



September 24, 2024

Engage Forum - Downtown's Next Step Update

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PROJECT BACKGROUND



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



DESIGN STATUS & CHANGES

PROJECT SUMMARY

History

- Project identified by public in Multimodal Transportation Plan and prioritized by Multimodal Advisory Board
- Visioning and conceptual design was conducted in 2021-2022
- Design started in 2022 with surveying and analysis for the corridor and preliminary design for 2 blocks

Engagement

- Visioning and conceptual design had 19 meetings, 2 surveys with over 2,200 responses, and online review
- Preliminary design engagement included over 20 individual meetings with businesses/owners, and a public meeting with 90+ attendees

Design

- The project is designing pedestrian safety improvements, expanded pedestrian space, accessibility improvements, and improved utilities.
- Design elements include curb extensions at the intersections, ADA spaces, trees, and wider sidewalks.

RESOLUTION R-2024-54

- Funding the construction of the new Police Department and City Hall facility is a high priority of City Council
- Construction of Downtown's Next Step (DNS) and utilities is anticipated to be a significant cost investment
- Completion of the design phase is necessary for City Council to have construction estimates, allowing them to make informed decisions about whether to prioritize the project for construction in the future
- The City has received \$640,000 in grant funding to finalize the design phase of DNS, with a City match of \$160,000
- Construction of both projects requires substantial financial commitments and would not be fiscally responsible to be done simultaneously
- Therefore, spending on the construction phase of Downtown's Next Steps should be suspended until direction is given to move forward and after the Police Department and City Hall have begun construction

ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



Community
Questionnaire



Focus Group



Business
Forum

Questionnaire details

- Online May 17 – June 7
- 703 responses
- 83 business/property owners
- 84% live in Durango

Purpose of questionnaire

- Obtain feedback on design elements
- Asked objectives & preferred elements of design
- One open ended question

What we heard

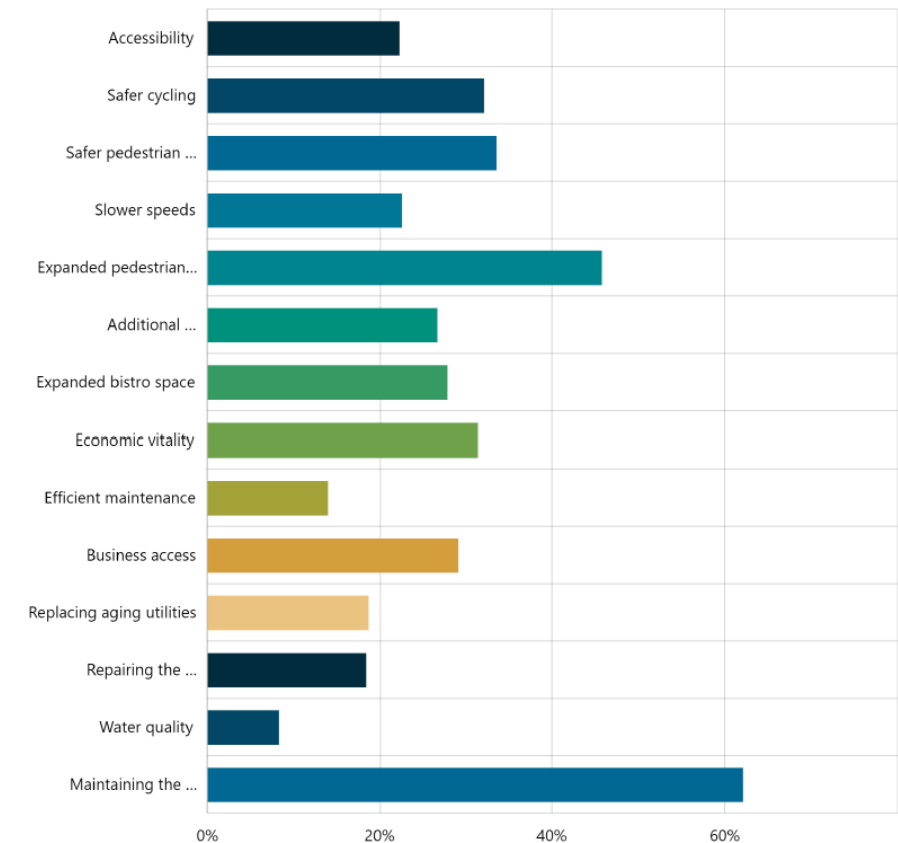
- Wider sidewalks & more trees were most important elements
- Historic character & expanded pedestrian space most important objectives
- Open ended comments were mixed sentiments
 - 374 comments
 - 47% in favor of bike/ped improvements
 - 24% were natural
 - 28% opposed

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS - OBJECTIVES

■ Top objectives:

1. Maintaining the historical character of downtown
2. Expanded pedestrian space
3. Safer pedestrian crossings and cycling
4. Economic vitality

8. The following are objectives to achieve the goals for the Downtown's Next Step Design Project. What are your top 3-5 objectives? Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 703 (100%)



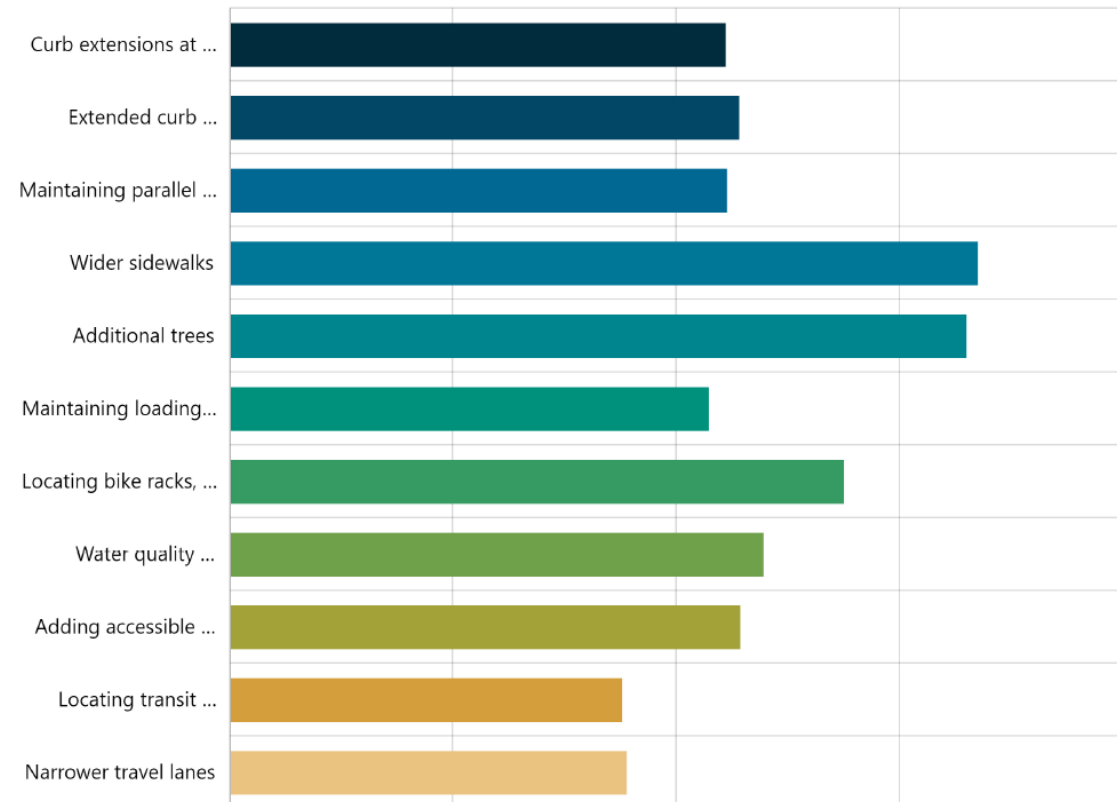
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS - ELEMENTS

■ Top elements

1. Wider sidewalks
2. Additional trees
3. Locating amenities at curb extensions

9. Order the design elements from most important to least important to you. Required

Ranking | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 703 (100%)



DOWNTOWN'S NEXT STEP FOCUS GROUP

9 members

- Downtown business owners, county residents, cyclists, people living with a disability, minority groups, in favor and opposed
- Made the selection process as anonymous as possible

Two meetings

- First meeting covered background, design, and questionnaire results
- Second meeting was discussion and feedback

Focus on design elements for feedback

- ADA locations, loading zones, sidewalk and travel lane widths, trees, curb extensions and parking

FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

ADA spaces

- Support for additional accessible spaces on Main

Loading zones

- Need for curbside loading
- Interest in being flexible parking during busy season

Lane & sidewalk widths

- Maintain lane widths as is
- Concern about sidewalk widths and usability for bistros

Trees

- In favor of trees
- Need to maintain

Curb extensions & parking

- Want more parking
- Smaller curb extensions

BUSINESS FORUM

Forum requested
and hosted by BID,
Chamber, and Local
First

Separate questionnaire to members in early summer

Forum held August 27 at FLC Innovation Center

Questions from businesses provided to city staff prior to forum

Multiple department staff answered the questions during the forum

Approximately 100 attendees

Questions and answers were posted to the city's project page

Additional questions from the forum were answered by staff after the meeting

DESIGN STATUS AND UPDATES IN COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION R-2024-54

Design Status

Preliminary design
for 600 & 700
blocks

Making changes to
preliminary design
per feedback

Pilot Status

Removing pedlet
on 600 block

Installing
temporary curb
extensions in
October

Design Updates

Shortening curb
extensions and
adding 4 spaces
back

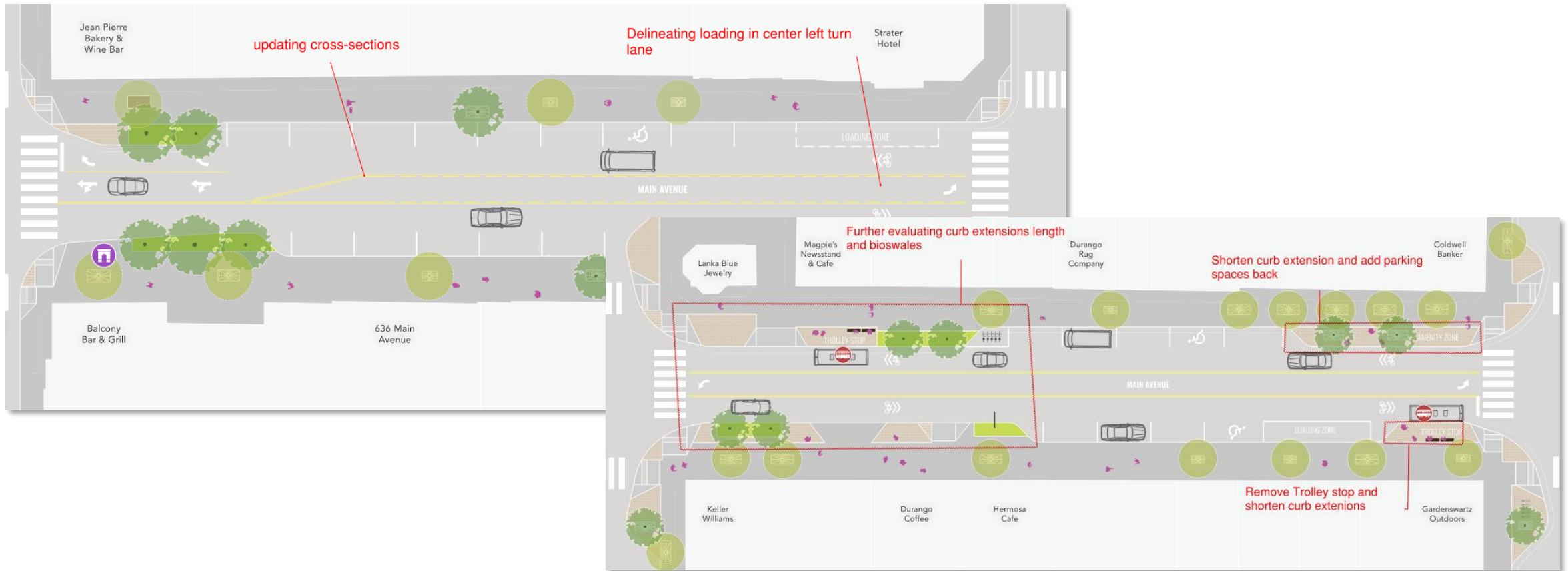
Keeping lane
widths and
reducing sidewalk
widening

PILOT PROJECT

- Pilot funded through Revitalize Main Street grant program
- Pedlets were installed August 5
- Pedlet in 600 block will be removed
- Temporary curb extensions with flexible posts and paint will be installed early October
 - Delayed installation based on community request



DESIGN UPDATES



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



FEEDBACK

Let us know how we did!

SCAN ME



Tell Us What You Think About the Forum!

Go to **Engage.DurangoCO.Gov** for
more information about the project.