

City of San Carlos

Downtown Specific Plan



August 8th, 2022 - January 15th, 2023

Interactive Survey 1

Feedback Summary



Project Background

In March 2022, the City of San Carlos kicked-off the process to work with the community to create a new vision for Downtown San Carlos, including Laurel Street, El Camino Real, and the cross streets from Holly Street to Greenwood Avenue. This project, called the “Downtown Specific Plan,” will build upon what’s best and most loved about Downtown San Carlos, and take a close look at what needs updating or changing.



Survey Overview

A Social Pinpoint interactive mapping survey was developed and provided to the public. The questionnaire was open from August 8th, 2022 to January 15th, 2023. There were approximately 470 comments across five subject areas: mobility, streetscape, gathering spaces, allowable uses, and other comments.



Community Survey Summary

The Mobility topic garnered the most comments, with a total of 163 comments. The Streetscape topic had 83 comments. The Gathering Spaces topic had 75 comments. The Allowable Uses topic had 64 comments and the “Other Comments” category received 85 comments.

Social Pinpoint allows users to agree with (up vote) or disagree with (down vote) the comments of other questionnaire users. The most popular comments by topic area are shown below in Table 1, followed by the top 5 most popular comments of all the comments received on the platform shown in Table 2 and most popular comments in Table 3.

Table 1: Most Popular Comment by Category

Category	Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes	Total Votes
Allowable Uses				
Most Popular	I fully support keeping the street closed to cars and allowing for restaurants to expand dining to outside. When done well, the restaurants have decorated/enclosed the area to make it feel welcoming and it allows for additional dining space and less crowded areas.	46	7	39
Least Popular	LESS density along El Camino and Laurel. The thought of five or six story buildings in the downtown area is just insane.	1	4	-3
Gathering Spaces				
Most Popular	This far down doesn't get much attention or as much foot traffic, perhaps adding small parks/gathering spaces would draw more people. to this part of downtown.	35	1	34
Least Popular	(NOTE: These comments, tied for least popular, are direct responses to a previously posted comment) You purchased land immediately off of El Camino Real. If you were a local you would immediately realize that El Camino is never really quiet. You deserve exactly what you paid for — Long term instability due to inflation. San Carlos and other cities in the peninsula are comprised from the city directly within the perimeter not the outskirts nor epicenter. Move elsewhere if you seek additional "Attention". Why would we want to hang out on your street when it is nothing but apartments? Tea garden... where are those predominately located. How many Tea Gardens are present in the USA as of 2000 compared to 2020. How much space would be required and who would foot the bill. Is this really a good repurposing of precious finite land? What tea leaves would we grow and who would harvest them? Where would the funds generate and go towards? Who would upkeep the land?	0	1	-1
Mobility				
Most Popular	South of Laurel is very dark at night. Would like to see more street lightning and public parkings	20	1	19
Least Popular	I would like to see the street revert to pre-pandemic parking and car access. I note that businesses that are heavily trafficked- UPS store, BowWow, etc - are nightmares of parking mess in the alley behind.	9	37	-28

Table 2: Most Popular Comment by Category

Category	Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes	Total Votes
	Showing there is demand for parking and car access it is just currently being pushed into space it should not be.			
Streetscape				
Most Popular	Remove the orange barriers and make it a nicer closed street - similar to some of the RWC no car streets.	50	1	49
Least Popular	Back to basics. The street should open again since it is hurting the businesses on the 600 block. The merchants leased the spaces assuming no traffic blockage. It is not fair. ALL MERCHANTS on the 600 block feel very strongly about removing the road blocks. Yes, this was an exception during covid but this can not continue. The restaurant expansion not only blocking visibility to the neighboring businesses and taking valuable parking away. It's about time to act fairly to non-food merchants.	3	6	-3
Other Comments				
Most Popular	(Pin was placed at intersection of Arroyo & Laurel St.) Downtown officially dies right here. I Would love to see it continue past this intersection. Part of it is that only 1 restaurant has anything outdoors. The other 3 corner businesses are pretty dead to the outside space. This is also a key path to Burton park. Would love to See some celebration of taking a nice walk/bike to the big park. Decorate the intersection as a sort of gateway towards Burton.	21	3	18
Least Popular	The 600 block of Laurel Street and all of San Carlos Avenue needs to get the street parking back. The temporary park-lets are unsightly, not up to code and only supporting restaurants. Keep the 700 block pedestrian and return the rest of the street parking back to the way it was.	4	33	-29

Table 3: Most Popular Comments

Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes	Total Votes
Removed the orange barriers and make it a nicer closed street- similar to some of the RWC no car streets	50	1	49
I fully support keeping in the street closed to cars and allowing for restaurants to expand dining to outside. When done well, the restaurants have decorated/enclosed the area to make it feel welcoming and it allows for additional dining space and less crowded areas.	46	7	39
This far down doesn't get much attention or as much foot traffic, perhaps adding small parks/gathering spaces would draw more people to this part of downtown.	35	1	34
Need to find a space downtown for The Reading Bug since the landlord is demolishing the building. It is a key piece of our community and the downtown shopping experience with story times and author visits. Have enjoyed their outdoor story times! It would be a shame for the city to not assist a vital, community, family owned business	33	1	32
Love the pedestrian plaza – recommend to make it permanent and update the road grading/surface and barriers to make it feel more intentional and less like a temporary fix.	26	2	24

Attachment

Raw data from the survey.



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Best

SAFFRON

Handicapped
Parking Only

STREETSCAPE					
Type	Threads	Map Layers	Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-19-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Love the idea of a youth/teen friendly park here, especially a space for bikes and wheels, like a mini modular pump track, or some kind of climbing, active play/physical challenge (low-risk) space.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-07-child	Specific Plan Study Area	I love the idea of paint on streets, and it can be really beautiful and interesting, but when it fades, which it quickly can with traffic, it doesn't look so good anymore. Be careful with painting things that need to be maintained.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-43		Need to replace trees that continue to have aphid problems. Certain areas of the sidewalks have pigeons droppings that could be resolved by installing pigeon detractors. Bike lockers need to be installed downtown so people can shop without having to worry about there bikes and the components on them. Downtown zoning needs to be reviewed. There are too many bars with more on the way. There is already too much vomit around the area. Need to consider the homeless problem when designing new areas.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-38-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Native plants appropriate for our climate would be lovely.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-14-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Would love to see more native plants incorporated in the San Carlos plan.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-42		I was deeply disturbed when I saw the mural painted on the wall facing the parking lot of Bianchini's market. The feeling has nothing to do with the ethnicity of the figure in the mural. The mural, in my opinion, is simply bad artwork and is disturbing in nature. For that reason I avoid Bianchini's market so I do not have to look at this mural. If this is the trend San Carlos is moving to, it is sad. Really poor taste.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-24-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Diddams can do it themselves when they are charging such high prices! No need for the city to help!	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-28-child	Specific Plan Study Area	I'm sure the city can spare a few benches and a fountain without throwing us into the next recession.	1	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-27-child	Specific Plan Study Area	We have lived here for 20 years in our San Carlos home and know downtown continues it was not meant for residents it was meant for visitors and those unfamiliar visiting our downtown. San Carlos City Council has very deep pockets for many many other beautification projects and I'm sure this would be a special addition to the town.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-09-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Not true. The parking is essential for businesses whether it be restaurant dining patrons, banking customers, Uber drivers obtaining goods for customers, people going to post mail at the post office or purchase groceries. You have no idea what you are talking about. What "VIBE" are you referencing because I grew up in San Carlos and can tell you that a small town always has had a road like Laurel that bridges the community together. You do not know what you state, nice shill for Shiki Bistro btw	0	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-15-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Upgraded? Like it is software? This is a physical space of land occupying a city, within a county, within a state, within a country, within a continent, within the world. Explain the vibrancy, does it attract additional members to experience the city? Is it merely a visual queue but nothing to actually attract future city-folk?	1	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-28-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Who exactly is going to fund the fountain or seating. What hours will they be accessible to-from?	0	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-27-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Do you realize how much Custom light posts would cost the City/Tax Payers comparatively to traditional/non-custom light posts would cost? Menlo Park is a highly affluent community compared to San Carlos with only some residents making up the highly compensated residents. People that grew up here know when downtown ends... You forefingers do not know because this is not your home.	0	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-12-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Bring a flashlight if you don't like it. Unlike China, the United States of America somewhat enjoy areas where we can "shine a light" and have it read from space as the non-normative.	0	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-14-child	Specific Plan Study Area	The more trees and greenery the better. Build less buildings and more crops, vegetation, floral arrangements instead along the peninsula please.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-11-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Eye sore? You yourself are an eyesore coming into our home and telling us what we ought to expect to see in our skyline. The paint is an "eye sore" therefore we need to improve the landscape? What specifically would you suggest instead of such vague details?	0	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-38-child	Specific Plan Study Area	What is a regular tree? What constitutes a "nicer" street-scape? Who has driven by in recent memory of significant importance that has stated this area needs major renovation". Absolute SUBVERSIVENESS. Keep the trees, remove YOU.	0	0

Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-06-child	Specific Plan Study Area	How exactly do you do this? Is this the responsibility of street vendors or that of the City/Tax Payers? Moot point with no support for future improvement. BOT GENERATED RESPONSE ONCE MORE.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-23-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Would love to see Laurel closer to traffic most days...perhaps eliminate the sidewalks and install stone "wall-to-wall" like a European square. Install more artistic semi-permanent Street barriers and include the ability for traffic to enter as necessary. Ideally this would be supported by additional very close parking.	1	2
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-41	Specific Plan Study Area	Would love to see Wheeler Plaza become a green space market...think of the setting of Field Works. It could be used for public gatherings, a Christmas market, and a rotating pop up restaurant/beer garden. Even better to knock down the old Mavericks burger/ Boulanger Building.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-40	Specific Plan Study Area	Lots of ways to beautify our pedestrian area on a budget. See Le Plateau Mont Royal: https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.istockphoto.com%2Fphotos%2Fmontreal-plateau&psig=AOvVaw3rKeh_qdMA82IXQJSC8WrS&ust=1673731044821000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA8QJRxqFwoTCJix8ZS8xfwCFQAAAAAABAAK	2	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-39	Specific Plan Study Area	There are so many creative ways to beautify our closed street(s). I am attaching some pics from Montreal that I captured with our downtown in mind!	3	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-24-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Diddams makes plenty off this community. It's not the taxpayers' responsibility. Diddams needs to step up their game.	1	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-07-child	Specific Plan Study Area	There are some really intriguing solar paints out right now that lower the temperatures of asphalt. Painting the streetscapes in these paints would be gorgeous and lower the heat index in these areas. https://www.fastcompany.com/90788163/thanks-to-this-innovative-new-paint-this-schools-playground-just-got-12-degrees-cooler	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-23-child	Specific Plan Study Area	There are many benefits to having car-less spaces. I'd just like to note that it's also incumbent on us to be thoughtful about how we'll provide access for those in our community who have difficulty with mobility.	2	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-38	Specific Plan Study Area	Regular trees and nicer street scape would really make a difference to attracting more pedestrians/patrons to this area	4	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-34-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Totally agree. When I lived in another part of the country, we used to travel to a promenade where it was pedestrian only. It was an experience both for date night and family night!	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-36-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Burlingame street curbs on the corners are also more wheelchair and stroller friendly, although to be safer three instead of two barrier posts might be more helpful.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-29-child	Specific Plan Study Area	We need more parking for our downtown but it would be nice if it was designed better for visual appeal and greater community usage.	2	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-37	Specific Plan Study Area	I would love to see all of Laurel closed to traffic from Morse to San Carlos Avenue and turned into a wonderful walking/outdoor cafe/shopping area. Plenty of parking nearby at Wheeler/Caltrain and the other large public lots.	4	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-36	Specific Plan Study Area	Whether or not Laurel St is made to be pedestrian only, the sidewalks should be improved aesthetically by using pavers similar to Burlingame Ave.	7	2
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-35	Specific Plan Study Area	El Camino businesses need some attention. There should be a beautification project, incentives or grants to replace signage, awnings, perk up their storefronts. Planters with no-water plants only as dead plants are worse then no plants.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-18-child	Specific Plan Study Area	I like the idea of a mural or a park. I like the idea of the mural ideas being available for comment, too, before a decision is made.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-10-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	I like other surfaces being considered beside asphalt/concrete. Cobblestones with sections of turf. Places to sit on the ground/turf and benches. Plants and trees.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-34	Specific Plan Study Area	Laurel street in downtown shall become a pedestrian zone. Parking spots and sidewalks shall be removed. Instead permanent outdoor seating for restaurants, sustainable landscaping shall be introduced to entice people to linger, shop, and eat in a relaxed atmosphere.	6	2
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-33	Specific Plan Study Area	Id like to see Laureal closed from San Carlos Ave to Bianchinis. However, I hate the unsightly orange blockades. Id love to see those gone and some sort of planters put up. also I do not think the parklets are very appealing. If possible I think it would be good to have a similar, better design for them. Unfortunately, I have noticed rats on Laurel (even when it is not too late in the evening) Can something be done about this? Beautification, parking, cleanliness are important, thank you	2	2
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-23-child	Specific Plan Study Area	I agree. The benefits way outweigh the loss of driving right up to the store. The point is to enjoy the space, not just to purchase things quickly. Plus allowing cars creates noise and air pollution when you're walking or eating on the street.	3	1

Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-32	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	The over-the-top access to the seldom-used Union bank parking lot here is a major detractor. There are multiple entrances to this park lot, and so much infrastructure devoted to a lane to exit onto Laurel is ridiculous.	6	2
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-24-child	Specific Plan Study Area	It looks a mess	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-31	Specific Plan Study Area	Love the closed street, but the restaurants have built essentially a new row of tacky buildings. The outdoor seating should be more open to give the street a feeling of an open public area rather than a closed-in feeling between 2 rows of plywood walls. No walls should be allowed other than low dividers. Imagine lovely tables and chairs with umbrellas open to the street as is common in European plazas.	10	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-03-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Yes to murals	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-30	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	Make the blocked off street permanent. Turn this space into gathering space - similar to what is in front of movie cinemas in Redwood city	12	5
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	We recently had an emergency and needed to move the barriers to pick up an elderly family member. Being able to move the orange barriers was very helpful (thanks to volunteers who came to help!). Whatever barriers are chosen, they need to be moveable for emergencies.	1	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-29	Specific Plan Study Area	Eliminate the parking at this point and create retail shops or a local park with a central fountain. Such an eye sore right as people enter downtown and breaks up all the shops	6	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-28	Specific Plan Study Area	This area has a courtyard in front of the retail would be a great place for a fountain or seating	11	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-27	Specific Plan Study Area	Consider custom light posts like downtown Menlo Park all along Laurel to let people know downtown continues and they would keep walking this direction	14	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-26	Specific Plan Study Area	Great spot for public art. Maybe a statue to San Carlos founders or something	5	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-25	Specific Plan Study Area	Close this alley and create a retail space to continue shops instead of breaking the street	8	5
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-24	Specific Plan Study Area	Diddams is looking a bit older these days can the city improve this building.	9	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-23	Specific Plan Study Area	Close all of Laurel to cars give it back to the people. Create a beautiful street full of greenery and gathering places. Add a bike line	22	6
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-22	Specific Plan Study Area	El Camino planters are lacking compared to neighboring cities for all of San Carlos. Consider enhancing those downtown to entice travelers to visit our town.	6	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-15-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Great Mural. Love seeing it every-time i pass by	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-21	Specific Plan Study Area	Consider an arched City of San Carlos sign similar to downtown Redwood City	6	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-20	Specific Plan Study Area	Get rid of the parking in front of Bianchinis and create a space with trees and seating allowing that area to be accessible.	5	3
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-19	Specific Plan Study Area	Eliminate this parking lot and create the opportunity to build retail to continue the shops along Laurel to remove the eyesore. Or create the space into a public park with a playground to attract more people to the area.	7	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-18	Specific Plan Study Area	Add a parklet/mural to this alleyway that is an eyesore. To the downtown area.	8	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	Exactly. Menlo Park has done this well with painted barriers and plenty of trees and foliage to enhance the scene	2	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-17	Specific Plan Study Area	Close the 4 Wells Fargo parking spaces and place a parklet here instead. Helping increase walking access to the wheeler garage, reducing constant close calls by pedestrian and cars pulling out. Or infill with a small building to keep the continuous shops of Laurel	8	0

Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-16	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	Love the pedestrian plaza — recommend to make it permanent and update the road grading/surface and barriers to make it feel more intentional and less like a temporary fix.	26	2
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-15	Specific Plan Study Area	This mural (and the smaller one at mama coco) are great and make the city so vibrant. As Laurel gets upgraded, please consider more murals on any blank facades	16	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-14	Specific Plan Study Area	Trees, plants, flowers and greenery adds beauty, creates serenity and adds value to any urban setting. Tree shade is good too to block the Sun and wind.	7	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-13	Specific Plan Study Area	It would be nice to have a few restaurants that operate in the middle of the closed, down street.	11	4
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-12	Specific Plan Study Area	This block is really dark at night. Would love to see some lighting added so it feels nicer to walk at night.	20	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	The orange barriers are an eyesore. This could be a very simple and quick solution. Also the restaurant outside 'wooden boxes' look unattractive. Mountainview and RWC have done a much better job with seats and flowerbeds rather than horrible wooden boxes. Can we get this done soon - waiting for 2 years is a waste. Let's get the basics done.	4	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-10-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	Completely agree. Redwood City and Mountain View have done far better in creating a more desirable downtown area. Why do we still have orange barriers - it's unattractive - surely there is a better alternative	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-07-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Back to basics. The street should open again since it is hurting the businesses on the 600 block. The merchants leased the spaces assuming no traffic blockage. It is not fair. ALL MERCHANTS on the 600 block feel very strongly about removing the road blocks. Yes, this was an exception during covid but this can not continue. The restaurant expansion not only blocking visibility to the neighboring businesses and taking valuable parking away. It's about time to act fairly to non-food merchants.	3	6
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-11	Specific Plan Study Area	Some of these multi use buildings are a bit of an eye sore and could at least get an updated paint job. A better paint color selection would really help!	12	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	It would nice if this could be done sooner than later! Why wait for the full 2 years of the detail plan implementation to take care of something like this. The orange barriers are an eyesore and replacing them now would give residents and visitors a good feel for the City's intentions to improve downtown look, feel and use!	4	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-02-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	There's also the aphid problem in the zelkova trees. I think the city is addressing.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-10	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	From a Carlmont student: This area should look like the street in front of the movie theater in Redwood City.	13	5
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-09	Specific Plan Study Area	Mentioned elsewhere too, there are too many parking lots here which kill the "downtown vibe." It's not very people friendly. Banks seem to be consistent purveyors of this. Shiki Bistro is at least turning their lot into something more interesting though it's so far from the street and people. I'd love to see a more people-oriented use of this space.	16	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-07-child	Specific Plan Study Area	This is a great thought. I love the photo concept of a mural on the street. Adding a mural to the massive blank wall of Diddams would be fantastic as well.	3	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-08	Specific Plan Study Area	This intersection is a combination of four spaces that each need significant improvements to make the space a "place." 1) All banks in downtown have terrible fronts that pedestrians only want to quickly walk past. Having the parking lot in front of Biancinis and on the main downtown walk takes away from the downtown feel. Imagine if Biancinis went up to the sidewalk, they could easily add a cafe/restaurant-like to the store, but can't with a parking lot. Post office is like the banks.	8	2
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	We also need the barriers to be seamless from one block to another for ease of moving around especially for people with mobility concerns.	0	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	I agree! Tall planters designed by the Master Gardeners could be a good solution for visually and physically closing Laurel Street. Santana Row's planters are worth a look: most get their height from decorative vertical elements, and some have lockable wheels for easier street cleaning and emergency access.	4	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-07	Specific Plan Study Area	Assuming the street closure remains, the intersection of Laurel and Cherry—as well as the intersection of Laurel and Olive—should be beautified to better attract foot traffic and to encourage cars to slow down. Perhaps we could paint the asphalt in happy colors? Maybe we could start a tradition where the middle schools come up with designs—subject to City approval, of course—and the community comes out for a re-painting day every year.	21	0

Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-02-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	Agreed. The regular cleaning and power washing of downtown has not been happening as often as normal. Often after the farmers market on Sundays there will be fruits/veggies/trash laying in the street.	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-06	Specific Plan Study Area	Create a more appealing streetscape to attract retailers to this side of the Laurel.	24	3
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-05	Specific Plan Study Area	Enhance this intersection to signal entry to San Carlos.	13	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-03-child	Specific Plan Study Area	Yes, more murals please!	1	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01-child	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	I agree! If the closure is to become permanent, nicer looking barriers would be great.	3	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-04	Specific Plan Study Area	Murals would be nice	8	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-02	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	The sidewalks are VERY sticky from dropped and spilled food and drinks.	8	0
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-03	Specific Plan Study Area	Murals on the tall buildings would look great!	14	1
Streetscape Beautification	Streetscape Beautification-01	Specific Plan Study Area, Existing Street Closure	remove the orange barriers and make it a nicer closed street - similar to some of the RWC no car streets.	50	1

Mobility		
Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Not everything needs a traffic light. Changing one or more of these intersections would really change the feel of driving San Carlos ave.	0	0
This is one of the most important and poorly used spaces in downtown. It is a difficult and poorly laid out parking area, that is unattractive, and with poor access to the streets or businesses that one would visit while parking here. There should be an inviting pedestrian entrance to Laurel, for examples. Others have made interesting suggestions as well.	0	0
Can Walnut also be an extension of downtown? What about a one-way walnut street so that a wide bike lane, and maybe even diagonal parking on Walnut can be included?	0	0
The timing of these and the Old Country Rd/Holly lights is really bad. This should be improved or something should be done to reduce traffic flow through here.	1	0
agree, i'd love to see a one-way loop around the downtown, that includes the alleys for vehicles, so the pedestrian zone for 2 blocks, can stay.	0	0
Yes, of course the stairs should be repaired and reopened. How long would the city leave them in disrepair if not? Repairing seems like the only reasonable option, and it opens pedestrian access from Cherry street.	0	0
We need to open up Laurel Street for traffic flow on all the blocks of Laurel. Blocking off traffic so that restaurants can have access to the sidewalk and street is cutting off the flow of "traffic" to the local merchants whose stores are on the block of the "no traffic" street. This is having an adverse affect on their businesses.	0	0
Might be more interesting to create a pedestrian space in the alley, and let traffic and parking continue on Laurel.	0	1
Agreed, please make sure Laurel Street is very accessible to bikes, with safe parking for bikes too	1	0
I also shop far less often in San Carlos now that Laurel Street is closed to traffic. I guess it might depend on where you live in town. I live in White Oaks, and now must either drive through town on residential streets that have children walking to and from school (Cedar or Cordilleras), or I drive north on El Camino, overshoot my destination, and walk back to the downtown area. I used to shop at least 3 times a week in San Carlos, now maybe once or twice a month to support local shops.	0	0
This section is very unfriendly to pedestrians because the sidewalk is already very narrow, there's space taken up by signs and utility poles, and cars are parked ON the sidewalk.	0	0
Removing parking from one side so that cars can drive through faster would not make this area safer.	0	0
A physical barrier between car traffic bike/pedestrian traffic is more effective than any "awareness" or "visibility" campaign, because of physics. It also prevents people from blocking bike lanes and forcing bikers into car traffic.	1	0
Best practice while riding in the street is to take the whole lane. No biker enjoys doing this, and it's also inconvenient for drivers.		

A minor crossing is any that does not have a traffic signal. If it's agreed that this is not a minor crossing, there should be a signal here.		
While we certainly appreciate the vehicles that yield to people walking, there are plenty of vehicles that do not.	1	0
Then concern with wheelchairs is that going down to street level then back up is more effort than keeping the sidewalk at the same level. In addition, water tends too pool at the bottom of the ramps.		
To add to this, currently the closest carshare is in redwood city.	0	0
This is a blind corner that challenging to navigate through as a pedestrian. Cars frequently exit out of the parking without looking for pedestrians; it's poorly designed as it is. Consider how this could be made safer (Mirror? Relocating the vehicular stop 10 feet back? etc.)	0	0
If this remains a parking lot would appreciate a better flow. Seen lots of near missed from confusion in which ways cars are allowed, traffic flow etc	2	0
I'm pretty sure they mean passage between downtown and getting to old county not crossing the 101	0	0
Possibly consider a double red arrow to turn ? Maybe would help with the blocking of the the street ?	0	0
With all the new developments happing on Old County Road it would be nice to have paths on each side of El Camino to enhance the accessibility of getting downtown on foot.	1	0
Would be greatly appreciated to have a sidewalk as mentioned to help assist flow of people I have seen walking on the road in an unsafe manner due to no sidewalk.	0	0
Just a heads up that UPS is moving locations down the street to be on San Carlos ave!	0	0
Who are you to say what is final? This is just a suggestion from a fellow citizen respectfully say your piece and leave it at that. The city has this as a brainstorming among all. Given your tone I assume you have left all the other agrees I've comments on this site. Disappointing really.	0	0
This should be an easy fix -- a million other stoplights in the area are designed this way so the City should be able to fix this quick!	0	0
Nope this is not a "minor crossing" and yes vehicles do stop and let pedestrians go currently. No need to change what is working.	0	1
as other commenter said keep parking free	0	0
Consider a parking garage here to account for Laurel parking remaining closed	2	0
No. This makes it difficult for people to get from El Camino/101 into downtown -- how else would people turn onto Laurel? And would Walnut soon become just as much of a problem?	1	0
The city needs to commit to keeping Wheeler Plaza, Laurel Street, the parking behind Diddams, and any other public spots free of charge. Do not turn San Carlos into Redwood City, San Mateo, or other cities with paid parking — this would detract from our community's small-town feel and reduce locals who still use Laurel as a place for services, grocery shopping, etc. in addition to as a destination.	5	1
Agreed. Also we have too many banks on the street	1	0

Lets get more patrol guards along these streets instead of them providing private security for large corporations or other merchants who divert law enforcement away from local surveillance.	0	0
Well we should not have built a bunch of new housing projects in the area. I wish we never did but now that we have the reality is those people need to park, will have over guests and will inevitably lead to an increase in demand for parking. Thank your local city planners for thinking ahead!!!!	0	2
The library could certainly focus on maintaining access to the building for all respectful individuals with a genuine interest in pursuing knowledge.	0	0
How many children are riding down this street? What times particularly? Are they aware of best practices while riding a bicycle along busy streets? Have they tried riding such bicycles in San Francisco during a weekday? THAT IS BUSY. Until then, parental guidance, proper safety gear and a keen sense of awareness will do better than any renovations.	0	2
N O	0	1
Have you been living under a rock? We have plenty of parking around laurel and do not need any more. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.	0	2
No, do not suggest we waste taxpayer funds. Courteous vehicles will stop for pedestrians using appropriate hand signs or pedestrians being mindful of vehicles. Why impede vehicles from the natural flow of traffic? I guarantee any respectful individual will stop for a wheelchair/disabled pedestrian attempting to cross.	0	1
Do not disturb the alleyways of San Carlos. That is Final.	0	1
Where are people from outside the city supposed to park their vehicles? You wish to drive visitation which will come at the cost of local benefit. Shiki Bistro is "Far from the street"?? Really it is directly off El Camino or Laurel, two extremely popular streets.	0	0
What is the exact percentage of "DISABILITY PARKING" comparative to "NON-DISABLED PARKING" for the city of San Carlos, specifically pertaining to Laurel. For instance lets say we have 300 spots but perhaps 75 are allocated for handicapped patrons . Do we have a specific number and are these spaces evenly distributed/able to accommodate current traffic trends?	0	0
Why? Secondly what does an "ECR SAFE CROSSING" entail specifically?	0	1
Arroyo is arguably close to industrial. You feel like you are in unconquered territory? There are lights of El Camino for God's sake...	1	1
No we do not want a high rise complex for living or parking. What is wrong with you people? You come here knowing nothing about our way of life and then you expect us to sit by idly as you dictate to us what life aught to be?	0	1
No-man's land sounds pretty intense. Could you elaborate? I have grown up in such said area and I find your point disturbing and non-nonsensical.	0	1
OH NO!!! YOU HAVE TO CROSS THE STREET??? WHATEVER WILL WE CIVILIANS DO? Especially walking across the gentrifying town-homes built along El Camino Real. It really is a struggle having to press the button to cross across two streets instead of one. What ever will we do? The world itself may stop turning...	0	1
WHAT EXACTLY DOES ECR SAFE CROSSING ENTAIL?	0	1

I have grown up in the Bay Area using bus stops that were not even clearly marked or define. In fact I enjoyed those stations much more than many other metropolitan areas with multiple signs and clear emphasis. I have walked across important roads with no sidewalk.	0	0
You seek to engulf these cities in debts they have never had to participate in based off of your shortsightedness and as an outsider.		
OH NO!!! A BICYCLE RIDER NEEDS ASSISTANCE!!! QUICK LETS DEPLOY ALL RESOURCES AT ONCE TO RECTIFY THIS AT ONCE!!!!	0	2
WHAT IS ECR???? WEAK POINT	0	0
OH NO! YOU MEAN YOU HAVE TO VENTURE OUTSIDE THE LINES? COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES!!?!?! THIS IS UNHEARD OF AND EXTREMELY UNSETTLING!!! Ridiculous, pathetic, infantile.	0	3
No we actually would not like to see additional LIGHT POLLUTION at night. You know how you bots use POLLUTION as a net-negative. IT IS NOT NECESSARY.	0	0
No we do not need intelligent cameras like that of CHINA with SOCIAL CREDIT RATINGS. This is the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in case you forgot. We do not believe in communism unlike China. IF you have to wait, which will not be for long, heaven forbid you have to wait less than 60 seconds to turn or progress on your path. Stupid non-nonsensical logic applied once again you bot-spammers.	0	0
No WE shouldn't. Cameras do nothing to prevent car theft or other crime, therefore they should not adopt Chinese-style surveillance to spy on innocent civilians. People EXISTING adds to pollution, does that mean certain people should no longer exist? The individual emissions contribute nothing comparative to large corporations exporting manufacturing offshore and then importing such goods to our local to provide them for unwitting consumers. What exactly does SMART entail? Social Credit Rating?	0	0
There is a bridge which enables this already between Oracle/Mercedez Dealership and Western San Carlos/Belmont.	0	2
False, the unnecessary backup on El Camino Real comes from too many drivers seeking "refuge" on the streets located within Belmont/San Carlos. Simply speaking, search elsewhere if you want to turn.	0	1
Why do we need more living? Who exactly is "living" here that previously wasn't? Refuge? really??? A place safe from danger or distress? Life is constantly full of danger and distress so this is a moot point which does not require any modification of any kind. IF individuals feel unsafe they should seek alternative routes like the rest of us.	0	1
1. If we go back to parking on Laurel, please, please don't put in metered parking. Let's keep our downtown friendly. I don't shop in Redwood City for just that reason--why would I pay them to shop in their shopping district; they should be paying me! 2. I think there is an untapped market for busy shops/dining on our side streets of Laurel.	2	1
I visit Laurel far more often because I don't have to deal with the crappy drivers we were plagued with before. Compared to other nearby towns, parking is a breeze here.	0	2

Thank you for the opportunity to share thoughts, would love to see more green/plants, more seating/walking space, where one can carry a book to read and just hang out, not necessarily to a specific Cafe or restaurant, but a common space/courtyard with art displays, may be groups can sign up and reserve their day to display their art forms dance or paintings. Schools can reserve a day to demo their work. An inviting space where we can observe special days, Teacher's day/Quotes/paintings/Learnings	3	0
I love the plants along Walnut, but they could do w/ some pruning or different plant selection near the exit from Wheeler parking. Really difficult to see cars coming from the left as you leave the parking lot	1	0
From a traffic / backing up the light POV, I'd like to keep right on red legal here	0	1
It's great that you can walk. I can't. Nor can many others with ease. A pedestrian-only downtown would have many benefits, but I would like to be able to participate in the life of my community. EVs might not be the solution but thought has to be given to access for all.	1	0
Bike parking combined with art to beautify the space and signify the start of the pedestrian centered street closure.	4	1
If possible it would be nice to have a few more disability parking spaces on Laurel. I'm sure there is a ratio of needed spaces but a few extra would be appreciated. It is very difficult to take someone who can't walk to dinner on Laurel due to parking.	2	2
ECR should have a bus rapid transit lane and a protected bike lane. This would make the bus have the ability to come at closer intervals (think every 10 minutes!) making the bus a viable option that could significantly reduce traffic. ECR would be an amazing bikeway if protected. Think of the gorgeous bike lanes in Seattle (with beautiful planters separating the bike lane from cars). Seattle and European cities did it on streets that had even higher traffic volumes to great result!	2	0
need parking on Laurel, not eating in the street!	2	9
All of Laurel St. must be opened for parking and traffic again. My bank parking lot is full alot, with no place for me to park because people park there and walk to Laurel St. It also makes it difficult to shop on Laurel St. I never even want to go down there anymore, and friends feel the same way.	3	6
Can the parking lot be brighter?	0	0
Pedestrian bridges would be fantastic. If not, please set the white line where cars are supposed to stop at least 5 feet from the crosswalk. Most cars stop, after driving past the crosswalk lines. It's not fun trying to guess as a pedestrian whether that speeding car sees you or not. I think traffic lights now give pedestrians a head start on crossing the street, which is a great thing but let's go further for safety.	0	1
Consider parking only on one side of Walnut. I've seen too many mirrors broke off parked cars as well as standoffs on who gives the right of way.	1	1
Make this a red zone. You have two turning lanes, where the inside lane is blocked by parked cars. This causes an unnecessary back up on el Camino.	3	1
Consider parking only on one side of Walnut. I've seen too many mirrors broke off parked cars as well as standoffs on who gives the right of way.	0	3

Make this a way one way in. Very dangerous and blind exit for drivers and pedestrians.	0	0
build a sense of connect and safe passage between Laurel Street and the East side	2	0
Similar to comment at Brittan & Laurel, no way to trigger the light for a cyclist except to wait for car or get off bike and push pedestrian beg button. Need to use the proper loop technology.	5	0
To get to Laurel from El Camino, turn onto Holly going west, then turn left onto Laurel.	0	0
Cherry Street needs to only have parking on one side, Two cars can barely pass, and it's not safe when it's such a thoroughfare from the Elms, Library, and Central Middle School.	2	1
Sounds good to me.	0	0
The sidewalk between Brittan and Arroyo is a no-man's land. It feels like the city only starts at Arroyo. Why is that ?	2	1
You can't walk from Brittan to Arroyo on the track side.	2	0
There isn't a proper sidewalk between Howard and Brittan, on the track side. It's just a vacant lot.	2	1
We should work on improving the timing of these traffic lights with intelligent cameras. Too often, there's nobody coming from the opposite lane or to use the crosswalk, yet we have to wait to turn. The time waiting idle at a red light also adds to the pollution. A comprehensible smart traffic light project for El Camino would be a great improvement for everybody: cars, buses, bicycles, and pedestrians.	3	0
As someone else who uses this crossing frequently: if we can't get a protected crossing (which would be *amazing* and really activate the Caltrain plaza), then the light timings could be made worlds better for pedestrians. They are about as bad as possible right now.	2	0
What would you suggest people do to get into Laurel St, coming from El Camino ? They would have to make a U-Turn at San Carlos & Walnut, which is probably not safer.	1	0
There aren't enough chargers in the city. Wheeler Plaza seems like a good place to expand	2	0
Agreed, we desperately need *physically separated* bike lanes especially on San Carlos Ave. If tiny European towns can figure out how to build these everywhere, affordably, San Carlos can figure it out. As e-bikes become more common, our hills also become less of an obstacle to getting around town without a car.	5	0
Laurel seems perfect for this.	2	0
Does BofA really need such a large dedicated lot. It's mostly empty. Could the city purchase some of the lot for public parking?	3	1
Please improve the availability of short-term (15 min) public parking in the alleys so that quick visits to businesses is easy. At the moment, there are hardly any spaces and trucks after park and block off access to large sections.	4	0
We're talking about a couple of blocks here, it's not like the walk will be that long, and more walking is the whole point of the exercise. I don't want to pay for courtesy transportation of a few blocks - it's a small downtown area	0	0

The Town should be for people not for cars. Business will adapt. Plus who wants to breath in car fumes when you're walking or eating?	7	0
Orange plastic barriers on San Carlos and Laurel cheapen the nice look of these areas. Consider barrels, options used by other nice cities or last resort paint them neutral colors. Thank you, Linda Kuhli. 650-207-3561	4	0
I think the orange plastic barriers in front of restaurant outdoor areas along San Carlos Ave west of El Camino, and on Laurel St look cheap and unsightly. Look to our upscale neighbors to the south, like Palo Alto for examples of what to use for a much nicer look - like barrels - or or at the least cover or paint them. Thank you, Linda Kuhli lakuqli@gmail.com	3	0
Also very unsafe at the other end of this same block at Elm and Olive. Kids walk along School St and then dart across here. It's very dangerous!	1	0
Absolutely! I see kids running across the intersection after school headed in the direction of downtown and it is so unsafe!	0	0
Riding a bike down San Carlos Avenue is terrifying especially for kids. Too many speeding cars. Can we create some safer bike routes to downtown?	12	1
An underpass is what European countries do that this situation. Also would help create flow to what was the cafe there	0	0
Exactly. Except Laurel is too narrow I think. We would have to consider making it a one way street to expand the sidewalks and add greenery. With parallel parking on one side and a bike lane on the other ?	0	0
Consider Burlingame downtown with less parking and more storefronts/areas for pedestrians	7	5
This space is an accident waiting to happen. A mirror is needed ASAP	0	0
I agree that a pedestrian bridge is probably not feasible and that the best solution to this issue is timing the traffic light to pedestrians and buses rather than cars. In terms of cars not being safe, maybe some traffic calming measures such as on the outer lanes of El Camino, which are currently unimpeded, which allows cars to speed through there way too fast.	1	0
Closing the main 3 blocks of downtown to vehicles and filling out the street with seating, green spaces/ trees, and space for restaurants. A unique feature that no local downtown has, that could enhance the atmosphere making it a real meeting place and local draw. There is plenty of other parking elsewhere these spots on laurel are too valuable to the community as a whole.	3	0
Mirrors for cars driving out into San Carlos ave. Better signage. Cars frequently roll onto the sidewalk and appear pretty dangerous.	8	0
I don't think my peg on the map worked. It was suppose to be on Laurel. I strongly believe that there are only 2 options for Laurel - open it to all traffic or provide additional, convenient and easily accessed parking. I also believe strongly that all the "parklettes" for restaurants should be removed. I do not know the financial details of transactions related to them but the additional space to multiple businesses seems unfair to there whose parking had been removed and store area not inc	0	0

I would love for Laurel to be redeveloped as a pedestrian plaza but acknowledge that parking and quick access to the buildings may be needed by some residents — seems like upgrading this alley to accommodate more parking or access would be a natural fit since it is underutilized and poorly signed at the moment,	7	2
Agreed. Also add signage to encourage turning right to park in the Sam Trans structure. Visitors don't know that there's free public parking there.	0	0
Repair and open these stairs to improve pedestrian access to the library.	11	0
Minor crossings like this one could use continuous sidewalks. These not only make it easier for wheelchair users to cross the street, but also force vehicles to slow down, improving safety for everyone.	10	2
This intersection is extremely hostile to pedestrians. There are several improvements to make this safer: 1. Prohibit right turns on red. 2. Put the traffic signal on the near side of the intersection, to prevent drivers from encroaching on crosswalks. 3. Add refuge islands and use independent walk signals for the lanes in each direction. 4. Use sensors to make the signal pattern adapt to both vehicle and non-vehicle traffic. More details: https://youtu.be/_ByEBjf9ktY	7	0
I LOVE wheeler plaza parking, and park there multiple times/week, but the top floor has become a frequent bathroom. It smells like pee pretty badly up there. Any chance of regular washing (AND public restrooms downtown!)?	4	0
This bus stop is completely inaccessible: no sidewalk, no shelter, just gravel. I've seen elders and others with limited mobility struggling to get where they need to be before the bus drives past them.	4	1
would love to see 3-5 blocks of Laurel street permanently closed and made pedestrian friendly. Many CA cities have made pedestrian malls (Santa Monica as an example)	20	8
Suggest no left turn from San Carlos onto Laurel (both directions). At times of any traffic, the turn is impossible due to oncoming cars, yet people still sit there trying, blocking the entire lane until the light turns red.	7	6
This bike rack set up is absurd taking two parking spaces. So many other options	1	0
Absolutely! We need decent access via car to these businesses.	2	0
Yes, currently this alleyway has become a nightmare for the traffic that would normally be using and parking on Laurel. We need to get back to rational access on Laurel. End the Laurel closure now.	3	1

I would like to see the street revert to pre-pandemic parking and car access. I note that businesses that are heavily trafficked- UPS store, BowWow, etc - are nightmares of parking mess in the alley behind. Showing there is demand for parking and car access it is just currently being pushed into space it should not be. I'm also not a fan of the idea of a massive giveaway of public space to restaurants. These businesses should need to pay for their space like all the other businesses.	9	37
I agree there needs to be a three way stop sign here.	2	0
South of Laurel is very dark at night. Would like to see more street lightning and public parkings	20	1
I understand there are discussions with many ideas about keeping the two blocks of Laurel closed indefinitely. I personally like the way it is now, but can understand the issues with parking and traffic. In Palm Desert, CA along their main business street, EV Courtesy Carts have offered free rides to shoppers. I see a similar program on Laurel St. In San Carlos. These Carts can transport shoppers from parking areas to shops from Holly St. to Eaton establishing a business street connection.	5	7
The customers would likely favor the current situation. But what about the merchants ? Most or all other cities have restaurant expansions and keep the street OPEN! Why can't San Carlos? If the expansions are too big, the make the smaller or take them out.	3	5
This intersection is dangerous to traverse on bike or foot due to cars parked on Olive making it difficult for people to see what's coming. Please consider safety improvements to make it easier to walk or bike downtown here.	8	1
The intersection at Laurel & Brittan does not pick up when a bike is waiting - the light never changes unless a car comes up behind to trigger the lights	10	1
Pedestrians and cars are forced to share this space with no separation, and it's unpleasant to walk here	8	0
Please consider allowing bicycles to traverse this block at low speed rather than forcing them to walk. People on bikes also appreciate having a space that is protected from cars.	7	6
Can you please add some carshare spots to this structure? This would be a great amenity to help the public parking areas to serve the people who live within walking distance, instead of just the people who drive downtown to visit.	5	0
The bike racks turn two parking spots into six.	1	1
Please bolt down the bike racks - I don't trust a rack that isn't properly secured!	5	0
+1 on this request. Also - I'd appreciate if pedestrians were better protected when crossing by the traffic signals - quite frequently I see conflicts between people crossing and people turning right from ECR onto Holly on the Eastern corner.	5	0
Better monitor the public parking in the alleyways. Many employees are parking there at peak times. Would be great to add some 15min food pick up spots.	9	0

One way street loop! ties in with alleys to the west. Super cool idea.	2	0
Bike lanes should relate to what is happening with ECR bike lane project in Redwood City. See if we can do it better :)	4	0
Totally build a parking structure here with new development.	5	1
parking structure	7	0
Parking structure	5	1
maybe bypass all of Laurel st with the alleys.	2	0
maybe bypass all of Laurel st with the alleys.	2	1
Does this become the bypass road for Laurel to maintain the "street plaza"?	2	0
Create ECR safe crossing	4	1
Create ECR safe crossing	4	1
Create ECR safe crossing	7	0
Create ECR safe crossing	3	0
Create ECR safe crossing	3	1
Intersection should be improved to make access to parking structure better.	5	0
Love Wheeler plaza parking.	4	0
Love the UPS store (AKA, Amazon return center). But, the parking back here is pretty terrible.	3	0
Any overpass would be required to be wheelchair accessible, The amount of space to build compliant ramps would be near impossible. Look at the length of the ramps on the new pedestrian overcrossing on 101 in Palo Alto. It also makes it such a long walk that nobody would use it.	2	0
More mid-street cross walks like this throughout the downtown district.	1	0
Make the intersection safer for pedestrians. If we hope to add more living & work options on El Camino we need to make the paths that connect this space to downtown for people-friendly. Can we add a "pedestrian refuge," mid-street to add more safety to the crossing?	13	0
I nearly never walk between El Camino and Laurel. The sidewalks on El Camino are not friendly on such a busy street, and also the streets connecting them are not friendly either. It's like walking on the street next to the Home Depot parking lot: it's not friendly, inviting, interesting and could feel safer.	5	0
I love the more limited car access. The outdoor dining is great and certainly Town has made it look so nice too. I am not sure what a solution is for non-restaurants. Thoughts on this: add more housing to the surrounding area so that there are more potential customers who are less interested in cars. Make it easier to walk to this location from other more car-friendly parking areas. Encourage restaurants in certain locations and not in others. Allow cars in non-restaurant areas?	3	2
I am not sure where a bridge or underpass would be appropriate here but further improvements to link downtown to this space would be fantastic. I cross this space regularly and the improvements to the El Camino crossing are still needed, despite improvements that have already been made	0	0
I'd like to close Laurel Street between San Carlos avenue and Cherry. It would make more of a downtown feel with two closed streets instead of one.	20	4

Though perhaps out of the scope of Laurel Street itself, I wish the area was more easily accessible by bikes. The painted bicycle gutters on San Carlos Avenue do not provide much safety for people accessing Laurel street from the western portion of the city.	17	1
I find Laurel street much more comfortable and attractive with reduced access for cars, and I hope it stays this way.	22	5
I would love to see a beautiful *shaded* pedestrian bridge—or a pedestrian underpass—to the train station. (Perhaps it leads to a coffee shop in the depot!) The street crossing at El Camino and San Carlos Ave is not safe; cars too often encroach on the crosswalk or hit the gas through red lights. Also, when you're on foot, it's frustrating to reach the intersection at the very beginning of a traffic light cycle and have to watch your somewhat-infrequent train leave without you...	12	1
Again, all commentary seems so concerned with the restaurants being able to have their businesses function. Nothing about any of the other businesses on Laurel.	1	0
After the farmers market on Sunday, reopen the street for regular traffic. It makes no sense to keep it closed all day.	0	0
How are the parklets fair to ALL businesses? UPS store is moving to SC ave because it is been impossible for them. Footwear etc. is struggling as a result. They cannot rent Chef Shop or the Laundromat next to Town because no one wants to go into business with a closed street. The Panini business had a very difficult time finding someone to take over their location (now Tea Hut).	5	3
Move the bike rack(s) so they don't waste 2 spaces of the already limited parking spots.	12	4
Hard to walk the sidewalks with restaurant tables crowding the space. Give them more parklet space.	14	4
The parklets are great (please keep them!!), but move restaurant tables off sidewalks. Most sidewalks are single file walking, so not sure how anyone in a wheelchair is able to use the sidewalks.	16	6
Multi-story parking with EV charging. Provide multiple parking structures off Laurel Street, to reduce or eliminate traffic on Laurel Street.	13	5

Allowed Uses		
Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
AlcaTTraz (The ATT Building) is likely the worst looking building in all of DT San Carlos. It would be a stretch, but one could reimagine a wonder youth/teen center here instead.	0	0
This site has been boarded up for a long time - its not a great look coming into downtown.	1	0
agreed!	0	0
100% on this. This "back area" of Laurel could be so much better utilized. That use doesn't need to be just as a parking lot, but as more interesting crevices for businesses and even small homes/apartments	0	0
I am less concerned about banks wanting to be downtown than how banks use the space of downtown. This bank building (and parking lot) in particular consumes an incredible amount of space which could be so much better used in this location and in downtown in general. It's like a mini-fortress that everyone scurries past, and few use. There are no windows, & no real life to it. Downtown should be vibrant & this takes up too much space & provides no vibrance.	0	0
With some of the best weather in the country, we absolutely need outdoor dining, with or without the pandemic!	0	0
Exactly. Existing businesses seem to be catering to a very limited clientele (pizza, wedding dresses, pool supplies...) so leveraging height would allow for more options to choose from.	0	0
We should consider if arbitrary resistance to taller buildings is serving the city. Does this make sense to limit how tall buildings are in the area? Places like City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon has an expansive 2 story shopping center with ample parking, and has attracted stores like Anthropologie, Equinox, Pottery Barn and Williams Sonoma.	0	0
Agreed. Bookshops and cafes really add to the culture of a city, and it currently feels San Carlos is lacking in these areas. The Reading Bug is a bookshop for kids and there are no cafes that are open after 3 pm in the vicinity.	1	0
Outdoor dining has been such a great development of Laurel Street. It has made the city feel so much more alive, interesting and vibrant. Please keep the parklets and pedestrian street on Laurel.	4	1
Development on the empty lots next to the train station would be a nice addition allowing smaller shops to set up ? Strengthening the draw of the downtown district and a whole.	0	0

San Carlos losing the Reading Bug, a beloved community space, speaks to the larger issue of the City needing to step in to prevent landlords from raising rents to exorbitant prices...just to drive out well-loved local stores to tear down the building and build multi-story condos. (As is the case here.) First off, protect local businesses but also keep height limits at 1 story (except for existing buildings) to prevent this from happening in the future.	6	0
This is just not true. "Shopping in stores" would be less inviting because of the added hassle of not being able to park anywhere near the stores. If I'm running into a bank or the post office for a 5-minute errand why should I have to search for parking off street for 10 minutes and walk 5 more minutes?	1	0
Let's not turn Laurel Street into a giant shadow with tall buildings so close to the charming downtown. Keep the 1-2 story heights of current buildings.	0	1
Yes to more attractive barriers!	0	0
Great idea and it's true that no one ever walks between Laurel and El Camino. Even closing it to cars and adding some grass, planter boxes, and a few benches to sit and enjoy a meal outside would be great. Don't need to necessarily build more with mixed-use.	1	0
Agreed we don't need so many banks on the Main Street. Versus more restaurants or retail stores	2	0
Taxpayers funded this, they expect to be able to access this facility on a weekend.	0	0
Why exactly should a "Small Town" build up "considerably" perhaps we enjoy our underdeveloped land that enables the vibration that makes the town what it is... How does it provide a direct benefit exactly?	0	0
The roads were designed for vehicles. Sidewalks were designed for pedestrians. Bicycles come second to all of this as to not interfere with either.	0	1
What does that even entail? What exactly does more visibility look like exactly?	0	0
Let's put people over cars. Would you rather be in a parking lot, or dining al fresco?	0	0
I strongly support the street closure. It is a big draw to downtown and makes it a destination. It's enjoyable to see the community out together and to see patrons enjoying our local restaurants. It's lovely and feels safer. And for those fiscally concerned folks, more people eating and shopping in San Carlos means greater tax revenue, wealth, and return for the community.	0	2

ECR is the perfect place for higher density. San Carlos needs to meet state mandated housing requirements. Along a transit corridor with access to services and groceries is an ideal location for more multistory/multiunit housing. These should be mixed use with stores/restaurants on the first floor if possible. I'm sure many in the community would prefer density here rather than in the hills where things are inaccessible and traffic and pollution would build, or among the single family homes.	0	0
Perhaps not the full length of Laurel Street. Perhaps from San Carlos Avenue to Arroyo Avenue. The full length might impact parking for the residents of the neighboring streets. We do have to think about parking for people with accessibility concerns also.	1	0
I love the street closure! Could we do brick or pavers to make it even more welcoming and attractive?	0	2
If a real estate office can occupy space on Laurel then so should a child care center.	0	0
LESS density along El Camino and Laurel. The thought of five or six story buildings in the downtown area is just insane.	1	4
If the street is to be kept closed, then the business owners should pay for the space they are using. If a restaurant is allowed to double their space because they can be in the street, then they should be paying a sizable amount to the city for that space. And, it shouldn't be passed onto the building owners.	6	0
Multi-story housing should be encouraged all along ECR where ever there is an alley behind to provide access to on-site parking for residents and Laurel St. retail similar to Wheeler Plaza. The first floor on ECR may be retail, but given that physical retail is rapidly fading as a viable use, retail may not be the best use. If retail was removed, parking could be eliminated along ECR and protected bike lanes and wider sidewalks could be added while keeping ECR two traffic lanes each way.	4	1
The street closure area on Laurel shall be expanded from San Carlos Avenue to Arroyo. There is sufficient parking behind BofA, and in the parking garage. having car traffic on Laurel makes this a stressful area that is not inviting to linger, sit at restaurants or go shopping. Shopping in the Laurel street stores would be much more inviting if there weren't cars driving and parked everywhere.	8	3
Laurel Street should only be for pedestrians. No vehicle travel shall be allowed.	5	5
Tagging on, it's crazy that 24 Hour Fitness on Industrial (!) is the only "regular gym" in town.	0	0
Certain restaurants should not be allowed to sprawl left and right simply because they are flanked by non-restaurants. It's unsightly and unfair to restaurants that do not have that luxury.	1	0
I live around the dog park. People allow their dogs to bark and it's nice to have a break from this. If the dogs weren't so loud I'd be in agreement	0	1

Fully agree with this	0	0
Why do we keep letting banks take up so much space downtown? We need a bakery, nice shops etc in the central part of Laurel - not large banks that hardly anyone goes into.	8	0
I agree - there are a lot of great restaurants on the street and they should be permitted to retain nice parklets like those on Laurel. It will help make the entry to the city more appealing.	0	0
Too much valuable space in central downtown is occupied by banks. We need more upscale retail options, similar to Palo Alto and Burlingame, to attract people to shop and dine locally.	8	4
I would love one or two more fitness options downtown in addition to the Yoga Center. Maybe pilates or an Orange Theory type place.	4	0
I think there is a war going on here that doesn't need to happen. I agree that Laurel street should remain closed, and believe that will have positive impacts to all businesses. Addressing some good points I saw, you could definitely charge restaurants for use of outdoor space, possible even charging them more rent than small businesses. Downtown has slowly been shifting toward fancy restaurants and this could combat that.	0	0
It would be nice to have a coffee (and maybe book) shop that is open late. It would be a nice gathering spot and place for students to study, people to meet, etc. Currently the only places open at night are bars and nicer restaurants.	12	0
I want Laurel street reopened and object to the giveaway of public space to private restaurant businesses, to the exclusion of other businesses. Business diversity is a good thing.	4	2
If we are going to give away public space to private businesses, we need to dramatically raise the construction and design standards to better meet safety code and attractiveness standards. Get rid of ugly orange barriers. Enforce better architectural standards on the outdoor seating structures.	25	0
Right now this block is very lightly utilized. Mostly a parking lot and old cottage size buildings. Seems like this could be built up considerably. Which would help to extend the downtown area and benefit the small businesses on these blocks .	17	3
Many small towns (and large) all over Europe and the East Coast of the US have these in place. Having something fun/ useful off the beaten path would add a lot to our downtown.	1	0
Bring more visibility to the San Carlos Museum!	13	0
Creating a pedestrian only space is critical to not only attract people but to retain them so that they might linger longer adding to the vitality goal of the Downtown Plan. Sidewalk sitting for the restaurants though should have specific standards to maintain a quality look and feel. With the roads closed to traffic, there would be plenty of room for people to walk by. SC has an opportunity to bring a unique feel to our downtown and great place to be - a pedestrian only space will bring such!	4	2

More density! More height along El Camino - make the most of adjacency to Caltrain.	9	0
+1 for more housing. +1 for adding it in a way that enhances connections from ECR to Laurel.	1	0
I could imagine this section being 'Bonus Downtown' - more shops, more restaurants at ground floor and a couple of floors of housing or office above. Like the alley ways in Melbourne, Australia where you slip down a narrow alley, beautifully painted, and find a secret strip of shops and restaurants.	10	0
Does this really have to be a bank? There has to be a higher and better use for this space. It kills this corner.	3	1
In addition to the other comment already made about making these Alleyways more interesting, mixed-use, and adding a legitimate connection between Laurel and El Camino. (Image concept attached)	7	0
This is a "mobility/parking" comment too. Provide a safe, and interesting path between El Camino and Laurel here. That could be encouraging the addition of homes &/or mixed-use where people who live here can have an off-the-main-drag alleyway; but it could also be simply making this an interesting and safe path between El Camino businesses and Laurel businesses. Otherwise no one EVER walks between the Laurel & El Camino businesses.	7	0
Could adding apartments and uses beyond parking to this space actually connect El Camino to Laurel while adding needed housing? I suspect new use cases, like homes or other business types, could make this area more dynamic.	4	2
I don't mind the restaurants having an outdoor space, just leave the sidewalk open for people to walk by.	1	0
I unfortunately disagree with keeping the street closed and allowing only the restaurants to continue to be 2x larger than they have ever been. The restaurants pay rent for to their buildings and the space within a building. Prior to covid, it was required by the city to have a paid permit for any sidewalk seating.	5	4
Child care should be an allowable use downtown	7	0
Keep the on-street dining on San Carlos Avenue, and make it safer with attractive, permanent barriers/planter boxes. These restaurants are highly visible and attract people to eat & shop in downtown San Carlos.	23	3
I also fully support keeping the street closed to cars. The parklets and closed street have been a delight.	4	6
Even if it is a limited time (e.g. 10 am - 2 pm) as a starting point	1	1
Open the dog park on Sundays.	23	3

<p>This is an extremely dangerous intersection. Cars speed down the hill on Alameda and crossing the intersection is dangerous. The cross walk has no lights which make walking/biking across risky. Children in the area use this street to cross as they walk to/from school. Can we put in a stop sign or at least a cross walk with lights (like on Brittan and Woodland) to improve safety? As it stands I have my teenage driver avoid the intersection and drive all the way to Eaton from our house for safety.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>I fully support keeping the street closed to cars and allowing for restaurants to expand dining to outside. When done well, the restaurants have decorated/enclosed the area to make it feel welcoming and it allows for additional dining space and less crowded areas.</p>	<p>46</p>	<p>7</p>

Gathering Spaces		
Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Save the bug! The reading bug has been a gathering place for children for so many years. The bookstore is a key part of what makes San Carlos special to everyone but especially families!	0	0
Convert this to a parklet and Pedestrian entrance to Laurel, from the public parking here.	0	0
Agreed 100%! I'd strongly encourage a modular pump track or some kind of half pipe or roller skating space for fun and movement and low risk challenge all at the same time. See pump track options here: https://www.parkitect.ch/blog/what-is-a-pumptrack	0	0
Agree, and revisioning Laurel with public seating and green spaces would be a great way to make this a permanent solution.	0	0
Adding another outdoor gathering space like this one somewhere else in the downtown area would be a big plus!	0	0
I like the idea of incorporating a slow speed bicycle path through downtown. Not something someone can race down, but having bikes go through at slow speeds adds a charm and vibrancy/energy that both the bicyclists and the people walking on the street can appreciate. There's an invigorating aspect to promoting low-speed, pedestrian friendly bicycling. Essentially bike paths that are designed to be 'traffic calmed'...	0	0
Yes please! With all the newer condo developments downtown we need more human park and garden space.	1	0
Would like to see this activated as Public Gathering, Music, Green space, Tables Chairs Umbrellas	0	0
The folks @ the reading bug have expressed that they have sought support from the city and have had minimal assistance to ensure they can find a way to stay downtown. I have yet to meet anyone who doesn't want them to stay. How can the city help both this particular business not only stay but thrive, and in doing so help other similar businesses?	2	0
This sounds a bit extreme but the Reading Bug Is one of the reasons I wanted to move to San Carlos. It's one of the few independent bookstores on the peninsula and a community hub for all. we must protect it!	1	0
Agreed, there are not enough lower-cost food options for teenagers. You used to be able to get a slice of pizza at Nino's but most restaurants on Laurel are too pricey for teenagers.	0	0
Yes, I agree! And if every person on Nextdoor who complains about "what's happening to today's kids" and wishes there was more for them to do at night other than messing around read this...you'd have about 1,000 more likes...	3	0
Build a community center with meeting spaces for community groups, childcare; an event space for performances; a fitness center with a pool	8	2

Cafes exist off of a short walk to Laurel. Think of it as a brief exercise and a trip to support a local business within the business zoning of the local. Two Birds, One Stone.	1	0
<p>People gather and sit here now? As of when exactly?</p> <p>Who is visiting San Carlos in the evening that is not here typically during the weekday or weekend?</p> <p>Do you not receive cellular service?</p> <p>Are you unaware of programs that will provide heavily discounted/free cellular service to you if you are unable to afford it?</p> <p>You can rent a portable modem/router from the library and take with you so that you do not penetrate our San Mateo County Library System, FYI.</p>	0	0
Tea garden... where are those predominately located. How many Tea Gardens are present in the USA as of 2000 compared to 2020. How much space would be required and who would foot the bill. Is this really a good repurposing of precious finite land? What tea leaves would we grow and who would harvest them? Where would the funds generate and go towards? Who would upkeep the land?	0	1
How about of Alameda de las Pulgas where the city will soon allow the removal of tons of land and over 100 live oak trees which have taken nearly a century each to reach full maturity? Plus no cell tower in the middle of it like in Burton park.	0	0
Lets not be like Redwood City and say that we did...	0	0
You purchased land immediately off of El Camino Real. If you were a local you would immediately realize that El Camino is never really quiet. You deserve exactly what you paid for — Long term instability due to inflation. San Carlos and other cities in the peninsula are comprised from the city directly within the perimeter not the outskirts nor epicenter. Move elsewhere if you seek additional "Attention". Why would we want to hang out on your street when it is nothing but apartments?	0	1
We need more outdoors spaces for San Carlos' teenagers to hang out! Instead of punishing them for being outside late at night, we should create spaces for them in our downtown so they feel represented and have a place to hang out, but without disturbing nearby residents. Expand parks and leave them open until later, add more affordable restaurants that are open later, and close this entire stretch of Laurel off to cars to increase foot traffic	5	0
This intersection/corner is particularly cumbersome with the bank parking lot/driveway. Could be utilized as a creative gathering spot with the driveway closed and repurposed. A gathering space in photo.	1	0
I agree it is important to keep a bookstore in the community, ideally one that is for adults and children!	1	0

Absolutely! Folks who grew up in San Carlos remember a movie theatre in town. It would be wonderful to have bowling or a theatre or more family friendly activities	2	0
I'd love more benches and/or creative spaces for people to sit and eat or just hang out downtown.	13	0
the pedestrian space is GREAT and let's make it more beautiful... keep a walking and biking path down the middle that can be used by emergency vehicles as needed, but make it more Park-like on either side and plant some trees	6	0
I agree. We need businesses that are great resources. We need to help the Reading Bug.	1	0
I agree 100%. We all benefit from such gathering places.	1	0
Good points! A plaza needs to be an open, public space.	0	0
Great idea.	0	0
I like public parks. I like these ideas.	1	0
Fun idea.	0	0
There used to be thriving butterfly plants here. I love the idea of a butterfly garden and miss that giant plant. This wall could also be the place of an inspiring mural.	3	0
I prefer the idea of expanding away from El Camino instead. If people turn onto San Carlos Avenue, they will find the delightful space. I like the added security of NOT extending to El Camino.	0	0
I like this idea. I really value gathering places where people can be among trees/plants and have multiple seating options (rocks, turf, steps, benches). Central, comfortable gathering places increase sense of community.	1	0
I would also like this little park to be redesigned. I think removing that sculpture (of a metal person) would be great. It is not aesthetic nor is it meaningful. Remove that and create flow from the park to Laurel Street. Add rocks to sit on, turf to sit on, benches to sit on. Plants and trees. If you do need public art, have diverse people involved to pick something better.	0	0
I like that idea. It could be an open space like a town square, where people can sit and gather. There are a variety of surfaces these days. A park-like feel where people could sit on the "ground" and hang out a bit I love the central squares in some towns with businesses on the perimeter. Los Robles comes to mind. Areas with trees, picnic tables, and benches are helpful for meeting places and gatherings. Helping people connect in public spaces creates the sense of community that is invaluable.	0	0
I agree about fun, safe places for teens to hang out and feel welcome. Old timey video arcade. Stinson Beach has a concrete ping pong table in a park. You can provide paddles/balls, have a check-out system at the library, etc. Things to do for teens.	1	0

I love the central squares in some towns with businesses on the perimeter. Los Robles comes to mind. Areas with trees, picnic tables, and benches are helpful for meeting places and gatherings. Helping people connect in public spaces creates the sense of community that is invaluable.	1	0
Agreed. This park is too small for the number of dogs in our community. There was a time when a section of Burton Park under the trees was fenced in for dogs. That seems like a great opportunity to evaluate	0	0
Like the idea of a meditation area, the other courtyard closer to the library may be an option, that area seems under utilized and the fountain no longer is filled. Perhaps replace that with a meditation maze?	0	0
The City of Menlo Park saved Kepler's Book, feel like we need to do the same and support the Reading Bug as it has been an anchor for San Carlos families and the community.	2	0
Why is it called Wheeler Plaza if it doesn't have a plaza open to the public? A nice courtyard space with a fountain, trees and benches would have been nice. Can we incorporate that someplace in downtown?	3	0
Completely agree - it is a wonderful part of our community! We can't let it go.	2	0
Would love to see a cafe move into the ground floor of wheeler plaza, like cafe barrone in Menlo Park - a casual spot to have a light meal and gather.	9	0
I love that there is a dog park, but can we also create another small park near downtown with flowers, trees and benches for people? Greening our community should be a priority.	8	1
Make the currently blocked stretch of laurel street to a walking area - remove the asphalt.	8	2
Great idea. I believe there's one at the new Atherton library	0	0
Could even be a coffee cart!	1	0
This should be a plaza or park. We need more public space in this town especially with population density increasing	1	0
I think that's a poor comparison because the Hillsdale mall is rather large and expansive. While I do absolutely advocate for expanding that park if Laurel street remains closed, if it doesn't, like many argue it shouldn't, then this would probably be an ill-fated project.	0	0
Park with trees and outdoor seating would enhance the atmosphere. Possibly public art/mural. Could be a stage area during festivals.	1	0
If this remains a parking lot, the traffic flow and signage need to be improved including one-way signs in alley.	0	0
It would be fun if there was a public piano or keyboard for people to play. It could probably go under a covered patio.	4	0
Could a portion of this space be used to build a serene space, like a tea garden, a meditation garden, or a labyrinth?	4	2

How about a cafe / coffee shop at the library? And some late night hours as well.	15	1
Would be good to utilize the underground parking for evening visitors to downtown. Is that underground lot ever full?	1	0
Save The Bug!	3	0
Agree. And presume this would / should be done with a pedestrian only section of Laurel Street.	0	0
What if the park extended all the way to El Camino, giving people a window into our beautiful downtown? You'd never know what is one street back, driving along ECR.	4	1
Need to find a space downtown for The Reading Bug since the landlord is demolishing building. It is a key piece of our community and the downtown shopping experience with story times and author visits. Have enjoyed their outdoor story times! It would be a shame for the city to not assist a vital, community, family owned business.	33	1
Redevelop this mini park to spill out to Laurel st. Park is not well designed and has a lot of potential. Could be like the open space at Hillsdale mall by the Apple store.	22	2
I would really like to see some type of teen spaces!	6	1
Consider expanding Harrington park across the street to this space to make a larger gathering space. I assume that would require the city purchasing this plot and possibly including the BofA building itself. Encourage adjacent structures to orient towards the park and increase the height limits to make it a cozy space for gathering, concerts and activities.	12	1
It's likely that I may work from home forever. It'd be great to have an open park space to occasionally work from. I'd love for downtown to provide such spaces	1	0
Agreed. I want to tell my kids so go here to hang out. Having more for them here would be great.	2	0
If this could officially be designated to become a park then before the next tenant moves into the currently empty restaurant the future tenant could orient the storefront with the park in mind. That would further "activate" the park.	2	0
let's have more gatherings in the City Hall / Dog Park area, similar to RWC and their Square	4	1
Yes, I echo this concern. The teens need a spot to gather to foster friendships after school hours. Outdoor and fun activities for young people that engage in fitness and artistic aspirations.	4	0
I agree! It'd also be great if the City offered free public wi-fi outdoors (within a defined zone).	0	0
It would be great to have some shaded table/chair spaces that are independent of restaurant seating.	22	0
As a teen in San Carlos and a member of the Youth Advisory Council, it would be nice to see more things to do for high schoolers as there is really no dedicated events/space for us to hang out downtown.	19	0

There was talk at one time of this parking lot becoming a park. I think that would be lovely.	18	1
Many of us purchased our condos when this was off the the main part of downtown. Please maintain some type of quiet hours so we can sleep.	2	0
This far down doesn't get much attention or as much foot traffic, perhaps adding small parks/gathering spaces would draw more people. to this part of downtown.	35	1
Create more space here for people to gather and sit - even give those working from home a new place for work for a few hours	12	1

Other Comments		
Comment	Up Votes	Down Votes
Laurel behind Trader Joe's is a disgrace—full of trash in the bushes, weeds, broken glass. Not sure what goes on there but SC needs to give it extra attention. I know you know what I'm talking about.	0	0
I see people going the wrong way down the one way all the time. You should mark that with better signage.	0	0
We do not want to look like Redwood City with six story buildings. Please look at Menlo Park for how nicely their El Camino project has been designed.	0	0
Like the idea of pop-markets somewhere in San Carlos, but I wonder who owns this space in front of the Transit building? Is it the city, or privately owned?	0	0
Given the vacancies of the ground floor commercial spaces at Wheeler Plaza, the Trestle development by the train station, 934 Laurel...a multistory building with retail/residential doesn't sound like a development concept that is working well in San Carlos. Also the city needs to be very careful going forward to make certain that our sewers, drainage systems, water sources, etc. are adequate for additional developments.	0	0
Menlo Park is a good role model when looking to improve the El Camino Real in San Carlos. Please look at the wonderful development this city has done between Valparaiso and Sand Hill Road on El Camino. Their ideas for height and design are tasteful and have class. No six story buildings please.	0	0
As a continuation of my comment to raise the good energy in downtown San Carlos, the downtown area needs to stay away from dark, dismal storefronts that are painted black, dark gray, brown. These colors drag down the energy of a building and the success of the establishment.	0	0
Town and County Village at the corner of El Camino and the Embarcadero in Palo Alto had a "face lift" a few years ago, and the face lift has brought about a wonderful turn around in the prosperity of the shopping center. I would suggest that San Carlos ask Town and Country Village for the name of their redesign consultant. Perhaps it was a Feng Shui expert as the renewed success and the good energy this shopping center is truly wonderful. San Carlos needs to focus on raising the good energy.	0	0
I believe the flooding is a recurring issue. If so, what are the proposed solutions? What is the cost of infrastructure changes versus building requirement changes? Has this issue been studied?	0	0

We should get rid of the height restrictions since it doesn't allow the density needed to reflect the community needs. We need more housing and retail space in areas that are close to transportation centers. We can't go back to low maximum height building and more auto parking. That will not work given our current needs. It will stifle the growth we need to remain a diverse viable community in the future.	0	0
If revitalizing the space could be done without tearing down the building, that would be great. In my head, the way to revitalize is to put in a new more inviting (less soviet-style) building. However, often the most unique ideas that really call out a "place" come from making something out of nothing. Someone mentioned putting vendors on the street. That's a great start and idea.	0	0
I agree with the general thrust of this comment. It's a great local super market. However the way the building is situated really detracts from downtown. Bring it closer to the street, and it will probably become an even more beloved market as it will be more of a space for people and not just a market surrounded by a moat of cars.	0	0
Plenty of neighboring pharmacies in San Carlos... would be glad to see this space evolve somehow to accommodate more housing that is needed close to downtown.	0	0
great idea would help during the many festivals/events/farmers markets that happen downtown. Be great to have them as gender neutral and accessible to be inclusive of all needs.	0	0
A great point I miss Vanilla Moon Bakery that was downtown ages ago and nothing similar has come back since. Luckily lots of options close by in RWC or San Mateo.	0	0
Drivers that are unaware the stop signs are only on Walnut and stop while driving on Cherry cause traffic issues. 4 way stops are the norm for 99% of intersections. Why is this intersection different?	0	0
Please keep the small-town feel of San Carlos intact by preserving local grocers such as Bianchini's. And keep building heights to what they are - no need to build up, up, up on Laurel Street.	2	2
Keep parking here free! And same with Laurel St.	1	0
Glad to see neighbors attacking other neighbors for just throwing out an opinion. City of Good Living at its finest.	1	0

HELL NO. CVS Is a great resource, I obtain many health resources for my family members and disabled neighbor here by foot every other week. Removing this is going to divert customers to Walgreens (also off of Laurel) or CVS in Belmont. We just completed the new plaza across the street and not all spaces have been filled yet. I remember Safeway, if we could that would be great because they also have a pharmacy inside. Your plea for additional gentrification nonsense.	3	1
YES!!! IN FACT LETS STOP NEW DEVELOPMENTS ENTIRELY!!! CALIFORNIA, ESPECIALLY THE SF BAY AREA IS FULL TO THE BRIM. MOVE TO IDAHO, NEBRASKA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NEW MEXICO, ANYWHERE BUT HERE!!!! This is 100% Genuine) MAX HEIGHT SHOULD BE TWO STORIES 10FT CEILINGS MAX.	0	2
Really... daily? Such exaggeration is still jarring even in the current age we all live in. I would say far less then considering I live a block away. Look, wave, cross. They teach it to school children if you were not aware I am sure you could find something on YouTube. If not, you could probably find a reflective set of pants and jacket on Amazon. Just use your smartphone thingamajig gadget gizmo and it will get you there; SAFELY!	0	2
Really... daily? Such exaggeration is still jarring even in the current age we all live in. I would say far less then considering I live a block away. Look, wave, cross. They teach it to school children if you were not aware I am sure you could find something on YouTube. If not, you could probably find a reflective set of pants and jacket on Amazon. Just use your smartphone thingamajig gadget gizmo and it will get you there; SAFELY!	0	1
No you do not know how this area has been functional for many decades. Nonsensical, irrelevant feedback here. What stores do you propose will fill the void of former retailers? What "flow" are you referencing of which you seems so falsely knowledgeable about?	0	1
This is not genuine conversation, you people seek to undermine San Carlos and steer the narrative towards more housing/development that is simply not sustainable for the long term health of our community. You fraud.	0	0
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Just because we can does not mean we should.	0	0

Why?	0	0
These are not organic, why should this section also be incorporated?	0	0
*DECORATIONS	0	0
Google Maps... That says it all... Why should it continue past this intersection? Has it historically continued past this intersection? IF not, why NOT? The "BIG" park has a BIG CELL TOWER IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. Is that a nice family attraction? The streets surrounding it see tremendous traffic you are simply naive to. You walk to a park with the expectation that your arrival will be celebrated...? Why would the nature reserve ever celebrate you(r arrival)??? Who will fund these decoratinos??	0	1
The outsider is shocked by this fact although you do not hear such outrage from residents who have lived here their entire lives. I grew up across Walnut Street and never once have I felt insecure about crossing the street or "PUSHED" by another vehicle or pedestrian. TOTAL BS FROM AN OUTSIDER.	0	1
More traffic = More of a carbon footprint. Let nature retake our space instead of people traveling into unknown territory to purchase crepes, sandwiches, burgers, etc. What separates an Asian Grocery Store from a "Traditional" Grocery Store?	0	0
Why exactly do we "NEED" to see such options? so this area "NEEDS" people when historically it hasn't seen such trends? Cafes offering what specifically that would truly "ENRICH" this area?" Boba Shops??? Money Laundering, perhaps? Do you really take us for such fools?	0	1
Counseling is psychobabble meant to dissuade truth.	0	0
The rains from flooding. Let me guess... CLIMATE CHANGE!?!?!? Flooding happens due to the inability of local government to act swiftly primarily caused by nepotism.	0	0
Quiet Exists for those in quiet areas. If you seek industrialization say goodbye to this. Make a choice already.	0	0
Why not confuse development all the way to Eaton. There are already some successful restaurants and shops and linking the area would make a lot of sense and give people in WO more ability to visit places on foot.	3	1
I would love to see this part of Laurel street developed to have more shops and restaurants!	2	0
We need to limit the height on new buildings. The recently built apartments and condos are too big. It is nice to have sun on Laurel Street, but if we keep building up, we will shade Laurel, and become like downtown San Mateo , and Redwood City. I like it now. Do not allow new building to ruin it	4	2
Walnut is way too narrow, it' gets backed up and it's dangerous. It should be one way.	2	2
Yes, please improve our infrastructure. We should not have flooded streets and freeways.	1	0

Please consider speed bumps near crosswalks.	0	0
This used to be a movie theatre. For those who don't like the building, where do you think the SamTrans offices should be go?	0	0
This used to be a Safeway. Now two CVSs in San Carlos and two Safeways in Belmont. The parking lot is required for this amount of shopping. I'd like this to be a grocery store again.	2	0
There seem to be enough restaurants.I would like some useful stores like an Ace Hardware, a fine bakery which bakes bread, an Asian grocery store, fruit and vegetable market (street market is nice but it is not there every day). The south of Laurel is just a bunch of run down beauty and. Nail salons.	1	0
Smoking should be banned near dining establishments and shops. Nothing can ruin a meal faster than a cigarette. Well, perfume can as well but I'm not going there.	9	1
Shouldn't the plan include the areas down to Eaton Avenue as well?	0	0
Open the street back up. It's crazy that it's still closed.	2	15
+1 we need more coffee shops and bakeries which attract regular customers. Restaurants are great but people visit coffee shops a lot more frequently. Also we don't have a good bakery in San Carlos.	2	0
The El Camino and Laurel Street businesses in this area really suffered in the rains from flooding. Better drainage needs to happen. One Life Counseling office was destroyed and their insurance doesn't cover it, and now they can't do their valuable food distribution,	6	0
The train horns are very loud, especially at night. We should declare San Carlos a "Quiet Zone", like other cities did on the Peninsula. https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Faq.aspx?TID=24, https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-residents-clamor-for-a-good-nights-sleep-japantown-warm-springs-rail-corridor-union-pacific-railroad-train-quiet-zone/ https://abc7news.com/sj-train-horns-partial-quiet-zone-warm-springs-union-pacific-railroad-corridor-montgomery-and-horning-streets-noise/11839739/	1	0
The plaza could host pop up markets, food carts, Etsy-type/art and wine style vendors on a rotating basis, open the doors for public restrooms. Agree it is under utilized area but could be brought back to life without a huge amount of work.	2	0

Having Laurel street close these past few years have been so wonderful. My family and I stroll, and shop, a lot more on Laurel street because of the walkability and safety the street closure provides. It's great to see so many people out and about on the street. I hope the closure continues indefinitely.	2	1
Why not include all of Laurel St.?	5	0
General comment - for all of San Carlos, especially downtown - need to increase pedestrian safety. I am shocked there are not more accidents. As a resident of Walnut street and often walk downtown I cannot go a day without being "pushed" thru the crosswalk by a car.	7	1
Need safer pedestrian crossing at this intersection. Especially so close to the schools. Children come down School St after school and run across this intersection.	3	0
Need this to be a four way stop and better lights at night. Very dangerous.	4	1
Would love to add more restaurants (of various types - we need more options) and quality retail to this part of downtown to draw people in. Additional cafes would also be nice - not just Starbucks and Peet's.	9	2
This building is an eyesore. Best would be if it could be torn down and start from scratch. In its current state it has zero curbside appeal.	0	0
I knew it would be complicated but just while we are all brainstorming thought I would throw it out there. Definitely would need to be done in sections but the payoff would be well worth it to integrate into the new downtown fabric	3	1
Looks like crews are working on the spaces now. Probably Covid delays but things look to be coming soon.	0	0
I love this idea but... cost. The parking spaces there are almost always full, which means they are needed. I think an alternative to completely redeveloping the land is to move the parking back onto an alley (which you could refurbish in the process), and then add a new building or park in the space previously occupied by parking.	3	1
Redevelop CVS into a multistory building to include retail on the ground level and residences above with parking lot underground. So much wasted space here	3	4
The last time I was at the post office the automated machine was broken and vomit was in the center of the floor. Please connect with the Post office to remedy and keep better cleaning standards	5	3
Attract other popular restaurants like the Refuge to help the downtown expand to these smaller foot traffic areas.	13	2
Disrupts the flow of Laurel street having this parking and drive thru. Consider redevelopment of bank and parking lot of sushi to new retail storefronts to keep downtown flowing	8	5

We love Bianchinis and frequent a few times a week but it definitely feels a bit dates at times. Would the city be willing to give tax benefits to redevelop the land with multiple stories with the ground floor as a grocery tenant and allow residences/offices above. Below level parking garage would be encouraged. Would eliminate the dead walking space and keep downtown from having all the gaps for parking.	10	8
I agree. This should probably be a 4 way stop.	2	0
The 600 block of Laurel Street and all of San Carlos Avenue needs to get the street parking back. The temporary park-lets are unsightly, not up to code and only supporting restaurants. Keep the 700 block pedestrian and return the rest of the street parking back to the way it was.	4	33
Why are they empty? If commercial on the first floor and residential on top is the new desired model, you have to wonder if that's working.	2	1
Please add public restrooms somewhere more than at the ACC/Library/City Hall area. Ideas: city lot near Wheeler Plaza, city park on Laurel, CalTrain station, somewhere between Olive and Brittan Ave.	11	2
This is a very dangerous intersection with near-accidents almost daily (both pedestrian and with cars.) Please look into how it can be reconfigured to improve safety.	8	1
Why isn't Howard Avenue included? This makes no sense.	3	1
What is the justification for starting/stopping at Greenwood Avenue? That makes no sense, and, at the very least, it should include through Howard Avenue!	4	1
Wish this wasn't a bank in an 80's building.	1	1
Downtown officially dies right here. I Would love to see it continue past this intersection. Part of it is that only 1 restaurant has anything Outdoors. The other 3 corner businesses are pretty dead to the outside space. This is also a key path to Burton park. Would love to See some celebration of taking a nice walk/bike to the big park. Decorate the intersection as a sort of gateway towards Burton.	21	3
Making this fix could also help make the stores across the street more enticing for tenants	3	0
The SamTrans building is such an "drive-to—work-hide-in-the-fortress-office design. Even with small first floor businesses and ample sidewalk space in this fortress of a building it is such an I inviting space for human beings. Can something be done here to encourage more public use of this space? It's a great location that people just quickly walk past.	9	0

The ground commercial spaces have been empty for quite a while now. We need to rent these out since empty storefronts detract from the downtown revitalization.	10	0
Would love to see the "overall plan" contain ideas about how to strengthen links between downtown core, mid Laurel and south Laurel. A stronger visual continuity of street trees, etc would encourage more pedestrian traffic along the entire stretch.	13	1
This block the street is very dirty. Suggest to have a power wash in the 600 - 700 block. Due to drought we lack mother nature to help wash the streets.	3	0