

To: Mayor and Town Council  
From: Michelle Metteer  
Date: September 3, 2024  
Agenda Item: Bulb Outs

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### **REQUEST:**

Council to facilitate a community discussion covering the topic of the newly installed, temporary bulb outs on Main Street and provide directions to staff as appropriate.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Minturn residents and businesses have been requesting slower driving speeds on Main Street/HWY 24 for quite some time. As the years have passed, motorists utilizing Main St/HWY 24, especially commuters from nearby communities have increased. Along with the concerns about speeds on Main Street, have been difficulties for drivers to have a safe line of sight when attempting to pull onto Main Street from any of Minturn's side streets. With parked cars lining Main Street, seeing oncoming traffic can be difficult and Minturn is fortunate more accidents have not occurred. Similarly, with the limited line of sight, it is difficult for motorists on Main Street to see pedestrians and cyclists standing at intersections waiting to cross the road.

These ongoing issues arose as part of the town's master plan update as well as feedback received in the 2024 Community Survey. Imagine Minturn, Minturn's updated master plan, thus provided a recommendation to install bulb outs at the primary intersections of Main Street to increase safety for all roadway users.

### **ANALYSIS:**

Bulb outs are curb extensions, and a traffic calming measure (slower driving speeds) used to improve the safety of all modes of transportation that share a section of the road. Safety benefits of bulb outs include:

#### **Pedestrians**

- Shorter crossing distances
- Decrease in time exposed to vehicular traffic
- High visibility of pedestrians a corner
- Larger refuge space when waiting to cross

#### **Cyclists:**

- Elimination of gap between cars and concrete corner where bicyclists would be confined
- Greater visibility to drivers
- Increased sightlines of oncoming traffic when turning onto the corridor
- Decreased vehicle speeds in bike/vehicle conflict zones

#### **Drivers**

- Speed moderation
- Protection of parked cars on side streets from vehicles turning
- Increased sightlines of oncoming traffic when turning onto the corridor

Bulb outs meet the goal of reducing traffic speeds and increasing safety for all stakeholder groups, however; as was stated in a recent e-blast to the community, Minturn's bulb outs are larger/longer than initially anticipated due to CDOT requirements. Which has reduced the parking available in certain areas on Main Street.

Minturn's desires for community safety through traffic calming measures will look to be balanced with the need for on-street parking. Of primary interest is on-street parking for businesses. Residents are required to utilize available garage space for parking and although much of the time residents utilize their garages for other purposes, in theory, per the code, this should be used for vehicles.

The temporary bulb outs have forced the discussion for the Council and the community to determine the value of resident safety weighted with the need for businesses to provide parking. Minturn's businesses are highly valued. The benefits of local businesses include but are not limited to:

#### Businesses

- Activating space / gathering areas
- Community vibrancy
- Job creation
- Economic growth/tourism economy
- Increased tax base
- Entrepreneurship
- Contribute to the community character

Through a community conversation solutions will be sought that value resident safety but minimize losing business parking spaces.

**COMMUNITY INPUT:** The bulb outs have been discussed in multiple Council meetings over the past year. The project has also been included in town newsletters, e-blasts, a dedicated page on the town's website and a flyer posted on every door as part of the spring door hanger campaign. – Community input is greatly appreciated.

**BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT:** Tbd

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

In accordance with Strategy #1 Practice fair, transparent and communicative local government.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:** Council to provide staff direction as determined through the community discussion.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A presentation will be provided at the Council meeting