

Individual Comments/Questions Received Online about the Streetscape Ideas (Supplemental to Open House #2)

February 26, 2018 to March 19, 2018

The following are the individual comments and questions [not edited] received through the online “survey” on the ideas. Common themes from the comments were pulled out and included in the brief summary document.

Knit Downtown Together

- We have had huge trees downtown but then they are torn down. Like the bank on State Street. I think trees are a great investment in providing shade and reducing greenhouse gas.
- We need to influence urban growth as well
- Remove all cars on some streets like that did in Spain .
- While I do like these ideas, I have a concern about street furnishings in general. The City recently removed all benches downtown, to prevent homeless using them for sleeping places. How will putting them back be different? Maybe the furnishing zone can be space managed by adjacent businesses, as appropriate, to suit their needs (sidewalk cafe, etc.)?
- I would like to see a better walking zone between the pedestrian train bridge from West Salem into downtown.
- What about bicycle lanes?
- I think it would be wonderful to incorporate art, whether small sculpture or murals even, consistently throughout as well
- I like the ideas increasing the pedestrian traffic flow would be good for my business and others something needs to be done about the transient population before any of this is going to work currently I have 0 pedestrian flow in front of my business one because of lack of destination and two because of intimidation being one block from the mission I have individuals that lick my window and defecate by my garbage cans not very inviting for potential customers.
- Would like downtown to be friendly for customers-not homeless.
- Just don't make it too standardised.
- Trees, flower pots, hanging plants, outdoor seating are all conducive to a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Just don't cut the trees down about the time they really start looking nice.
- "LOVE the ideas.
- There has to be a way to make certain that the walking zone is truly unobstructed, especially for those with disabilities that hinder their ability to walk freely.
- They all seem nice but if they reduce the traffic flow then I am not in support.

- Still have huge concerns as to how the city officials plan to address the issues of the "homeless". Salem is looking ghastly with all the folks hanging out on street corners and building their "camps" on public sidewalks and bike paths. Will there be certain standards for business owners maintaining their store fronts etc? Sidewalks of Salem are a hazard.
- Ideas look nice and would create a more vibrant downtown. They should be extended along state street too.
- Like the idea of more trees and better walking zones
- "I highly dislike walking on the downtown sidewalks between the building and the curb when there is eating areas on the curb. Often, the curb is where the smokers go to smoke while eating/visiting and I end up walking through a cloud of cigarette smoke when I am trying to get from point a to point b. My concern is that keeping seating at the curb is going to make this worse. Could it be possible to make the sidewalk a no smoking zone?"
- "Overall this project seems overly costly for what we will get from this.
- More trees are better! Existing trees must not be taken out.
- Clear unobstructed walking areas exist throughout the downtown. Use of paving to separate a walking and furnishing zones has already been done in parts of the downtown. These areas seem more crowded than other non zone areas. Doesn't seem to make much difference.
- Providing consistent furnishings is a big waste of time and money. The city has taken out most of the benches due to homelessness. Unless the homeless issue is permanently dealt with no furnishings should be put in place. The city took out other streetscape furnishings such as planters, benches, and public kiosks. This was done because there was no one taking care of the furnishings. Businesses may not take care of furnishings. Will there be a permanent budget for maintenance and upkeep? If no budget, then no furnishings.
- The worst of this project suggests that our 10 foot sidewalks will all need to be removed to redo all the downtown sidewalks. There is not a budget for this. Further there is no interest from businesses to have all the sidewalks torn out and replaced. "
- It would be nice to have a street closed off to make a walking mall.
- I like all three, this would really make Salem a preferred living and visiting destination. Very excited about all of this!
- How will the city address the problem of panhandling when creating social spaces. There will also be an issue with folks sleeping and camping out on public furniture. I have been working downtown for 20 years and the last two have been the worst I've seen for these types of problems.
- Very boring look for the sidewalk. I understand mobility on the sidewalks is important but having an unbroken wide empty look is not attractive or interesting and would detract from the creation of place for the businesses. This would result in a lost opportunity to make things much more vibrant.
- Salem buildings are drab, drab, drab. Trees and color would help. A capitol does not need to be solemn. A capitol should vibrate, with art, color, a respect for life-giving greenery - and for the people who occupy its space and buildings. Right now, only cars, their noise, their presence, their emissions are afforded respect downtown. They ruin sidewalk cafes, they drown out

conversation, they pollute the air. Make Salem for people. Perhaps, then, Salem people might smile a bit more. We make a habit of greeting people when we go for walks; they keep their heads down, frowning. How about a new Salem slogan: Salem Smiles! And give them something to smile about, please.

- Without widening sidewalks and reducing lanes of traffic you are not addressing the elephant in the room. These are just surface decorations, what we want is lasting change and creativity to reflect who we are as a community.
- Hoping that encouraging bikes are still one of the focuses.
- Love The idea of downtown seating, however we do have a large homeless population in Salem, how would we work with that?
- I think they have shared a lot of thoughtful terrific ideas. Please keep in mind that area is filled with smokers and homeless will negate much of the hard work they are planning. Currently, walking past some of the dining café areas is like running a smoking gauntlet. I'm happy to hear about bringing trees back. I remember when the administration not too long ago approved removing the street trees saying that people would prefer to see the beautiful architecture. Baloney. Trees are welcoming. Also, we used to have a very nice cohesive lighting, planter, trash receptacle design. That has fallen by the wayside. I love their ideas for lighting.
- "Overall an extremely wasteful and costly project.
- Putting trees is always a good idea. Must not take out existing trees.
- Taking out sidewalks that are in good shape for a new design and wider is wasteful and will not bring more people to the downtown.
- Putting in more sidewalk space means that businesses are responsible for more area. City needs to assume responsibility and liability for sidewalks and all new items/structures.
- This still seems like an overly car-centric concept. Why not make the whole road a walking zone, with limited access for vehicles?
- "I love these ideas and am excited to see our city move in this direction!
- I don't know if any of the Streetscape plans address actual lanes of traffic or bicyclist/pedestrian-friendly changes, but I hope so. A few years ago another architectural firm proposed cutting a few streets from 3 lanes of traffic to 2, inserting islands, etc - THAT was very appealing to me and I think would go a long way to making our downtown feel welcoming & fun."
- I like the ideas about more trees and shrubs downtown, but I worry about maintenance and feeding and watering the plants. Who's going to do this?
- What is it going to cost? and who pays?
- Homeless people sleeping (or worse) in doorways, asking for money. I don't come downtown at night anymore.
- "The plans look like there will be a need to redo to the sidewalks?If so too costly and not necessary.

- Benches are being taken out due to homeless issues. Why are we putting them back? Past streetscape items like planters were taken out due to businesses not taking care of them. Public Kiosks were taken away because no one would keep them clean. Who will be responsible for the permanent changes (planters, tables, benches, bike racks? If the city, will there be a long term committed budget.
- Who is liable if someone gets hurt on the expanded sidewalks and permanent fixtures? City or businesses?
- Homelessness in the downtown needs to be dealt with before there are any major changes made in the downtown streetscape project. "
- "1. Although I like the idea of cohesiveness, I would not want it to feel too uniform, cookie-cutter or precious. 2. Don't forget about bike lanes and bike parking! "
- The streets we have around town with full tree corridors are wonderful, I would love to see more of that.
- I would be super happy to see inclusion of some playscapes into the downtown fabric - things that make walking and being in the pedestrian landscape more fun and engaging.
- The tree canopy is my least favorite idea. I wouldn't want the tree's to block the buildings. Salem has many different architectural styles and since most of the buildings are under 4 stories much of the beauty of the buildings will be blocked. With so many old buildings being fixed up it would be a shame for that beauty to be covered up.
- The only concern would be that driving through downtown is necessary for many and it's already difficult. While I like the idea of a consistent walking area, that would probably make traffic even worse than it currently is.
- It is unclear what "Provide a consistent streetscape with room for creativity" actually means, until you see the pictures.
- As a disabled person, I find the bulk of the downtown unavailable. I don't have a motorized scooter and can't walk very far. The Disabled spaces are horribly spaced, (like near the Reed Opera House) and a person like me gets exhausted before we get started. I'd like to know what plans are for accessibility.
- We need to make it easier to walk downtown, and have pedestrians separated from vehicles and bicycles better. The ideas from Cities 8-80 should be used. Consider making some streets pedestrian only and move traffic away from the core.
- I think the history of the Salem underground, which is evident in the square blocks of glass in the sidewalk should be preserved and highlighted, wherever possible. I'd like for any future sidewalk development to not remove these from the sidewalk.
- I love these ideas...a few thoughts though: trees should have narrow trunks to avoid hiding predators, maintenance should be kept to a high standard to discourage transient littering or camping. Great job!!!
- Is there going to be enough money budgeted to take care of the proposed trees? Manpower? Who is going to clean up the leaves in the fall? It all sounds like it will look lovely, but I don't want the City to come to the residents asking for maintenance money.

- Require all awnings on buildings to be functional for rainfall (no gaps between the awning and building, wide enough to shield at least one person), and to be maintained appropriately (no peeling paint/drywall bits falling onto the sidewalk, regularly cleaned of moss/mildew/dirt, etc.).
- include safe/secure bike travel to/from downtown. how will you increase the variety and vibrancy of downtown businesses? what will be done with the mall space that is quickly being abandoned? the walking path(s) to/from the waterfront should be over or under front street so as not to impede traffic flow (either foot or vehicle).
- Specify magnolias
- I am concerned about the amount of money spent on this project. Are there not more pressing issues the city has than streetscape? The concepts are lovely but will any of it truly accomplish what you hope (which is, I assume, more folks downtown)? What about parking? That is always an issue for downtown. These ideas would reduce parking without adding any parking structure to balance the loss. It seems to me that repairing our existing structures, adding homeless services and maintaining our existing resources seems more prudent.
- They are all lovely, but where are people going to park? If any of these are as poorly conceived as the bike lane on High Street, I fear for the city.
- Until you find a solution for the increase in the homeless and all the negatives they bring to the table any improvements are pointless.
- "Love the ideas, but I have a concern about the little curbside gardens - pic in bottom row, far right, above... If you have different levels here, you'll need some kind of guard-rail; otherwise, it's guaranteed that somebody will sooner or later walk right off the edge (esp when so many people walk along the sidewalks while looking down at their cell phones).
- More trees will be lovely..! I seem to remember many more trees downtown when I moved to Salem in '89; I'd love to see them replaced..."
- "How many traffic lanes are going to be eliminated? What about increasing parking? So that it would be easier for people to get downtown
- There is not enough parking. "
- I like the tree canopy idea providing the falling leaves are not allowed to remain on the sidewalks in the fall. These become very slippery and are a huge fall risk for people.
- Downtown is losing businesses. To be successful the City should find ways to encourage new shopping opportunities.
- The ability of businesses to "personalize" their outdoor spaces seems to contradict other goals to clean up and declutter the downtown experience. No mention of the inclusion of public art in these recommendations.
- Please do not take away street parking or traffic lanes.
- Love the larger planting areas, who will take care of them. city has hard enough time with hanging baskets, dont want them looking trashy.
- The solutions are good, but their impact is dwarfed by heavy commute traffic. Commuters need a dedicated bypass so that everyone else can get to and from downtown.

- Can we make sure the trees we plant are native trees? Can we have more places to access clean drinking water downtown? Water fountains ect. And what about some of these downtown? Are we just going to ignore the exponentially growing homeless camp under the Marion bridge? I used to walk there all the time and now I don't feel safe to.
- Build a third bridge to make downtown a more appealing place for me. I don't want to go downtown unless I have to because of the traffic.
- My only concern with placing so many trees in the downtown area, is the impact the trees will cause in long run to building foundations, side walks and streets. When trees start to get fairly large they will cripple all the the things listed. There are many areas throughout Salem where this is happening or has happened.
- how will traffic be altered to encourage safety and health - the sidewalks can be beautiful but if you have cars roaring by and spewing fumes, few will enjoy sitting there
- "Focus on low maintenance, clear sidewalks, and driver visabiliy without reducing parking.
- Yes! Lots of trees.
- I love the increased treescape. As you designate areas for businesses to use, do not shortchange the restaurants with outdoor seating. They are a big draw for people to go downtown in better weather.
- All seem very good suggestions especially lighting; there are areas all around the downtown core Where their is poor to non-existent lighting.
- How are we paying for this?
- My only concern is Salem sidewalks, all of Salem sidewalks, need to be more flat with less cracks and bulges. I have three slipped discs pinching the nerve to my legs and it kills me to ride my mobility scooter on the sidewalks around town. Something needs to be done..
- What will be done about the homeless? I don't feel safe walking around downtown or across the bridges. The first first priority sould be cleanliness and safety of our existing sidewalks. Get the homeless away from the children at the Gilbert House!
- We once had beautiful trees, they were removed because the roots destroyed the sidewalks, we should use very large planters for the trees or that problem will repeat resulting in damage and great expense.
- Trees, free and open spaces to gather, and encouraging people to walk and bike are all great options!
- I'd like to see the study area extend east to 12th Street so the state/Williamette U can be more active participants and create a larger downtown core.
- Where is the art?
- I have some concerns about the barriers between the cars and pedestrians (and cyclists?). When approaching an intersection it is smart to be aware of the surrounding traffic and plan for crossing at the intersection. If I am walking and a driver can't see me until the intersection, will they have enough time to react so as not to turn into me or a cyclist? I'd like more info on that for safety reasons.

- My concern is around money. Why is there so much focus on this area? We have a very dangerous sidewalk in West Salem that has no proper railing and a huge drop off. It is on Rosemont and Cascade. Children, families, and individuals use this path frequently. Fix that railing, make it safe, and I'd be more amenable to this type of change. Safety should come first before beautification and art.
- I love the tree idea but I have concerns about the city's budget for maintaining them. If seasonal trees are used, will the fallen leaves constantly be cleaned up so no one will slip on the wet ones?
- "I'm all for a tree canopy but ""consistent and diverse"" seems like an oxymoron. You also need to consider leaves clogging storm drains. Will you have the manpower to keep the storm drains clear?
- Love the ""clear, unobstructed walking zone"" concept."
- The least interesting and needed is the piece of brightening and artwork. I do not find the 2 blocks between the Center of downtown and capitol intimidating
- As long as you keep it from being invaded by the homeless, I like it. Walking downtown is unsafe with all the homeless.
- I love the tree canopy. I have concerns about the consistency rules for streetscape. I appreciate the concerns around coherence but I think it is all too easy to crush truly creative, interesting ideas in the name of consistency.
- I am curious about the addition of such a substantial number of trees downtown, it seems like we might be creating a substantial maintenance and cleaning cost to the city. Also, I just don't see much of this making downtown more walkable, because I don't see anything reducing automotive traffic, which is the #1 impediment to pedestrian traffic. Have super-blocks been discussed?
- Do not allow signs in the public right of way. Inconsistent with the clear zone concept. Instead, businesses can use attractive seating to draw attention to their business in a less cluttered way.
- In creating areas to sit, these may be used by homeless to sleep on at night.
- "It appears that developing the sidewalks as shown on far right lower panel would require more space than is currently available. Where is that to come from?"
- The same with planting trees along the sidewalks. Seems like there would be a need for more room. Does that mean at the cost of a lane of traffic or parking spaces?"
- Positive improvements will make Salem a more attractive place.
- This seems paltry and inadequate.
- Widening Sidewalks is very bad idea. It burdens the business owner with extra costs and liability.

Celebrate the landscape and brighten downtown

- Light it up in a way the homeless can't sleep
- Please follow dark sky guidelines when adding light fixtures in order to prevent further light pollution. Please remove any current polluting light sources. <http://www.darksky.org/>
- The idea of a more green downtown is very appealing, and the images presented are beautiful. However, the City currently does not manage rain gardens or other planted areas well at all, letting them become overgrown with weeds and plantings die out. Further, these will collect litter. How will the City ensure they are adequately maintained? (Not saying don't do them, just have a plan for consistent maintenance!)
- In the video, one presenter mentioned how people don't walk the two blocks from the Capitol to Downtown. I'm not sure who was interviewed for this; perhaps those handful outspoken on using URA funds to remove lanes from State and Court? Willamette students, on the south side of State Street, already have a pleasant walk to Downtown. I've walked it many times myself. Additional enhancement on the south side of State, such as wider sidewalks, may make sense to help connect Downtown to State Street east of 12th, but the Capitol wings are built up to the sidewalk. The north side is not going to become an enjoyable pedestrian experience any time soon.
There is a very limited population of State employees who might travel between the Capitol and Downtown except when the Legislature is in session; concentrations of State employees, if they are the target, are more likely to use Center, Marion, or Chemeketa. That's where they work, not in the often-empty Capitol, or in the Library (which is more storage than office). The majority of property along State and Court is either publicly owned (not taxable) or fully-developed historic. There is very limited room for economic development or increased property tax revenue along these corridors, especially when compared to Center Street. Investment to improve pedestrian experience along Center, Chemeketa, Marion, and Union streets would likely bring greater benefit, and also includes significant taxable property that can be redeveloped.
- What about bike lanes?
- Love these
- Seating should have bars- should include some hostile architecture.
- Streetscape lighting that I've seen in other cities (mcminnville for example) makes the zone look inviting, cozy, and cohesive.
- yes yes yes
- Really like the lighted trees that give a more festive look. Also love the plantings integrated with seating.
- What will be powering these lights? Would there be consideration for clean energy powering?

- These are great ideas. Particularly like the climate adapted plants that will require less maintenance and perform well in this climate. Worried about skateboarders destroying the planters and other proposed objects
- Assume lighting will be energy efficient
- The city has taken out 2 prior streetscape planters. Even though the new design may be low maintenance they will require attention. Who will do this. Downtown cannot rely on Businesses to maintain them. The city must have a long term budget for all plants and planters.

Many existing planters in the downtown are maintained by businesses. This allow individual creativity for businesses. This new project will tear out all existing planters. and also not allow for creativity in the planters.

Integrate streetscape lighting to connect block to block is cute but not very practical given the weather and people's attitude about going out in dark and wintery/rainy weather. In the summer when people are out, night time is so late that the walkway will be lit for very few people. Encouraging people to go to the park at night via these lights is wrong. There are no accommodations for folks in the park at night. Even the rest rooms are locked at night. Why do we want to encourage walking at night into the park? Pedestrian level lighting does not help businesses operating in the daytime. Why do this for people drinking at bars late into the night?

Some of the areas in the picture on State and Court do not adequate street lighting. City should put in proper street lighting before considering pedestrian level lighting.

Any lighting including street lighting should be done to minimize light pollution.

The cost to run lighting in trees and along permanent fixtures is extremely expensive. Who will maintain the lighting when bulbs go out? Again, the city needs to maintain and commit to a long term maintenance agreement.

- I'm not sure about lit trees, but more lighting and lighting that is interesting is good.
- This is a people area. Some planting is good but it is not a park. Celebrate the people and activities possible. Do not take up valuable real estate without keeping this in mind.
- I am a huge fan of twinkle lights
- Lighting not plants
- plantings in the sidewalk look trashy. Go look at other cities who thought this was a good idea. Salem is famous for NO MAINTENANCE on anything. Who is going to maintain these dirt planters and pick trash out of them everyday?
- Will this encourage / discourage homeless people hanging out? Will it welcome all people, including students, customers, and families?
- With the distinct lighting of those streets how would to pull or decorate the remaining street to make them feel important
- Are local business owners being surveyed and included in this process?
- Adding more planters, although low maintenance requires some maintenance. Planters have been removed from prior streetscape plans because no one would maintain these spaces. The existing planters around downtown are there because businesses are taking care of them. They should not be removed. Removal of planters and creating standard looking plant

areas takes individual creativity away from businesses.

Low level street lighting is a complete waste of money. Yes it looks nice, but will be used very little by people, especially during the off season.

All downtown lights need to be converted to reduce light pollution.

- Increasing plants downtown would make it a more enjoyable space to hang out in and help keep it cool in the summer.
I love the idea of integrating lighting that is not just intensely bright LED overhead lights. Those make me feel like I'm in a hospital or prison.
- Careful of light pollution at night.
- What it going to cost? and who pays?
- The city blocked street next to my house. It is an overgrown mess only minimally maintained. Why would we believe they would do better Downtown. Maybe less planted areas
- Clean up trash (and worse) left by homeless people living on the streets.
- Lighting is the key! More lights...
- Please reduce illumination of the sky at night, which can cause ecological issues with birds and other nocturnal animals.
- I definitely like the added planting and sitting areas. It would be great to focus on lighting that's functional (for seeing/safety) as well as artistic. But twinkle lights as a focus? I'm not sold, on first glance; they don't sound bright enough and seem possibly a touch precious. Maybe it'd grow on me. :-)
- Planting's yes, lighting no.
- More types of lighting will require more maintenance - this needs to be planned for.
- Planted areas can add live to some pedestrian only streets.
- Light pollution should be taken into consideration when choosing the type of lighting.
- Too much lighting may be considered visual pollution.
- Again, I love these ideas!!! Food for thought: light pollution is already VERY high in Salem, bushes should be minimized to avoid predator hiding places. Great job!!!
- Again, who is paying for the maintenance? Does the City have the manpower and the money?
- Love the lights under the cement benches.
- These renderings look beautiful. I hope this can happen.
- Not more plants. Yes, good and consistent lighting (not necessarily bright, but sufficient to see what is around you).
- I like the planter boxes . Would prefer to see mass planting's of plant material characteristic of Oregon; huckleberry, (evergreen & interesting) roses, ferns, hellebores, daphne NO GRASSES.
- The additional lighting needs to reduced overall light pollution, not add to it.

- More shrubbery means more places for the homeless to throw/stash garbage, drug paraphernalia, and would also provide comfy places for them to lay.
- Many wonderful ideas - more lighting is an excellent idea...and lighting in the trees is beautiful..!

More plants would be good, too, but please don't plant Pampas grass... it's beautiful, but many people are allergic to it (me, included)... :-)

- Not enough space available for these concepts to work without removing a lane of traffic.
- What to about parking and improving traffic flow? I do not see many people walking downtown because of the type of weather we have here in Salem. Why go through the expense and trouble for only 3 months of good weather to use it?
- Downtown definitely needs better lighting. With regards to vegetation and planters, these must be maintained so they don't become weedbeds like the dividers on several streets in the city have become. Like on 12th Street SE.
- Trees are fine, how will the City maintain the additional trees and plantings and at what cost.
- Lighting for pedestrians is fine, but it should be done in manner that provides directional lighting and limits unnecessary illumination. Salem, like most cities, has an excess of illumination at night. Besides being wasteful, it has other negative impacts (see <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/night-lights-have-dark-side>).
- Downtown Salem does not need more plants on the sidewalks. Each Fall, it's a mess because no one picks up the leaves that drop.
- Same comment, maintenance of the larger beds.
- I like these ideas but am becoming concerned about costs.
- I really like the idea of more/better lighting but am not sure about the added planting areas. I feel this will take area from much needed space. Space is already limited and taking it away doesn't seem good. There should be plenty of room for families to walk on and cafes to have outside seating if they wish to.
- Suggest more than just Court and state streets
- Downtown is beautiful if you don't mind the traffic.
- People will cut through plants to get between the sidewalk and the street.
- I like the twinkle lights in trees and additional plantings. Who will maintain the plants?
- While they are good ideas I worry about wasting energy and increasing light pollution. This needs to be balanced against the attractiveness and help of the illumination.
- Drought tolerant or how watered.
- As long as there are ongoing efforts to maintain planted areas so they don't turn into weed patches
- Shouldn't all streets be lit up since they are walk ways? Or is this a pay for play deal?

- The more lighting the better
- Can sustainable designs be added? Previous pavement, rain gardens, solar lights etc?
- Really like the lighting illustration for Court & State; would like to see it on Chemeketa and Center, too. This is probably outside the scope of this, but better east-west bicycle access (dedicated lanes) would be appreciated
- Streetscape lighting is more important at this time than planted areas.
- Need more lighting throughout the downtown and Capitol area so this is much appreciated.
- Most planted areas mean ripping up existing sidewalks and streets. I would be curious to see the plan for rerouting traffic, which is a bigger issue than not have enough greenery.
- Yes! More treescape and canopy!
- Love the idea of more plants and lighting
- Where will funds come from to maintain planters? City trees already have enough maintenance issues, I am not sure adding planters to the to-do list is the best idea. Businesses are welcome to do whatever they like in their areas, including planters. I just don't think adding the cost to the city is responsible at this time.
- I hope a professional lighting designer is hired, I still see evidence of truly abhorrent lighting design. Someone who actually understands the human eye, not just landscaping.
- But, do not invest public funds in streetscape without getting buy-in from businesses to keep their storefront area clean. Now, businesses do not keep their sidewalk area clean of trash. Why invest in nice streetscape, if businesses won't even sweep their sidewalks or clean cobwebs from their exterior windows and doorways? I have seen garbage and rats in sidewalk niches that are not cleaned by anyone.
- Same thoughts on where the added space for plantings would come from. I like the lighting idea a great deal.
- Plants automatically generate a feeling of well-being
- Planters make excellent protective buffers between cars and bike lanes. Rather than robbing sidewalk space for planting zones, reduce the excess zoomy auto travel lanes, reallocate for walking and biking and planters.
- City took out benches due to homeless population. Now we want them back?

Integrate wayfinding and art in the streetscape

- The current mural laws will make it difficult and expensive to get art on blank surfaces. I like the idea but without changes to the mural code it seems hard to achieve this. It would be great if we had updated signage/wayfinding that was all updated throughout the downtown district to differentiate from the rest of the city and provide wayfinding.
- Salem needs a public open gathering place in downtown. Example - Pioneer Courthouse Square

- Adjusting current City code regarding "murals" (requiring owners essentially to endow them for maintenance) would help encourage artistic expression and reduce graffiti citywide. Even artistic murals on private buildings that double as business signs would add interest. Current sign code does not permit this, yet many other cities preserve old painted business signage as meaningful features to give a sense of place and history. The White Stag sign would not meet current sign code, for example.
- YES, absolutely this. I would love to help organize and plan this out with the city that I love. My name is Sarah Page and I'm a local artist and will be presenting my first official curation at the Bush Barn Gallery May 2019, ran an art/literary magazine for Pacific NW 3 years and want to help promote the arts in my community. How can I help? Email: sarah@midnights.gallery
- I understand that Portland is having a problem with the bird crow. Please consider how Salem might discourage them from roosting.
- I thought this should extend north and south from the Capitol building too.
- I love the current signage! It's whimsical, easy to spot, and very easy to use. I was impressed when I first moved here a few years ago, and still find it useful.
- Have a few set-aside places for art. Make viewing a possibility while waiting for a bus or sitting on a bench.
- I'm a HUGE fan of public art and wish the city had funding to make it part of every building project downtown.
- I have appreciated even the minimal way finding signs and would love to see that expanded.
- Love the signage and historic points of interest. Salem has wonderful history and I hope the city would continue to expound on those historical facts in some way.
- I don't like this option. Art is very subjective. I prefer something like landscaping since everyone can enjoy that
- Connecting destinations. Using consistent landscaping to connect destinations is nice but not very practical. Currently on Front Street, the crosswalks at State and Court were laid out to facilitate connecting. The nice lines painted are worn out and badly need repainting. Why hasn't the City maintained this? IT was part of the Front Street Calming project, which included Streetscape. Why put more designs out that the City wont maintain. Given that State Street is the center of the downtown and of the park, it makes sense to do the similar changes on State as on Court. Refinements to existing signage, redoing signs is ok, but costly and do we really need this? Currently all historical buildings have plaques on them designating them as historical and each plaque has a little blurb on them about the building. Are we taking them out? If so why? Who is going to repair the holes in the buildings where the plaques are located? The plaques are quite nice. Taking them out to replace with something else is more than stupid. Encouraging pubic art is ok, but costly. How will the City pay for this. What about the upkeep? Again must be in a long term streetscape maintenance budget. This budget must be long term and protected from City staff when budget is tight and they need additional funding.

- Completely agree that something needs to connect capt. mall with downtown. An area without restaurants and shops tends to stop the walking flow.
- I love the public art we already have downtown and hope it all stays, the giant grasshopper and the red goose shoe sign and the mural on the elsinore are my favorites.
- We need more art/sculpture downtown.
- Between the cube on state and liberty, the katz blade on liberty and chemeketa, and the setziol lump at commercial and trade, the most recent art installations are dull and also mismatched to sites. Greater attention should be given to art that with broader appeal, more dynamic even interactive art, and locations that give better opportunity for people to engage with the art. The gallery in the conference center foyer works great for stand-and-admire.
- Really, you think adding white striped lines as a cross walk into Riverfront Park is good looking? What we need is a "Pedestrian First" attitude downtown, this cross walk just reinforces "Cars First" downtown.
- Sidewalk and street crossings have been done as suggested. Example is crossing at Front and State. The crossing that was painted nicely during the Front Street Streetscape now looks worn and horrible. Why do more when the city doesn't have budget to keep everything looking nice?

All buildings are currently tagged with historical information. Will the city pull those markers off our building for something new? Why replace? Again a bad idea.

- 1. One of the most obvious problems Salem is having with signage is a lack of consistency. Take for example crosswalks. There seem to be different ways of painting crosswalks, sometimes with or without lights. A better way would be one universal way of making crosswalks. The zebra stripes seem to be the most universal used all over the world are are uniquely visible. The flashing lights just add a stress element that shouldn't be necessary if drivers were well educated and more socially aware.
- 2. There should be no lights at cross sections downtown. Pedestrians have the right of way, always, making it the most efficient way to getting around. Which is good for window shopping, traffic safety and health. A low maximum speed for the remaining vehicles will self-regulate that flow.
- Yes, I love these ideas! Salem has a reputation for being full of boring bureaucratic or institutional people (or tweakers!). We are so much more than that. Art in common spaces truly makes communities feel vibrant and alive. Check out Montevideo, Uruguay as an example, where there are murals, sculptures, and various forms of street art everywhere!
- Encourage the Arts Commission to be more open to a variety of ideas. There is more art than their sophisticated, arrogant idea of art.
- Yes to raised crosswalks, slowing traffic, and ample time for folks (of all ages and abilities) to get across the street.
- What is it going to cost? and who pays?
- Like all but have concerns about planted areas
- More downtown patrols so shoppers/diners feel safer.

- M'eh. As noted previously, I think *some* cohesiveness would be great, but don't believe we should overdo that. The existing signage is great; I can see how adding distances might be helpful to visitors (but please, *not* times). And, yes, to good public art!
- I like these ideas fine, just liked the others a bit more. Incorporating distances into wayfinding signage would be great.
- Put some windows into the brick walls of the mall and let the people see in! Change code to require that all downtown stores that abut a sidewalk need an entrance from the sidewalk.
- I prefer the last two options.
- The newer public art currently in downtown (the sculpture garden, the lumpy chrome cube) has problems with scale and location. I expect these types of issues to continue with additional art unless good artists are in charge.
- The murals and sculptures currently downtown detract from the charm. I shudder to think what other "art" will be added. The variety of buildings, awnings, signage, and trees already hinder a coherent feel for downtown. The last thing the city needs is random murals and abstract mixed-media structures. In fact, the first upgrade to downtown I'd suggest is painting over the murals currently there. I'll even buy the paint and do it myself.
- Again, make some streets in the core pedestrian only.
- Salem's downtown tends to be majority white and does not overtly reflect the Latin, Pacific Islander, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, or African American art or culture in public spaces. It would be great if all new art or historic installations reflected more diverse aspects of Salem's reality and history.
- Move all the sculptures from the convention center and scatter them around the city. It is a desolate looking 'sculpture garden' and was a bad idea from the get go.
- Art is good. We currently have some but we need more. Salem has such a rich history. What a good idea to call attention to this history.
- Trees and other green spaces provide sufficient art.
- I love the historic facts of the city hidden throughout the city! Finding the facts will act as a great game. Icelandair does this in its airplane and it's a great way to learn more about the country and also kills time in-flight searching for more facts.
- No unnecessary signage - there is enough visual clutter. Similarly, art attached to a building/painted on walls is good. Free standing art in the pedestrian area can be visual clutter. People don't want to go places when they have trouble finding their destination. Consistency is good.
- crossing across front street should be over/under Front Street to more easily incorporate the waterfront flow without impeding foot or vehicular traffic.

And definitely include street art, especially whimsical and 'photo op' pieces.

- We are a significant historic component of the west. As such would prefer historically inspired black wrought iron signage fixtures. Street lights, benches, etc. color coding is for Disneyland

and primary playgrounds. We are not like all other cities; the Oregon Trail was forged, cast, hand built by an inspired group of international craftsman.

- I prefer natural elements (low maintenance planting) over art installations in open spaces. As long as they are well maintained. I prefer art on blank spaces like murals, re-painted historic billboards, etc.
- Encourage art on blank surfaces? Are you kidding? Or is somebody going to curate this? (If so, then I am totally down with it. If not, then it is merely graffiti.)
- Until you do something about the homeless problem this is pointless.
- I like "zebra crossings"; much more visible, even at dawn or dusk or when it's raining...

I also like the flashing yellow lights that the pedestrians can activate when they're ready to cross the street (like they have on 12th St near Willamette U)... It's sometimes hard for a driver to see pedestrians there, esp when there's a lot of traffic, but that flashing light gets your attention quickly.

- The artwork presented, and that I've seen in other cities, is dated by the time it is installed, and really says nothing. Such abstract art forms are forgettable.
- If "integrated public art" is a bike rack shaped like a doughnut or slice of pizza, fine. I'd like to see any public art have some utility. But I don't want the City spending money on ornamental art that just sits there.
- There is little space for integrated public art downtown; much of the area is a restricted historic district. Salem does not need more metal insects in underused alleys.
- Wall art and murals should be included
- I love the historical markers.

Not a fan of the street art in the photos. Oftentimes, street art is an eyesore.

- More important than consistency are street crossings.
- Will adding public art take away from businesses' and their opportunity to show their business signs and advertisements?
- I would like to see more art used in creative ways and in more places.
- again - the safety of pedestrians is concerning with the amount of traffic constantly traversing downtown - bodily safety and health concerns too - constant noise and fumes
- I'm not sure that all "art on blank surfaces" would be positive or pleasant. People could contribute graffiti that is more damaging to the area than helpful.
- One person's art is another person's tacky trash. That blue light thing is ugly. How are "connecting destinations", what destinations? This is a waste of money.
- I like the lugging examples. But after Keizer's streetscape and art choices I am wary of city picked art.
- Better signage & more art sound good.

- Let's be careful on too cute of signage and too much signage. Not all information needs to be communicated at a height of 5'-8'.
- Not a fan of public art. It's so subjective that mostly it looks junky and takes away from clean architecture and the bright look we are going for.
- Is this the art?
- Yes to public art! My previous town had a local competition for artists to have their sculpture installed for the year and a designated art stop. Was great because the art was always changing, it supported local artists, and offered opportunities for walking tours etc.
- I'm just not understanding, who is the audience is that uses this? The only people I see walking around downtown are shoppers and the ones in transition (that is to say they are with or without homes).
Who is looking for art downtown? Why is this the City's concern? What do the trees have to do with our City infrastructure? The signage isn't applicable to most City residents, as it targets only people wandering around on foot. I feel strongly that the City and neighborhood associations are missing the fact that MOST residents are trying to get places by car. Even if we did go across the bridge from West Salem to walk around downtown, a) there is no real reason to, b) parking is not convenient, c) I am pregnant with a 2-year-old and need frequent breaks with nowhere to sit, d) who has the time for this, again?
- I like this idea, but concerned about encouraging art in public areas. How will this be monitored to ensure the art displayed is family friendly and not politically charged/vulgar?
- Placing money into art and this type of signage is unnecessary. Downtown salem is small and easy to navigate
- I don't think that adding the distances are necessary because Salem doesn't have a huge downtown. In my opinion it's a waste of money
- Great ideas and sounds interesting.

Love artwork downtown

- You might want to contact the Street Trust, TREC, 8-80, and/or Copenhagenize, I think they might be able to help y'all out.
- I much prefer the idea of using landscaping elements to create coherence over the idea of regulating street furnishings
- Minimize signs. Instead, use consistent tree canopy, sidewalk pavers, etc to indicate pathways. Downtown is small enough to NOT require signs to various buildings or parks. Plus visitors use their phones to find specific places.
- It has always irritated my husband and I that we have these tiny, tiny Salem signs, almost as though we are afraid to announce our presence. Be proud, make them large to let people know where they are and what is available.
- The public art program has been disappointing so far. Things like "The Cube" at Liberty and State, and the new Katz at Liberty and Chemeketa, and "Mirror Maze" in the alley are all underwhelming. By contrast, "Waldo Stewards" is winning and engaging. We could do so much more with attractive art.

As for "connecting destinations" narrowing the street width with fewer zoomy car lanes will do more to improve crosswalks and actually knit connections.

- Historic buildings are currently tagged.

Establish and support social spaces

- The alleys should be pedestrian only if they are going to "focus on the pedestrian"
- Not sure how the alley concept would work since the allies are used by businesses for recycling/trash/delivery purposes. I am ok with leaving allies as they are.
- The same concerns about homeless and maintenance mentioned earlier apply. The City has removed seating and such recently; adding it back without a good plan to manage its use and maintenance will lead to trash-filled nooks that the desired customers will avoid. Trash cans have often been removed for security purposes (bombs). A creative solution for trash collection would be useful. Also, public restrooms are a necessity, both for customers and for homeless. Permanent solutions like the Portland Loo (sewer-connected) are more likely to be seen as an enhancement than so-called "Arta-Potties", portable toilets that, regardless of paint job, still smell bad and provide a hidden place for illicit activities.
- Not sure about parklets. Parking is already becoming an issue.
- I love the idea of parklets. We need spaces where people can hang out WITHOUT having to buy something.
- These are all fantastic ideas. I can't wait.
- Unless no trespassing ordinance violations are strictly enforced furnishings and social spaces are only going to encourage transient Gathering this is what has happened in the past and now with a larger transient population it would only be worse
- It rains a lot in Oregon- We need ways to walk downtown out of the rain.
- Great ideas, but we likely do not need parklets since downtown is surrounded by parks.
- For the underutilized spaces be careful to not just put a piece of art or a bench in the middle of nothingness.
- Have you studied the number and frequency that people might use alleys for socializing. I haven't experienced it as a normative thing anywhere. Parklets are a good idea that could include some public art.
- Parklets would be a great addition and I love the restaurant seating facing the alley. Right now the alleys are not inviting even though they are often the most direct way to other places.
- Not crazy about this look as it does not seem to capture the quaintness/historical feeling of the original downtown Salem. Would be wonderful to get some of the traffic off the main streets of Salem. At the present time sitting on a Salem street while enjoying a coffee or "bite to eat" is not enjoyable as speeding noisy cars/motor cycles, fire trucks go roaring by. Get

some of the vehicles off the streets in the downtown corridor. Why bother with all the bike lanes if Salem can't figure out a way to get the cars to bi pass in some way.

- Seems like an idea that may work if and when downtown becomes more popular. Seating areas could cater to homeless population which makes downtown unattractive
- Like the idea of making better use of the alleys
- Some of the alleys have had streetscape funding. Currently, if you walk down these alleys one finds beautiful arches with fish or plants. However, one also finds some of the filthiest alleys around. Businesses have been allowed to leave containers of oil and garbage lying about everywhere.

Existing alleys need to be cleaned and kept clean. Otherwise it is no use in making them more walkable.

Also, when considering new alleys, new designs must include trash receptacles. Businesses must be able to put their garbage in alleys. This is what alleys are for.

Many of the alleys continue to have garbage thrown about by homeless. Also there is human feces that litters these alleys. Used needles and empty bottles of alcohol are found in the alleys. It makes no sense to do any more to these alleys until the homeless are gone and businesses stop making messes. Businesses need to be fined for leaving messes.

Currently, benches have been taken out due to homeless. In the future will the city take the 'parklets' out when the homeless take over?

What makes people come to the downtown and walk, shop, and explore is mainly centered around the businesses that are in the downtown. Although sidewalkscaping is important for people, the area needs to be inviting, without businesses there is absolutely no reason to go downtown. Many building spaces remain vacant over the years. Vacant buildings do not encourage folks to visit and shop in the downtown. Empty spaces are big eyesores and prevent people from wanting to be downtown. The city should enact a Vacant Building Tax, where buildings that remain vacant for a period of time are assessed a monthly fee to strongly encourage filling the space, either by selling or renting. Keeping spaces filled with businesses helps make the downtown look good and inviting.

Parklets are nice, but will only be used during fair weather. So why put permanent ones in? A waste of money. Plus this creates a home for the homeless.

In Summary, the Streetscape as presented is extremely costly. Not necessary to rip out sidewalks to put new ones in. Permanent fixtures will be overtaken by homeless unless a solution is found for this population. Extending sidewalks is too costly and a waste of time and effort. Do with what we have.

Lighting needs to be practical and functional.

Put in street lighting where there is none.

The homeless must be dealt with before anything happens to the downtown.

Enact a Vacancy Tax to facilitate building owners to either sell or rent their space.

Make businesses that make alleys filthy clean up their act.

Parklets are expensive and require maintenance. The City needs a committed streetscape maintenance budget that cannot be used for other purposes.

To better move people about the downtown, change lighting on State to two way from Front Street, this enables the bus to go directly from the bus station to the Carousel. Establishing a bus route that includes the Riverfront Park is an efficient way to move people throughout the downtown.

- More "social activity" around alley exits and entrances could pose a traffic hazard. I may misunderstand but do "parklets" take up parking spaces, or become an obstacle for walkers to get to and from their parked cars?
- I definitely agree with the bump out for the alleys. Just for safety, they are needed, and to incorporate a safe meeting area, even better!
- Seating will be a problem . It will just be used by folks looking for a place to camp out.
- Parklets will be difficult to police. Encourage businesses to use such spaces for their supervised activities. Cafe, coffee, bakery and other types of similar adjunct uses.
- There is no point in making more sidewalk seating unless you reduce the presence and noise of the hordes of cars that ruin any peace or community in Salem.
- No noisy businesses should be allowed to locate in alleys where there are residences. Alleys are also very important for deliveries during the day.
- I like the idea of utilizing the alleys better, but sometimes they don't feel safe with the current homeless population.
- Parklets are an interesting idea. As long as they don't become sleeping areas for the homeless.
- First and foremost, the city must deal the homeless in the downtown. The alleys have needles, empty alcohol bottles, human feces all from homeless.
All of the alleys are used for businesses for trash. There must always be a place for businesses to dump trash.
the city has taken out many benches due to homeless. The city must take care of homeless before putting more benches in.
If we put seating places in, who is going to be responsible for them? If in front of a business, then currently it is business that is responsible. The financial, upkeep, maintenance and liability must be the City's responsibility.
- Outside the box thought...why not close a street to traffic altogether? Maybe a portion of State Street, between Commercial and Liberty, or any other suitable segment, like Boise has done with a portion of 8th Street downtown...
- Yes, these are great ideas! So many times my friends and I want to hang out somewhere outside and there are very few options in Salem. This kind of seating would encourage people to go, and stay, downtown.
- Put signage on alleys to identify car direction.
- Landscaping areas should be built for real life - no water features that you want to keep kids out of during hot days.
- What's it going to cost? and who pays?
- I'd like to sit down by homeless people occupy benches.
- Fantastic. Forward-thinking.
- I love the idea of utilizing the main alleys more!

- We have limited parking downtown and would hate to see additional parking spaces taken out to focus on alley way entrances. I'd much rather see them cleaned up and kept clean as someone who does walk the alley ways.
- Two far more significant improvements would be 1) ban smoking from the sidewalks (plenty of cities do -- smokers learn to cope) and 2) move the homeless, insane, and panhandlers somewhere else so you're not accosted at every corner. Those are the reasons I hate going downtown. I'm not going to enjoy a "social space" if I'm being accosted by noxious fumes or crazy people. I'm going to drive to Tigard to shop.
- The plaza at mission and liberty cries out for being used as a European style piazza.
- I think lighting up the alleyways is a great idea and will improve walkability in Salem. In creating outdoor seating areas please keep the winter months in mind. Outdoor seating is great but not when its wet. It'd be great if the outdoor seating spaces can be versatile in design and use.
- Please keep parking availability or wayfinding in mind; Portland is hard because it feels OVERLY bike and pedestrian friendly, which seems to increase the transient population. Balance the traffic / pedestrian access, please!!! :)
- Big yes to parklets
- These ideas go a long way toward making downtown a social space. It would be so good for our community.
- There is an arts and cultural park that this reminds me of in Taipei, Taiwan. Huashan 1914 Creative Park. this would be a good example of what can be done in the downtown area
- Downtown does not have long blocks (until you get near the Capitol building), so mid-block crossings are not needed. Also, jaywalking is legal and common. More landscaping is not needed. If alleys are to be used by pedestrians, they need to be consistently cleaned and well lit, as well as blocked to traffic.
- Love the application of captured seating, find the boxed contemporary seating modules displayed unrelated conceptually and impractical in wood.
- If these parklets do not need additional sidewalk surface that would affect businesses or impede vehicular traffic or parking, then it would be ok. Otherwise, you are just creating more problems.
- How are you going to keep these areas clear and safe for people to come and enjoy with the increasing number of homeless people in the downtown area.
- Love the idea of improving alley entrances. Salem has some delightful alleyways. Well, they would if the Art-A-Potties hadn't gone away.
- Will you be hiring more police and security along with maintenance people to clean up and secure all these improvements?
- I don't understand how this makes alleys safer. There is a danger for the hearing impaired when trying to pass alley intersections.

- Again landscape has to be maintained all year long, so it doesn't become an overgrown or dead eyesore.
- Salem has a growing homeless population. How will the City keep the street improvements from becoming homeless camps?
- Ensure that all visitors and neighbors (including homeless people) feel welcome, comfortable, and treated with dignity and respect.
- Salem has a significant homeless and vagrant population - we do not need more parklets for these people to take over and lounge in.
- parking is tight, the parklets should be limited to the under utilized spaces at the allies.
- Like these ideas a lot; parklets should cluster near parking garages.
- Trees have broader value than art does.
- no parklets
- smoking and homeless loitering are huge concerns for alleys and sidewalks as well - making everything look good is fantastic, but people have to feel their safety and health are not being compromised
- Encouraging parklets will also encourage vagrants and panhandlers to loiter. There are already some problems with this.
- The parking limits limit pedestrians in downtown. I'm often more concerned about where i can can't park.
- I love the idea for capturing unused spaces. Parklets need either tree canopy or light shading for rain and sun.
- Alley parklets and social seating look great!
- Parklets could be good but our weather might not be conducive to use of them.
- Absolutely love these ideas. The alleys are some of the coolest parts of downtown Salem.
- Eugene has installed parklets and they have exacerbated problems with lack of parking in Eugene's downtown. Currently parking in downtown Salem isn't as bad as Eugene is (and admittedly was before the parklets), however removing parking is unlikely to benefit the downtown businesses and will make it less likely that I would go downtown at all.
- Considering the amount of traffic just passing through downtown on a daily basis, I'm not sure mid-block crossings would be the safest for pedestrians. Seems like being able to see people would be impaired by all the cars that are parked along each street.
- I'm not opposed to the seating to organize the people that sit in front of the bars smoking. In just not interesting in walking by the. We also don't have weather that is good enough and often enough for this to be a valuable City expense.
- I don't think we need to emphasize alleyways.

I don't have a problem with planting's next to parking spaces as long as they don't obstruct the driver's vision for backing out. No to the artwork for this reason unless it is shorter than

the car's window.

I think the parklets will just attract more homeless??

- Because we have almost zero public transportation, I don't want to give up parking spaces downtown for these projects.
- I like these ideas, but am hope this doesn't mean reduced parking. I would love to shop downtown more, but parking is difficult and if parking is reduced any more, then it may affect small businesses.
- Live the little park in Astoria. Something like that in salem would be wonderful as long as the homeless don't take over those spaces
- Probably the best stuff so far, still anemic. Again, super-blocks would be a great consideration. I think Salem could support 2 of them in the area being shown. More if expanded around the state offices. This could vastly improve both vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic.
- Assuming parklets are coming from current parking spaces? Will likely be an issue with the businesses downtown.
- Europeans love their sidewalk venues, let's emulate
- Have you seen a report on Eugene's four downtown parklets from last summer/fall? Outside of big festival/events, how much were they used? In theory parklets and bike corrals would be great - but until we tame the zoomy cars, they may not be as attractive and useful as we want them to be.
- Most restaurants have outside seating. Adding more places does not equate to more people visiting. Who maintains the upgrade and cleaning? This puts undo hardship to businesses to maintain these spaces. Also, some alleys continue to have addicts, drunks, and human feces all about. This needs to be dealt with prior to making any changes.