

Littleton Listens Council Update



Littleton Listens

- June 22nd and 24th
- Littleton Listens citizen engagement sessions
- explore downtown strengths
- desired improvements and enhancements.
- Littleton Center in the evening and the second at the museum on a Saturday morning.



Historic Downtown Littleton Merchants

- August 2nd
- Staff attended the HDLM meeting
- 40 HDLM members participated in the Littleton Listens process.



Open Littleton

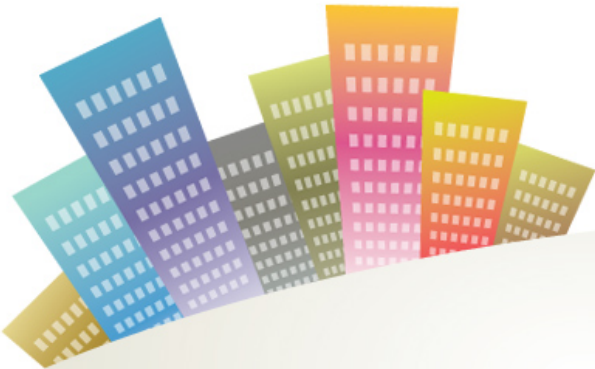
Staff also posed the same questions, using a similar format on Open Littleton, our online citizen engagement tool.

*Be part of the
discussion...*



Council Study Session

On August 22nd Community Development staff
presented the initial Littleton Listens
findings to Council.



Main Themes - Council

Preservation:

- Small town feel
- Accessible
- Walkable
- Safe
- Clean
- Historic
- family friendly
- Vibrant
- Events

Parking & Public Transportation:

- Real vs. Perceived need for parking
- What does the city define as a parking problem
- Utilization of current parking resources
- Wayfinding
- Parking structure
- Community shuttle
- Comprehensive plan

Administrative:

- Responsible development
- Cohesive Council
- Updated zoning and codes

Define Downtown:

- Marketability
- Downtown is bigger than main street
- Downtown expansion
- Density
- Zoning

Main Themes – Project Undertaken

- City began process to review and update the Downtown Design Standards and Guidelines in fall, 2017
- Steering committee formed, January 2018
- Community review of draft and next public meeting on May 24
- Updated Downtown Design Standards to come before Council for review and approval in July



Littleton Listens Drill Down

- October 4th Littleton Center meeting to “drill down” on the main themes
- We also asked the same questions and collected the data from Open Littleton...
- **168 page report**
 - (not numerical survey data)



Takeaways

- There is no consensus on parking issues in downtown
 - What defines the issue
 - How to solve it
 - Merchant's view and customer views vary
 - Nearly all “evidence” is anecdotal



Challenges Downtown

- There is no formal organization working collectively for downtown
- Demand for events and hours of operations (restaurants) continues to grow
- The City has not adopted a strategic plan for the area



Challenges Downtown

- There is no multi-modal and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plan
- Maintenance and sidewalk sweeping are examples of unclear areas of operations



What Makes a Downtown

- Downtown Colorado, Inc.
- Colorado Main Street Program (DOLA)
- National Trust National Main Street Network
 - Similar approaches to building sustainable planned success



10 Program Points

(National Main Street)

- The community has...
 - broad-based community support for the commercial district revitalization process, with strong support from both the public and private sectors. (NO)
 - developed vision and mission statements relevant to community conditions and to the local Main Street program's organizational stage. (NO)



10 Program Points

- The community has...
 - a comprehensive Main Street work plan (NO)
 - an historic preservation ethic (YES)
 - an active board of directors and volunteers (NO)
 - an adequate operating budget (NO)



10 Program Points

- The community has...
 - a paid, professional executive director (NO)
 - Conducts program of ongoing training for staff and volunteers (NO)
 - Reports key statistics (NO)
 - Current member of the National Trust National Main Street Network (NO)



Where Do We Go?

- Short term
 - Continue the project to update the Downtown Design Standards and Guidelines
 - Wayfinding to current parking options
 - Downtown transportation study as derivative of the Transportation Master Plan
 - Develop an approach to tackling the current limitations (10 Program Keys)
 - Identify a partner (DCI, DOLA – Main Street Program) to assist Littleton in moving forward
 - Solidify an initial organization to represent downtown in partnership with the city



Long Term

- Address issues identified in the Downtown Transportation Plan
- Establish with a partner
 - Mission and values for downtown
 - Develop a clear work plan
 - Define short, mid and long term investment goals
 - Develop a support and training for the downtown network



Council Discussion & Direction

