its largely featureless exterior and parking lots to face the downtown.

**Transportation**

The train terminal is located North of the existing mall, over the current Amtrak tracks, which would be expanded and allow for high speed rail access. The station is open and wide, and features an arching shape and a high vault. The construction an a steel girder grid allows for an easy assembly and replacement of the roof. People can sit and observe the people passing by in the public eye, but distanced from the main flow of traffic. These interventions allow people to sit and enjoy what the community has to offer.

**Livability**

In order to handle an increased number of pedestrian traffic, there is a need for improved transportation and outdoor space to be added to the downtown area. This proposal expands the bus stop, allowing for more transportation and outdoor space. By providing more transportation and outdoor space, this proposal provides a new urban center for guests and the community.