



## Oldsmar development invites foot traffic

**As downtown construction goes on, a developer says encouraging more pedestrians, not cars, will help small businesses thrive.**

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OLDSMAR - No two ways about it: you need a car in Oldsmar.

The city that was named after the inventor of the Oldsmobile has a movie theater, restaurants, Wal-Mart, a couple of hotels, and city officials are working to rebuild downtown.

Development in the city of 13,000 goes on. But pedestrian friendly, Oldsmar is not.

That's one reason developers with MTN Tampa Road Partners say they are paying close attention to the walkways in and around its project on Tampa Road. The proposed project consists of a Hilton brand hotel, offices and three restaurants, one of them a breakfast/light lunch facility.

**"One of the characteristics is outdoor seating," said Todd Pressman, a land use consultant on the project. "We wind the driveway so we get outdoor seating on both sides."**

The front of the 8-acre parcel faces Tampa Road. The hotel, with 84 rooms on five floors, will be in the rear bordering Clarendon Street. The City Council recently approved vacating Mystic Street, which now connects Tampa Road and Clarendon Street, for the project. Four buildings will have about 10,580 square feet of offices. The restaurants will take up about 38,000 square feet in two buildings.

**"It's like two strip centers, actually, with a driveway coming through the middle," Pressman said. "We really hope it to be a destination."**

Developers hope the pedestrian access encourages visitors to walk to the restaurants from the Hilton and two other new hotels nearby in the Oldsmar Town Center.