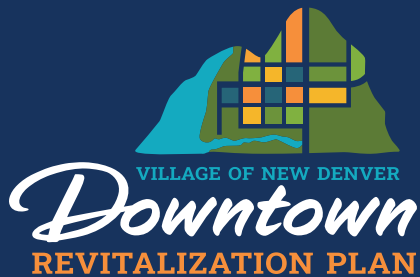




WHAT WE HEARD

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN

NOVEMBER 2023



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1.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Community and stakeholder engagement is a key part of the New Denver Downtown Revitalization Plan (NDDRP) process. Round 1 Engagement was used to [a] build on the Project Team’s background analyses by further identifying key issues and opportunities; and [b] generate high-level ideas and a vision for Downtown New Denver.

Round 1 engagement included:

- **Public Ideas Fair - August 28, 2023**
A large-scale, widely advertised interactive public event at Knox Hall in New Denver..
- **Online Engagement - August 28 - September 11, 2023**
The Village’s website and project page were utilized throughout Round 1 to advertise events, share documents (e.g., Background Report, Walkshop Booklet), and host the Visioning & Community Needs Survey.

Round 2 engagement will involve an “Open House” where residents are invited to read the draft plan and directly engage with Village Staff on their support of suggested changes. The Plan will then be finalized based on this input, before being presented to Council.



BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

July / August 2023 - Project Team

Technical analysis of existing conditions to identify challenges and opportunities and outline a policy framework to inform the project. Outcomes will inform the content of the Ideas Fair and online discussions.



IDEAS FAIR & VISIONING & COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

August / September 2023 - Public

An interactive consultation event – along with a corresponding public survey – to harvest public feedback and generate high-level ideas and early directions for the future of Downtown New Denver.



INTERVIEWS

September / October 2023 - Stakeholders

Targeted interviews will then be used to fill any information gaps. From there, a set of key elements and scenarios will be developed into Early Directions.



POP-UPS & DISCUSSION

September / October 2023 - Public

Pop-up events around Downtown, along with online discussions, will extend the reach of the Ideas Fair to the wider community.



EARLY DIRECTIONS

October / November 2023 - Staff/Stakeholders

Based on the Background Analysis and Round 1 of Community Engagement, the Project Team will develop draft Goals, Principles, and Early Directions for the Downtown Revitalization Plan. The Early Directions are developed in order to receive further feedback from staff and key stakeholders.



OPEN HOUSE (DRAFT PLAN)

December 2023 / January 2024 - Public

The draft Downtown Revitalization Plan will be presented for public comment at a digital Open House and corresponding online engagement. A final draft will then be iteratively refined with staff.



COUNCIL PRESENTATION

January 2024 - Public

The final Downtown Revitalization Plan will be presented to Council at a public meeting.

1.1 CONSULTATION AT A GLANCE



45

Completed the
Visioning & Community
Needs Survey



100+

Were reached through
the Ideas Fair



6

Completed the
Walkshop Booklet
(or sent in notes to the project team)



2.0 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

2.1 VISIONING & COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY & IDEAS FAIR

From August 28 - September 11, 2023, the community was invited to participate in a Visioning & Community Needs Survey hosted on the Village's website and project page engagement platform. An Ideas Fair was held on August 28 to kick off Round 1 of engagement, which was attended well.

Through the Ideas Fair and Visioning & Community Needs Survey, participants were asked to share their ideas about the current needs and future ideas for Downtown New Denver. The following is a high-level overview of themes heard through engagement.

COMMUNITY NEEDS & IDEAS

Downtown's Greatest Strengths

- Authentic character (e.g., heritage look and feel, colours of buildings)
- Natural setting (e.g., views of mountains, proximity to the lake)
- Walkable
- Quiet and safe
- Friday Market & community events

What Could Be Improved

- More businesses & retail space
- Moving power poles off of 6th Ave. (Main Street)
- Views to the lake (e.g., removal of trees)
- Sidewalk improvements
- Landscaping & gathering spaces (e.g., trees, areas for socializing)

Big Changes for the Future

- Restaurants/places to eat and gather
- Improved sidewalks
- Improve Greer Park/waterfront as a green space
- Improve accessibility of buildings and infrastructure
- More retail and shopping opportunities
- Removal of power poles on 6th Ave.

Small Changes for Tomorrow

- Publicly accessible washroom
- Improved sidewalks
- More street trees
- More seating areas (e.g., parklets and benches)

Missing from Downtown

- Activity (e.g., businesses and light industrial space, tourism, attractions)
- Places to sit and linger
- Businesses and retail
- Shade trees and landscaping

Ideas from Comparable Sized Towns

- Towns that were mentioned
 - » Kimberly, BC (CAN)
 - » Nakusp, BC (CAN)
 - » Lumby, BC (CAN)
 - » Valemount, BC (CAN)
 - » Nelson, BC (CAN)
 - » Duncan, BC (CAN)
 - » Silverton, BC (CAN)
 - » Leavenworth, WA (US)
- Light posts (e.g., lamp standards, banners)
- Tree planters, hanging baskets, and landscaping
- Plaza/gathering space
- Pedestrian only (e.g., seasonally, certain times)



DOWNTOWN AREA, CHARACTER, & VISION

Where is Downtown New Denver?

- According to participants of the Survey, both areas A & B were most considered to be part of the Downtown
- Few people believed Area C is part of Downtown
- A few people believed that areas East of Highway 6 in Area A is not part of Downtown

Desired Future Character

- Historical architecture & heritage elements
- Scenic & artsy
- Walkable & safe
- Accessible & welcoming
- Connection to lake & natural setting

Vision for Downtown

- Family-friendly
- Human scale
- Place to gather
- Green & Welcoming
- Businesses and places to eat
- Open at more times (e.g., not shut at 5 PM)



PLANNING + DESIGN PRIORITIES

Planning Priorities (ranked)

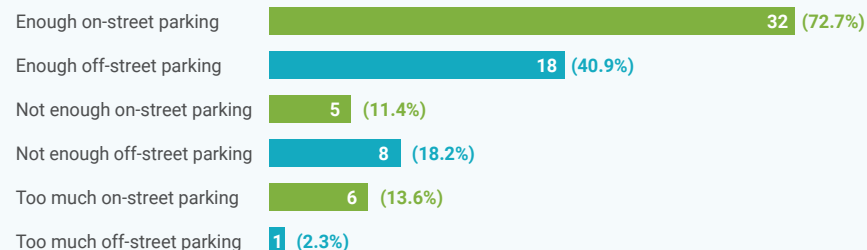
1. Job & Employment Opportunities (e.g., more businesses in town)
2. Beautification (e.g., art, landscape plantings, lighting, murals)
3. Streetscape Improvements (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks)
4. Activities and Programs (e.g., community events, markets, fairs)
5. New Public Spaces & Amenities (e.g., plazas, parks, playgrounds, public washrooms)
6. More Housing Options (e.g., townhouses, multifamily, seniors housing, affordable housing)
7. Redevelopment of Private Land (e.g., underutilized sites)

Streetscape Designs (ranked)

1. Street Trees & Landscaping
2. Integrated Stormwater Management (e.g., taking a comprehensive, ecosystem-based approach to manage rainwater runoff)
3. Sidewalks
4. Street Furniture (e.g., benches and bike racks)
5. Cycling & Alternative Transportation Infrastructure (e.g., Bike lanes, mobility scooters)
6. Public Art
7. Signage & Gateways
8. Corner Bulb-outs

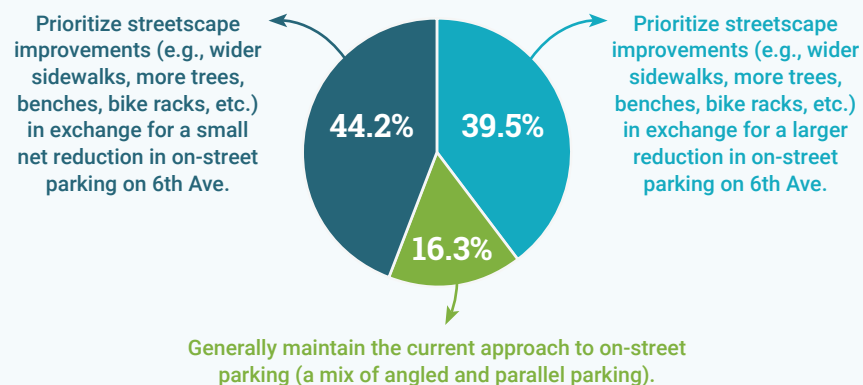
PARKING PREFERENCES

- On- and Off-Street Parking
- Most respondents of the Survey believed that there is currently enough on-and-off street parking in Downtown New Denver



Opinions about future parking on 6th Avenue

Most respondents supported either a small net or large reduction of on-street parking on 6th Avenue in exchange for streetscape improvements (e.g., wider sidewalks, more trees, benches, bike racks, etc.)



2.2 WALKSHOP BOOKLET RESPONSES

The Walkshop Booklet was a self-guided exercise where participants were invited to give feedback on challenges and opportunities in specific areas of Downtown New Denver. Four booklets/thoughts on downtown were completed and their notes are summarized below.



Area 1: Kootenay St / Knox Hall / New Market Foods	
Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing crosswalk in the wrong side, should be on the west side (not east) » Needs more commercial activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Good area for large format retail » Good area for additional parking to service downtown
Area 2: Corner of 6th Ave and Hwy 6	
Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Too much street parking » Some buildings in disrepair » Street facade broken by buildings set back from the street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Needs an additional cafe or bistro » Grouped parking and pedestrian only zones
Area 3: Corner of 6th and Josephine St	
Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Too much parking and little pedestrian activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Could be a village square where people meet » East & West traffic should be pedestrian only » North & South traffic should be controlled and pedestrian given priority » Need for pedestrian bridge connecting to south New Denver



Area 4: Greer Park and the Waterfront

Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Not enough activity at this end of town » Residential uses on the ground floor » Lack of shops and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Good area for hotels, cafe, shops, and boutique stores » Need for more picnic tables and gathering spaces

Area 5: Slocan Ave

Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Not really considered "Downtown" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Good location for group parking » Secure parking next to Police Station » Good place for services (e.g., laundry, village office, library, social assistance)

Other Thoughts:

- Bears are an issue to safety and comfort
- No place to go indoors at night
- Like old-buildings and small-town feel
- Like to see more trees and landscaping
- Ensure that development is compatible with heritage character and low-rise heights
- Need for affordable housing and accommodation for nurses and doctors
- No more removal of trees
- Advocate for "last mile" fiberoptic connections to facilitate commerce and meeting.
- Concentrate on the unique aspects of New Denver that make it different from other towns, and on how those differences can be enhanced and celebrated here.

3.0 ENGAGEMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Through the Visioning & Community Needs Survey and the Ideas fair, participants were asked various demographic questions which are summarized below:

The vast majority of participants live or work in New Denver ...

... with only a few who live here seasonally or live in a neighbouring community.

Most participants have lived, worked, or owned property in New Denver between 1-10 years ...

... with some having lived in the community for multiple decades.

Most participants were aged 55-74 years of age ...

... with fewer participants between 25-54 or older than 75 years of age.

Most participants were of one or two-person households ...

... with few being from households of three persons or larger.



4.0 NEXT STEPS

The next steps in the process are for the Project Team to [a] iteratively develop key directions and concepts for the plan and then [b] draft the NDDRP with iterative feedback from the community and Village staff . After that, the community will be invited to comment on the Draft Plan, and from that, final changes will be made prior to the draft NDDRP being presented to Council, which is scheduled for late 2023 or early 2024.

