



Downtown Plan Choices Workshop #1

February 25, 2016 | Summary

| Workshop Overview

This workshop brought stakeholder groups together to discuss choices for the downtown area and provide feedback about the direction of the Options and Choices phase of the Downtown Plan. The workshop focused on four key choices in the downtown area:

- Downtown Operations and Management
- Creative Industries
- Bicycle Parking
- Vehicle Parking

Approximately 70 residents, working group members, business owners and employees, design professionals, and property owners attended the event. Attendees provided feedback via sticky notes on boards around the room and on written comment cards. After small-group facilitated discussion on each topic, individual feedback was collected through keypad polling. Below is a brief summary of the feedback received for each of the four topics.



| Downtown Operations and Management - *Where should pedestrian enhancements expand next?*

- Areas most frequently identified for expansion of pedestrian enhancements were the River District and the North Mason District (keypad polling)
- Specific areas mentioned in written comments included Canyon Ave., Linden St./Jefferson St., and connections to North College and the Museum of Discovery
- Appreciation of Old Town's atmosphere: overall cleanliness, places to sit, flowers, plazas, and public spaces
- Some concern about extending enhanced maintenance too far, at the expense of the current focused area



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Creative Industries – *What should the City's role be in the support of creative industries?*

- Overall, a desire for City to support creative industries in some way. Most popular options were providing studio and gallery space and supporting outside organizations (keypad polling)
- Desire for additional marketing and publicity for existing arts and culture activities
- Many written comments noted that the affordability of studio/gallery space and housing is a concern
- Questions about whether it is the government's role to create a support structure for creative industries
- Least popular keypad polling option was "City should not be involved."

Bicycle Parking – *Where should additional bike parking be located?*

- General support for on-street bicycle parking; most popular option (keypad polling)
- General agreement that sidewalk space is already congested; concerns that adding more bicycle racks to sidewalks will negatively impact pedestrian experience
- Concerns about usability and capacity of racks (i.e. current on-street rack design)
- Some written comments mentioned a bike valet system, larger "hub" bike racks in key locations (e.g. Courthouse building), and seasonal racks that can be removed in the winter
- Least popular options in keypad polling were sidewalk racks and removing benches/street furniture to add bicycle parking

Vehicle Parking - *How should we encourage people to park in the location most appropriate for their type of trip?*

- Identification of need to encourage downtown employees to use garages rather than on-street parking spaces; most popular option in keypad polling
- Concern that paid parking may not be affordable for some downtown employees (e.g. people working in the service industry), suggestions to incentivize or subsidize employee use of garages
- Suggestions to make the time limit for free parking in garages longer than the time limit for free parking on the street
- Several written comments requesting a free circulator shuttle or similar mode of transportation around downtown
- Least popular keypad polling options were enhanced communication and wayfinding, and expanding enforcement to evenings and weekends