

State Street Outside Design Project

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After the last council meeting, we had some agreement regarding a permanent long-term outside design to ensure ordinance sec 25-16 works for our community and businesses.

Proposed Next Steps:

To direct the Town Administrator, Director of Community Development, and Economic Development Director to contract with a consulting engineer to design seasonal outdoor dining for State Street between Hope Street and Thames Streets and to incorporate the following requirements:

- Incorporate meaningful input from restaurant owners, retailers, and property owners in the area of State Street between Hope and Thames Streets. Ideally this should be a working group of the DBMA.
- Review designs and data from outside dining sites in similar communities.
- The design must be consistent with the downtown architectural style.
- Adhere to ADA guidelines
- Must have appropriate Traffic Barriers
- Review fee structure to ensure it's in line with other businesses and the Town
- Explore reengineering traffic and parking on State Street to improve parking impacts.
- Explore outdoor displays (planters, trees, streetscapes)
- Include input from area businesses and residents
- Due diligence to incorporate any existing Town approved outdoor seating designs
- Pedestrian safety/bike racks.
- Develop metrics for success.
- Comprehensive trash and recycling solution for the designated dining area.

Upon completion, the completed engineer design should be presented to the Town Council for approval or modification by the first meeting in February 2023 to allow time for approvals and work to be completed by the beginning of May 2023.

Policy guidance will be developed for outdoor dining, laying out the framework for consideration, such as street width, ADA compliance, access to existing outdoor dining spaces, parking, and appropriateness to the specific area(s).

