

# DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN

## Public Open House Take-aways

(Results as of May 31, 2022)

### RIVERFRONT Planning Area

- Respondents want to see this area become a welcoming, family-friendly riverfront that offers plenty of shaded seating, dining overlooking the river and quality housing
- Respondents also call out for an amphitheater, river access and activities, protection for local historic landmarks, and well lit paths to support a safe and secure experience
- Respondents have shown that the **top priority uses** in this area include **indoor/outdoor dining** (25 votes), **well-lit bike/ped paths** (23 votes), and **street events** (21 votes)
  - 19 respondents want to see **historic rehab** while 16 respondents would like more interactive elements installed here
  - A variety of passive recreational uses were also shown to be desired with key uses being amphitheaters (13 votes), parks (9 votes), and plaza spaces (11 votes)
  - Some desire for mixed use commercial buildings with event spaces and breweries (9 votes) was also demonstrated
- Respondents also voted on the preferred balance of development in this area. The results indicate an **almost equal balance** of passive recreation and private, developed uses with **a slight leaning towards passive recreation** such as parks & open space, plazas, walk paths, etc.

## MIXED USE Planning Area

- The community indicated approval of various strategic recommendations for this area including pursuing **high intensity mixed-use, adaptive reuse of underutilized properties, and the reconfiguration of parking away from street fronts.**
- Online survey respondents want to prioritize expanded **dining options, streetside landscaping, and a safe and walkable environment** in this area
- Most respondents think an **Arch** (21 votes) would be the best Gateway for Downtown
  - Another popular gateway element was the Median Installation with 11 votes.
- Results show that the preferred building intensity is **3 stories** (21 votes)
  - The community indicates an overwhelming desire to **avoid 5 story buildings** (10 votes against)
  - 2 and 4 story buildings seem acceptable (4 votes total)
- Respondents would like to see **more rooftop dining** (27 votes), but also show an enthusiasm for **painted intersections** (18 votes) and **plazas** (13 votes)
  - A **parking garage is the least favored use** in this area with only 2 votes
- Online survey respondents want to also integrate dining and shopping experiences with public parks, art/murals, regulated traffic and outdoor programmed activities

## CIVIC/TRANSITION Planning Areas

- Visually connecting community resources **using lighting and signage, promoting housing that supports a range of price points and rents, including plazas, public restrooms, a community garden, etc.** are key priorities that the respondents identify for these areas
- Online survey respondents also show a desire for a **community building or recreation center, increased walkability between neighborhoods and downtown, widening of Sixth street to accommodate traffic, new affordable and upscale housing and addressing gentrification**
- Respondents would like to see wayfinding signage that is **vibrant and colorful** (13 votes) or **simple** (9 votes)
  - A **modern signage** style (7 votes) was also perceived positively but a **sleek approach is minimally preferred** (only 2 votes)
- The best approach to address parking in downtown seems to be **screened lots** (15 votes) or **parking lots off alleyways** (also 15 votes)
  - Respondents indicated that more street parking (9 votes) or a parking garage (5 votes) are **also acceptable**
- **Single family homes** (13 votes) are the most preferred while **2-3 story townhomes** (11 votes) are also desired
  - Respondents indicate **least preference** for **duplexes** (5 votes) and **3 story multifamily** (5 votes)
- Respondents are encouraging of neighborhood retail (27 votes), and parks and play fields (21 votes) in the Transition area
  - Results show that the respondents are also accepting of neighborhood scale office/services (9 votes) and live-work spaces (9 votes) in this area

## DOWNTOWN CORE Planning Area

- Key priorities that respondents identified for this area include the need for a community center for the youth, handicap parking for 1st United Methodist Church, more destinations, retail, outdoor seating, and an easily navigable downtown experience
- Online respondents also identified a desire to improve parking conditions, provide more upscale and affordable housing, a varied dining and shopping experience, a splash pad and interests in revitalizing historic buildings
- Most respondents like the **simple, metal style** (13 votes) or the **minimalist style** (11 votes) trash receptacles
  - The wood paneled style (7 votes) was the least favorite
- The **traditional metal seating** (17 votes) and the **simple, modern style** bench (15 votes) were identified as most preferred styles of bench seating
  - The **sleek, contemporary style** was least preferred with 7 votes
- Respondents' preference for style of planters in downtown show a **preference for simple, metal** (16 votes followed by wood paneled (8 votes), and sleek & modern (9 votes)
- Overall, respondents' preferences indicate a general liking for the simple, metal style of street furnishings for Downtown
- 17 respondents liked the idea of sandblasted quotes while 7 members of the community did not
  - Community Member Comment - *"YES!!! My previous town had poetry embedded into sidewalks all around town (not just downtown). It was delightful!"*
  - Suggested Quotes include:
    - *Lost time is never found again*
    - *"The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason."*
    - *"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."*
  - Other
    - *Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.*

- Respondents seem to like the idea of unique landmark signage depicted by **plaques** (17 votes) or **medallions** (16 votes) with a few votes for **interpretive signage** (8 votes)
- Visual preference survey questions regarding art based initiatives show that the community is enthusiastic about making downtown a creative and vibrant place
  - The respondents show a marked preference for Catenary Lighting Option B (22 votes)
  - Respondents like the river inspired, flowing hardscaping (15 votes) and etched patterns in concrete (14 votes)
  - The most favorite art initiative for respondents are the locally inspired murals (25 votes). Nature responsive art (15 votes) and asphalt paint (12 votes) are also generally liked
  - **Special Comment**
    - *Celebrate “Everyday Heroes of Franklin. Student murals & artwork”*