

APPENDIX 1

Downtown Mountain Home *Public Involvement Process*



Downtown Mountain Home Public Involvement Process

<i>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY 2017</i>					
	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Kick-off Meeting	9 th				
Craze Daze Booth	27 th				
Downtown Charrette		13 th & 14 th			
Public Open House			11 th & 13 th		
City Council Mtg.			24 th		
Online Survey			25 th	11 th	
Meeting with ITD				11 th	
URA Board Meeting				22 nd	
Steering Committee Meeting					12 th

Downtown Mountain Home Plan Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting

A kick-off meeting for the Mountain Home Downtown Plan was held on May 9, 2017. The kick-off meeting was attended by the Mountain Home Downtown Plan Steering Committee which consists of representatives from Mountain Home's Urban Renewal Agency, the Mayor, representatives from City Council, and staff from the Public Works and Economic Development Departments.

Crazee Daze Public Outreach Booth

On May 27, 2017, a booth was set up during Mountain Home's Crazee Daze Festival to gather input from citizens on their vision for Downtown Mountain Home. Public input was gathered through citizen comment cards and notes were taken during interviews with local residents who stopped by the booth.

Several popular requests were made by Mountain Home residents for what they would like to see Downtown, including:

- Splash Pad
- Public event / gathering space for festivals, live music and Food Truck Rallies
- Downtown events such as movie nights, art shows, music festivals, Ladies Night Out, and car shows
- More restaurants and a wider range of price points for restaurants
- More activities for children and families
- Improved safety of pedestrian crossings, especially at American Legion
- Improve sidewalks
- Community Center
- Improve ADA access



Downtown Mountain Home Charrette Process and Charrette Findings

The City of Mountain Home conducted a two-day Design Charrette with key stakeholders on June 13th and 14th, 2017. The intent of the Design Charrette was to actively involve local stakeholders in the planning and design process for the revitalization of downtown Mountain Home. The Charrette process was modeled after a charrette format that was developed by the National Charrette Institute. Participants involved in the two-day workshop were hand-selected by Mountain Home's Steering Committee for the Downtown Project; 41 local residents participated in the Design Charrette.

Design Charrette Participants:

Participants in the Mountain Home Downtown Charrette included representatives from the following organizations:

- Downtown business owners and property owners
- The Idaho Transportation Department
- St. Luke's Hospital
- Western Elmore County Recreation District
- Mountain Home Urban Renewal Agency
- Mountain Home Public Works Department
- Mountain Home Parks and Recreation Department
- Mountain Home Police Department
- Mountain Home's Mayor and City Council
- Mountain Home Economic Development Department
- Mountain Home Building Department

Design Charrette Format:

DAY 1

Keynote Address from Mayor Sykes

Orientation on scope of Design Charrette and Boundaries of Project Area

- Focus on *future* land uses, improving roadways, and bringing people downtown

Walking Audit of Main and Second Street in Downtown Mountain Home

- Charrette participants divided into small groups and conducted a two-hour Walking Audit of downtown Mountain Home
- The goal of the Walking Audit was for participants to evaluate the land uses, roadways, and pedestrian facilities in downtown Mountain Home and for the Walking Audit to generate discussion on how to approach the revitalization of downtown Mountain Home

See Main Street Assessment Survey Results on page 8.

Visioning Process

- Charrette participants worked in small groups to define the future land uses, design elements, and roadway design for Main and 2nd in downtown Mountain Home
- Following several hours of discussion and visioning, 8 groups from the Charrette presented their design concepts to the 40 Charrette participants and the group voted on three design concepts to discuss in further detail on the second day of the Design Charrette

DAY 2

Charrette participants broke into small groups and participated in a second Walking Audit to “ground truth” and evaluate and refine three preliminary design concepts developed after from Day 1.

Following the Walking Audit, Charrette participants worked together to refine the three preliminary design concepts and a second vote was taken to move a single design concept forward for further public input by the group. The group was unable to reach consensus on a single design concept and the group voted to move two design concepts forward for further input from the public. *It is important to note that while the Charrette group reached general consensus on the design elements featured on the plans, locations of the design features were very much still up for debate by the group at the closing of Charrette.*



Concept 1



Key Concept 1 Features:

- Downtown Entryway and signage
- Creation of downtown Pedestrian Loop
- Expansion of Railroad Park including addition of restrooms
- Development of a Splash Pad and park area
- Development of a downtown Park and Ride Lot / Bus Depot
- Creation of a Pedestrian Plaza through the closure of a side street connecting Main and Second
- Reconfiguration of Main Street to include two-way traffic and a turn lane
- Reconfiguration of 2nd Street to include diagonal parking and a single north-bound lane of traffic

Concept 2



Key Concept 2 Features:

- Downtown Entryway and signage
- Creation of a Community Center on the former Paul's site
- Creation of an event area for public events
- Expansion of Railroad Park and including Splash Pad and addition of restrooms

- Creation of downtown Pedestrian Loop
- Development of a downtown Park and Ride Lot / Bus Depot
- Reconfiguration of Main Street to include two-way traffic and a center turn lane
- Reconfiguration of 2nd Street to include two-way traffic with bicycle facilities and parallel parking

Key Concepts Shared by Both Plans:

- Development of an Event Area Downtown for Public Events
- Expansion of Railroad Park
- Establishment of a Park and Ride Lot / Bus Depot
- Creation of a “Gateway” to downtown Mountain Home
- Expansion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Creation of a Splash Pad area for children and families
- Reconfiguration of Main and 2nd Street to create street sections that are designed to better serve residents working, living, shopping, and attending events in downtown Mountain Home

The Charrette group also discussed and reached consensus on the concepts that they thought were integral to the revitalization of downtown Mountain Home. Key goals identified by the Charrette group include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Create Gathering Spaces | 15. Nightlife! |
| 2. Improve Mountain Home’s Sense of Community | 16. Create year-round activities Downtown for residents |
| 3. Economic Development | 17. Beautify Downtown / Improve Landscaping |
| 4. Job Creation | 18. Improve Arts and Culture Downtown |
| 5. Growth | 19. Create an Event Venue Downtown |
| 6. Tourism | 20. Create a United Downtown Organization |
| 7. Family Activities | 21. Promote Mountain Home’s Historic Buildings Downtown |
| 8. Positive Attitude | 22. Improve Infrastructure / Roads Downtown |
| 9. Fill Vacant Buildings | 23. Grow! |
| 10. Improve Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections | 24. Create a Wayfinding / Signage Plan for Downtown |
| 11. Improve Sidewalks | |
| 12. Improve shopping / retail / downtown experience | |
| 13. Improve business hours’ downtown | |
| 14. Create housing downtown | |

Mountain Home Downtown Core Assessment Survey

Assessment Summary

On June 13th, 2017 a Mountain Home Downtown Core Assessment Survey was dispersed to stakeholders participating in the Mountain Home Downtown Charrette. The survey mainly focused on activity and community identity to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the downtown core. Ten different categories were provided, each having their own specific questions regarding subjects shown in the table below. Scores provided by participants for each for each subject, with the highest score possible being a 10, are provided in the table below.

Mountain Home Downtown Core Assessment Survey										
Survey #	Gateway to Downtown Core	Transition to Downtown Core	Design	Safety	Security	Comfort	Access	Interest	Transition from Downtown Core	Gateway from Downtown Core
1	5	5	4	5	5	6	5	5	6	5
2	3	3	6	3	6	7	6	5	3	4
3	5	6	5	4	5	7	6	7	5	6
4	4	6	4	3	5	2	2	4	9	6
5	5	3	4	5	5	6	4	4	4	6
6	5	3	4	6	3	3	2	3	3	2
7	1	3	2	4	4	4	4	3	4	6
8	8	4	1	3	5	5	2	4	3	1.5
9	3	3	3	4	5	5	2	3	3	3
10	1.5	1	2	4	4	4	5	4	1.5	1
AVG	4.05	3.7	3.5	4.1	4.7	4.9	3.8	4.2	4.15	4.05

The survey results displayed that downtown design ranked the lowest, while comfort within the downtown core ranked the highest. However, the scores for each subject all range within the 3.5-5 points, which is below half of the total points available for each subject.

Public Open House

A Public Open House was held at Mountain Home City Hall on July 11th and 13th, 2017 to allow Mountain Home residents a chance to review and comment on the Concept Plans that were developed by the stakeholders at the Mountain Home Downtown Design Charrette. The two Open House sessions were very well attended; over 50 Mountain Home residents attended the Open House sessions.



A third concept plan from the Mountain Home Design Charrette was introduced at the Downtown Open House for public review and comment at the request of Mountain Home staff. The third concept plan was introduced to allow the public to evaluate whether they wished to see significant changes to the configuration of Main Street.

Concept 3



Concept Plan #3 features the reconfiguration of Main Street to include a single lane of southbound traffic and diagonal parking along with the closure of the section of American Legion between Main and 2nd to create a pedestrian plaza downtown.

Residents attending the workshop were asked to submit written comments after reviewing the three Mountain Home downtown concept plans. A “Word Cloud” was created from comments gathered at the workshop; the most frequently cited comments are shown with large fonts in the Word Cloud.



July 24th, 2017 City Council Meeting

Mountain Home City Council was updated on the progress of the Mountain Home Downtown Plan and the three downtown design concepts from the Public Open House sessions were presented to City Council for discussion and comment. City Council expressed an interest in determining the results of the Downtown Online Survey before working with the Downtown Steering Committee to make a decision on which of the three design concepts would be selected for further evaluation and design.

Mountain Home Downtown Online Survey

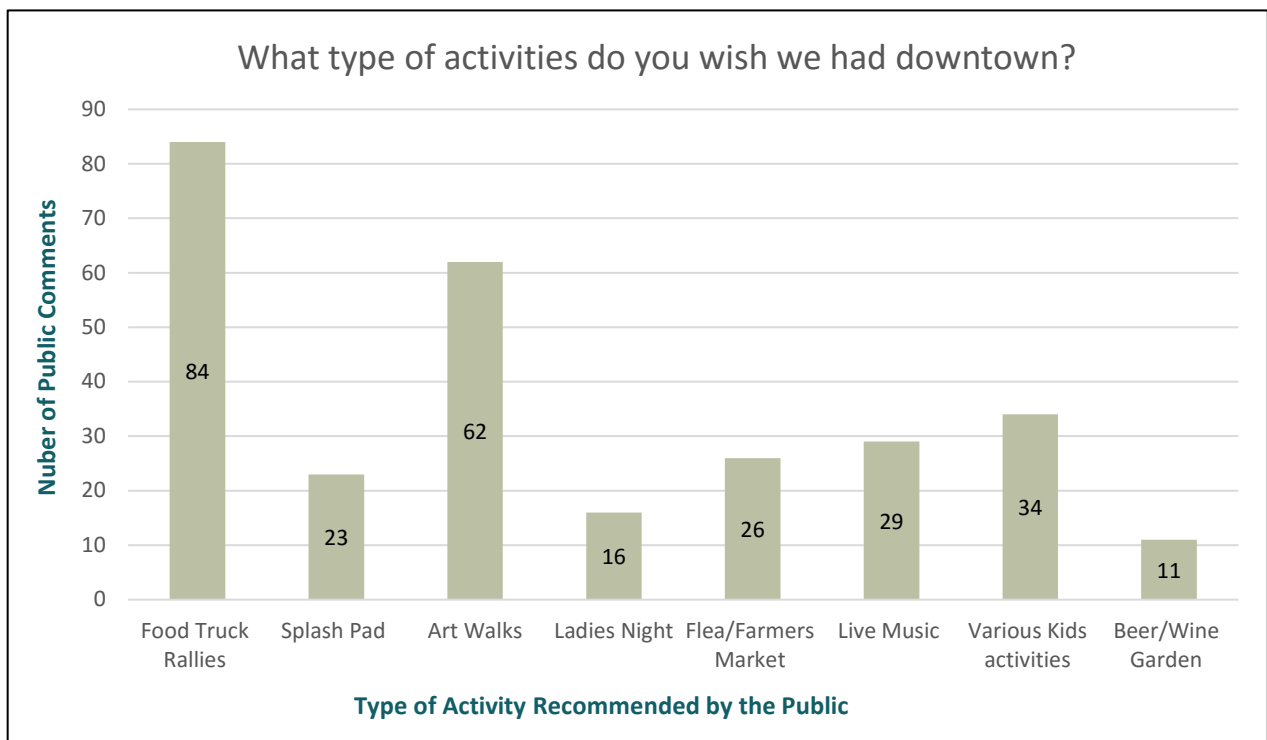
An online survey was activated July 19th through August 12th 2017 for members of the public to share information and ideas for the future Downtown Mountain Home, as well as to vote on their favorite concept plan that was presented to the City. Questions that were presented in the online Survey included:

- How many times per week do you and your family visit downtown?
- What activities do you currently use downtown for?
- What time of day do you usually visit downtown?
- Do you ever ride your bike or walk downtown?

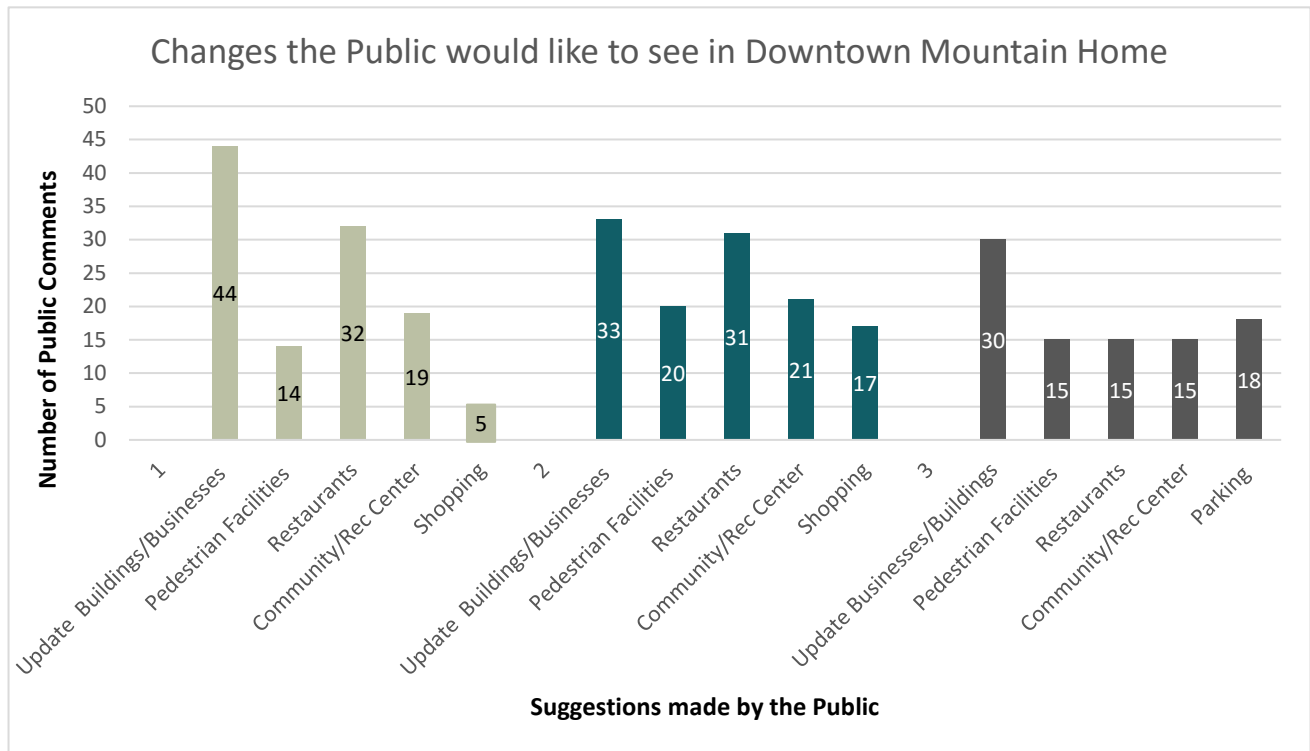
- What types of activities do you wish we had downtown? (Food Truck Rallies, Art Walks, Ladies Nights, etc.)
- Please list three changes that you'd like to see in downtown Mountain Home.
- Out of the three plans provided, which do you prefer?

Members of the public also had the opportunity to comment on each of the three concept plans to discuss likes and dislikes. Two questions remained manual and open for responses, while the rest were multiple choice questions. Responses to the two questions that required manual responses are shown below:

Manual Response 1: What types of activities do you wish we had downtown?



Manual Response 2: Please list three changes that you'd like to see in downtown Mountain Home.



Regarding the three concept plans provided, the survey displayed that concept 2 was greatly preferred as 61.3% of the public participants voted for that plan over the 14.12% received for concept 1 and 24.58% for concept three. Concept 2 is displayed below:

Concept 2



City of Mountain Home Meeting with ITD

City of Mountain Home staff met with representatives from District 3 of the Idaho Transportation Department on August 11, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to engage ITD in the review of the three Mountain Home downtown concept plans and to discuss the timing of upcoming pavement reconstruction for Main and 2nd streets in the Mountain Home Downtown core area.

Parklets were also introduced at the meeting to gauge whether ITD would be amenable to allowing parklets to be constructed along Main and 2nd Streets during the first year of the implementation of downtown Mountain Home improvements. ITD and Mountain Home staff discussed the recent construction of a parklet in downtown Hailey that was permitted by ITD through the encroachment permit process.

August 22, 2017 URA Board Meeting

The Board of Mountain Home's Urban Renewal Agency was updated on the progress of the Mountain Home Downtown Plan and the three downtown design concepts from the Mountain Home Downtown Open House sessions were presented to the URA Board. At this meeting, Mountain Home staff worked with the URA to schedule a meeting date for a September Mountain Home Steering Committee meeting; it was anticipated that further discussion of the downtown concept plans would take place at the September Steering Committee meeting.

Mountain Home Downtown Plan Steering Committee Meeting

A meeting was held by Mountain Home's Downtown Plan Steering Committee on September 12th, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate results of the Mountain Home downtown online survey, discuss timing of the adoption of the Mountain Home Plan and proposed downtown improvements and to discuss and prioritize elements of the Mountain Home Downtown plan that will be implemented during the first phase of downtown improvements.

Main Street & 2nd Street Recommendations:

- Commission a traffic study to evaluate traffic volumes on Main and 2nd Street in the downtown study area and to determine whether it is feasible to reduce the number of traffic lanes on Main and 2nd