



CITY OF SAN CARLOS DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN PLAN PROJECT

www.sancarlosdowntownplan.com

Downtown Advisory Committee (DTAC)

Meeting #5 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

June 20, 2023



DTAC Meeting Agenda

1. Meeting Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”



3. DTAC Roll Call

Member	Representing Category	Member	Representing Category
Allie Board	Downtown Business Operator	Madison Blanton	Special Needs
Donna Lera	Downtown Business Operator	Samina Ginwalla	Youth Advisory Council Member
Allison Change	Downtown Business Operator	Maya Nayberg	Youth Advisory Council Member
Tom Davids	Downtown Property Owner	Sreecharan Chandrasekaran	At Large
Anthony Kamm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Member	Monette Meredith	At Large
Jean Dehner	Older Adults	Joaquin Pedrin	At Large
Mark Maxwell	Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Member	James Bertram Cecile Lee Tracy Masaro Elizabeth Minn	Alternate DTAC Members
Amy Buckmaster	San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce Representative		

4. Discussion Items

- a. Project Update
- b. Business Community Meeting Summary
- c. Work in Progress:
 - Traffic Operation Study
 - Parking Study
 - Policy Framework (Vision and Guiding Principles)
 - Urban Design Ideas for Streets





Project Update

Public Participation and Outcomes

1. Community Workshop, February 15, 2023
2. “Coffee and Comments” Open House, March 4, 2023
3. Survey
4. Planning and Transportation Commission Study Session, April 17, 2023
5. City Council Study Session, April 24, 2023



Leading with 3 Big Moves

1. **700 Block, Laurel Street - Public Plaza**
2. **Public Gathering Spaces**
3. **Alleys**

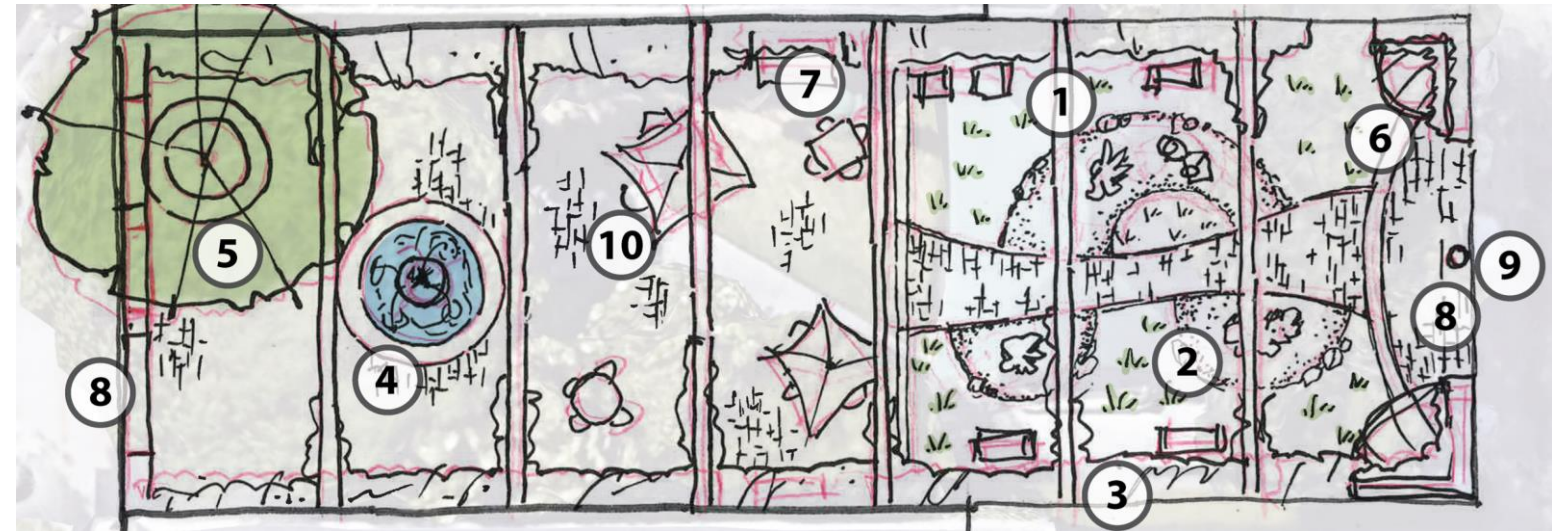
700 Block, Laurel Street

Full closure, converted into a Public Plaza

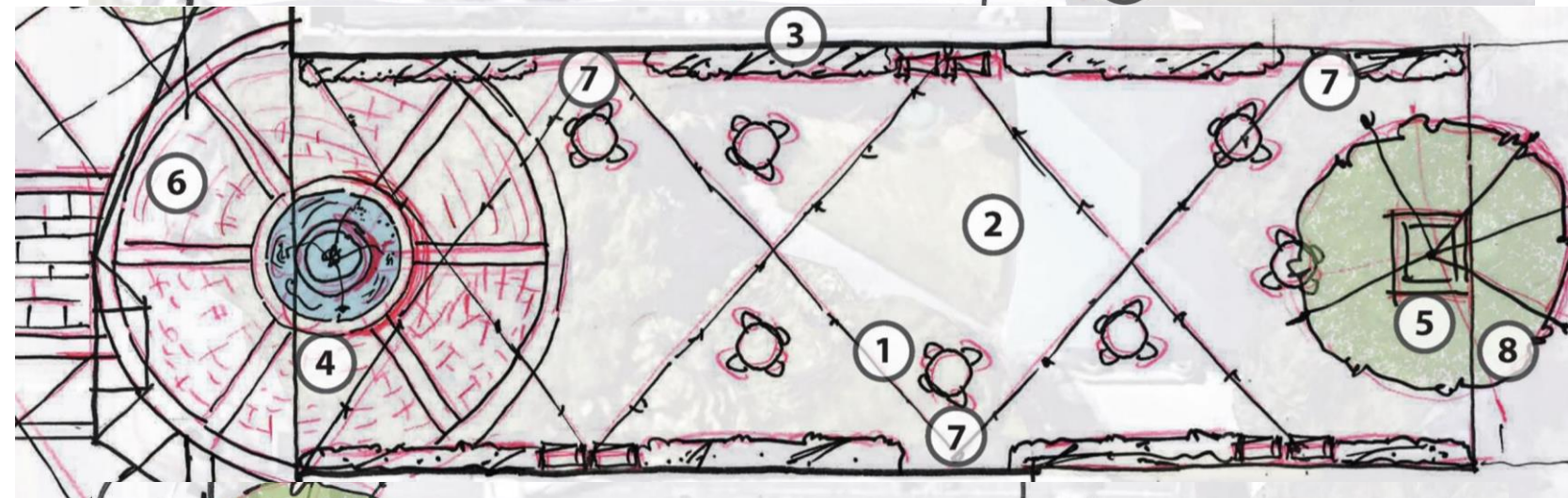


Harrington Park Concepts

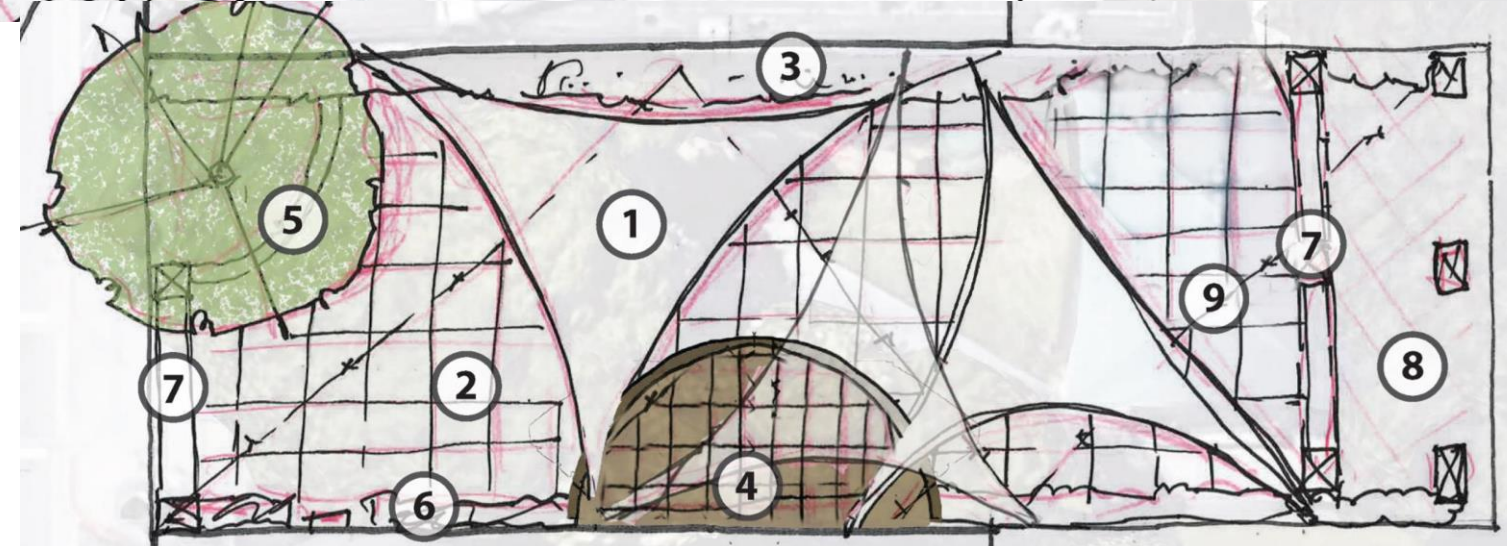
1. Park & Plaza



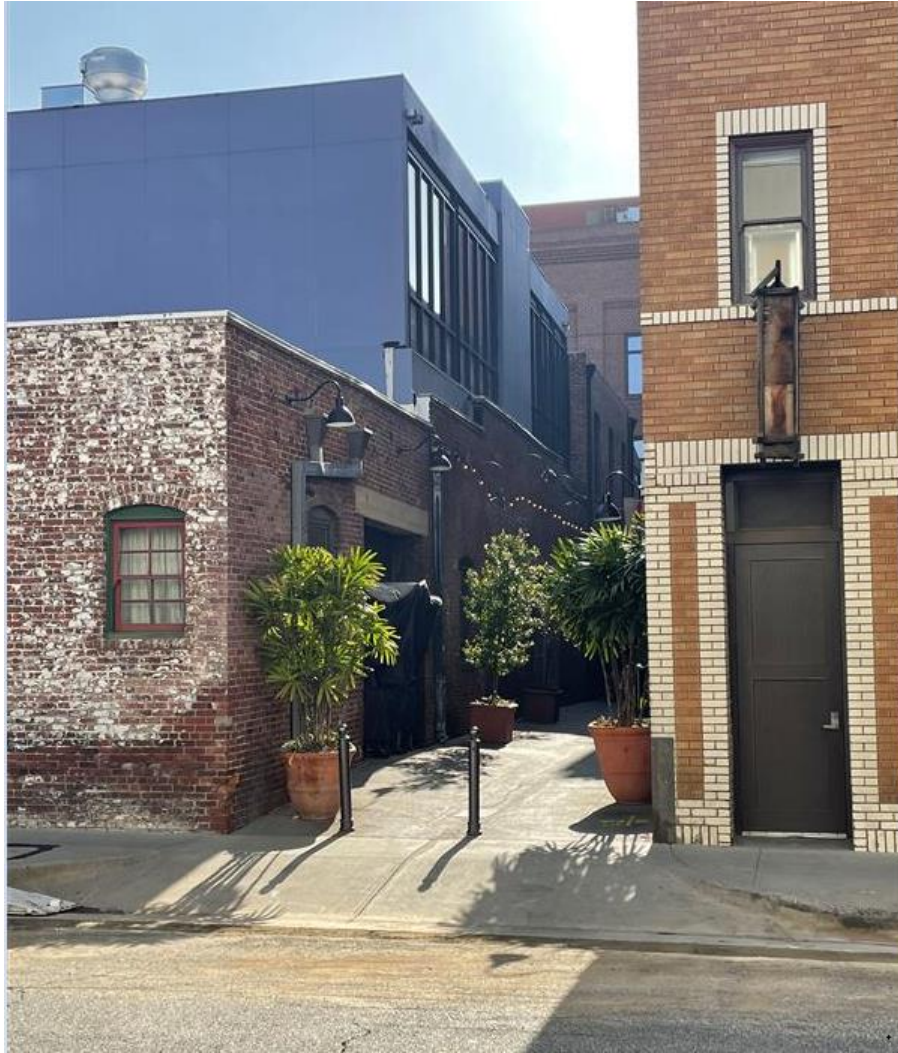
2. All Plaza



3. Music & Stage



Alleys: Examples



Alleys: More Examples

Source: RRM Design Group



Source: Google Maps



Source: Google Maps

Response from PTC (April 17)

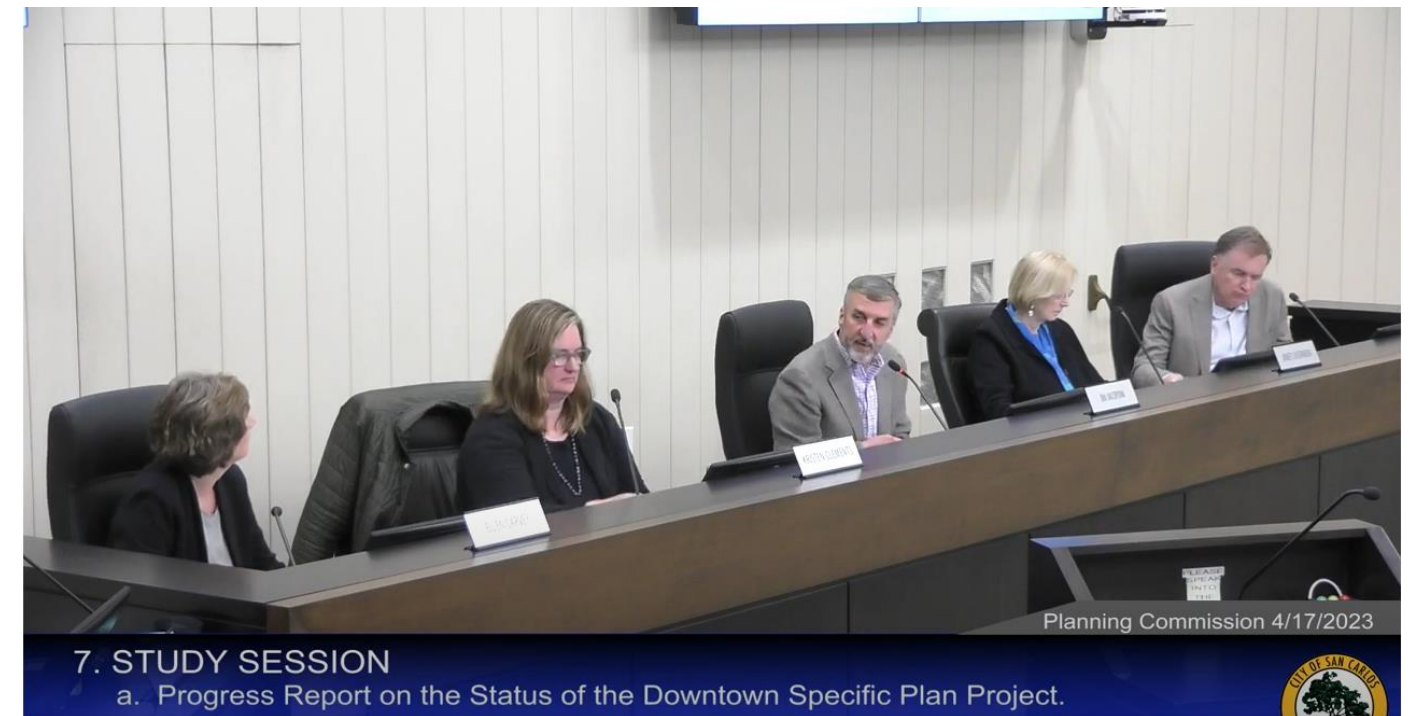
700 Block, Laurel

Majority in favor of the full plaza option

Alleys

Crucial for success of Laurel closure

- Tidy up, include awnings, signage, public art, archways, wayfinding, special paving
- Alleys will have to do “everything”
- Business access, truck deliveries, parking for motorists, bicyclists, safe pathways to Laurel Street/ El Camino Real, ingress/egress for future housing
- Need a functional plan, set priorities for the alleys



Public Gathering Spaces

- Redesign Harrington Park
- New plaza, larger/open plaza, as beautiful gateway to/from Wheeler Plaza
- Design for music, stage, sunshades, trees, water features, lighting

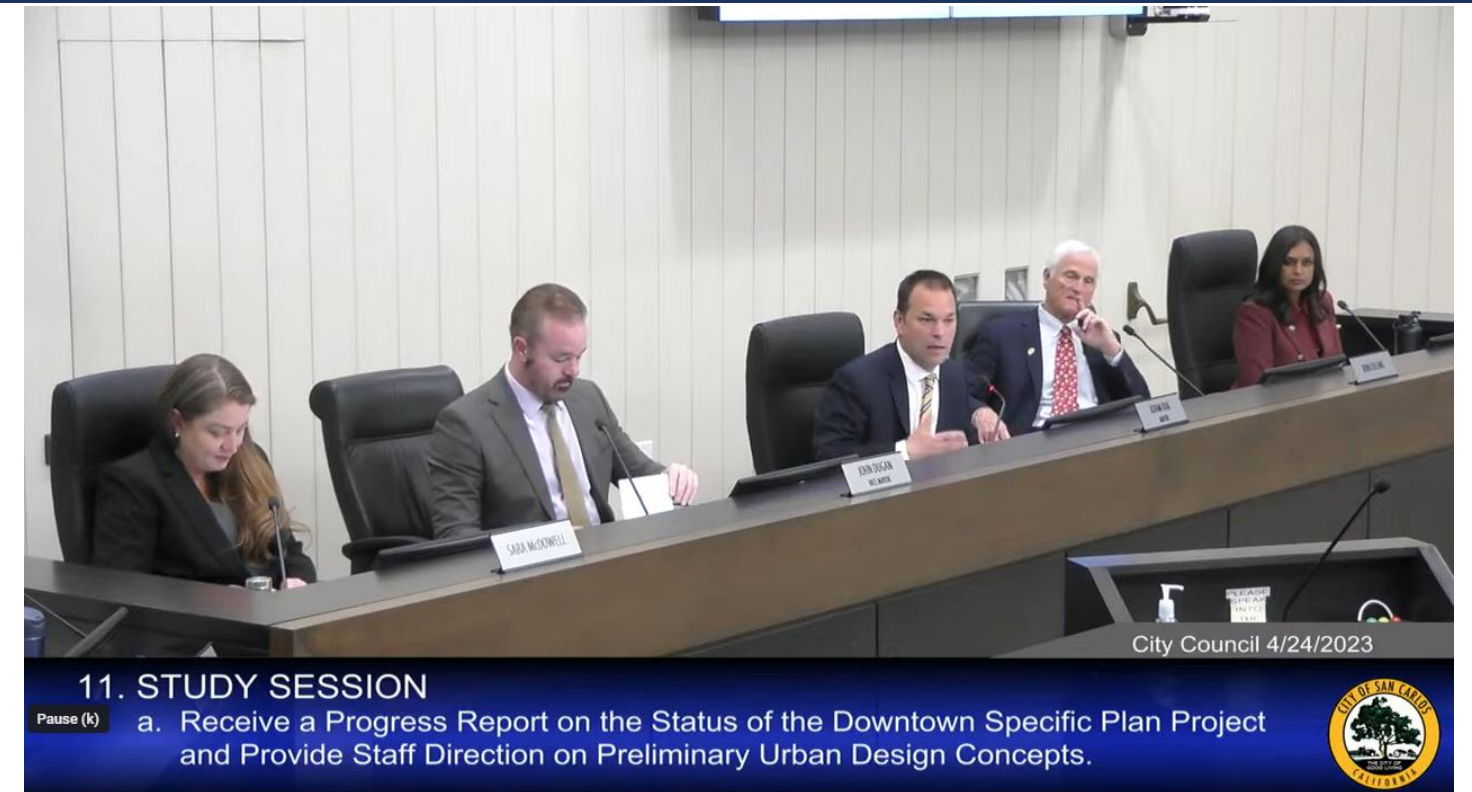
700 Block, Laurel

Proceed with the concept to transform the area into a permanent public plaza.

Alleys

Alleys are the workforce of downtown

- Be clear on the functions of the alley
- Walking, connectivity
- Deliveries
- Well lighted, safety
- Hide the trash
- Paving treatments, help organize and slow traffic down
- Mural and art can help improve appearance



Public Gathering Spaces

- Public restrooms, place so sit, inviting to all ages
- Be creative to activate spaces, not for dining only
- Music, Pop ups, holiday market, Art installations
- Bring more greenery/landscaping/trees/gardens into spaces
- Performance space, e.g. “Shakespeare in the Park”
- Leave space that we can grown into; don’t need to figure it all out at once



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Questions or Comments?

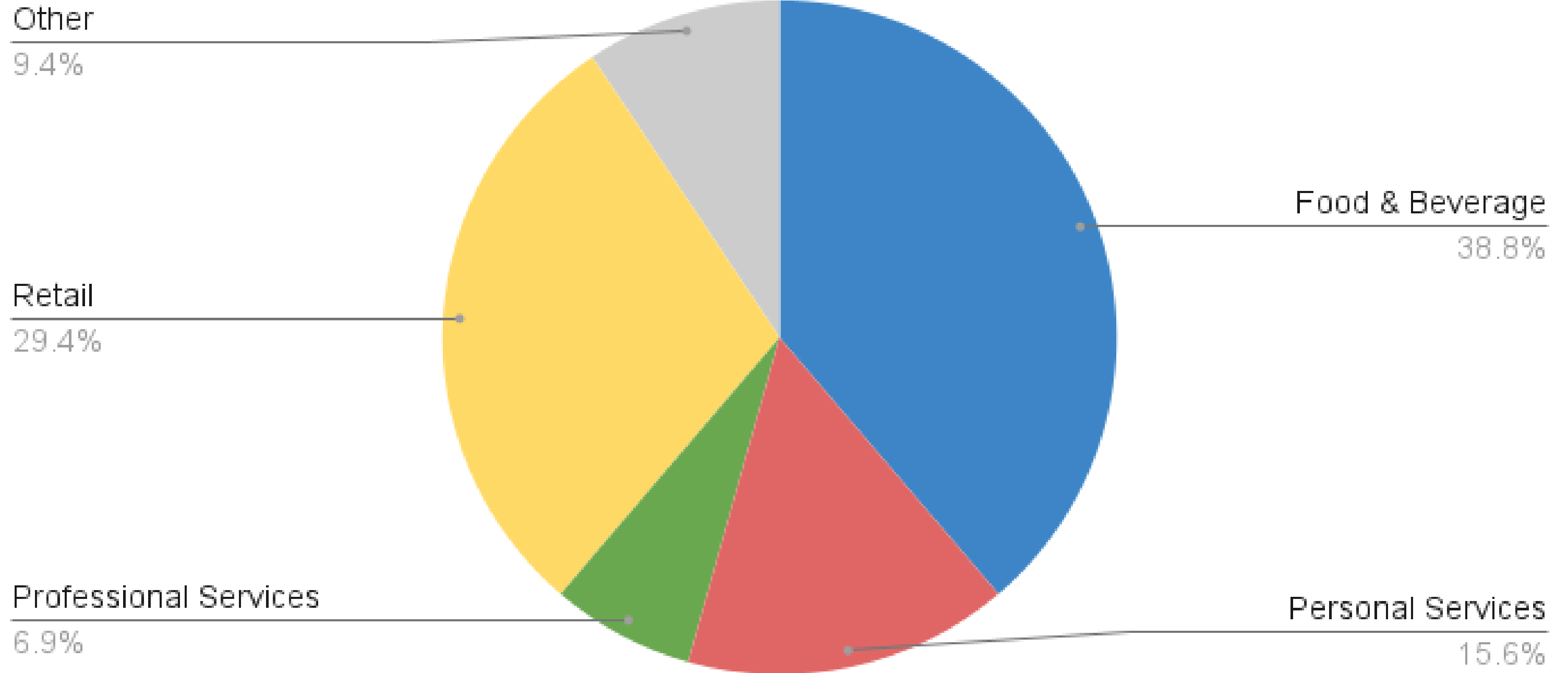


Business Community Feedback

May 24 at Stamp Bar & Grill

How can the City of San Carlos' Downtown Specific Plan support businesses, its operations and employees?

Downtown Business Profile



Four Questions Asked

1. What can the city do in the meantime?
2. What should the priorities be?
3. What is most important for the success of your business?
4. What is most important to employees?

What We Heard

- ✓ Parklets / Farmers Market Set Up
 - Block the visibility to shopfronts
- ✓ Will parklets be removed?
- ✓ Parking signage doesn't work (no enforcement)
- ✓ City does not appear to be concerned retail needs
- ✓ Diagonal Parking along San Carlos Avenue is unsafe (several cars were hit)
- ✓ No space for uber eats/door dash deliveries/pickup
- ✓ Loss of business during construction
- ✓ Need a diversity of businesses in downtown
- ✓ Feels unsafe to park in SamTrans garage
- ✓ Does not feel comfortable nor safe to dine in parklets along San Carlos Avenue

Business Community Concerns

- ✓ The different blocks should have the same economic opportunity as the 700 block of Laurel; improve all the blocks. 700 block seems to be most favored, while 600 is struggling.
- ✓ Parklets block visibility to shopfronts, take up parking; some parklets are taking up much more space than others; no standards for parklets; parklet costs not equitable and are not based on square footage of space; e.g. *“I have a tiny parklet and I am paying as much as [a much larger restaurant] is paying - how does that makes sense?”*; remove parklets that are not being used.
- ✓ Is the City going to continue to allow parklets? Aren't they temporary? The pandemic is over. If the City wants to support businesses, take the parklets away now. Asked for a commitment from City staff.
- ✓ There are no clear signs to show where patrons can park; the City needs to improve the placement of signage.
- ✓ Place more bicycle racks where they are needed and in view for safety so they are not stolen or vandalized.

Business & Employee Survey



Help the City develop meaningful solutions for downtown San Carlos.

We need DTACs help to get business owners, manager, employees to take our survey!

Scan the QR code above with your smart phone, or access the survey at www.sancarlosdowntownplan.com.



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Questions or Comments?



Work In Progress
Traffic and Parking Studies

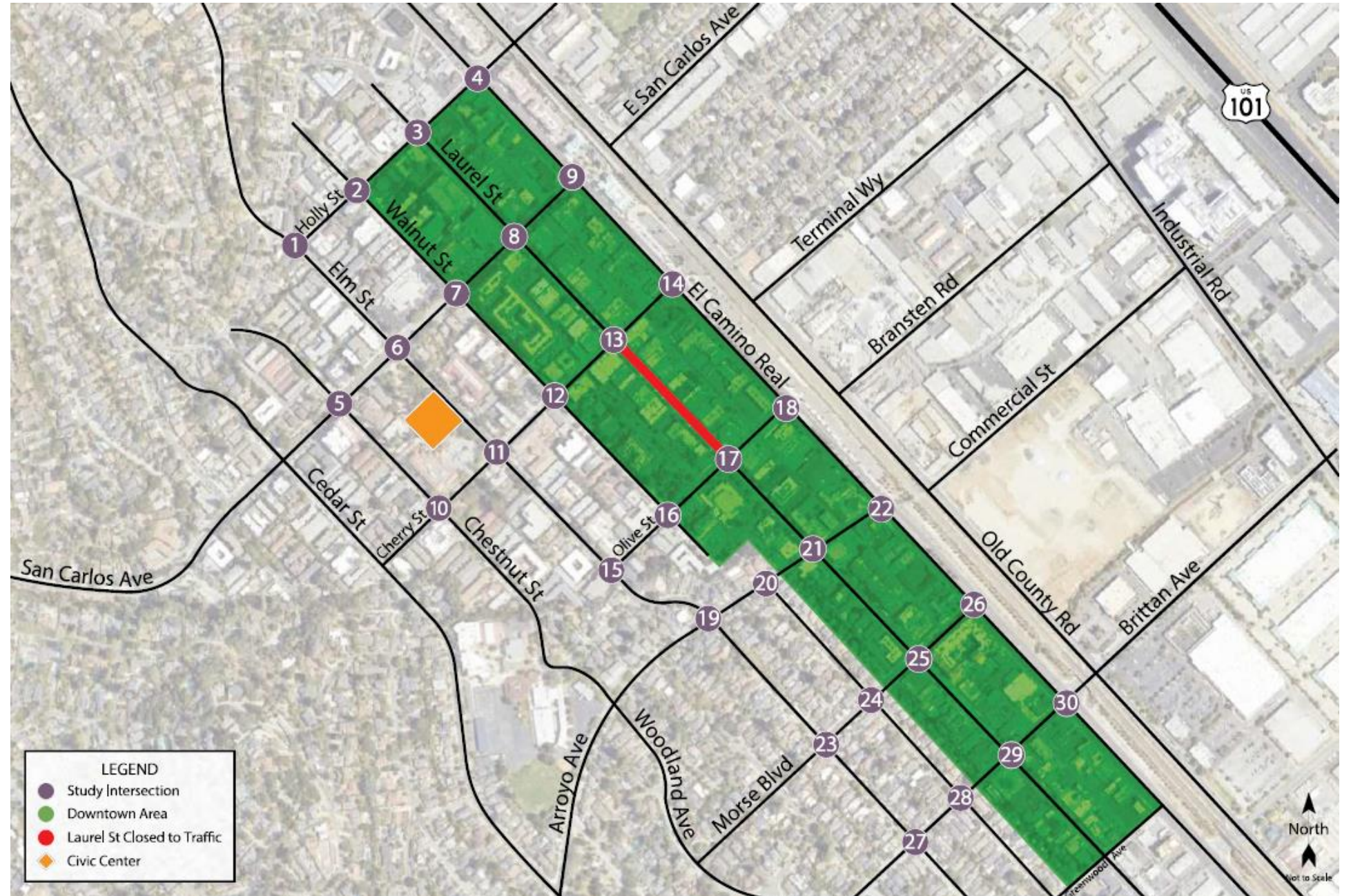
Examine:

- Operations at 30 intersections and street segments
- Existing conditions
- Future scenarios

Future Scenarios – Closures & Road Diets

1. 700 Laurel only
2. 600 and 700 Laurel
3. 600, 700 Laurel + Road Diet on San Carlos Avenue (1100, 1200 blocks)
4. 700 Laurel + Road Diet on San Carlos Avenue (1100, 1200 blocks)

Plus more...



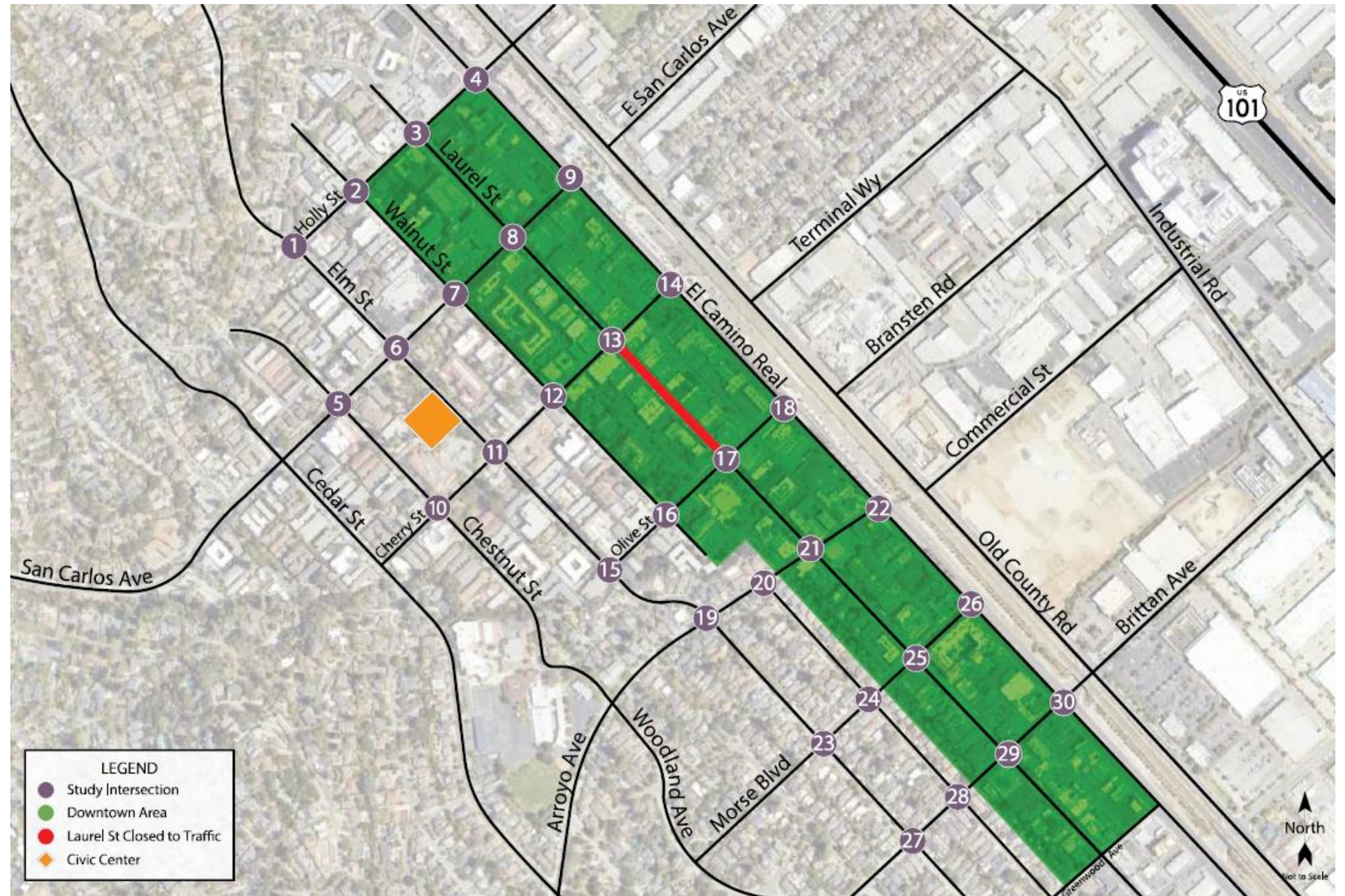
Traffic Study continued

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

Comparative Analysis of Multi-Modal Circulation for Each Scenario

Downtown Traffic Operations Study Report

Timeline: June – November 2023
(operation results by Aug/Sept)



Parking Study, Strategies, & Plan



1. Inventory total parking supply (on-street and off-street)
 2. Document type (unregulated, time limited, loading, disabled, compact, carpool)
 3. Evaluate occupancy (determines peak demand)
 4. Analyze parking usage and turnover rates and patterns
 5. Identify current and future demand
 6. Develop a set of parking and transportation demand management strategies
 7. Address how to manage the demand and supply of parking, tailored by location – duration – and times.
 8. Create a Downtown Parking Management Plan
- Timeline: May 2022 – Spring 2024

Implementation Update



We are thrilled to announce the installation of wall murals and directional signage at the Wheeler Parking Garage in downtown San Carlos.

These enhancements have been designed with the goal of improving the parking experience and ensuring that visitors feel welcomed and guided within the parking garage.

In addition to the murals, we have also installed directional signage that makes navigation a breeze. These signs have been thoughtfully placed to provide clear and concise directions, helping visitors effortlessly find the perfect parking spot. Whether you're a local exploring downtown or a first-time visitor, the signage ensures a stress-free and enjoyable experience for all.



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Questions or Comments?



Work In Progress

Policy Framework

Every Good Plan Starts With a Vision

“A city is not gauged by its length and width, but by the broadness of its vision and the height of its dreams.”

—Herb Caen

Downtown Specific Plan Contents

Vision Statement, based on the community's shared aspirations for downtown.

Guiding Principles (i.e., shared values and priorities that guide policies and implementation), such as creating a place that is strongly connected to San Carlos' unique character and culture and promoting a high-quality walkable and livable environment.

Goals and Policies, including how to make downtown a lively, pedestrian-friendly place, with a genuine sense of place.

Urban Design and Placemaking, such as weaving together public gathering spaces and key landmarks and mobility options; and gateways and wayfinding.

Public Gathering Spaces, including Harrington Park, Laurel Street, and a new public plaza on the 600 block of Laurel Street; and downtown events and public space programming.

Downtown Specific Plan Contents

Streetscape Improvement policies, including street and alley designs, dimensions, emergency access, beautification, amenities, and maintenance.

Mobility/Micro-Mobility Strategies, such as an all-inclusive pedestrian/bicycle/public transit/motorist network and accompanying amenities (e.g., bicycle parking).

Parking regulation and management strategies.

Objective Design Standards (i.e., rules for development), including illustrative graphics; building heights, façade improvements, ground floor uses.

Infrastructure and recommendations for capital improvements (evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of existing public infrastructure and identification of future needs to support the community goals for the next 20 years).

Phasing and implementation strategy to fulfill the plan's goals and vision.

Key ideas from the community

What is most important element or feature you would like to incorporate in the downtown vision?



Vision - DTAC's Working Draft

*Downtown is the heart of San Carlos that provides a **vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, safe, charming, futuristic, and accessible** destination for the community. It is a place for celebration and gathering that offers **diverse and authentic experiences** through a draw of **food, retail, services, art and music** in a visually attractive environment for the growing community. The public realm in downtown provide **inviting** spaces for people **of all ages and cultures**. It is supported by a **sustainable design** and landscaping that supports **ecological and community health and well-being**.*

(programming, places for enjoyment and relaxation, etc.)

Working Draft Guiding Principles

We determine what is most valued, and these shape our goals and policies.

- ✓ A Plan that is responsive to the community aspirations
- ✓ Sense of community (supports local businesses)
- ✓ Celebrate Laurel Street as the Heart of Downtown
- ✓ Vibrant and Attractive Downtown
- ✓ A Local and Regional Destination
- ✓ Connectivity / Accessibility to and from the Downtown, and its relationship to adjacent neighborhoods
- ✓ Celebrate Downtown's public spaces.
- ✓ Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Downtown
- ✓ Embrace and foster walkability, bikeability, and transit access
- ✓ Revitalize Streets and Alleyways to enhance their function and beauty
- ✓ Improve Parking Management and Wayfinding



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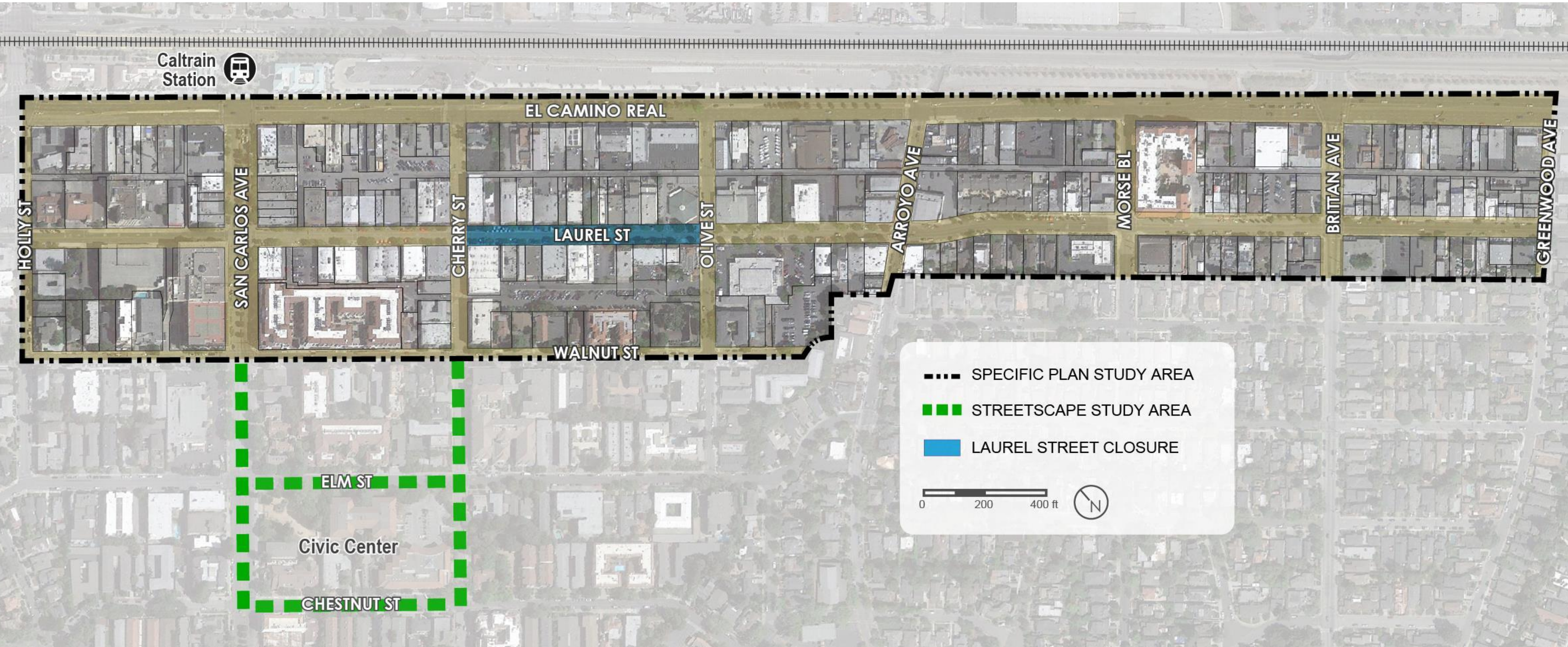
Urban Design Ideas for Remaining Streets

600 and 800 Laurel Street

1100 and 1200 San Carlos Avenue

Other Streets

Specific Plan Area



600 Block, Laurel



800 Block, Laurel



1100 Block, San Carlos Avenue



1200 Block, San Carlos Avenue



People Friendly Streets, Examples



A Woonerf or Shared Street

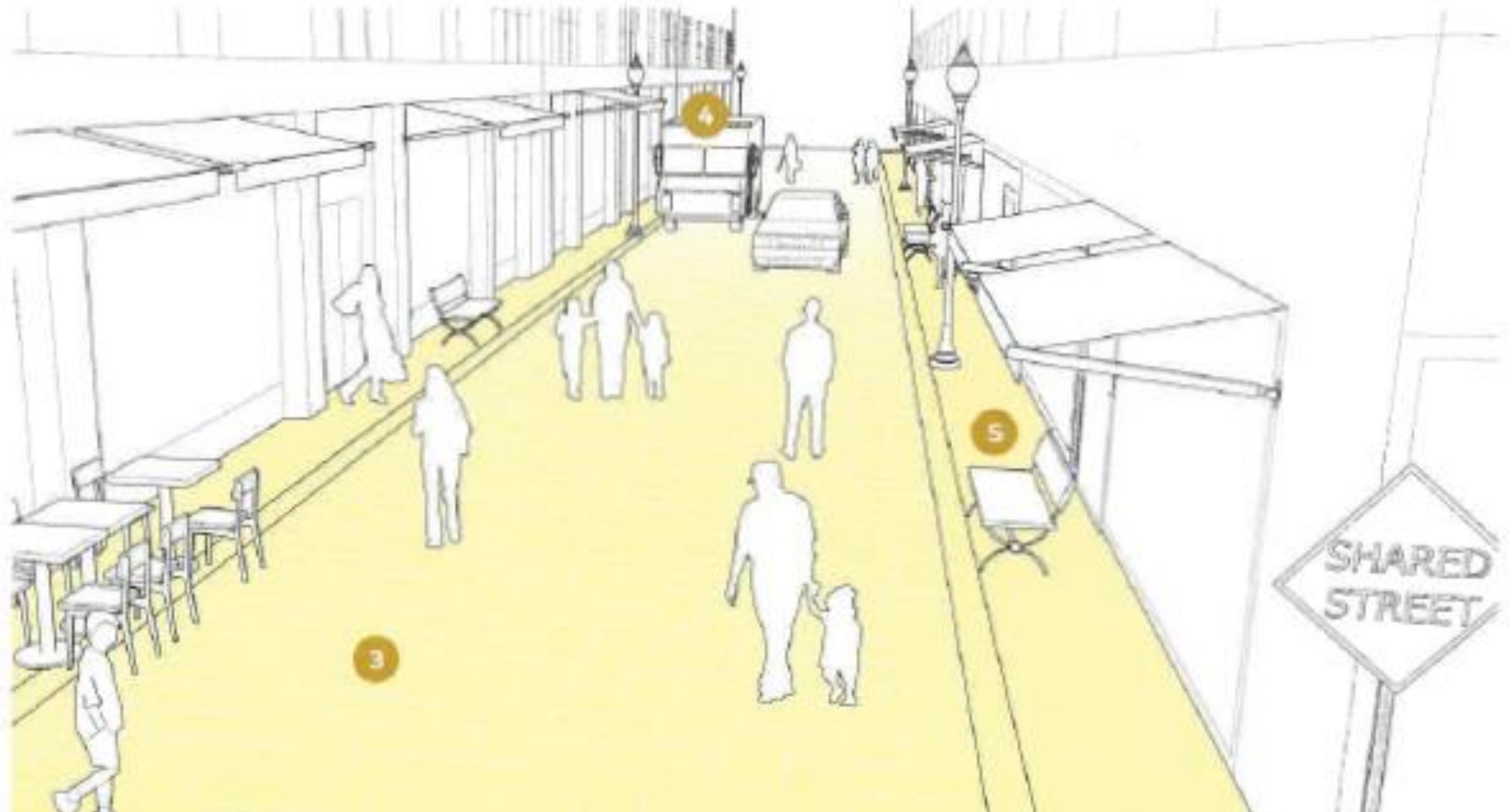
People Friendly Streets



People Friendly Streets



Downtown Shared Street



Downtown 2-way Street





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Questions or Comments?

DTAC Meeting Agenda

5. Comments from the Public

DTAC Meeting Agenda

6. Wrap Up/Next Steps



DTAC Meeting Agenda

7. Adjourn Meeting

