

PLAN: Downtown

Vision and Goals Community Feedback

Mobility & Public Realm

- Need to be more aggressive about vehicular reduction downtown.
- Rideshare causing lots of congestion, how do we encourage carpooling?
- Drawn to the outskirts for open spaces-Need for more active open spaces throughout Downtown.
- Use Placemaking/ Public Art as a tool to define open spaces.
- Open spaces needs to serve “brown bag community” and weekend events.
- “Pocket Destination Plaza” space at Franklin Street was nice. There are other opportunities at odd intersections throughout Downtown- space between buildings and at corners. Could be very context-based like Tontine Crescent.
- Use Greenery as a way to slow traffic coming off the highway.
- Consider students/children in the creation of open spaces.
- Extend the pedestrian zone all the way along Washington Street.
- Formalize Beach Street as a priority pedestrian street.
- Need for lighting on Steeper and cross streets.

Growth and Preservation

- Avoid homogeneity of Downtown-encourage variety and unique businesses, eateries, and other establishments.
- Need to focus on the people as well as the built environment.
- There was a time the character of the neighborhood complemented the people that the residents. How do we get back to a healthy mix?
- Retail is needed in order for residents outside of Downtown to consider Downtown a destination.
- Provide support for small businesses which give Downtown its unique flavor as well as funding and technical assistance.
- Encourage “affordable spaces” for businesses-similar to residential IDP policy but to different stakeholders.
- Need for public facilities such as schools, libraries.
- Chinatown has a rich history but is vulnerable to redevelopment and losing its character.
- Small commercial spaces to support ladder blocks-ladder blocks have declined in quality.

Climate & Resilience

- Working-class, immigrant, non-English speakers, business and property owners who cannot afford big renovations are the most vulnerable.
- The Sewage system isn't equip to cope with residential and density demands.
- Need for investment without displacements.
- Link energy efficiency with rent and value. Currently benefits do not go to owners, but renters.