

Question Report

San Carlos Downtown Specific Plan Workshop (2/15/2023, 7pm)

Question Details

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer	Answer Name
1	I need the help, the chat is blocked	Xiao-Lin Ruihang	Let me look into this one moment please	Katja Dillmann
2	Caulenstein Poppins here, I just love San Carlos!	Caulenstein Poppins	Thank you for joining us	Katja Dillmann
2	Caulenstein Poppins here, I just love San Carlos!	Caulenstein Poppins	Thank you Caulenstein - I love it too!	Lisa Porras# City of San Carlos
3	And the unmute button, please help need this talking	Xiao-Lin Ruihang	Please send all questions and comments to us, here in the Q & A. Thank you	Katja Dillmann
4	Same. Chat is "disabled". We can submit Q's here though, correct?	L. Salazar	yes. Thank you	Katja Dillmann
5	Why is the chat blocked and i cant unmute?	Anonymous Attendee	Please use the Q & A feature	Katja Dillmann
6	Please announce that Chat is disabled, but we can use Q&A	Heidi Liebenguth		
7	FYI - unless my zoom is unique ... it says the chat feature is disabled so all questions will need to go through Q&A	Becky		
8	Also you need to click on "Survey" when going to Slido	Tom Feledy	Thank you, Tom!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
9	make sure that labor is thought of as this plan progresses. With out labor standards such as access to work opertunity for local residence, apprenticeship and healthcare the Plan	Bryan Shields Carpenters Local 217	Thank you Brian - I also received your email. All the best, Lisa	Lisa Porras# City of San Carlos
10	...not the Q&A tab at Slido, but the "Polls" tab	Tom Feledy	Thank you!!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
11	too open and undefined to feel comfortable. Restaurants are big becasue that's all there is	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for sharing!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
12	Why do I have to go through Restaurant space to get to the bank or post office? If you keep Laurel Closed, can the asphalt be dug up and made permeable?	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for sharing! We've noted your comment. From Megan with the City	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
13	Can the restaurant parklets be opened to the street area so the middle of the street doesn't feel so walled off?	Sarah Kelsey	Thank you for this suggestion! We've received your comment and idea!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
14	Have you looked at what makes other downtowns vibrant or poorly planned? Closing the 700 block allows you to do so much more such as having a plaza.	Gladwyn d'Souza	successful examples from other communities - such a great way to see what works well!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
15	shared? It's essential that safe routes downtown, bike lock parking suitable for big heavy fat tire ebikes is included, and bikes have preferred parking closest to Laurel. These are	MarkB	part of the Plan, and we can provide more information - please feel free to reach out to advanceplanning@cityofsan-carlos.org	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
16	Why are you limiting the questions to only the 700 block? What about adjacent blocks?	David Crabbe	They will also be addressed as part of plan. Stay tuned!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
17	The 700 block, if closed, which I hope is the case, will need redevelopment so that it's not restaurant centric.	Sal Burns	Thank you for your feedback!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
18	It would be great to have the restaurants more like sidewalk cafes and less like restaurant walls on the street.	Sarah Kelsey	Thanks for your comment! It's duly noted.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
19	The example pictures you showed were cool, but our downtown needs nature too! EXAMPLES: Boulder, Aspen, Portland, Utrecht and many others.	MarkB	Love this! Yes, we can consider incorporating "greening of Downtown" into the Plan.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
20	the orange plastic jersey barrier, etc — while this larger plan is being developed and constructed. Or do we have to live with the pandemic look for 2-3 more years on top of	Jeffrey Stanger	Hello Jeffrey, Yes, the City is considering interim improvements that could be implemented before the Plan is adopted.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
21	This park is an absolute dump	gregstclair	Thank you for your comment - Please share too what could enliven the space from your perspective!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
22	Need to be mindful of how many parking areas are eliminated. Not everyone can walk downtown and if people can't park easily they won't come.	Anonymous Attendee	live answered	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
22	Need to be mindful of how many parking areas are eliminated. Not everyone can walk downtown and if people can't park easily they won't come.	Anonymous Attendee	Great observation! We will be considering this as part of plan.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
23	We need more trees, not less, to minimize heat island effect. Natural features are good for mental health, too.	Kathleen Goforth	Thank you for your suggestion!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner

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24	I don't think fountains are a good idea. We may have had a lot of rain recently but drought is a fact of life in CA	JC	Thank you for your feedback!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
25	What is the size in feet of Harrington Park?	Tom Feledy	The overall acreage is 0.3 acres.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
26	After watching the latest World Cup and Super Bowl I can imagine an open air gathering area to watch these types of entertainment	Mike Pardini	Definitely. Thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
27	need a place for teens to hang out. we have places for the littles, but nothing for the teens. skate park? lounge areas?	Anonymous Attendee	Great idea! Thanks for sharing.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
28	What have the musicians said about the location of the stage. Not sure about moving the stage, would music spillover away from laurel?	Anonymous Attendee	Great suggestion to reach out to the musicians!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
29	I.m not able to respond to any of the questions asking for a response. How can I respond?	evacombs	Please go to Slido.com and join using the code 2509916. thanks!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
30	Harrington Park is fine as it is - no need to use tax dollars to change it	chris.lantman@sri.com	Thanks for your feedback!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
31	Industrial Arts Area can be highlighted? Specifically the wineries and Breweries that are on the Southeast side of the city	Mike Pardini	Yes, we can look into this - this is a really nice way to connect all of San Carlos' districts.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
32	Lost in question 7 is the need for ground treatment that's appealing, not asphalt and concrete. le porous (for ground water) tile or brick or other appealing ground covering.	MarkB	Great suggestion! Thanks for sharing.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
33	know of some businesses downtown that have had carpets ruined from the sap and other things dropped from the current trees	Mike Pardini	Great observation. Thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
34	How will tree canopy be added? Will they be small trees in planters or larger trees. Hope larger trees and open space.	Debbie and Gary	Thank you for your feedback! We can consider this in more detail.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
35	there needs to be better clarity around kid friendly activities. there is a lot for the under 10yo, but what about the teens. Needs to have better distinction	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for that feedback! We will consider this in the plan.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
36	Echoing Mike Pardinis comment,. The downtown trees have a terrible disease and drip sap. This has to be fixed	gregstclair	Thanks for sharing! We will consider this while making recommendations.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
37	across el camino seems to have ample area for parking. any thought given to a walkway over/under el camino so that can be accessed and well connected to downtown?	Jeffrey Stanger	Yes, good point about El Camino Real. We are considering enhanced pedestrian crossings on El Camino Real as a part of the Plan.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
38	Allow ADUs with commercial zoning to create the vibrance you see in many countries outside the US but also in some neighborhoods in Portland.	Gladwyn d'Souza	Thank you for your suggestion! We can look into this.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
39	Need to firm up employee parking so business owners stop parking behind their business and free these up for customers	gregstclair	Thanks for your comment! We will take this into consideration.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
40	the city can bring the funding in to make alleys of art , retail, mix of retail and street food, etc.	Gladwyn d'Souza	Great idea! Thanks for sharing.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
41	assess those restaurants for improvements. Also need an attractive uniform look for all parklets that will continue to show up sporadically on all other blocks of Laurel like they	Vince Gritsch	Thanks for your feedback! We will consider this while making the Plan recommendations.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
42	Agree with Gladwyn's suggestions!	Debbie and Gary	Thanks for your feedback!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
43	more attractive. Right now, they close off the center of the street from the storefronts. The center of the street needs to be fully landscaped with street furniture, kiosks, etc. to	David Crabbe	Great observation! Thanks for sharing. We will take this into consideration.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
44	That is a photo of the 600 block. To be clear we're just talking about the 700 block ONLY, correct?	DZ	Yes, we are only talking about the 700 block tonight - but we will talk about the 600 and 800 blocks in the future.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
45	Allow thumbs up and down on some of these slides.	Gladwyn d'Souza	Great suggestion! We can look into this for next time.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
46	If street is closed off, will the orange barriers be removed? How will restaurant seating be separated from pedestrian walkways and plaza?	Debbie and Gary	Great questions! These are things we will definitely need to consider.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
47	infront of other stores. if they have a parklet, why are they crowding the narrow sidewalks? it feels more like an either/or, but not both as it is currently	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for your observation! We will take this into consideration.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
48	I would go downtown more often if it was friendly for bikes and ebikes. Please ADD THIS OPTION!	MarkB	Thank you!!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner

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49	I would go downtown more often if there was a bike path to downtown through town!	Sonia Elkes	Thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
50	parking isn't an issue for me, now. It has been important when transporting friends /family with mobility issues.	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for sharing!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
51	Currently no bike parking, no safe routes downtown, and signs say no bikes. Wrong wrong wrong. I am hostage to my car because bikes and e-bikes aren't invited	MarkB	Great observation! We will take this into consideration.	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
52	The Walnut-Cherry and Walnut-Olive intersections need to be 4-way stops!	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for your feedback!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
53	it more difficult to park. need to find a way to incentivize them to park in designated spots.	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
54	For a destination consider how the community get's there and make sure that both sides, east and west, have safe efficient and pleasant access.	Gladwyn d'Souza	Definitely an important consideration. Thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
55	this was recorded. Where can it be accessed later for those that missed it?	Anonymous Attendee	We will be posting the recording on the Downtown Specific Plan website which is at www.sancarlosdowntownplan.com	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
56	traffic/parking management. I don't see practical solutions. Current trash enclosure rules made it impractical and expensive to create trash enclosure. Nobody likes visible	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for your feedback!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
57	More please. But we all want 3-4 or even a 2 X 4 block closed area for bikes and pedestrians downtown with cars around the edges in garages or one way streets. This	MarkB	Thanks for your feedback!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
58	Bikes that can easily be going at 20mph and don't mix well with plaza/child friendly areas. Please consider if bikes are part of this plan	Megan Shackleton (she/her)	Thank you for your feedback!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
59	attended all 3 public feedback sessions and the feedback was 100% against the plans presented. Represented hundreds of people. The consultants from Berkeley just	Vince Gritsch	Thank you for your feedback and for attending tonight!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
60	Laurel street area to truly create a plaza look that's integrated and inviting and one big charming vibrant area.	MarkB	Great, thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
61	need to find a way to encourage and support smaller businesses that are an asset to our community. Reading Bug is at the top of that list	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for your feedback!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
62	what are the discussions about building height limits? I'm concerned with what Laurel street will look like if it is suddenly all 4 story buildings on both sides.	Anonymous Attendee	this planning process. More information and concepts for your feedback coming soon.	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
63	access to future parking garages and services that may become part of future new buildings along ECR or new redesigned buildings along the East side of Laurel..	David Crabbe	Thanks for your feedback!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
64	cherry st crossing is great, it's my preferred one to the train station	Solomon Liu	Thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
65	parking lanes into wider sidewalks and protected bicycle lanes. Look at the current plans for ECR in Millbrae for ideas for how to improve ECR.	David Crabbe	and Pedestrian Master Plan which provides a vision and projects for San Carlos streets, including El Camino Real. These recommendations are also	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner
66	You bet! Thanks for listening!	Vince Gritsch		
67	Consider high speed public broadband like Chattanooga , TN, to attract more of the work from home people into the envisioned public space, at other times.	Gladwyn d'Souza	Thanks for the suggestion!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
68	What metrics are being tracked to evaluate outcomes?	Solomon Liu		
69	That was a great forum and meeting - thank you	gregstclair	Thanks for participating!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
70	Underground as much of the utilities as possible	Mike Pardini	Thanks for sharing!	Akanksha Chopra (CDD - Advance Planning)
71	Well done meeting for public and informed participation	Gladwyn d'Souza	Thank you!	Megan Wooley-Ousdahl# Senior Planner

Slido Question	User Name	Sentiment	Submission Date	Submission Time
Not a question. I will have to bet that fountains are frowned upon in the era of California droughts.	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	19:21:31
I thought that the council voted 2 years ago that the 700 block would be permanently closed to traffic. Is that not the case?	Sal Burns	neutral	02/15/2023	19:24:09
Need special attention to easy bicycle access too. Don't exclude e-bikes and bikes; actively invite them to the center of downtown safely!	Anonymous	positive	02/15/2023	19:24:27
Give us the poll questions please	Heidi	neutral	02/15/2023	19:24:59
Preservation of the existing trees	Richard	neutral	02/15/2023	19:28:19
I was trying to edit my response to the first question from "shade" to "trees" but I got cut off and cannot go back to it	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	19:28:55
I love sidewalk dining outside!	Richard	positive	02/15/2023	19:30:22
the outdoor dining setups in the 700 block obstruct visual access to the other businesses (shops & salon). Has that been addressed with those business owners?	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	19:34:31
I love all the parklets and outdoor dining. I do think there should be a single lane for cars to pass each direction.	Heidi	positive	02/15/2023	19:35:12
Whether or not I support closing the 700 block permanently depends on what accessibility measures are included.	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	19:35:33
More sidewalk dining with at least a single one way lane open to traffic	Richard	neutral	02/15/2023	19:35:48
There's no chat, only Q&A	Heidi		02/15/2023	19:36:23
Keep small town feel by having 1-story buildings that makes the street "walkable"	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	19:36:27
Are the restaurants that have expanded their setups massively paying for occupying public space? The menu prices have surged at all restaurants	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	19:37:12
Please preserve & maximize landscaping. We need more tree canopy, not less.	Heidi	positive	02/15/2023	19:41:20
Harrington park V2- Love the fountain in that location!	Anonymous	positive	02/15/2023	19:42:41
700 block doesn't need to close completely to keep and expand outdoor dining & gathering	Heidi	neutral	02/15/2023	19:43:49
Outdoor movies, etc. can take place on that current parking lot or in Burton Park. I like the idea of using that parking lot for this sort of thing too	Heidi	positive	02/15/2023	19:46:29
Restaurants need to be reigned in and not overtaking all of the sidewalks. Need walk ways or clear areas to walk	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	19:46:55
What about more shops and stores instead of food places? Also am missing the laundromat for bulky items.	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	19:49:09
Fountains recycle water and are incredibly peaceful. Most major cities with incredible community gathering spaces have them.	Sal Burns	positive	02/15/2023	19:51:43
I wish by landscaping it's specified things like planters, especially in place of the ugly orange boulders	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	19:52:00
Street parking is a waste of space and make our streets more unsafe. Any necessary parking should be consolidated in parking structures.	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	19:52:30
having to walk down the middle of the street means hotter and no shade on warm days. And Windy and no shelter on cold days	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	19:52:35
I'd like flowers as landscaping, not lawn. They're grouped together however	Heidi	neutral	02/15/2023	19:52:47
would love to see possibility for some smaller, local businesses. The rents on laurel are crazy. would love to see the city help them out	Anonymous	positive	02/15/2023	19:53:02
I would like to see more of the following in Downtown: Wider sidewalks, Less street parking	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	19:54:09

Slido Question	User Name	Sentiment	Submission Date	Submission Time
30 years ago the City removed & replace "mature" trees, now there is talk of replacing the trees again, !Hugh!, we must protect our heritage tree lined streets!	Richard	neutral	02/15/2023	19:55:04
Please let's not remove trees, if activities need open space, let's use that parking lot	Heidi	neutral	02/15/2023	19:56:12
Let's underground all those power lines & phone lines	Heidi	negative	02/15/2023	19:57:57
While we're at let's underground all those obnoxious utility lines & poles	Richard	negative	02/15/2023	19:57:58
Let's use gray water for the landscaping	Heidi	neutral	02/15/2023	19:58:18
Improve alleys to accommodate traffic & parking impacted by closing 700 block for more sidewalk dining	Richard	neutral	02/15/2023	20:00:28
Crosswalks can be improved by having them raised to sidewalk level instead of dropping to street level.	Anonymous	positive	02/15/2023	20:02:21
Please prioritize use of locally native species for trees and other landscaping.	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	20:04:03
flexible closure: there is no outside dining? Yay	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	20:04:55
Losing 63 parking spots is not a trade off. Do it!	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	20:06:17
Please DO NOT harm the legacy trees within the heritage sidewalk dimensions!	Richard	positive	02/15/2023	20:07:25
Restaurants invested a lot of money in beautifying their dining parklets, such as Town. Others were reluctant to do this, afraid to lose their investment	Heidi	negative	02/15/2023	20:11:08
A lot of the existing street trees need to be better maintained if left. Most trees downtown are infected with aphids or other insects that drop on the ground	Mike pardini	negative	02/15/2023	20:12:33
Let's lose the parking, keep one lane each way for cars, keep wide sidewalks & dining spaces	Heidi	negative	02/15/2023	20:12:57
Not all Laurel St. stores have alley access for deliveries.	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	20:15:22
Q11: interesting/useful shops, entertainment events, free or low cost local transit	Anonymous	positive	02/15/2023	20:15:46
Other: I will go downtown more if there is adequate, safe bicycle parking and I can enjoy dining, shopping and socializing in a car-free environment	Anonymous	positive	02/15/2023	20:16:16
Question 11 : I'd come downtown more if there was informal street music , like in New Orleans. Creates great ambiance and atmosphere.Adds charm and energy.	Jennifer	positive	02/15/2023	20:16:48
When will there be a decision about closing 700 block permanently? Is it a city vote? A city council vote? Is there a timeline?	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	20:17:45
Making 700 block only as a whole plaza may attract more people but only to that block and lose sight of renewing the entire downtown as a whole. Imbalanced!	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	20:18:42
The plaza option does not show how the restaurants with current outdoor dining would be located	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	20:19:37
Why is 700 block being treated as special vs the whole downtown? Sounds like the 700 block is the only downtown.	Anonymous	neutral	02/15/2023	20:22:52
I agree, crossing El Camino Real is scary. Can we have a pedestrian bridge?	Heidi	negative	02/15/2023	20:24:30
Don't think you can address the 700 block by itself. Restaurants parklets are on several blocks each way and must be uniform.	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	20:25:50
This creates an unfair advantage for 700 block restaurants so assume they will be assessed initially and ongoing	Anonymous	negative	02/15/2023	20:26:55
Specially protecting the existing trees on Laurel is the question at hand	Richard	neutral	02/15/2023	20:31:00
Can we enable permanent park lifts for the entirety of Laurel Street for sidewalk, dining and other activities, trees, and flowers?	Heidi	neutral	02/15/2023	20:32:40