



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 06/08/2020

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: June 5, 2020
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Los Gatos Community Vitality and Economic Recovery Initiative
a. Provide Direction to Staff on Parklet Barrier Options for the Town's Community Vitality and Economic Recovery Initiative.
b. Authorize the Town Manager to purchase the necessary resources to implement the program up to \$750,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Los Gatos Community Vitality and Economic Recovery Initiative
a. Provide Direction to Staff on Parklet Barrier Options for the Town's Community Vitality and Economic Recovery Initiative.
b. Authorize the Town Manager to purchase the necessary resources to implement the program up to \$750,000.

BACKGROUND:

On May 26, 2020, the Town Council held a special meeting to discuss options for a Community Vitality and Economic Recovery program for Los Gatos. Direction was provided to staff to remove parking from N. Santa Cruz Avenue and provide parklets and curbside/quick turn parking options to assist the businesses and community with access to the one another during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Council provided direction for the staff to return with a resolution that streamlines business processes and modifies current provisions to allow business expansion and innovation opportunities during this time as well, which was adopted at the June 2, 2020 Town Council meeting.

DISCUSSION:

During the discussion on May 26, 2020, the Council provided staff with direction regarding the barriers that should be used to create the parklets in downtown. This included the use of

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Economic Vitality Manager

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

DISCUSSION (continued):

planters or other similar type materials rather than temporary construction materials such as k-rail as was used in 2019 during the one-way pilot on N. Santa Cruz Ave.

On June 1, 2020, an updated Public Health Order was issued by Santa Clara County Public Health allowing outdoor dining to commence on June 5, 2020, provided businesses follow the guidelines. In concert with this, staff has been working to identify a vendor and get a cost and delivery schedule for the parklet planter barriers. Planters will cost \$375,000 plus soil and plant material and ongoing maintenance costs. The quickest delivery for planters is 8 to 10 weeks.

Given that the businesses will need the outdoor dining space much sooner, staff is recommending that the Town takes the following phased approach:

1. Provide k-rail as soon as possible throughout downtown, on N. Santa Cruz Ave, Main Street, University Avenue, and Village Lane along blocks that are primarily restaurants, with minimal sidewalk space. Staff has been working with the business community to identify the areas that need outdoor seating and are in the process of working on agreements with the businesses. This plan will blend with the Council direction to use all of the parking for parklets with the business needs for both parklets and parking.
2. As planters are ready for delivery, replace the k-rail with planters for a more visually appealing and inviting look. Staff will provide a map on Monday as a desk item that will demonstrate locations for k-rail in the first phase and planters in the future phase.
3. Then expand on the amount of parklet space based on the need for parking vs parklets and the current environment for shopping and dining guidelines, reserving clusters of curbside pickup/quick turn parking spaces.

This phased approach allows for significant amount of parklet space while meeting the Council direction to remain flexible to the needs of business. Another benefit of this approach is the flexibility that is built in as the parklets are formed now and adjusted in time. As the planters come in, if areas and spaces need to be adjusted, this can be incorporated in the work already being done and could provide additional support to the businesses as their models continue to evolve. Phasing adds an additional \$100,000 for the cost of k-rail. If this phased approach works for the Council, the total estimated cost for both k-rail and planters, plus maintenance would be \$600,000. Staff recommends Town Manager authority for additional funds up to \$750,000 to allow for staff to be flexible to changing needs at the speed of business.

Alternatively, the Town Council could opt for just the installation of k-rail only and forego the planters.

DISCUSSION (continued):

If keeping k-rail for the duration of the Community Vitality and Economic Recovery Initiative is desired, staff could address the aesthetics of the k-rail in a few different ways, as the Town Council directs:

1. The k-rail could either be painted in solid or multiple colors.
2. Businesses could be allowed to paint or decorate the k-rail outside their business, and any unassigned k-rail could be managed by the Town
3. Town staff could order wraps similar to those used previously with any range of designs printed on them.

CONCLUSION:

Discuss the options provided in the staff report and provide direction to staff on parklet barrier options for the Town's Community Vitality and Economic Recovery Initiative.

COORDINATION:

This report has been written in coordination between the Town Manager's and Town Attorney's Offices, and the Parks and Public Works, Police, and Community Development Departments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this project has been allocated by the Council through the Capital Improvement Program Downtown Streetscape Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.