

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

**My Fort,
My City,
My Say.**

Vibrant **DOWNTOWN**



CITY OF
FORT SASKATCHEWAN
FORTSASK.CA

July 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From March 1 to 28, 2019, community stakeholders in Fort Saskatchewan participated in an engagement process focused on the future of Fort Saskatchewan's downtown. The engagement process comprised two public workshops hosted over two days, and an online questionnaire available for a period of two weeks.

The workshops were promoted through a variety of newspaper, radio, electronic signage, email, and online advertisements. This included the Fort Record, Sturgeon Creek Post and the City's Facebook and Twitter accounts. More targeted email invitations were shared with downtown business and property owners, as well as through the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business council.

The process was guided by the question *"how can we make downtown more vibrant in the next three years?"* Vibrancy was defined as:

- 1. More people downtown
- 2. People come downtown more frequently
- 3. People stay downtown longer

A three-year period was used, as such a time frame would support the quick testing of ideas with minimal investment of money and time. Across two workshops, 33 participants developed seven unique models depicting their ideas for a more vibrant downtown. These ideas were then shared in

an online questionnaire, in which 548 participants provided their feedback on. The online questionnaire was shared via the City's social media accounts, the Fort record as well as the City's website.

With the community's desired outcome for Downtown confirmed, City Administration can now develop a Downtown Action Plan that aligns with these desires. Ultimately their hope is to present these desires to Council for approval and to secure the necessary resources to deliver the actions outlined.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Fort Saskatchewan is developing an **Action Plan** for our downtown. The Plan is driven by a community-led vision for downtown, itself informed by public engagement activities.

From March 1 to 28, 2019, the project team led an engagement process which provided stakeholders the opportunity to participate in a dialogue about the future of downtown. The engagement process comprised two public workshops hosted over two days, and an online questionnaire available over a two week span.

The engagement dialogue was driven by a simple question: *"how might we make downtown more vibrant in the next three years?"* While many visioning processes seek to achieve impact over a long-term time horizon, the City of Fort Saskatchewan intends to focus on actions which are more short-term in nature to quickly generate and build upon momentum towards downtown redevelopment. This approach aligns with the stated direction of the City's **2018 - 2022 Strategic Plan**, which emphasizes a new approach to downtown redevelopment.



Downtown Action Plan Inputs:

The public feedback contained in this **What We Heard report** is one of four factors which will be used to develop the **Downtown Action Plan**. The City of Fort Saskatchewan will also take into consideration direction from existing planning policy, local market data and best practices in downtown vibrancy.

Once complete, the Downtown Action Plan will serve as a decision-making tool for City of Fort Saskatchewan Council and administration as they work to create momentum and increase opportunities for downtown Fort Saskatchewan.



2.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2.1 RAPID PROTOTYPING

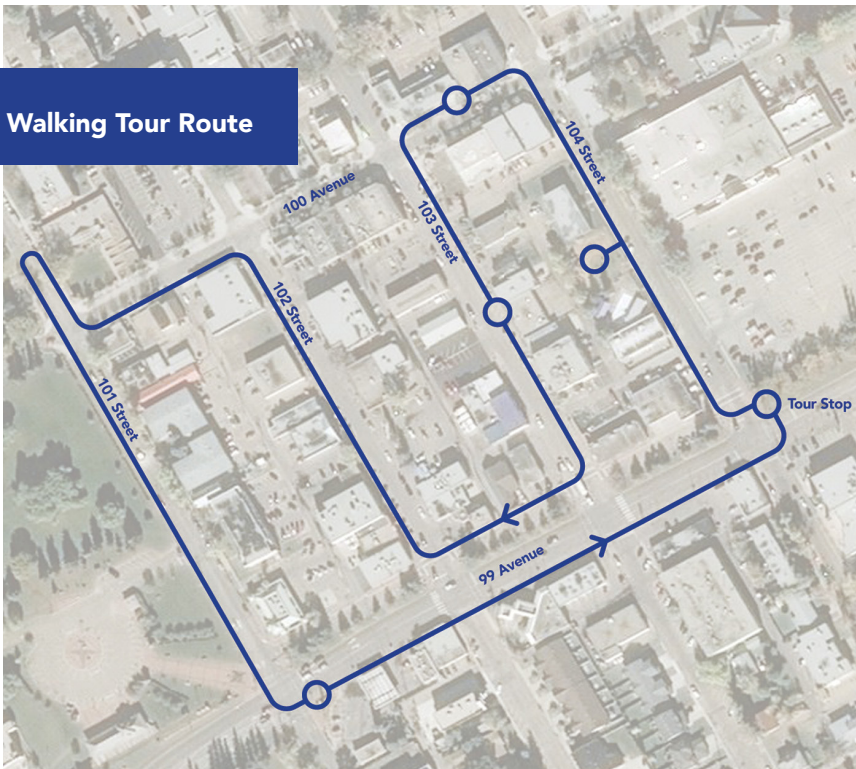
To begin the **Downtown Action Plan** engagement process, the City of Fort Saskatchewan invited members of the public and downtown business owners to participate in a “rapid prototyping” workshop. The workshop space was designed to encourage the rapid exchange and generation of ideas among small groups.



What is rapid prototyping?

Rapid prototyping is a process to quickly translate ideas into working physical models, share them for feedback, learn, and improve.

Walking Tour Route



To prepare participants for the rapid prototyping work, each session began with a walking tour of downtown Fort Saskatchewan. The tour included five stops, and spanned the area between 99 and 100 Avenue, and 101 to 104 Street. At each stop, the project team held a discussion about the area's land use patterns, building form, physical access, and aesthetic quality.

Following the walking tour, participants began the rapid prototyping process, guided by a prompt to consider *“how can we make downtown more vibrant in the next three years?”*

The workshops were held on March 1 and 2, 2019 at the Pioneer House in Fort Saskatchewan.

The workshop defined vibrancy as:

1. More people downtown
2. People come downtown more frequently
3. People stay downtown longer

A three-year period was used, as such a time frame would support the quick testing of ideas with minimal investment of money and time. Through a testing process, the City and its partners can gauge interest in an idea before investing in something more permanent or costly.

In smaller groups, participants brainstormed ideas for improving the downtown, based on the listed criteria for vibrancy. This brought individuals with different ideas and perspectives together to listen and learn from one another. Participants were encouraged to reflect back on their observations from the walking tour to inform the ideas they generated in this activity.

Discussion around opportunities for downtown vibrancy were dynamic and uncovered many new and unique possibilities including - playing music next to the Legacy Park ice rink, commissioning ice sculptures, hosting Christmas markets, linking into the cross-country ski trails, providing a central fountain or water element, facilitating street hockey tournaments, providing space for food trucks, and generally investing in ways that create a warm and bright

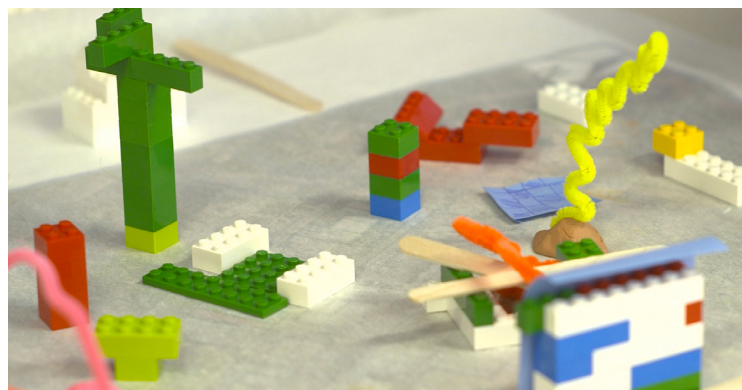
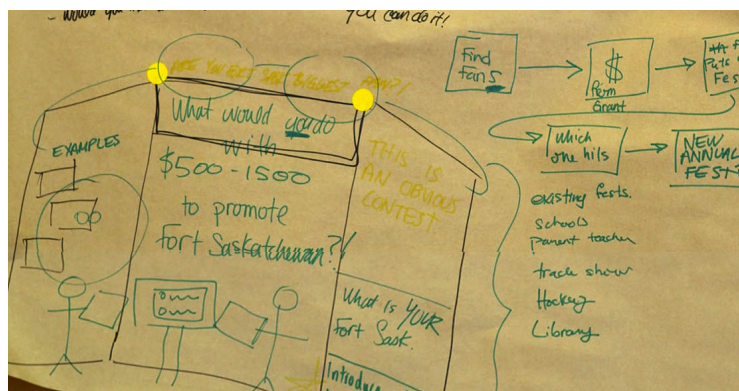
atmosphere. Other ideas included a lights display tour, whereby businesses showcase a lighting display in their front windows. Creating healthy competition among business owners. It was also broadly stated that architecture cohesiveness and more housing are going to be key to downtown's vibrancy.

Across two workshops, the 33 participants used their many ideas to formulate seven unique models depicting a more vibrant downtown.

Though each of the seven prototypes was unique, the project team found recurrent ideas across the participant-created downtown solutions. Together, the seven prototypes consistently exhibited ten distinct ideas:

Activate Vacant Lots. In partnership with The City, provide temporary and pop-up activities on empty sites downtown. E.g. movie screenings, fire pits, community gardens, public art installations.

"To make it as inexpensive as possible as well as portable so materials can relocate to another lot, in the case the activated lot is redeveloped into something else"

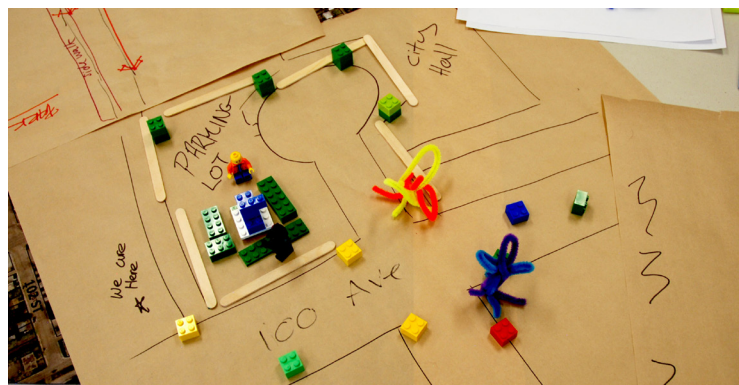


Beautify Vacant Lots. Require minimum landscaping on empty sites downtown. E.g. planter boxes, lighting, art.

"Making everyone feel welcome and comfortable downtown so they stay around"

Activate Legacy Park. Provide temporary and permanent programming in legacy park. E.g. ice rink, cafe, warming huts.

Re-Design Central Gathering Plaza. Convert the north end of 102 Street at City Hall into a formal public plaza with a focal point. It would be flexible for diverse programs and activities to take place.



Develop Downtown Fort App. Create a web application for phones that provides information and updates on downtown happenings.

Tom

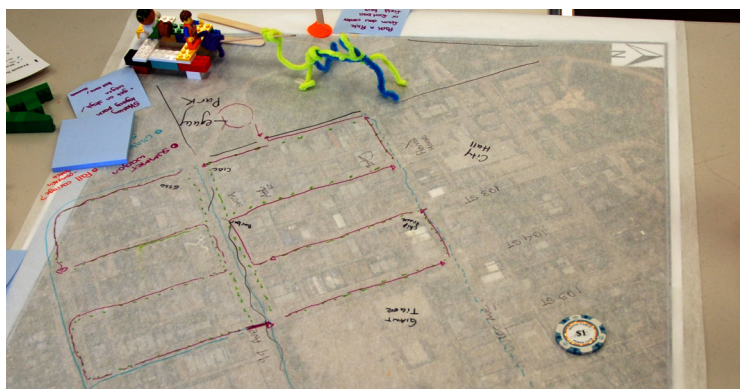
Historic Downtown

Restaurants

- Artisan Kitchen
- Downtown

Downtown APP Promoted

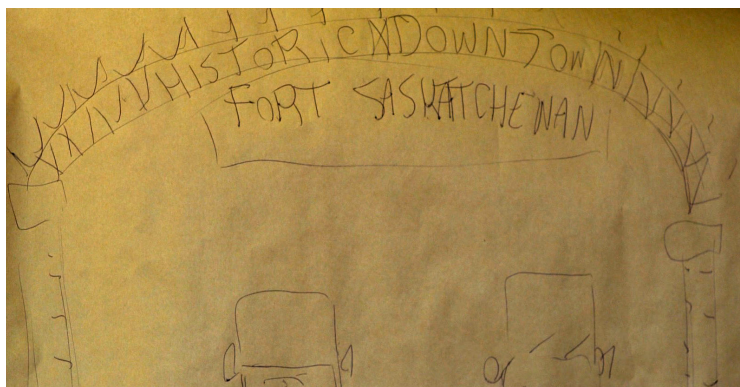
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Offer Downtown Tours. Run horse-drawn wagon and sleigh rides through the downtown, year-round. These tours will be catered to diverse audiences and could have themes such as restaurant/ pub hopping.

Strengthen Connection to/from the River Valley.
Provide safe and obvious non- motorized routes between the river valley and downtown.

"Some sort of markers along routes, to remind people of retail and restaurants downtown, not to turn around and go home"



Install a Gateway Sign. Develop a noticeable sign that indicates one has arrived in Downtown Fort Saskatchewan, located along 99 Avenue at 101 Street and 108 Street.

Install a Highway Sign. Install a sign advertising Downtown and Downtown businesses along Highway 15 at the intersection of Highway 15 and 101 Street.

"Something on the highway that businesses could host their shop names on"

Other actions that were identified by multiple groups in the prototyping workshop, included:

- Grants and incentives for businesses to create events
- Grants and incentives for businesses to add public art
- Grants and incentives for businesses for sidewalk cafes and patios
- Enhanced decorative lighting along downtown streets all year around
- More garbage bins
- Improved maintenance. E.g emptying garbage, changing lights, fixing sidewalks, etc
- More seating
- Public art
- Collaboration with volunteers and service groups for program delivery
- Improved communication between the City and the downtown businesses
- Remove barriers to opening restaurant patios
- More bike parking
- Business window lighting program

2.2 ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

To reach beyond the workshop participants to connect with a broader group of stakeholders, the team developed an online questionnaire. The questionnaire provided an opportunity for those who did not participate in the workshop to rate the actions and solutions which emerged from the prototyping process. Although rapid prototyping allowed for the quick development of ideas, the results of the activity could appear to outsiders as simply a mass of popsicle sticks, play-doh, and plastic blocks.

For that reason, the project team translated the core prototyping ideas into a written, descriptive form. This ensured participants in the online questionnaire were best able to evaluate the underlying ideas.

The questionnaire also provided participants the opportunity to share their own ideas for developing and supporting a vibrant downtown Fort Saskatchewan.

In total, 548 people responded to the online questionnaire, with 84% of respondents completing the questionnaire in full.



3.0 ONLINE ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Results from the online engagement reinforced prototyping workshop outcomes. Though the questionnaire provided space for participants to share other ideas for action, most participants used the opportunity to reiterate the importance of their selections from the list of 10 actions. Quotes drawn from questionnaire responses are shared throughout this section.

3.1 LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH IDEAS

From the key ideas generated by workshop participants, the following outlines ideas from most net agreement (combined strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree responses) to the least, by questionnaire participants. The three most supported ideas, in order of magnitude, were (1) Activate Legacy Park (89.2%), (2) Activate Vacant Lots (87.8%), and (3) Beautify Vacant Lots (85%). Enhancing the Downtown / River Connection placed fourth, with a notable 80% of participants exhibiting support.

On the other side of the spectrum, the Gateway Sign action received only 47.8% net support, while Downtown Sleigh Tours received 56.5% net agreement.

REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES FROM ONLINE FEEDBACK

“...to create an old town pedestrian shopping feel, vacant lots should be at least seeded with grass by the town, invest in historical murals depicting our past and if that is too expensive encourage high school art classes to create murals around town on buildings as part of their curriculum....”

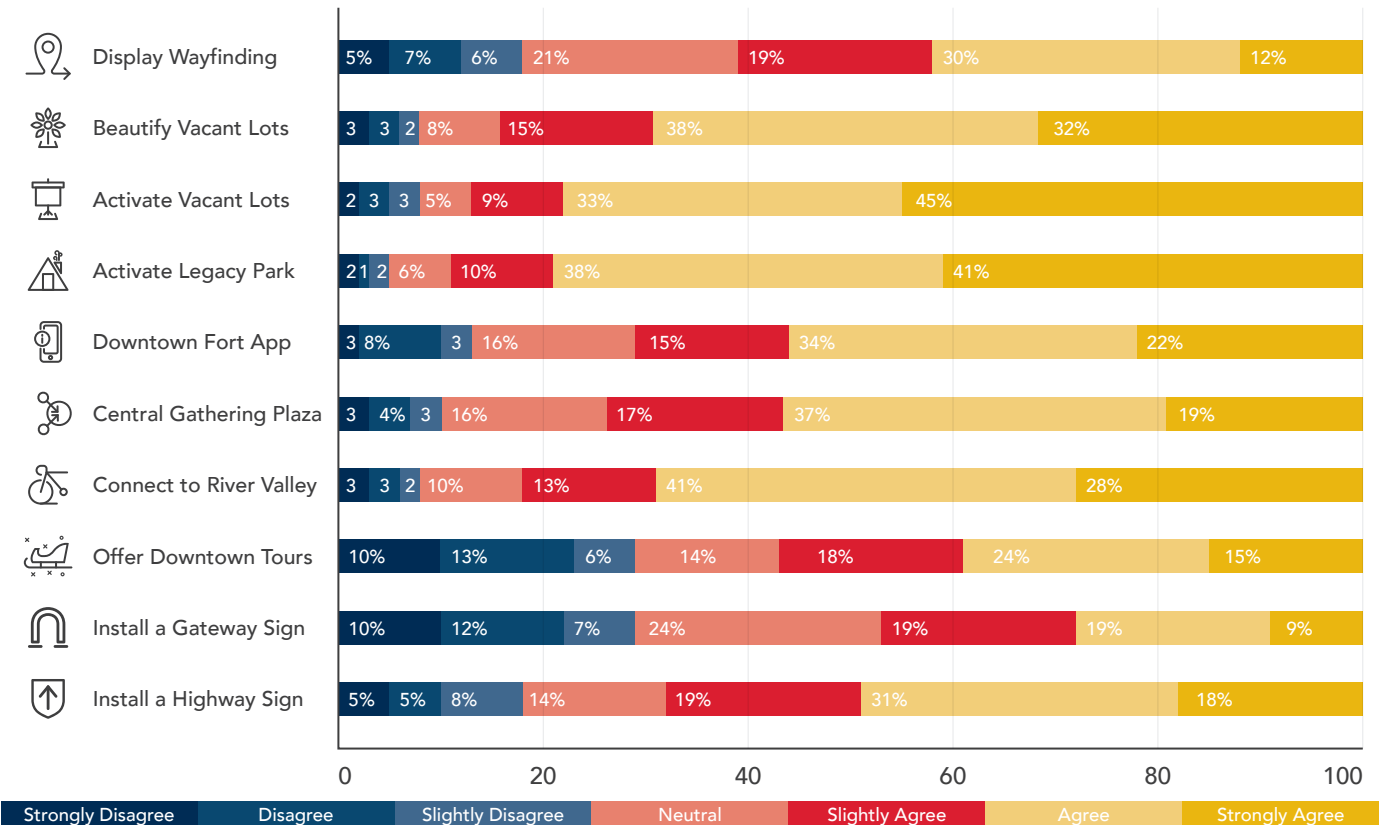
“Coffee shops / Cafe, trails for cross country skiing, vendor markets, huts / shades with benches in Legacy park, more events for kids at legacy park”

“Downtown can be a local tourist destination if properly invested. But restaurants seem to struggle. With the river valley we should be able to attract and active market and then use that to encourage people to stay and have lunch and invest in these local businesses.”

“We already have too many signs as drivers don’t need any more distractions from their driving that should be their priority.”

“Isn’t there already a sign on 99, indicating you have entered downtown so I was confused by that option being listed.”

“Do something different and weird that no other city does”



Online questionnaire results.

3.2 PREFERENCE OF ACTIONS

The questionnaire also asked respondents to consider other actions that would support downtown economic development.

Here, respondents primarily focused on actions which would improve the vibrancy of downtown Fort Saskatchewan. The majority of questionnaire respondents focused on grants for businesses, with two of the three top ideas focused on grants to implement sidewalk café and patio spaces (71.4 percent support), and to create events (47.8 percent support).

The second-most popular idea from ten options was to remove barriers that limit the spread of restaurant patios, a theme echoed in the workshop sessions (62.4 percent support).

In a close fourth place was the provision of enhanced decorative lighting year-round on downtown streets, at 44.7% percent support. The remaining six actions clustered in a range of 10.7 to 29.4 percent support.

REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES

"Incentives to bring new businesses in, businesses to stay open later, better advertisement of the businesses that are here"

"Incentives for more business/restaurants/ bars to open so that there is a reason to go downtown in the first place"

3.3 NEW IDEAS

Several other ideas surfaced from the online questionnaire's open-ended question of "are there any other actions you believe would increase vibrancy in the downtown area in the next three years?". Respondents provided a variety of ideas including: hosting more events and programs downtown, drawing on local art and artists to lend a unique look and feel, building more residential and mixed-use development to support downtown with a strong population base, and increasing parking options.

REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES

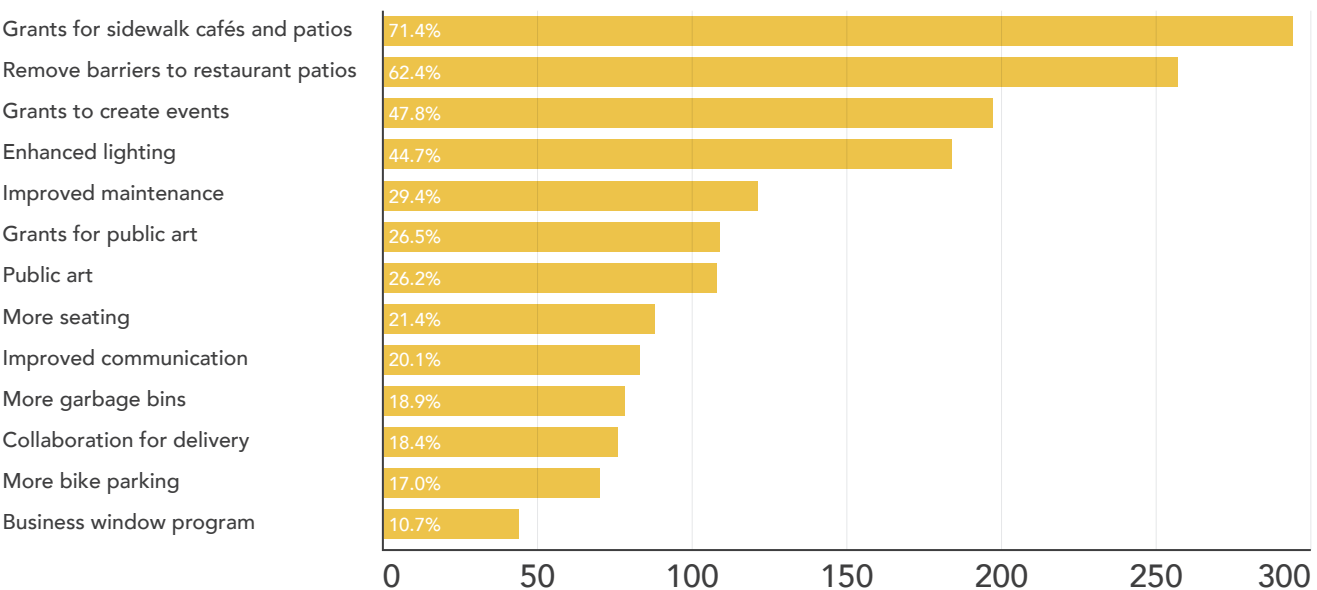
"The more diverse activities scheduled, the better"

"More LOCAL fort based art. A downtown art exhibit or local artist gallery that has regular hours and can showcase the talents and creations of local artists unique to Fort Saskatchewan."

"encourage residential unit development by loosening restrictions from single family residences, limit commercial retail development outside of downtown corridor until the current storefronts and restaurants are more fully occupied with successful businesses - people need a reason to come downtown"

"Turn a vacant lot or two into parking lots visibility is very poor on a normal business day at any intersection crossing 100 Ave I feel like more parking options would improve that..."

"Do something different and weird that no other city does"



Online questionnaire results.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

With engagement now complete, City of Fort Saskatchewan administration will begin to develop a **Downtown Action Plan** reflective of public feedback, established planning policy, and best practices for a vibrant downtown. Once a Downtown Action Plan is complete, administration will present their work to Fort Saskatchewan City Council for approval and secure resources to deliver the outlined actions. Work on the Strategy will be completed through summer 2019, with anticipated Council approval in the fall of 2019.

Stay in touch!

For more information on the project and to stay in touch with the process, please visit:

fortsask.ca/en/your-city-hall/downtown-strategy.aspx

Thank you to all who participated! We are grateful for your time and appreciate the energy you have put into planning for the future of Fort Saskatchewan's downtown.



APPENDIX A ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE



Fort Saskatchewan: Downtown Economic Strategy

My Fort. My City. My Say.

The City of Fort Saskatchewan is developing an Economic Development Strategy for our downtown. The Strategy will be based on our community vision for downtown through our public engagement activities.

On March 1 and 2 residents and downtown business owners participated in two workshops. Both sessions included a downtown walking tour and activities to answer the question, “How can we make downtown more vibrant in the next 3 years?”

For the workshop 'vibrancy ' was defined as:

1. More people downtown
2. People come downtown more frequently
3. People stay downtown longer

The reason the challenge was framed in being doable in 3 years was that such ideas are conducive to smaller financial and time investments. By testing an idea the City and its partners can see whether there is enough interest in an idea before investing in something more permanent or costly.

Now, you can have your say by taking this online survey! The survey lets you rate the actions and solutions that workshop participants came up with.

Please provide your thoughts on the workshop ideas and include your ideas for developing and supporting a vibrant downtown in Fort Saskatchewan.

IDEAS & ACTIONS

1. Display Wayfinding Information. Install permanent and temporary signs for navigating into and around downtown.

Strongly
Disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Slightly
Disagree

☐

Neutral

☐

Slightly
Agree

☐

Agree

☐

Strongly
Agree

☐

2. Beautify Vacant Lots. Require minimum landscaping on empty sites downtown. E.g. planter boxes, lighting, art.

Strongly
Disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Slightly
Disagree

☐

Neutral

☐

Slightly
Agree

☐

Agree

☐

Strongly
Agree

☐

3. Activate Vacant Lots. In partnership with The City, provide temporary and pop-up activities on empty sites downtown. E.g. movie screenings, fire pits, community gardens, public art installations.

Strongly
Disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Slightly
Disagree

☐

Neutral

☐

Slightly
Agree

☐

Agree

☐

Strongly
Agree

☐

4. Activate Legacy Park. Provide temporary and permanent programming in Legacy Park. E.g. ice rink, cafe, warming huts

Strongly
Disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Slightly
Disagree

☐

Neutral

☐

Slightly
Agree

☐

Agree

☐

Strongly
Agree

☐

9. Install a Gateway Sign. Develop a noticeable sign that indicates one has arrived in Downtown Fort Saskatchewan, located along 99 Avenue at 101 Street and 108 Street.

Strongly
Disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Slightly
Disagree

☐

Neutral

☐

Slightly
Agree

☐

Agree

☐

Strongly
Agree

☐

10. Install a Highway Sign. Install a sign advertising Downtown and Downtown businesses along Highway 15 at the intersection of HWY 15 and 101 Street.

Strongly
Disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Slightly
Disagree

☐

Neutral

☐

Slightly
Agree

☐

Agree

☐

Strongly
Agree

☐

YOUR IDEAS!

What other actions do you think would make the biggest impact on downtown's vibrancy? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Grants and incentives for businesses to create events
- ☐ Grants and incentives for businesses to add public art
- ☐ Grants and incentives for businesses for sidewalk cafes and patios
- ☐ Enhanced decorative lighting along downtown streets all year around
- ☐ More garbage bins
- ☐ Improved maintenance. E.g emptying garbage, changing lights, fixing sidewalks, etc.
- ☐ More seating
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Collaboration with volunteers and service groups for program delivery
- ☐ Improved communication between the City and the downtown businesses
- ☐ Remove barriers to opening restaurant patios
- ☐ More bike parking
- ☐ Business window lighting program

Are there other actions you believe would increase vibrancy in the downtown area in the next 3 years? Please list as many actions as your desire, placing a comma in between each new idea.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to the development of the Downtown Economic Development Strategy!

APPENDIX B ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE VERBATIM COMMENTS



Restraunts

Go back and review the existing downtown plan and action plan lots of good info already there, need more people living downtown to support businesses so need to density, events downtown will draw people down but they have to be quality events and the downtown businesses need to support those events by being open

Art, art festivals, support for the arts, public art, art walks, murals

More family events, street fairs etc. Live music every Saturday, doorprize events, etc. Themed outdoor workshops ie. Build your own planter box or food themed ones.

More LOCAL fort based art. A downtown art exhibit or local artist gallery that has regular hours and can showcase the talents and creations of local artists unique to Fort Saskatchewan.

grants to improve store fronts, encourage unique businesses to open and participate and be open when activities happen, grants to assist with marketing, encourage tourism, encourage businesses to be ready for visitors

More businesses that would attract people. Jewellery shops, Chinese food restaurants, banks and insurance offices don't scream " come hang out downtown?

something I have heard citizens complain about is parallel parking and why the city doesn't change to angle parking in the downtown core. They have said they avoid downtown because parking is easier in the other shopping areas. To me this should be a big concern for businesses and the city.

More higher density housing, enlarge Tuner Park, get more people living downtown

I think the type and quality of businesses is a major factor in whether I visit downtown. I would love to see more diverse types of restaurants and pubs, more interesting shopfronts, etc.

Events and festivals, street art

Food trucks

Make it nicer . Grant business owners so they can be more comfortable in making there spots nice or even doing advertised things

hours of operation, would be great if businesses where open evenings and weekends

A bigger outdoor pool in the summer for families to enjoy, an arcade/entertainment center for teens

Kid friendly , more flowers , garbage and recycling bins , town light up at Christmas , more outdoor rinks , playground , splash parks everywhere !!! Around the entire City , 1 splash park over on Westpark isn't a thing .

refurbished sidewalks in surrounding areas to make walking to downtown more enjoyable and less treacherous

More downtown living space, condo or appartments

More novelty shops, lower rent

Architectural control, let developors develop, stop restricting improvement, stop trying to preserve the "history", build new, teardown old (1975 isn't historical), pubs, nightlife, residential on-top of commercial, underground parking, mandatory building upkeep, attract chain business, residential density, study other successful developments, study other successful downtowns or streets (Whyte Ave,124st).

Mike music festivals/ folk fest/ art inthe park type events

Only the library draws me downtown and parking there is at a premium at times already. Adding events at the end of 102 st will make it that much less attractive

condos/with shopping complex inside, invite higher end shopping retailers, paint sidewalks differnet colors,have a theme for the whole downtown area to coincide with the earli er fort, have show car night, motorcycle night, peddle bike night, hopescotch night, meet and greet night, lower cost of having a business down town to attact more business,

more bike parking and business window lighting program

More parking is needed. At present a good portion of street parking is taken up by employees of businesses.

Facade grants, let's make out downtown a beautiful place to spend time

Find things to increase volume in the downtown core. Everyone is staying in the peripheries instead of the core because there are so many businesses out the outskirts.

Providing incentives for new stores to open, marketing the downtown core, approving more retail/workshop space as opposed to just service based places

encourage more restaurants to open downtown by, waving building permit fees for the first 3 years, may to September close the main road downtown traffic Friday evening to Sunday to make it easier for outdoor patios, then side streets fill in with

shopping, encourage business to develop their second space to rental for lofts/apartments,

Car shows, street flea markets, more parking (I know hard if not impossible), grants/incentives for businesses to open on weekends or later hours, monthly nonprofit group hosted street dances,

New business incentives, hold more street festivals and bring in activities, host a monthly car show in the summer etc

City should send out quarterly pamphlets out with all the business and their contact information

More evening markets and downtown events during the days as well. Due something with all the empty lots. And more art work

Build a central square with fountain in city hall's parking lot to give the downtown core a center and focal point

community gardens, family friendly businesses

In winter side walks cleaned that enter on to 100 st. , in summer trees on public and private land be trimmed to allow walking into downtown area.

New or modern shops - boutique shops would be nice

Businesses don't last... why is this? Kinneys, Gloria's, blind owl? Why doesn't a nice local place last?

For festivals more parking that is controlled. It is very hard to get in and out of events. Maybe bus picks up large parking lots outside of downtown area.

Concert series downtown with bands that will attract people from outside of fort saskatchewan. If we can't attract people from surrounding areas to come to downtown Ft. Sask (in the way that downtown Edmonton does) it will be hard to permanently improve it. We need to have a strategy in place that makes our downtown an attraction to others currently people most likely don't drive from gibbons, lamont etc. Street performers festival, harvest festival to celebrate the local agricultural community, petrochemical days for the tradesmen and oilfield workers in town, Bring a rodeo to town!!, we need festivals to draw people here to see what we have to offer. Without a Really good reason to come here the downtown won't be revitalized and eventually with the influx of consumers that things such as these festivals will draw more it will be more feasible for business owners to come here. Tax breaks for food pubs and music venues would work well too

Tax advantages for ideal businesses,

Grants and incentives for any new shopping and restaurants.

Provide more parking in vacanty lots, Warm evening nights have music playing through temporary mounted wireless speakers at a comfortable level, Introduce family clothing stores,

Landscaping. Covenants for building styles and facades.

More river activities such as tour boats and dinner tours as well as more paths close to river

close the street off to driving and open it to walking only

Look at other cities and what they have done in small areas to bring business to the area. Parks, benches, beautification, hot dog stands, musicians, jazz nights, rock and roll nights, art nights, etc. If other cities can do it why can we not. More investigation into other cities. Otherwise we are just throwing away good money after bad ideas

Better communication and marketing initiatives

Incentives for businesses to stay on this side of highway,

Lower commercial property tax so small private buisnesses can stay competative and create more jobs

Stores with opening hours not just hit and miss days. I have gone downtown only to find the store I would like o go to isn't open that day. Well, Hello Sherwood Park or Edmonton!

A large fountain in Legacy park where children can play in the water like Legislature grounds in Edmonton, more events like Thursday Farmers markets -suggest changing Farmers markets to Saturday at 1pm as more people will attend on weekend, more advertising on radio or paper as majority of the time we don't know the events are happening, a large pond for wild ducks/geese/birds where people can watch, add playground/spray park at Legacy park.

Make open liquor containers legal so I can drink a beer while enjoying the downtown summer streets

allow more high density housing around the downtown, more people, more businesses, more activity

Redevelopment of 104 Steet Market area, more businesses and green spaces in old mall area

Taxpayers money should not be used to provide grants for profitable business ventures.

Move farmers market to city Hall parking lot to force more people into the downtown core

Live music events, show and shines,

Outdoor pool by legacy park. Better advertising, more activities down town and a pool attached to downtown center as our pool is small for our population seriously. I find it would make Fort Sask more money

Festivals, ice skating,

Provide means to attract more diverse and interesting businesses that will attract people downtown. Many of the buildings are old and not up to the standard people expect today. Many of the existing businesses provide limited services and selection.

Far more near by parking spaces for automobiles. When one drives down main street with no parking anywhere near they just keep going. Sorry for caps BUT ADD at least one more bus route that goes counter clockwise to the current one. If I wish to get to downtown that is not too far away from the public school areas I have to catch a bus the travels around the whole town before getting to the library. NEXT add bus shelters in older areas like you have been doing on the new side of the city. Downtown died starting with the death of the old mall and Walmart moving in to what would become the new Fort Saskatchewan and this area is now becoming what is best called the hood.

Farmers market downtown, music days, local arts & crafts events, hobby festivals, children festivals.

We have a home in the same-sized city in AZ which has one Main Street, similar to 100 Ave in Fort Sask. There are street long events, cut off to public vehicles such as Thursday car show where owners display their old cars & restaurants offer amazing food deals such as \$1 sliders, tacos, etc

Create a Seniors HUB like Sherwood Park next to their Library. I think we need a facility where people over 50 can move into a condo unit and then be able to transfer through their later years by have on-site access to care in your condo such as health care aides after you have surgery or housecleaning or cooking services and then a phase or floor to move to with outstanding quality full care. When people get older and stop driving it becomes difficult to get around so having a mini bus to take seniors to appointments for groceries and shopping would enhance their later years. Sherwood Park has also set up in their HUB area plenty of shopping including organic food and pharmacies across the street from their seniors facility. Having parents in this kind of situation I see how difficult it is getting to appointments and

groceries (bags are too heavy to carry) and if a spouse is ill and they are no longer able to take care of them and they go to a facility, they cannot get to see th (Read More)

Grants and incentives for businesses to have programs of activities, focus on youth engagement to promote future success by generational transference

Lower taxes to attract different businesses

Make this process super transparent - what will happen to my answers, who will make decision how and when etc. Be clear and transparent about the analysis - what's the dollar value of a 'downtown visitor hour' and what are the costs of the measures you propose. Without empowering me with that information, I'm just guessing based on instinct. Finally, I suggest you think less about 'grants and incentives' for downtown and more about 'disincentives' to locating elsewhere, perhaps even levying a 'non-downtown' tax to pay for your schemes.

Destination playground, year round public market,

Better crosswalks, more stop signs on the Brant street, such a awful site when people are all standing outside bars smoking, ban smoking on sidewalks, better parking

Fix sidewalks, owners fix up the parking lots, potholes and half paved parking lots very unattractive.

In previous question it says choose all that apply but you can only pick 5. I wanted 6 choices. I really liked the new downtown market

More anchor stores

work with local museum

Infill Housing Strategy, Allow easier residential development, Elimination of Residential Permit Red Tape, Improve current infrastructure like backalleys overhead power lines and main water sewer lines, NO MORE BUSINESS GRANTS, people want to live in a nice neighborhood not by run down rental housing

encourage businesses to be downtown such as reduced property taxes

Weekly Summer music in the park or in city hall plaza. Get some activities going on the river.

Stop approving developments like shopping area where Walmart is that does not welcome pedestrians at all. They also suck the economic life out of our downtown.

Have more professional businesses downtown. It would bring more people into the downtown if they had to come for some kf

More resturantsc

All of the above. Have the farmers market 2 or 3 evenings and run longer til 8 pm and on weekends.

Historical and Cultural points of interest/self tours

Incentives for new businesses to fill in vacant buildings and lots

None

Spread the word about down town

More public events, allow food trucks and pop up markets, larger farmers market, modern public art

aesthetics are important; seating, lighting, bike parking, but without the businesses to atract people, they will likely not help. Need strong incentives to atract food businesses and shopping!

Cannot click on above items beyond More Garbage Bins. I wanted to click on all items except more bike parking and business window lighting program. Sidewalk needed along roadway going down 101 street from old courthouse to river valley, library wants to open a branch in the south of the city but that would take people away from downtown the library brings people to downtown now, more variety of businesses so that you can do enough here and not need to drive across the highway, more planning and actively encouraging a variety of businesses to the downtown area instead of just letting property owners lease to anyone whether it enhances the downtown or not many businesses do not attract a lot of traffic, leave the bottle depot in downtown but improve the location, make more effort to keep sidewalks clear of snow and leaves and tree branches from private properties and residential blvd maintenance so it is attractive and easy to walk downtown, make it compulsory to remove signage from bu (Read More)

get rid of the "precincts" and just have a common downtown plan, allow a diversity of business (not just retail and boutique) repair shops and things bring people here too

Diversify the business licencing to something other than liquor stores and barber shops to allow succeddful businesses without competition 150 ft away. The stability of down town businesses is a legacy of failed local families that the Council needs to consider for future long term development.

More colours, more pathways and walk ways, increased amount of activities available, increased amount of public engagement, parking options

Give boutique shops incentives to open a shop downtown, more retail stores the more people will go downtown, there needs to be things to do downtown- free skating, good coffee shops, boutique stores, used book store or a Chapters, truck food vendors(more than one), more events -love the fall fair, Canada day celebrations and farmers market - more events like those.

Allow more housing - it seems there is always negativity around new housing. Have businesses stay open later. Perhaps have hours from noon - 9:00 pm. If nothing is open past 6:00 pm it will be very hard to get people to come downtown. I don't want to spend more money on an area that is not going to prosper no matter how much a select group wants it to. The new generation likes the South side because there is more of a night life.

well established businesses (name recognition), quality housing (some apt blocks are dingy), involve the upper-middle class who live in the old downtown (they can afford to support small businesses, the poor that live there cannot), children's playground

Murals, widely advertised art installations or art displays, free skating for kids (if there is any now I don't know about it as it isn't advertised), free family programming to bring families to nearby businesses

Mini golf course, spray park

Diversity in stores, similar to whyte ave, a great place to window shop, lots of public art, plenty of places to stop for seating/restaurant patios

More advertising for public events and programs, more public events and programs period, better parking, transit availability

Increased parking

events

tax break incentive to attract and keep businesses downtown, beautify downtown, relocate carnival downtown

Downtown will survive only if more people live downtown

Designated entertainment district, brewery district, a promenade free from vehicles, restaurants and patios by the river or on it.

less restrictive development, more high density affordable business space

Clarify by local media, the zoning bylaws regarding upgrading/rebuilding and modernizing existing residences. It is not fair to longtime residents to restrict what they can build on their own property

The more diverse activities scheduled, the better

We already have too many signs as drivers don't need any more distractions from their driving that should be their priority.

Welcome people to our beautiful city. Hotel discounts at local restaurants?

Build Apartments or condos on Legacy park land to actually get people to live downtown

Work with store owners, stop running business into the ground, ease up on ridiculous bylaws and propaganda

I'm all for this increase and vibrancy but I hope everyone is mindful of the regulations set out by AGLC, the MGA and the SCA concerning alcohol in a public space, occupant load increases on patios and the possibility of taxing our emergency response people when large groups gather. Land use bylaws may also need to be reviewed to take into consideration the changes you are proposing. So before you change or promise these changes, I hope that someone has taken into consideration the men and women who have to enforce the laws within our community

More event postings and updates on happenings, businesses on social media

Later business hours, street dances,

theme weeks

Allow more multifamily dwellings

Horse drawn carriage, rickshaws, public art from residents

Stop catering to small numbered self interest residents who oppose every high density type development. Had the city helped to TrueType attract this type of development during this last 10-15 yrs we would not be still talking about how to solve the problem as it would have solved it self. The area near the newly constructed Fort need commercial development to house restaurants coffee shop type business. I will never sit in a parking lot type patio of an American franchise business across the highway and eat or have drinks. Should be able to bike to downtown for the best view from a patio. Honestly it's all ya got here in this place. Stop with these silly little surveys and get on with infill development before another condo (res or commercial) gets built in another grain field!

More downtown parking after hours for more businesses

It would be lovely to see some recycling bins instead of just garbage cans. I hate having to carry or throw out bottles and cans,

Paint buildings from a certain approved palette,

More housing/apartments/senior centres

More pubs, or taverns. Also known franchises like Starbucks . Adding a artisan

Less hair salons, Less liquor stores, Feasible rent, Hours of operation to suit those you are looking for feedback from...cant shop or do much when they close at the same time most get off work, Barber shops hair salons dont quite cut it for vibrancy, shut down vehicle traffic and offer businesses that want to open incentives to do it downtown then your carriage and wagon rides may be a success, music, lights, art, festivals

The vacant lots and unkempt buildings really detract from the downtown experience. It makes our city look grubby

Sports court in legacy park, modernize playgrounds in turner park, park in legacy park, OUTDOOR POOL in legacy/ turner park

Community engagement with city (get to know your city staff and such / rcmp / peace officers / sheriffs / councilors / program coordinators)

Permit family fun runs by closing roads in downtown.

NO MORE CHURCHS, more government offices and services, more places and stores for seniors.

Improved public transit (more routes from other parts of the city, increased frequency of routes), denser housing near/in downtown (like the apartments being built at Fort Station) so that it's more convenient for those residents to shop downtown than it would be to go across the highway

Coffee shops/ Cafe, trails for cross country skiing, vendor markets, huts/ shades with benches in Legacy park, more events for kids at legacy park

Downtown is not visible from the highways. Create downtown feel before going downtown- focus on the story and why a person should experience downtown. You could live in fort Sask and never go there- the compelling why is NOT there.

I actually tried to choose more of the options above, but I couldn't. Almost all would apply. Also a feedback are would be great too.

More things for children to do throughout the week days,

Coffee shop, local concerts

Space & Science Center, New Movie Theater,

More diverse and useful business'. Stricter distances boundaries common business, downtown is flooded with similar stores/shops.

a walking tour where one obtains beads to build a pandora style bracelet; they obtain beads by visiting supporting businesses and pay a fee up front to obtain the bracelets making the beads at businesses free. Nanton does this and it sells out every year

diversify the Business Types

encourage residential unit development by loosening restrictions from single family residences, limit commercial retail development outside of downtown corridor until the current storefronts and restaurants are more fully occupied with successful businesses - people need a reason to come downtown

Find a developer to build high end high rise (glass, concrete and steel)

more parking

Do something different and weird that no other city does

Encourage franchise shops (ie coffee, etc, something with regular expected guaranteed hours) to compliment and balance small businesses, encourage businesses to have certain expected hours so customers have a guarantee when they will be open, promote an "Old Fort" downtown theme be it the street signage or shop fronts or "gate" into downtown... this has been accomplished in big and small communities such as Lacombe or Scottsdale (take advantage of our origins as a community), Christmas time encourage businesses to invest in lights to go across the streets and greenery etc to create an old town pedestrian shopping feel, vacant lots should be at least seeded with grass by the town, invest in historical murals depicting our past and if that is to expensive encourage high school art classes to create murals around town on buildings (food bank, Canadian plumbing) as part of their curriculum (Redwater has one), enforce more stringent expectations on cleanliness of businesses (weeds, sidew (Read More)

I believe our theme is suppose to Historical, provide grants so business can accent there properties with wooden timber, like you see in many towns in Alberta, it also

provides a downtown look. City Hall needs similar timber accenting other than the front entrance it doesn't have much appeal.....this is the centre of our city, the post card for example, every time I pass by i feel we have missed the boat. This would help to encourage growth, a mixed bag of stores that all look different without any theme does absolutely nothing to entice new business. I think a stairwell from the rv park area up to the street would also attract many people who want to workout.

More downtown living, ex apartments condos, hang out place for teens downtown,

Turn a vacant lot or two into parking lots visibility is very poor on a normal business day at any intersection crossing 100 Ave I feel like more parking options would improve that, once parking lots are created remove the parking stall surrounding the blind intersections.

Development of Market Square, Retail clothing stores and restaurants downtown, Bigger Tim Hortons downtown, green spaces with seating

advertise, advertise, advertise

Encourage small business growth with incentives of free billboard advertising, last years downtown market was very disappointing need area for public seating and cover

More nightlife. There are only two restaurants/bars/pubs/venues in the downtown area right now. They should be supported.

Cheaper rent for local businesses

Attracting more popular businesses to downtown Fort (restaurants, shopping, etc.)

It's about the culture experience. Creating those gathering points in downtown. Especially like incorporating the city plaza into an activity/hosting venue for events. MakingDT walkable bikeable.

Activities, music, more shopping, boutiques

Revitalizing downtown is a waste of money, businesses don't want to go there because they want to follow the bigger businesses across the highway, the idea of a vibrant downtown in fort sask is a pipe dream that will only cost taxpayers money, use the money to add onto the Dow and add another arena.

Bring in businesses that are open later than 5 pm Monday to Friday; Get rid of or fix up the older buildings (ie: the brant hotel, Gasland);

Don't expand the campground., Make the owners of old/rundown looking buildings keep up the exterior. For example peeling paint., Empty lots shouldn't look neglected.,

Stop new commercial development in all other areas of town until the buildings in downtown are filled again with businesses.

As businesses close for Reno's or moves they seem to fail so a small grant for PR to the business would help their bottom line

More local restaurants non chain

Encourage boutique stores, much like camrose/stony plain. Better advertising. Most new residents aren't aware of the downtown

Please make the area more attractive to businesses, a lot of people live around the downtown area and love to have great businesses within walking distance.

Get more important stores downtown so people are required to go to the area more frequently, clean up and brighten dead areas/emptiness, get outside speakers to play music/ or fort radio during the day to help liven it up and create a better atmosphere.

As indicated by my selections, out door, on-street activities would be best.

Encourage building new apartments,condos to get more people in the area.

Downtown can be a local tourist destination if properly invested. But restraunts seem to struggle. With the river valley we should be able to attract and active market and then use that to encourage people to stay and have lunch and invest in these local businesses. Tie this in with a quality farmers market. Look at what St. Albert does and white ave. Those are heavily congested areas. We should be able to attract some of there market if done right.

Create an atmosphere that sets the feel of downtown apart from the commercial feel of the other business areas of the city, wall plaqu

Isn't there already a sign on 99, indicating you have entered downtown so I was confused by that option being listed. The city did a great job of adding lighting and new trees to 1 street, and you can sure see the difference. However downtown is not just one street and we need to see that spread out to more streets.

We need more population in the downtown area and increased density in the older area of downtown. Council needs to allow more infill housing in the older areas. Allow splits of larger lots into more affordable housing.

Grants for more family orientated buildings for a church group and other community groups that will grow with the neighbourhood.

Continue to fill all kinds of businesses downtown. Including more restaurants, more social events and small businesses.

more activities and events

Winter patios, a four seasons playground, interactive art that can be played on or with, more markets, buskers, live music on the street, a pedestrian only street, food festivals,

Tax breaks for businesses that open or currently exist downtown. Downtown has so much potential to be a really cool place to be.

Less rent from developers to keep new ideas around for the long haul

Incentives to bring new businesses in, businesses to stay open later, better advertisement of the businesses that are here,

More specialty businesses like quilt store, try and talk some businesses like art store to relocate to the downtown, good quality shoe store, ladies apparel, and other stores that encourage people to come and walk from store to store, stop and eat and then do more shopping.

Cheaper rent, live music, patios, clothing stores,

more stores to invite customers to the downtown area.....there is not much downtown to draw in customers to spend their money there.....

would not let me select more than 5

I really liked the idea about downtown sleigh rides by horse drawn carriage.

There have to be businesses that attract people the current collection is fairly sad. You probably need a sign to tell you that you are now downtown as it currently is unrecognizable as such. As the entrance to downtown 101st Street is totally inadequate. I don't think a single building in the area stands out as owners taking pride in the place - this includes potentially the most boring city hall in the province, the bears den, the whole of 100 avenue. The economics has to be there fore patios and outdoor dining council can't just decide we should have patios and throw grants at it to make it work. As to beautifying vacant lots set a standards of an acceptable minimum and a desirable level of maintenance and if below the minimum add a tax surcharge and if maintained above the desirable level a tax rebate. This would do 2 things improve the appearance of downtown and will cause some to sell or develop

empty lots. And while your at it stop approving cinder block boxes nothing vibrant (Read More)

More Christmas Decorations (ie. lights) around downtown during xmas season, more Food Trucks during summer, more events like car shows (ie. Canada Day car show is great), more promotion of the history of the Historical Fort Saskatchewan, tear down old businesses that make downtown look rundown (ie. old CDN tire store)

More restaurants are needed, decrease rent so people can add more local businesses, more needs to be done to attract more businesses, more businesses means more people will be attracted to the downtown core, more parking is also needed especially if you want to get more events happening

Murals, better lighting, more events, proper advertising and communication for events, more evening/night events, art walks, allow street performers/buskers, Events created on Facebook so people actually hear about them, aesthetically pleasing spaces with benches and landscaping (people will come to take pics there for Instagram)

Support the night life - more transportation options to and from downtown

New development incorporating housing and businesses together, build up, tear down old and have a plan.

Different types of buisness there like small knick knacknshops etc

Downtown should no longer be the focus of spending large amounts of tax money. It is not where most go anymore and nothing will change that. The majority of needed business large chain restaurants are on 21.

Encourage more small businesses to develop in that area, outdoor events in that area such as a fair, incorporate that area into Canada Day activities

More events, more patios

Skating path for winter

Better promotion of downtown events, I never hear about anything happening unless I manage to see it on Facebook

Better lighting, better signage of businesses, activities/events in the area

More established businesses, more parking it's always so congested on the roadways so people avoid it, make buildings all have to follow a similar aesthetic look, allow a nice business and restaurant to use the river valley view(bike ride ends

with a brew for example), city needs to help promote the local grown businesses better, get some colour downtown make it vibrant, remove the ugly dirt piles not just downtown but the whole city lets polish this old thing up

Incentives for more business/restaurants/bars to open so that there is a reason to go downtown in the first place, more locally made art is very important, having events will bring people downtown but if there are no businesses open during or after the event then what is the point

Shopping, cafes, pubs

The big raise in taxes has caused increase in rental fees,