



Eugene City Council

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AMENDED

January 25, 2023

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION and URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MEETING

City Council meetings will continue to be held in hybrid format using in person and virtual meeting technology. Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials>

NOTE: This agenda has been amended to add an executive session agenda item

Meeting of January 25, 2023; Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding

Councilors

Randy Groves, President

Mike Clark

Lyndsie Leech

Jennifer Yeh

Matt Keating, Vice President

Greg Evans

Emily Semple

Alan Zelenka

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION and URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MEETING

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) real property transactions

2. WORK SESSION: Downtown Priorities and Projects and Downtown Urban Renewal District

The Eugene City Council welcomes your interest in these agenda items. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

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January 25, 2023 Work Session

EUGENE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Downtown Priorities and Projects and Downtown Urban Renewal District

Meeting Date: January 25, 2023
Department: Planning and Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2
Staff Contact: Amanda D'Souza
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5540

ISSUE STATEMENT

On June 13, 2022 Council gave staff direction to develop an updated list of projects that would guide work in downtown Eugene, consistent with the Eugene Downtown Plan. This work session is an opportunity for the Agency Board to discuss the priorities and projects identified in response to Council's direction and to identify projects that would be eligible for Urban Renewal funds. Staff will provide an overview of the priorities and projects that have emerged from the public engagement, including a summary of the community outreach and proposed implementation strategies. If the Agency Board would like to keep Downtown Urban Renewal as a funding option for eligible projects, the Board is being asked to provide direction at this work session to bring back a proposal to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan.

BACKGROUND

In response to a Council poll, Council considered the future of the Downtown Urban Renewal District at its June 13, 2022, work session. Council discussed the status of the District, ongoing projects, the plan amendment process, and the fiscal implications for extending the District or ceasing collection of tax increment funds. At that work session, Council directed staff to identify projects that could potentially be funded with Urban Renewal dollars by creating a list of projects and priorities within the Downtown Urban Renewal Area that are consistent with the [Eugene Downtown Plan](#). With this direction, staff elicited public input and created a list of Downtown Priorities and Projects based on the input (Attachment A).

Downtown Priorities and Projects - Public Engagement and Results

The list of Downtown Priorities and Projects summarizes the activities and projects that would improve downtown Eugene. (See Attachment B for map of project area.) To identify and prioritize these programs and projects, staff conducted a robust community outreach effort on an expedited timeline. This effort built on downtown outreach conducted over the past few years, including the work completed by Project for Public Spaces in 2017. From September through December of 2022, staff communicated with over 2,000 community members: the City hosted 11 small group conversations with 95 key stakeholders, held a public Open House that was attended by more than 120 community members, and conducted an online survey that received over 1,200 responses.

A summary of public engagement efforts is in Attachment C. A summary of survey results is in Attachment D. The raw survey results are in Attachment E.

In general, the results of the community outreach effort indicate that the community continues to envision a downtown that is welcoming, safe, clean, and vibrant, in line with the vision outlined in the Downtown Plan. But ongoing and emerging challenges have led to a general perception that downtown is unsafe, dirty, and deserted. The list of Downtown Priorities and Projects was built on identifying solutions to these challenges and will serve to guide future improvements to the downtown area to bring downtown Eugene closer to the community's vision. The draft list of Downtown Priorities and Projects is in Attachment A. A list of all generated ideas is in Attachment F.

The list consists of six categories: Housing, Public Safety, Social Services, Commercial Activity & Development, Public Spaces & Mobility, and Events & Culture. There are priorities listed within each category, and possible projects and programs listed under each priority. The possible projects were pulled from ideas from the community, staff, and existing City policies and plans. The public engagement showed that respondents believe that while all six categories of actions are urgent, Housing and Public Safety should be addressed first.

Downtown Priorities and Projects - Implementation Strategy

The actions identified to address the six categories are a broad mix of operational activities and physical improvements. To advance the most effective actions that emerged from the public engagement, City staff created an inter-departmental Downtown Action Team in January 2023. This team will assess the ideas on the Downtown Priorities and Projects list based on criteria such as: cost, potential funding sources, feasibility, effectiveness, and alignment with existing City policies. The team will also evaluate the timing and urgency of each of the projects and programs and how a racial equity and accessibility lens could be applied.

The Downtown Action Team will also assess the tools available to implement projects. Part of the evaluation is to determine which projects and programs can be pursued within current budget and staffing levels through reprioritization and efficiencies. Some projects will require additional resources or Council direction before they can move forward, such as projects that would be funded by Urban Renewal dollars. Other potential funding sources could include General Fund, Community Safety Initiative, the Parking Fund, and grants, although funding would require financial viability and alignment with funding source parameters. Staff will also look to partner with community organizations and external service providers, including the Downtown Service District (Downtown Eugene Inc.), wherever feasible and appropriate.

An update on staff's implementation strategy will be provided at a future work session on downtown operations.

Downtown Urban Renewal District

The Downtown Urban Renewal Plan does not prescribe a specific sunset date for the District, but rather the District's division of tax will stop when the total maximum indebtedness (i.e., the spending limit) for the District has been issued and paid. Currently, the Downtown Urban Renewal District is expected to have sufficient tax revenues to reach its spending limit in December 2023, meaning the District would cease the collection of tax increment funds at that time. If the Agency wishes to continue to collect tax increment revenue in the Downtown District,

Council must approve an amendment to the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan by June 2023. This would allow time for the amendment to be placed on the November ballot, if referred. *Due to those timing restrictions, if the Agency Board has interest in keeping Urban Renewal available as a tool for downtown projects, the Agency Board is being asked to provide direction at this work session to bring back a proposal for amending the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan, with final decisions in June.*

The Downtown District's impending end of the division of tax catalyzed the Downtown Priorities and Projects public engagement effort. Through that effort, staff have identified key actions to address the challenges facing Eugene's downtown. Per Council's direction at the June 13, 2022 work session, staff have identified a subset of those actions that could be funded with Urban Renewal funds (see Attachment A).

Urban Renewal funds can be used for the purchase of real property, rehabilitation or construction of buildings, site improvements, and improvements to streets, sidewalks, and utilities. To be eligible for Urban Renewal funds, projects must be included in the Urban Renewal District Plan. The identified projects in the Plan can be specific (such as 'high-speed fiber') or broad (such as 'infrastructure').

If Council wishes to continue using Urban Renewal as a redevelopment tool Downtown, it must approve a substantial amendment to the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan, known as a "Type 1" amendment. A Type 1 amendment requires multiple steps and public outreach, which take approximately four to six months from when the Agency Board starts the amendment process. See Attachment H for the required steps to complete a Type 1 amendment. The amendment would identify eligible projects and allowed budget (by increasing the maximum indebtedness).

Downtown Urban Renewal District - Fiscal Implications

The Downtown District generates approximately \$2.6 million in tax increment revenue per year as of FY22. The impact to City finances depends on the path ultimately chosen by the Agency Board:

- **Amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan.** The \$2.6 million in annual revenue will continue to be directed to the District and be used on eligible capital projects.
- **Stop Downtown District's collection of tax increment revenue.** If the District no longer collects revenue from the division of tax, the tax increment revenue will be directed to the overlapping taxing districts. Under this scenario, the City's General Fund would receive approximately 50% of what the Downtown District collects (\$1.3 million dollars per year). Lane County would receive approximately 9% (\$235,000 per year) and School District 4J would receive approximately 34% (\$880,000 per year). It is important to note that although School District 4J would receive more property tax revenue, the impact to 4J's overall budget would be negative, due to State funding mechanisms for education and local properties that are in 'compression' related to State laws regarding property tax limits. If the Downtown Urban Renewal District stops collecting property tax revenue, the *net impact to School District 4J would be an estimated decrease of \$150,000 per year.*

Potential Next Steps

If the Agency Board chooses to keep the possibility open of using Urban Renewal as a funding tool for downtown Eugene, next steps would be:

January 25, 2023 Work Session – Item 2

- *Work Session (estimated February/March 2023):* Staff present a proposal for a plan amendment that includes a range of spending scenarios. The Board can choose to initiate the plan amendment process, and if so, would determine at that point what to include in the proposed plan amendment for consideration and comment by the public, other affected taxing districts, and the Planning Commission during the formal adoption process. The details of the proposed plan amendment would include the amount of the spending limit increase and identification of how the funds could be used.
- *Seek concurrence from overlapping taxing districts, Planning Commission review, City Council Public Hearing, and notify the general public (estimated Spring 2023).*
- *Work Session (estimated May 2023):* Council reviews recommendations and public comments. Staff presents a further refined plan amendment for Council consideration.
- *Work Session/Action (no later than June 24, 2023):* Council makes final decision on whether to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan.

PREVIOUS AGENCY DIRECTION

[June 13, 2016, Work Session](#)

City Council passed two motions and approved Ordinance 20564 to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan to increase the spending limit, expanded on a previously approved project, and authorized several new projects. The previously approved project was the improvements to the Lane County Farmers Market which was expanded to include improvements to parks and plazas throughout the Plan Area, including improvements to the Park Blocks for overall community use, to support the continued use for the Saturday Market, and to assist in the development of an improved permanent Farmers Market in the Plan Area. The new projects were High-Speed Fiber for the implementation costs within the District and 1059 Willamette Redevelopment.

[November 23, 2020, Work Session](#)

City Council approved Ordinance 20644 to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan to remove the spending cap on the Farmers Market Improvements, making it eligible for a larger share of tax increment revenue funding. This amendment did not change the overall spending limit for the District.

[June 13, 2022 Work Session](#)

City Council directed the City Manager to create a Downtown Action Plan that is consistent with the Eugene Downtown Plan, to identify projects that could potentially be funded with Urban Renewal.

AGENCY OPTIONS

1. Direct the Agency Director to draft a proposal to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan to expand the District's financial capacity and add language to allow urban renewal funds to be used for additional eligible projects, and direct the Agency Director to schedule a work session to allow the Board to review and comment on that proposal.
2. Take no action at this time.

AGENCY DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

If the Agency Board would like to continue exploring the use of Urban Renewal funds to implement projects listed in the Downtown Priorities and Projects, the Agency Director recommends Option 1.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to direct the Agency Director to draft a proposal to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan to expand the District's financial capacity and add language to allow urban renewal funds to be used for additional eligible projects, and further direct the Agency Director to schedule a work session to allow the Board to review and comment on that proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Downtown Priorities and Projects – Draft List
- B. Downtown Priorities and Projects – Map
- C. Downtown Priorities and Projects – Public Involvement Process and Outcomes
- D. Summary of Survey Responses
- E. Raw Survey Data
- F. Downtown Priorities and Projects – Submitted Ideas
- G. Emails and Public Comments
- H. Downtown Urban Renewal District – Technical Details

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Downtown Priorities and Projects: Draft List

This attachment includes the draft list of Downtown Priorities and Projects. The list consists of six categories: Housing, Public Safety, Social Services, Commercial Activity & Development, Public Spaces & Mobility, and Events & Culture. There are priorities listed within each category, and possible projects and programs listed under each priority. The possible projects were pulled from ideas from the community, staff, and existing City policies and plans. See Attachment F for a list of all ideas submitted by the community.

The actions identified to address the six categories are a broad mix of operational activities and physical improvements. Many could fall into more than one category. To advance the most effective actions that emerged from the public engagement, City staff created an inter-departmental Downtown Action Team in January 2023. This team will assess the ideas on the list based on criteria such as: cost, potential funding sources, feasibility, effectiveness, and alignment with existing City policies. The team will also evaluate the timing and urgency of each and how a racial equity and accessibility lens could be applied. This list is intended to be a living document that will evolve as projects are evaluated or implemented.

Housing	
Priority: Support creation of a mix of new housing affordable across income levels	Urban Renewal Eligible?
Project examples:	
Incentivize market-rate and/owner-occupied housing in the downtown core (e.g. cover SDCs and permits, offer reduced-cost land, low-interest loans)	Yes
Bolster existing programs that support creation of housing for people with low and very-low incomes	Yes
Revamp MUPTe or create new tax holiday program to incentivize housing	
Incentivize redevelopment of vacant office buildings into housing with ground-floor commercial (e.g. cover SDCs and permits, grants, loans)	Yes
Encourage rehabilitation of older multi-story rental housing south and east of the downtown core.	

Public Safety	
Priority: Increase and improve public safety presence downtown	Urban Renewal Eligible?
Project examples:	
Expand non-law enforcement public safety and outreach services (e.g. Downtown Ambassadors)	
Combine non-law enforcement public safety teams (e.g. Downtown Ambassadors and Red Hats)	
Expand law enforcement in downtown	
Establish gentle policing presence, set expectations about acceptable behaviors, and follow through	
Bring more diverse law enforcement representation downtown	
Priority: Improve physical environment to support public safety	
Project examples:	
Expand court program where minor infractions are worked off by cleaning up downtown	
Make physical improvements to discourage anti-social and criminal behavior (e.g. lighting, sidewalk infrastructure)	Yes

Social Services	
Priority: Identify needed social services in the downtown area, in coordination with ongoing community-wide efforts	Urban Renewal Eligible?
Project examples:	
Expand behavioral health crisis and addiction services in downtown (e.g. proactive outreach and create physical location)	Depends
Provide a facility with services such as showers, bathrooms, places to sit down, make phone calls	Yes
Create or support youth center that provides programming and activities as well as services	Yes
Increase coordination between providers (crisis and social services)	

Commercial Activity & Development	
Priority: Strengthen downtown's commercial environment	Urban Renewal Eligible?
Project examples:	
Activate vacant spaces with temporary activity (e.g. "pop-up shops")	
Incentivize positive commercial use and/or discourage vacancy	Depends
Promote active storefronts & activity on both sides of the street (recruit active uses, physical improvements)	Depends
Recruit businesses to serve downtown residents and workers (e.g. hardware store, pharmacy, etc.)	
Subsidize rent to support growing and new businesses	
Invest in improvements to vacant or underutilized commercial spaces to increase flexibility and marketability	Yes
Launch/expand marketing campaign to promote existing downtown businesses	
Support the creation of wet lab/incubator space	Yes
Expand the square footage of convention facilities downtown	Yes
Expand free parking options to support commercial activity	Depends
Priority: Encourage redevelopment in strategic locations	
Project examples:	
Invest in private development at strategic publicly owned locations (E.g. McAyels, Future City Hall, 8th/Pearl)	Yes
Incentivize redevelopment of vacant or underutilized privately-owned parcels (including surface parking lots)	Yes

Public Spaces & Mobility	Urban Renewal Eligible?
Priority: Improve the user, pedestrian, and multi-modal experience downtown	
Project examples:	
Repair and enhance sidewalks	Yes
Install more lighting features	Yes
Improve bicycle/non-motorized vehicular facilities	Yes
Clean the streets and sidewalks on a more regular basis	
Provide more trash cans	Yes
Build or provide more public restrooms	Yes
Improve connections between traditional downtown core and the Market District, the Riverfront, and the UO	Yes
Create a pedestrian connection across the railroad tracks between the end of Willamette Street and Skinner Butte.	Yes
Conduct a “walkability” assessment to determine needed pedestrian improvements in downtown.	Yes
Create more public spaces that attract families and youth; provide places to play, sit, and attend events (ex: Farmers Market Pavilion)	Yes
Priority: Upgrade/redevelop City-owned public spaces	
Project examples:	
Complete Park Blocks renovation	Yes
Improve Kesey Square	Yes
Redevelop public space at 10th/Olive intersection (LTD/Library/LCC/Atrium)	Yes
Complete Willamette Connection Phase 2	Yes
Locate a play structure for kids near the Park Blocks.	Yes
Priority: Create a sense of place when in downtown	
Project examples:	
Include signs, public art, and landscaping at the gateways to downtown along Broadway and Willamette.	Yes
Implement a historic plaque program and walking tour.	Yes
Provide a prominent entrance to downtown from East Broadway near Mill Street.	Yes

Events & Culture		Urban Renewal Eligible?
Priority: Strengthen downtown's role as Eugene's Cultural hub		
Project examples:		
Increase small-scale, regular programming that creates a positive atmosphere (e.g. banner program, busking program, concerts, windowfront installations)		Depends
Create more regular weekly events (i.e. Saturday and Farmers Markets)		
Host annual/seasonal community gatherings downtown (e.g. Eugene Celebration, Halloween, Fiesta Cultural)		
Host or support art and cultural activities that increase inclusion, diversity, and equity (e.g. events, public art, Multi-Cultural Center)		Depends
Support relocation and development of museum(s) Downtown (e.g. art, childrens', history, Eugene Science Center)		Yes

Downtown Priorities and Projects Map

In creating the list of Downtown Priorities and Projects, staff sought input on ideas and solutions for downtown Eugene. The perception of what constitutes as “downtown” tended to vary from person to person. In addition, various plans identify different geographies for “downtown.” For the purpose of creating this list, staff considered the project area to be downtown as identified in the Downtown Eugene Plan, shown below.



Downtown Project Area

downtown EUG

priorities & projects

Public Involvement Process and Outcomes

Executive Summary

Downtown Eugene is the social, economic, and cultural heart of our community, and the location of some of our most vexing community challenges. Since the [Downtown Plan](#) was adopted in 2004, Eugene has made [significant improvements](#) to our downtown. The City invested in transportation options, redeveloped buildings, and filled vacant lots with purposeful buildings and significant community destinations.

However, ongoing and emerging challenges continue to impact the quality of life of people living, working, and visiting downtown. Through conversations with community members, businesses, and organizations, the City developed a list of Downtown Priorities and Projects to guide future improvements to the area.

From September through December of 2022, the City hosted 11+ small group conversations with 95+ key stakeholders, involved 120+ through a public Open House, collected 1,200+ online survey responses, and communicated with 2,000+ community members about the project. Involvement included presentations to invested stakeholder groups as well as proactive outreach to Black, Indigenous, people of color, the LGBTQ community, Spanish-speaking residents, and organizations representing very low-income residents, people with disabilities, and people without stable housing.



The results of this engagement show that our community cares deeply about downtown and a multitude of actions are urgent. The community's vision for downtown is focused on people – creating an environment that people want to spend time. Six categories of priorities emerged through this process: housing, commercial activity & development, public spaces & mobility, events & culture, social services, and public safety.

walkable
safe
clean
vibrant



PEOPLE

PRIORITIES



A few key factors related to the public involvement results:

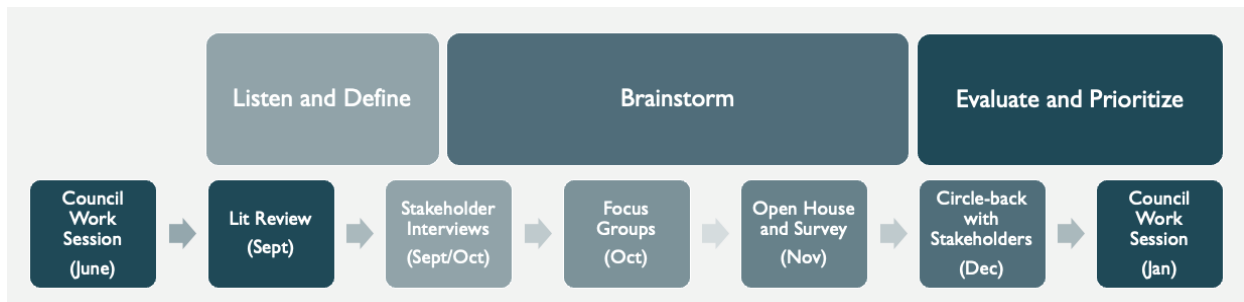
- **Participants enthusiastically proposed a multitude of solutions**, ranging from short term improvements in public safety and social services to long term development of housing in the downtown core.
- **Everything seems urgent from a public perspective**, so next steps include an evaluation of potential solutions based on cost, feasibility, timeline, and other factors.
- **The results of the public outreach show “first impressions” by a wide array of participants**. The deep thinking “evaluation” phase of the project is in the next steps (see public process diagram below).

Public Process and Background

Staff identified the following goals to guide the creation of the list of Downtown Priorities and Projects. Staff hoped to:

- Recognize key stakeholders;
- Gather input and represent the full range of views;
- Develop a collective vision;
- Clearly articulate the problems;
- Identify solutions to the full range of issues;
- Develop a draft list of priorities and projects; and
- Foster collaboration within a community of people who care about downtown.

The process was divided into three phases, shown here:



Phase 1: Listen and Define (September 2022)

The Project Team developed basic information about the project, reached out to invested stakeholders, and listened to their perspective on downtown to develop a clear understanding of the challenges and dial into core issues. Example prompts included:

- What do you consider to be the top three significant challenges to Downtown Eugene?
- Imagine walking in the Eugene Downtown of the future, what does it look and feel like?

Phase 2: Brainstorm (October - November 2022)

Thinking deeply and broadly about solutions is the core of this project. The project team compiled the results of the interviews and hosted a series of events to gather input and additions from experts, the general public, invested stakeholders, and people who may not often participate in public events. The goal of this phase was to develop a broad list of potential priorities and projects. Activities include:

- 4 group conversations with stakeholders invested in downtown businesses, organizations and social services, and LGBTQ communities and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (75+ people total: Oct. 25 online, and in-person at the Downtown Library on Oct. 26, 27, and Nov. 9)
- A large in-person public event at the Farmers Market Pavilion on Nov. 15 (120+ people)
- An online survey in English and Spanish, and verbal survey interviews in Spanish (1271 responses, 10 in Spanish)

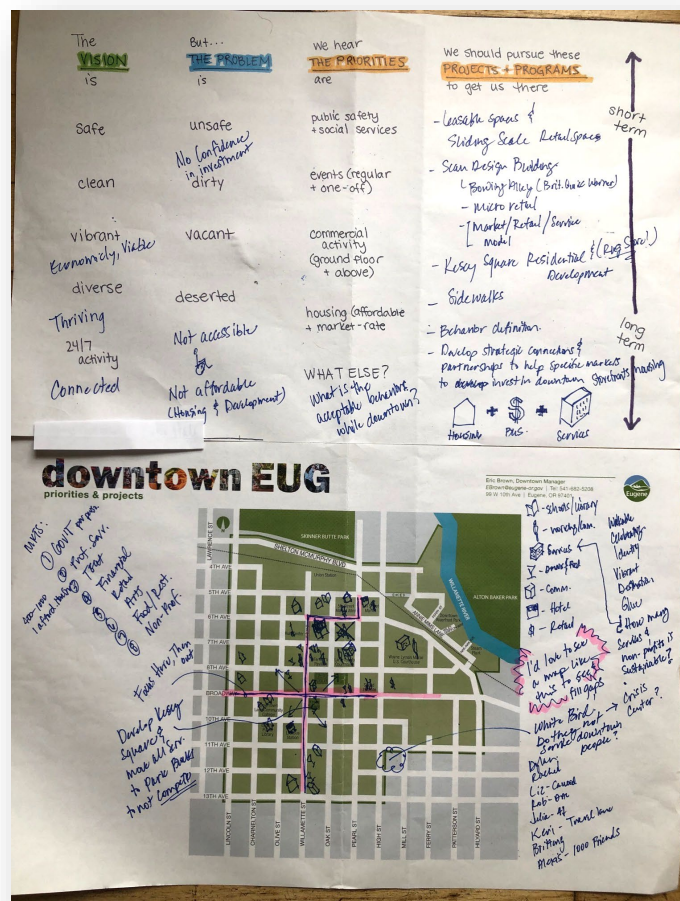
Phase 3: Evaluate and Prioritize (December 2022 - ongoing)

The Project Team has compiled a list of all the project ideas that emerged from this process. The inclusive and open nature of brainstorming has produced suggestions valuable to many organizations, agencies, and City departments. Following council direction, staff will begin the process of evaluating the ideas based on established criteria, including feasibility and funding availability.

Brainstorming Results

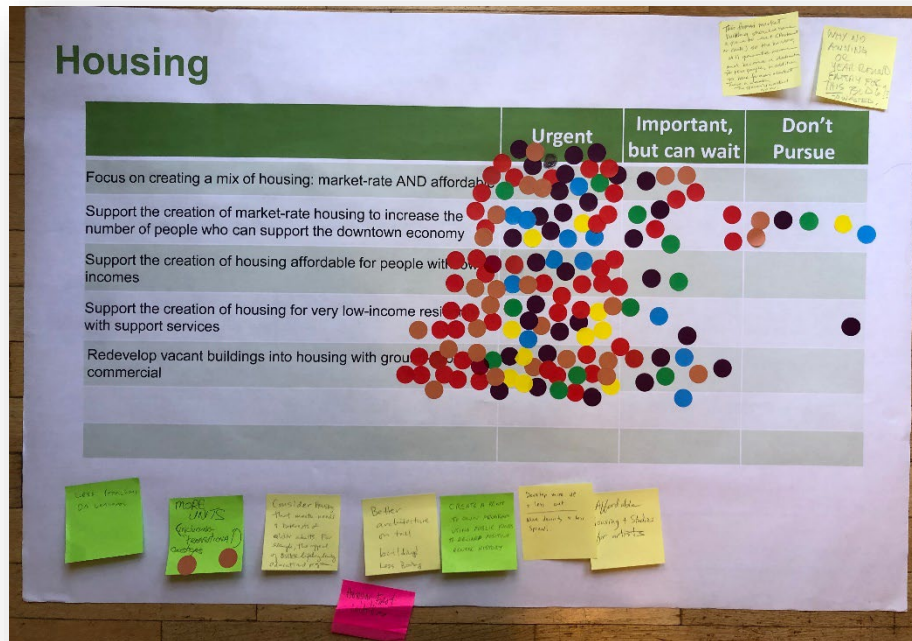
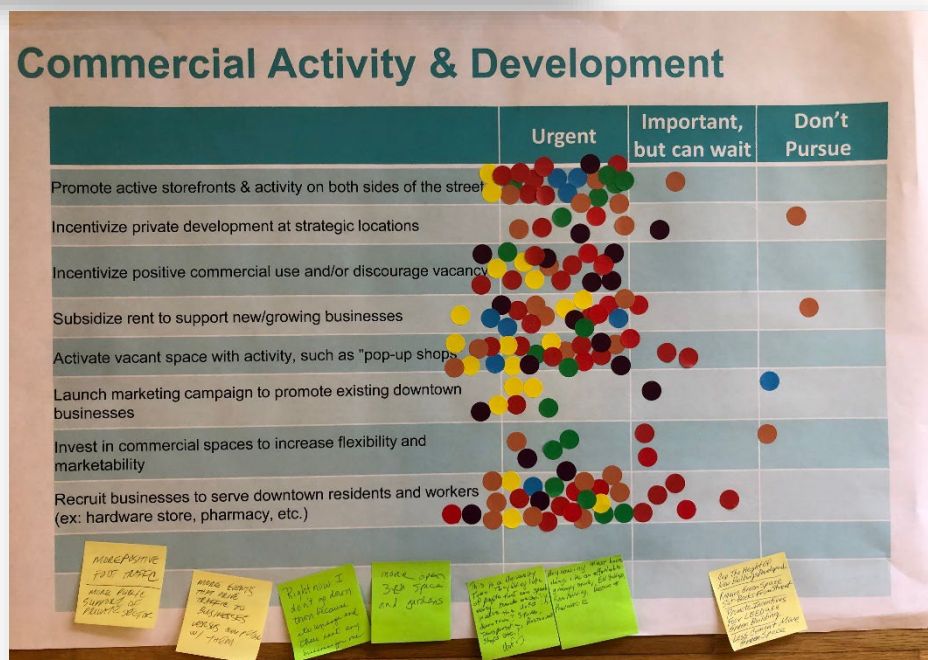
Interviews with key stakeholders produced a draft problem statement and priority topics. In general, City staff heard the public's vision of a downtown that is safe, clean, vibrant, diverse, and had 24/7 activity – but the problem is that downtown feels unsafe, dirty, vacant, and deserted. Staff generally heard the priorities should be public safety and social services, events, commercial activity, and housing.

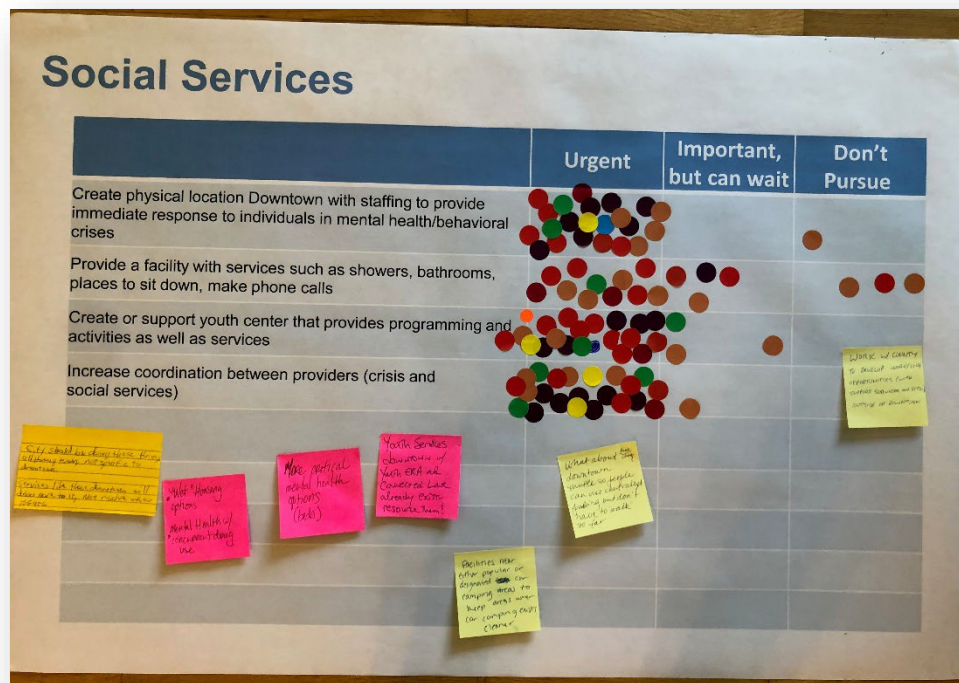
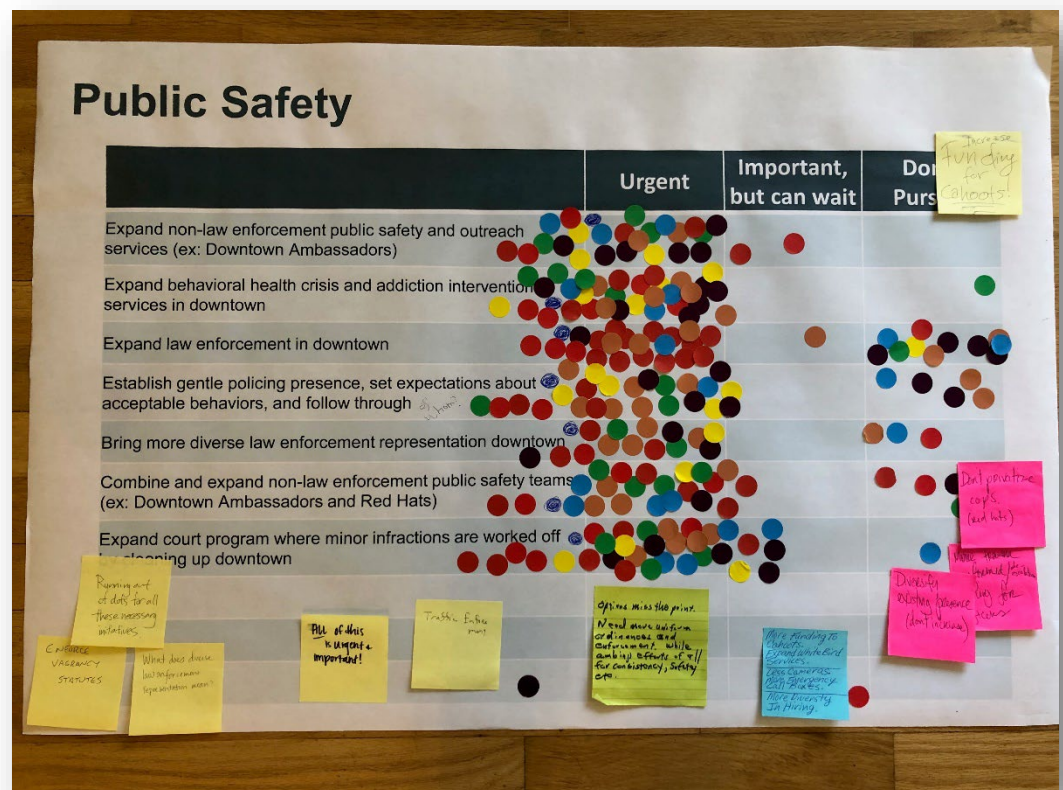
These draft ideas were then presented at 4 group conversations and participants were asked to add their thoughts to the draft problem statement and priorities and to focus on brainstorming specific actions - see image for an example of a completed worksheet.

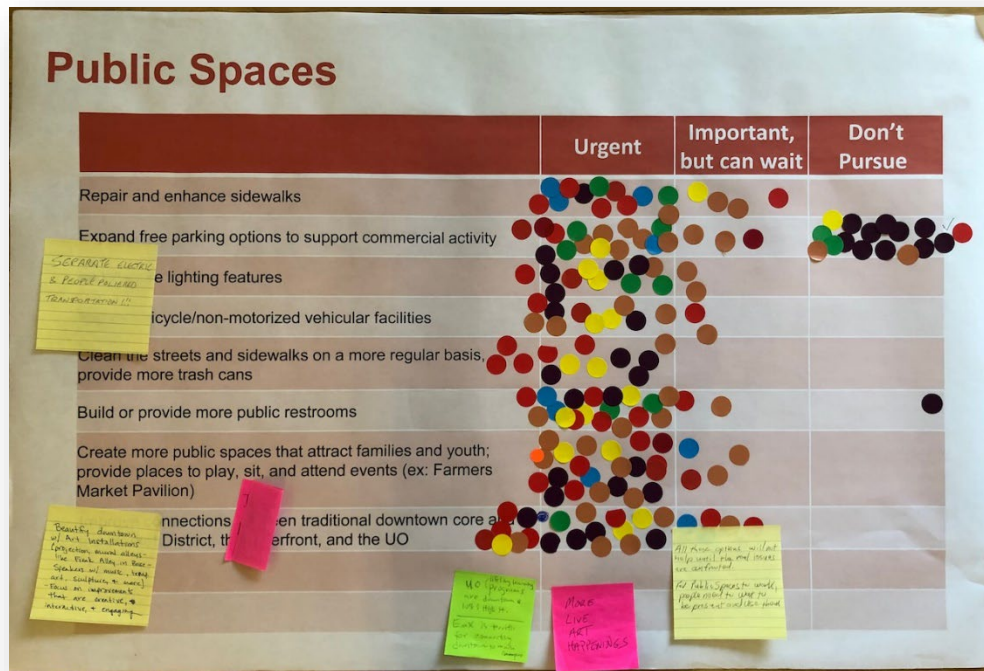
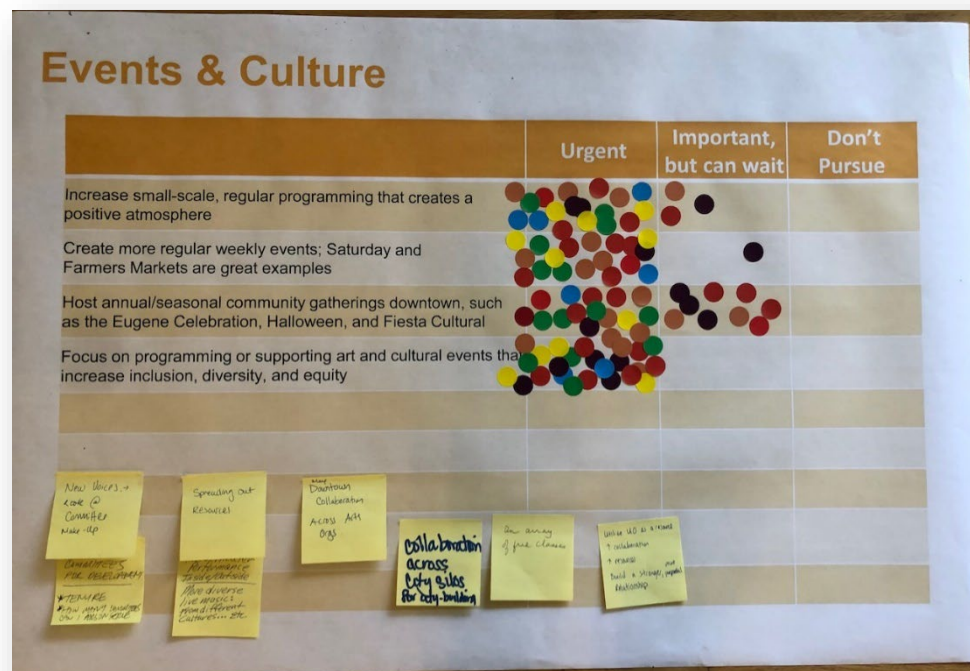


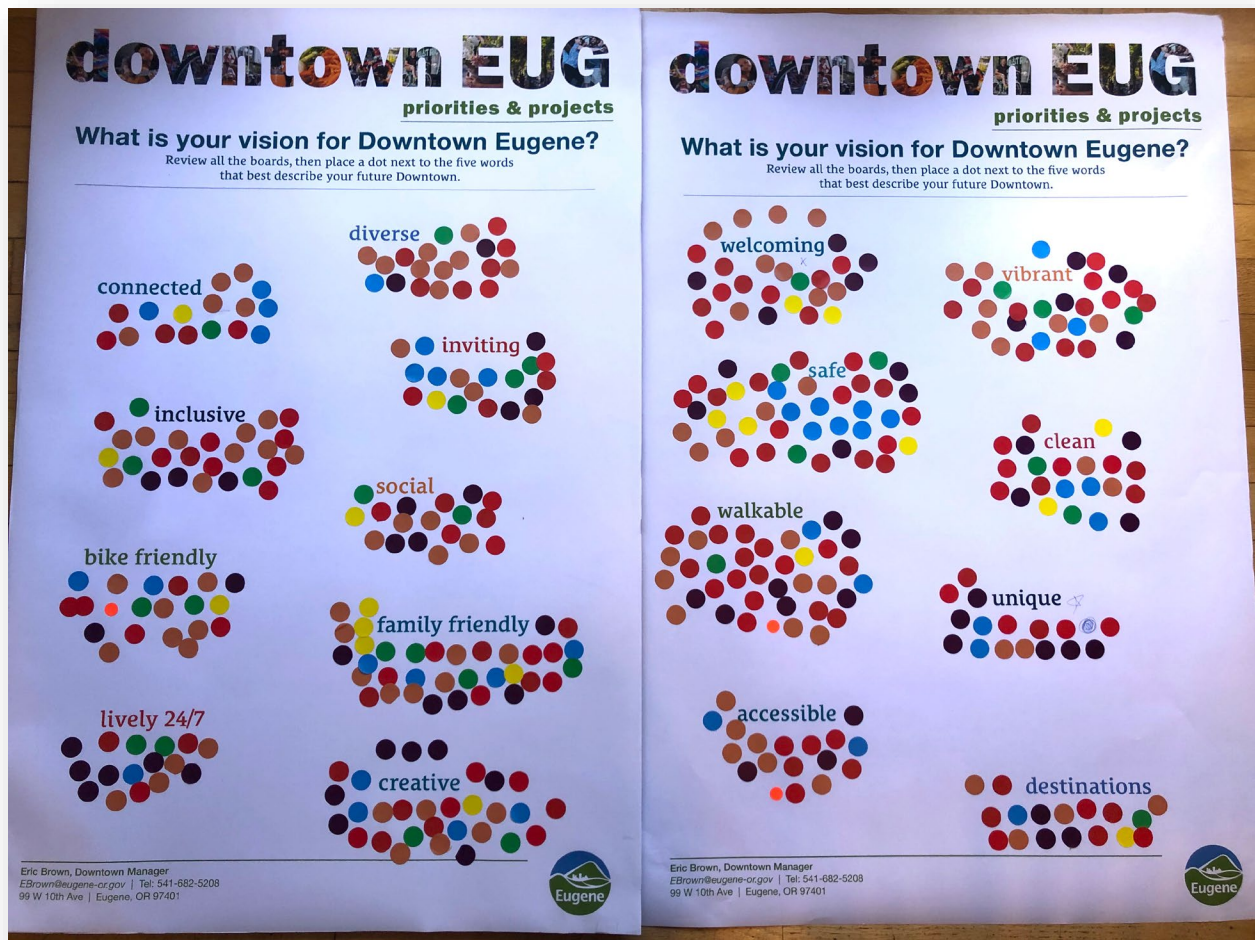
Open House Summary

The actions brainstormed in the group conversations were summarized and presented at the Open House and 120+ participants were asked to weigh in on priorities, urgency, and add new actions. See next pages for a sampling of Open House results. See Attachment F for full list of submitted ideas, including Open House results.









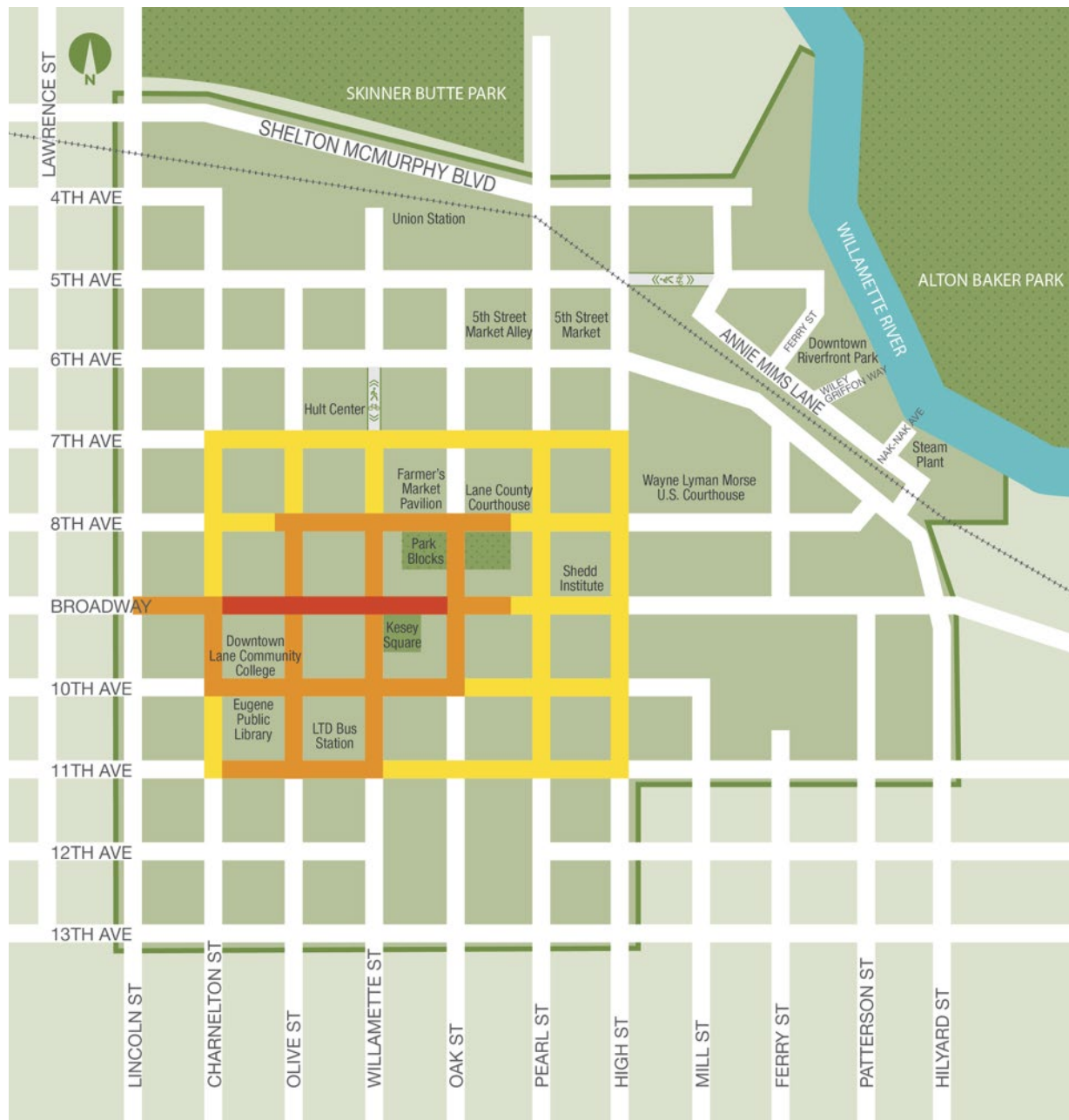
Survey

Staff conducted an online English and Spanish survey as part of the Evaluation and Prioritize part of the process. See Attachment D for a summary of survey results and Attachment E for the raw survey data.

Map Input

The in-person events and meetings provided an opportunity to share opinions on the area downtown of highest concern by marking-up a map. See below for a summary map showing 3 general areas:

- Red: Highest ranked area of concern by the most people
- Orange: Second highest areas of concern
- Yellow: Several focus group participants provided input on the idea of defining the “core” of Downtown as a smaller area than the “Downtown Area” marked on the map. See yellow for where several people indicated their perception of the “core.”



A sampling of quotes

See below for a sampling of quotes from the meeting notes and online survey, organized (roughly) by topic. A few comments:

- Although the survey did not include a question specific to transportation, there were many comments associated with getting around downtown – see “Transportation” below for details.
- The choice of comments is based on representing the diversity of perspectives, not the quantity in each topic area. To view the survey with all submitted comments, see Attachment E.

Public Safety and Social Services

- *The perception of safety downtown should be number one priority. Everything else flows from this.*
- *The anti-social behaviors of a few make it unwelcoming and feel unsafe for most.*
- *As a business owner downtown, public safety and accessibility are top priorities!*
- *I love Eugene! I've worked downtown for more than ten years and no longer feel safe. Let's focus on mental health and addiction services so folks can be well. Low-income housing, please!!!*
- *The increased police presence makes me feel unsafe. I don't like surveillance or armed patrols. I won't go downtown if it feels like a police state. I also want to mention that the Saturday market is very inaccessible to people in wheelchairs. Try it sometime.*
- *Homelessness is a complex issue, as a city we are failing to combat the issue. Downtown businesses suffer because we have allowed downtown to become a filthy and unsafe place. Our city thrives when businesses thrive, which pumps funding into programs that help keep our city presentable.*
- *Funds are being received for people and the Government can help non-profits with a plan to spend the funds. Find solutions within the community. Give the people more resources. A solution would be to have places for people to go and receive care by their peers. Red hats aren't peers. And they are messing up.*
- *Assaults and attempted assaults on patrons at least once a week including threats of gun violence. Frustrated with COE and Police for doing nothing when there is absolute proof of violence against “us”. Have not seen red hats in months. They walk around and do nothing.*
- *I like downtown, and there are certain businesses there that I love supporting (e.g., Noisette, J Michael's Books, Porterhouse, Broadway Metro, Spectrum). There are clearly people with addiction and behavioral health problems who tend to congregate downtown, and it's a complicated issue. Arresting them or throwing them in jail is not the solution. We need a more comprehensive plan for addiction services and housing for all of Eugene and Lane County (really, the whole state and country) to truly address the problem.*
- *The challenges downtown is experiencing are not limited to downtown. They're issues that pervade our entire community. If we strive to create a healthy community where basic needs are met and people can afford housing, food, healthcare, etc.; where community members feel heard, seen, represented, safe and welcome; where families are supported and children are well fed and educated; and where people feel connected... then I believe many of the issues we see would disappear on their own.*

- *If we can implement enough multiple strategies (business developments, events, beautification, mental health and housing services) to tip that scale more to the positive, then I think it will continue to create momentum and gain more weight, further pushing us toward positive outcomes.*
- *There is the idea that downtown Eugene is "unsafe" this is simply not true, most people that say that are upper middle class white people that are scared of anyone they perceive to be "poor," Downtown isn't unsafe, but there are certainly things that can be done to enhance and improve downtown so that the upper middle class of Eugene doesn't continue to be like "Can't go downtown, there are scary homeless people and once one of them asked me for money for FOOD! Which was clearly for DRUGS!!!!!"*
- *Municipal codes frequently and consistently NOT enforced downtown: littering, smoking, unleashed and/or unlicensed dogs, amplified music, blocked sidewalks. These violations can be seen by anyone at any time of the day walking down Broadway. Occasional police presence is not nearly enough - there needs to be a visible and constant police presence in the downtown core.*
- *A downtown 24/7 service center for people without stable housing would go a long way to promote mental well being, provide greater access to services (including basic care), and would give people a feeling that they are cared for.*
- *It's tragic that we allow so many people to live in inhumane conditions on our streets. I understand that this is not a problem that our City can solve on our own, but I think it's crucial that we have sufficient housing and drug/alcohol and mental health services in our community.*
- *Non-law enforcement programs need to be implemented completely separately from the Eugene police department.*
- *We cannot keep putting all the money into only shelter creation and cleaning up— we need to foster businesses, landmarks, and unique spaces. I stopped going downtown anywhere but the movie theater and the library, and now don't like to take the family to either of those places because of the safety issues. Super sad.*

Housing, Commercial Activity, Public Spaces

- *People make towns vibrant. They support business and culture. 24/7 residence and continuing venues have more impact than periodic/transitory events.*
- *Housing, housing, housing. All the rest will solve itself.*
- *Get cracking on developing all the empty lots in and around downtown.*
- *My vision of downtown Eugene is similar to that of a European downtown, such as Copenhagen. Designed for people, not cars, pedestrian and bike centric roadways, green spaces, benches, open air cafes and the like. I feel like the 5th street market, farmers market pavilion and Riverfront park are great starts. I'd love to see these all interconnected in the style I mentioned above.*
- *MUPTE is misunderstood -the tax is not a break for the wealthy. There are additional costs to building downtown. MUPTE is the best investment in terms of development. Entire population supporting sustainable development and creating the center of gravity.*

- *Activated spaces like the new farmers market, 5th street development, and the waterfront are steps in the right direction. We need commercial/retail spaces on the bottom floor of downtown building to create permeable space, not office spaces that sit empty on the weekends or after hours. This leads to dead spaces during times you'd want people to be spending money downtown eating and shopping.*
- *It may be an impossible dream, but I'd like to see a department store located in downtown Eugene!*
- *Overall, I think downtown Eugene is trending in the right direction. I first moved to Eugene in 2003, and at that time it seemed like downtown was dying- There were many boarded-up storefronts, not to mention the giant pits where buildings once stood. Compared to what it was like back then, I think the downtown improvements have been incredible, and I am very happy to see that the city is still working to make things even better.*
- *Loving the new farmers market space. Love the outdoor eating space and improvements to beauty.*
- *In my experience, downtown Eugene is not dangerous or overrun with homeless people. My friends and myself go downtown on occasion for events, drinks, and food, and have done so for years. We all live in Eugene, and rather close to downtown. For us, there really isn't much reason to visit downtown more frequently than we do. Many people feel that the downtown area is fine for tourists or visitors, and we're happy to let them have at it. Getting the locals to spend more time and money there is going to require... more events? Unique shops? What is in downtown that we cannot find anywhere else in the city?*
- *Its far too late for this now, but one idea comes to mind is concept of co-op/co-own of space downtown. Give regular people a chance to financially invest more in these projects, and have a sort of public option where folks can actually yield economic benefits from the city growth opposed to just developers.*
- *We need housing options for middle class workers. We often focus on the houseless, but workers making middle class wages have few to no housing options and no one seems to be talking about housing for full time workers.*
- *Speak with Springfield leadership and city planners to follow the blueprint they have followed over the past 5 years. I live in Eugene and go to downtown Springfield 2-3 times more often as Eugene downtown. Homelessness and transients are ruining this city.*
- *Do we need so many bars in such a small area? Housed and well-heeled drunks can be as obnoxious as the mentally ill homeless, or more so!*
- *A town hall, we have nothing to show visitors our hub of local government.*
- *I love Eugene and it is a great city. I would like to see a more walkable downtown with better lighting in certain areas (Broadway and Willamette), even shutting down the streets more regularly with vendors, music and food carts. Also having some pop up vendors and buskers with a small license fee/permit and having more and cleaner public bathrooms available. Also buy the EWEB building at the riverfront and turn that in to City Hall. Develop the Steam Plant/Riverfront more.*
- *I believe increased commercial projects will increase employment and financial opportunities for people. And addressing the drug addiction and mental illness crisis will eventually solve the homeless problems.*

- *Downtown Eugene severely lacks reasons for people to come visit it. This is why you see 5th street so successful. It is the only city of its size I can think of whose downtown lacks anywhere to shop for clothing or high end furniture. We would benefit from a Patagonia, Nordstrom, West Elm, While some in Eugene City Council dislike big storefront names, having these destinations draws people in and encourages them to grab a coffee at The Barn Light or a burrito in Kesey Square. The current offerings in downtown are not enough of a draw, leaving it mostly empty besides transient populations.*
- *I already find Downtown Eugene walkable and safe, I am familiar with cities likes Baltimore and New York City which are less walkable and safe. I think people in Eugene don't take advantage of the downtown, and things downtown 1) aren't open when they say they are, 2) are open at weird times when people can't go 3) there aren't enough businesses to even entice people to go downtown.*
- *It breaks my heart that the city tore down its own City Hall and has not made a plan to rebuild it. That's part of the heart of a city. No amount of one off events takes the place of that. And the answer to homelessness is housing. Until housing is available, the houseless will be an issue*
- *Eugene builds subsidized housing and lux student housing but nothing at all for regular families. The hate you folks have for us is palpable. The problem is not 'the homeless' the problem is you, the class who wrote this garbage survey.*
- *The new venue for the Farmer's Market has vastly improved the area, but disability parking close by is hard to find.*
- *I was recently in downtown Boise, Idaho and it was vibrant and fun with lots of restaurants and people walking around. I don't know what they are doing differently than Eugene, but it seems like it might be a good place to check out. There were lots of college students downtown, which seems to contrast with Eugene.*
- *Support businesses with local grants to improve their buildings and sidewalk amenities. Create a cafe culture downtown to attract more positive activity and create a zoned ordinance to prevent loitering in these areas.*
- *As a student at the University of Oregon and also being from Oregon and knowing non-students who live in Eugene, affordable housing is really key to helping the community thrive once again.*
- *While I support densifying the downtown core, I believe the scale of building heights and masses to the width of sidewalk/pedestrian zones is wrong. Pedestrian zones should be wider than they have been allowed on recent new developments in the downtown. It would appear that SOME setback should be maintained vs ZERO setback.*

Transportation/Mobility

- *YEAH! Have I mentioned how much Eugene would blow off the map of popularity if we turned downtown into a pedestrian paradise? A real one, not the Americanized car first version of "pedestrian friendly". Dense affordable housing, walkable areas with mixed use zoning, an overall safe vibe, and something to actually DO and meet new people and get a sense of real community. That's the recipe for a thriving metropolis.*
- *More bike infrastructure! Sorely needed. Slow down traffic. Encourage walkability and discourage cars.*

- *Downtown needs to be more people-centric. All streets should be built with wide sidewalks, mid-block crossings, protected bike lanes, and space for outdoor seating and bike lanes. Cars should be seen as guests on downtown streets. Wide streets like 6th, 7th, and Franklin should have road diets.*
- *Transportation is also critical. We need folks to be able to access downtown without having to bring a car. So bicycle safety is important as is walking and creative forms of transportation. Perhaps even free transportation.*
- *I've seen decades of surveys like this. When I ask anyone I know what would improve downtown, the answer is always "free parking". And yet Eugene leaders never seem to want to hear this. It wasn't even an option on the survey. Downtown Corvallis is a great example of a functional downtown. Free or very low-cost parking (20 minutes for a nickel!), very walkable, vibrant, dense variety of shops, cafes, and services.*
- *Downtown Eugene is a destination for people who both live in Eugene but also a huge number of customers and clients from out of town and of all ages and physical abilities. If it is to thrive as a destination, the accessibility of all constituents -- not just sunny daytime bike riders -- must be taken into account. Neighborhood nodes and high schools should be "bikable" -- downtown should be accessible to all.*
- *How about a Downtown shuttle? And please separate electric and people-powered bicycles.*

Events and Culture

- *Re-establish the Eugene Celebration and parade as the big weekend street party that it used to be. That introduces many people to the businesses and amenities that are in downtown Eugene. In my opinion, it was the greatest public relations advertisement there is!*
- *We need more unique sculptures and interesting visual displays that distinguish our city from other Cities. We need to incorporate what European downtowns do which is have living spaces on the upper floors and have shops on the ground floor.*
- *I think there is a lot that is very good downtown. One of the easiest ways to bring people downtown is to have children perform. Parents/Grandparents will show up for that. Also a PR campaign highlighting all that is wonderful would help people to recognize the positive.*
- *Regular events would shine more light on downtown. Would help businesses, and maybe help people the people on the street. Shine a light—metaphorically and literally—on the downtown. We need a lot more lights, making it brighter.*
- *Work with and secure artists to showcase talent at prominent connecting streets downtown. Make sure they get stipends and their art and music is promoted. Create a steering committee made of wide reps from the community. Not just this type of sessions. Involve a lot more people from BiPOC for such committee and on going follow up.*

Summary of Survey Data

Staff implemented a survey using Engage Eugene on the City's website. The survey is *not* a statistically representative sample and responses summarized here have not been weighted to accurately represent the community. It does, however, offer insight into how the community feels about downtown's challenges and what is needed to address the challenges.

Over 1,200 individuals responded to the survey. The respondents include a diverse mix of Eugeneans. In this attachment, we summarize some of the key questions and then compare how the responses vary by different groups. (See Attachment E for the raw survey data.) The key questions focus on what respondents identify as downtown's top challenges, a description of their future vision, and actions that would help downtown. This attachment has four sections:

1. Descriptive statistics
2. Top 3 challenges
3. Future vision
4. Actions that would help downtown

1. Descriptive Statistics

In addition to asking for typical demographic data, the survey asked how often respondents visit downtown. Figure 1 shows that respondents range from daily residents and daily visitors to those that infrequently visit downtown. The largest group, about a third, visit downtown a few times per week.

Figure 1. How often do you go downtown?

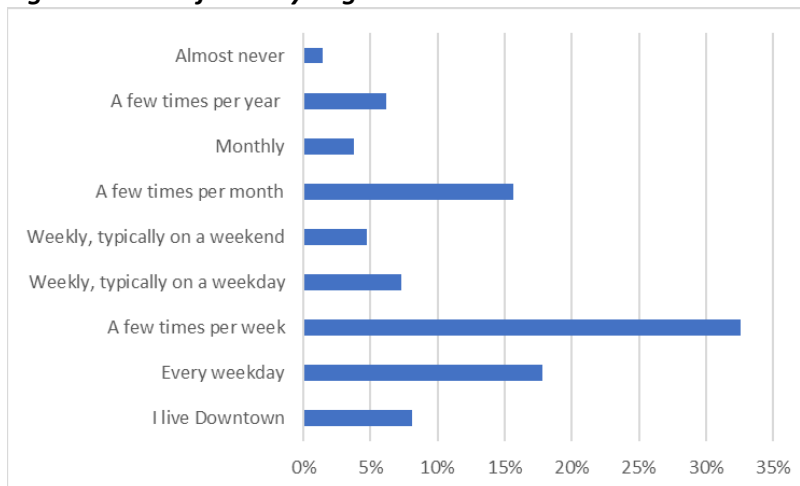
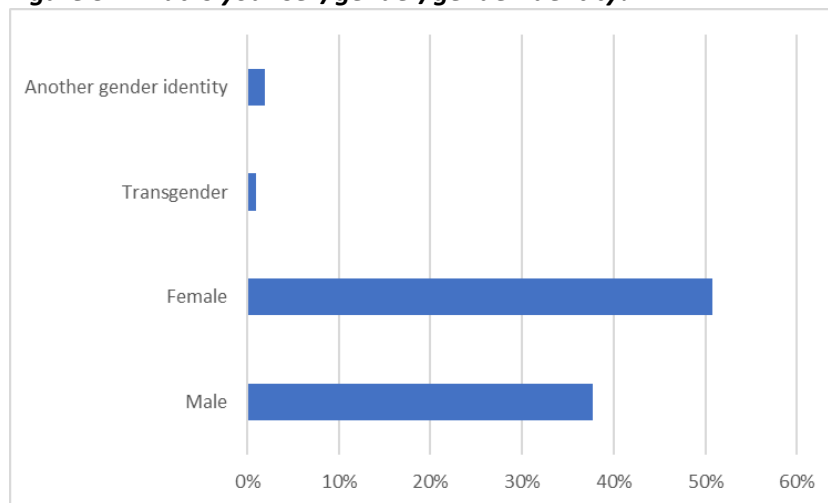


Figure 2 shows the distribution of respondents by Ward. Ward 1 has the largest number of survey respondents.

Figure 2. Which Council ward do you live in?

Ward	%
1	30%
2	18%
3	10%
4	7%
5	9%
6	3%
7	13%
8	9%

The survey asked for respondents to identify their gender, summarized in Figure 3. The data show that significantly more females than males took the survey.

Figure 3. What is your sex/gender/gender identity?

The survey asked respondents to identify their ethnicity, summarized in Figure 4. The data show that over 80% of respondents were white, 5% Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x, 2% were American Indian or Alaska Native, 2% were Asian or Asian Indian, and 1% were Black or African American.

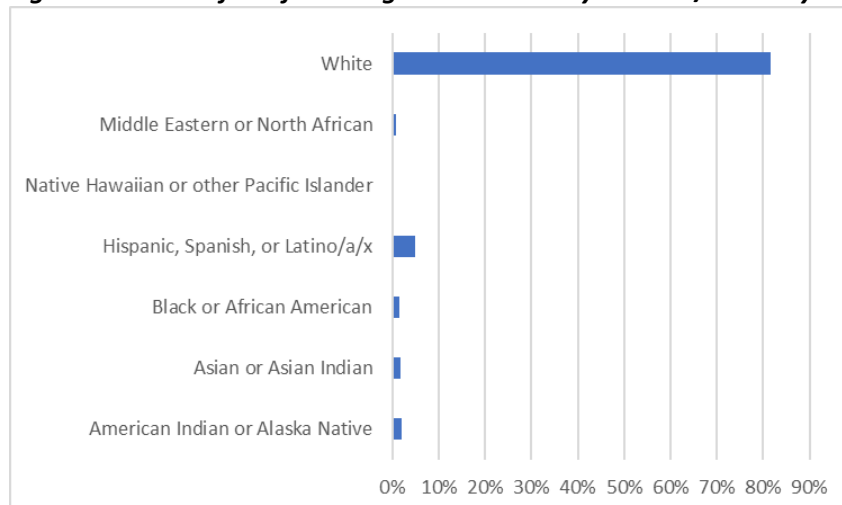
Figure 4. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

Figure 5 shows the percent of respondents by household income. The data show an increasing likelihood to take the survey as income increases.

Figure 5. Would you say your total annual household income is...?

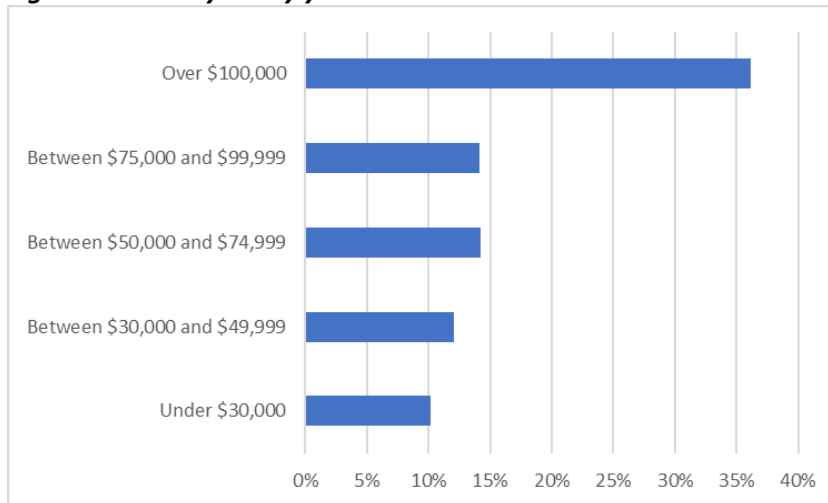
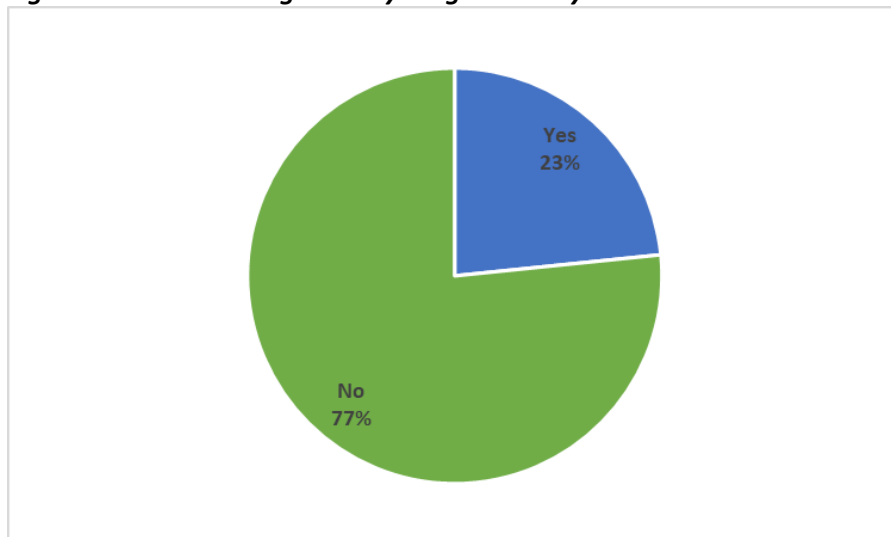


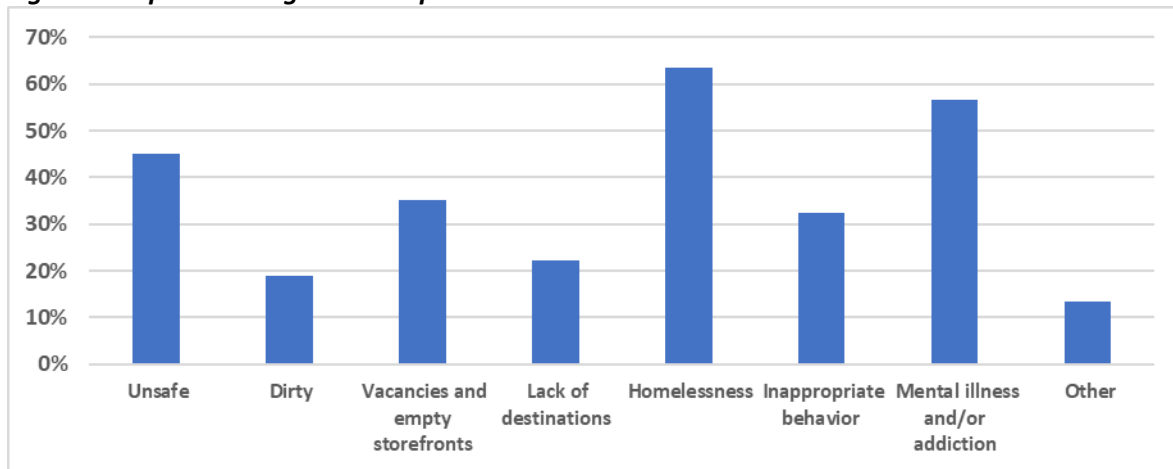
Figure 6 shows that about a quarter of the respondents have children living in their home.

Figure 6. Do children age 17 or younger live in your home?

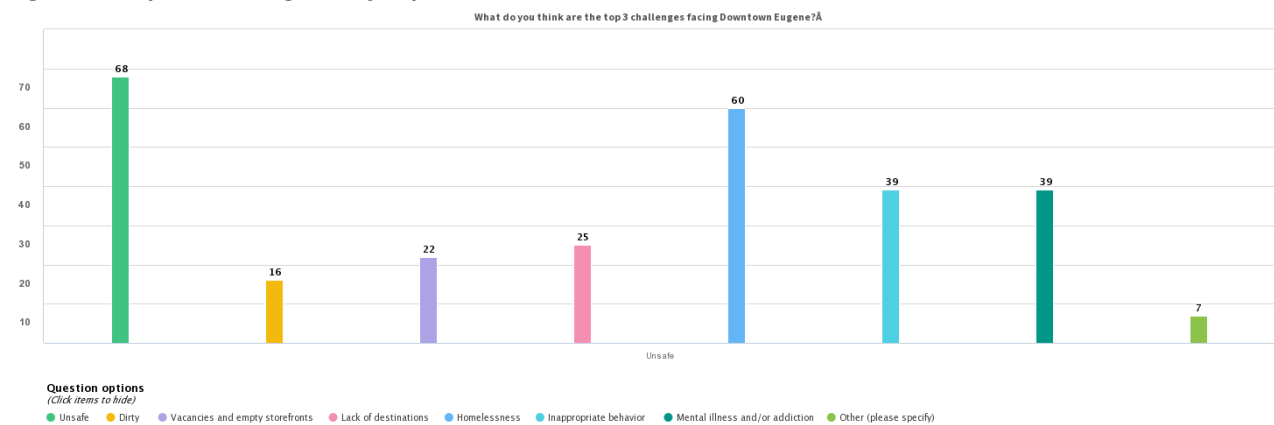


2. Top 3 Challenges

When asked to identify downtown Eugene's top 3 challenges, the majority of survey respondents identified "homelessness" (63%) and "mental health and addiction" (57%) as challenges, as shown in Figure 7. The third most common response was "unsafe" (45%). Less frequently cited challenges included "vacancies and empty storefronts" (35%), "inappropriate behavior" (33%), "lack of destinations" (22%), and "dirty" (19%).

Figure 7. Top 3 Challenges - all responses

People who visit downtown every weekday, who made up 18% of all responses, had similar responses as all survey respondents. People who rarely come downtown—either a few times a year or almost never—identified a different set of top challenge (see Figure 8). Those infrequent visitors made up 8% of all responses and they identified ‘unsafe’ as the top challenge (71%), followed by “homelessness” (63%). Only 41% identified “mental health and addiction”. This indicates that infrequent visitors see the challenges facing downtown add up to an unsafe place. Individuals that experience downtown on regular basis identified the individual causes that lead to the sense of a lack of safety. The infrequent visitors see the challenges facing downtown as a whole ‘unsafe’ environment.

Figure 8. Top 3 Challenges - Infrequent Visitors

Age affected responses. Survey respondents under the age of 40 indicated a smaller concern with safety: 40% of respondents younger than 40 cited “unsafe” as a concern, compared to 45% of the full set of respondents and 46% for respondents over the age of 60.

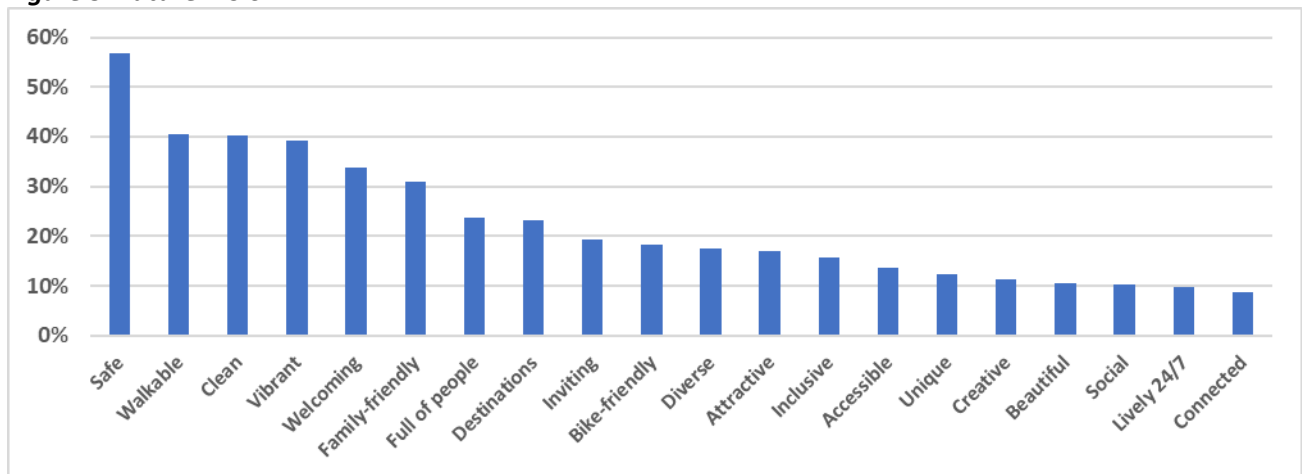
Income also affected responses. Respondents who reported their household income is less than \$50,000 per year indicated a smaller concern with safety—39% cited “unsafe” as a concern. Respondents with income over \$75,000 per year had similar responses to the full set of respondents.

Ethnicity affected concerns. Individuals who identified as Hispanic were much less likely to identify “mental health and addiction” as a challenge—40% as compared to 57% in the full set of respondents. Individuals who identified as non-white were less likely to cite “mental health and addiction” as a challenge—42%. Non-white respondents were more likely to identify “unsafe” as a concern, with 50% citing “unsafe”, compared to 45% of the full set of respondents.

3. Future Vision

The survey asked for five words to describe respondents’ future vision. Given a selection of 20 words, over half of respondents said “safe” (57%). Frequently identified words were “walkable” (40%), “clean” (40%), “vibrant” (39%), “welcoming” (34%), “family-friendly” (31%), and “full of people” (24%). Figure 9 shows all respondents, in descending order.

Figure 9. Future Vision



People who come downtown every weekday identified “safe” as their top word (58%). The next most common words were “clean” (41%), “vibrant” (39%), and “welcoming” (36%). For workday visitors, “walkable” did not rise to the top five, as it did for all respondents.

Infrequent visitors also identified “safe” as their top word, but much more frequently than people who visit more frequently—70% compared to 57% of all responses. They also identified “family-friendly” more frequently—41% compared to 31% of all responses.

Younger respondents indicated slightly different priorities than the full set of respondents. Individuals younger than 40 were much less likely to identify “safe” as part of their vision: 40% of younger respondents identified “safe”, compared to 57% of all respondents. A much higher portion of the younger respondents identified “walkable”: 47% compared to 40% of the full set of respondents.

Income levels affected the respondents’ future vision of downtown. Households with incomes less than \$50,000 were more likely identify “walkable” than the full set of responses—50% compared to 40%. These household were less likely to identify “safe”—48%, compared to 57% of all respondents.

Respondents who identify as non-white had similar priorities as did the full set of respondents, although 30% of non-white respondents identified “diverse” as part of their vision, compared to 18% of the full set of respondents.

Hispanic respondents indicated a relatively high priority for “walkable”, with 48% choosing that word, compared to 40% of the full set. The Hispanic respondents were more likely to choose “family-friendly”, with 43% selecting it, compared to 31% of the full set of respondents.

Respondents that have children in their home were very likely to identify “family-friendly” as part of their vision—54% compared to 31%.

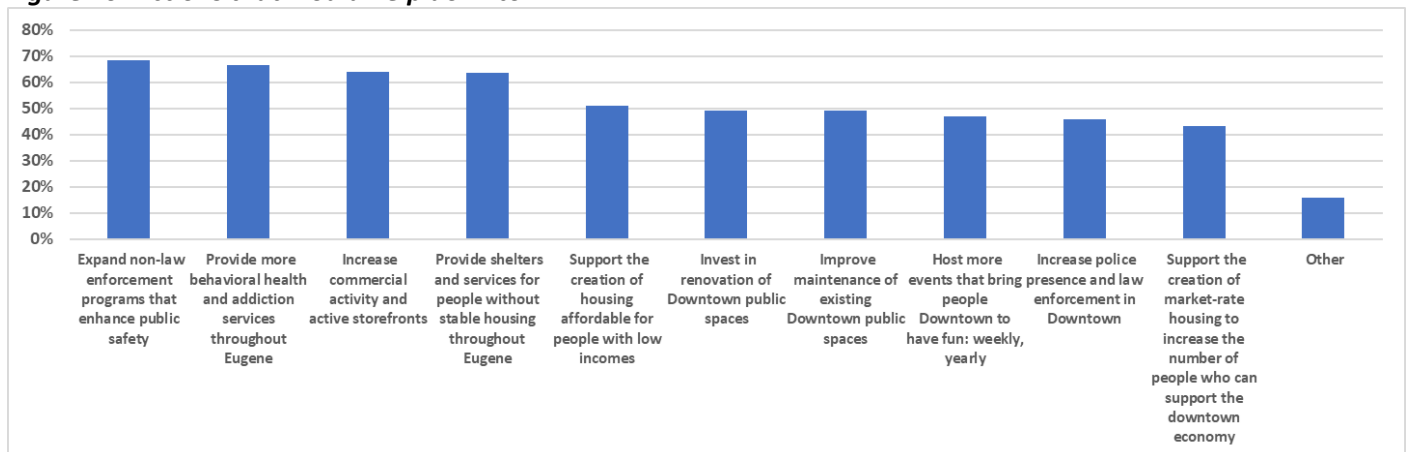
4. Actions that would help downtown

The survey asked respondents to identify actions that would help downtown. Given a choice of ten actions, no single action rose above others. Respondents were allowed to select all that apply (see Figure 10). The five most frequently identified actions were:

- “expand non-law enforcement programs that enhance public safety” (68%)
- “provide more behavioral health and addiction services throughout Eugene” (67%)
- “increase commercial activity and active storefronts” (64%)
- “provide shelters and services for people without stable housing throughout Eugene” (64%)
- “support the creation of housing affordable for people with low incomes” (51%)

The results indicate that the community wants a diverse set of actions implemented that would improve downtown.

Figure 10. Actions that would help downtown - All



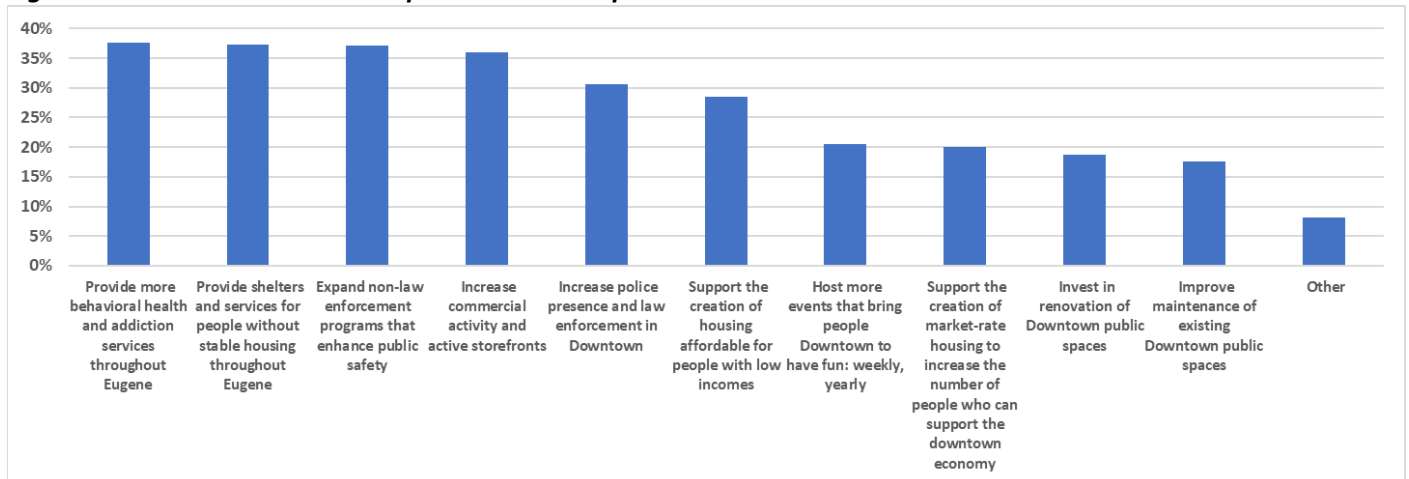
The survey then asked respondents to identify their top three actions, to show what the priorities of all the actions are. Of the 10 listed actions, five were identified by more than 30% of the respondents:

- “provide more behavioral health and addiction services throughout Eugene” (38%)
- “provide shelters and services for people without stable housing throughout Eugene” (37%)
- “expand non-law enforcement programs that enhance public safety” (37%)
- “increase commercial activity and active storefronts” (36%)
- “increase police presence and law enforcement in Downtown” (31%)

The top two priorities focus on behavioral health and homelessness, which are citywide issues and do not only exist in the downtown.

When asked to prioritize actions, respondents focused on police enforcement. The action “increase police presence and law enforcement in downtown” moved from the 9th most frequently cited action when asked for all actions, to 5th when asked for top 3.

Figure 11. Actions that would help downtown - Top 3



The selected choices vary by different types of respondents. Figure 12 shows the five most cited actions for a variety of respondent groups. The first line of data in the figure show the top five answers for all respondents, summarized above.

Weekday visitors to downtown have a set of preferences very similar to the full set of respondents. Infrequent visitors' top action is to “increase police presence”, which was the 5th priority for the full set of respondents.

“Support the creation of housing affordable for people with low incomes” was a high priority for younger respondents, lower-income households, and Hispanic respondents.

“Increase commercial activity and active storefronts” was within the top five choices for all groups analyzed, except for the lower-income households. For non-white respondents, those with children at home, and respondents with high incomes, it was the top choice.

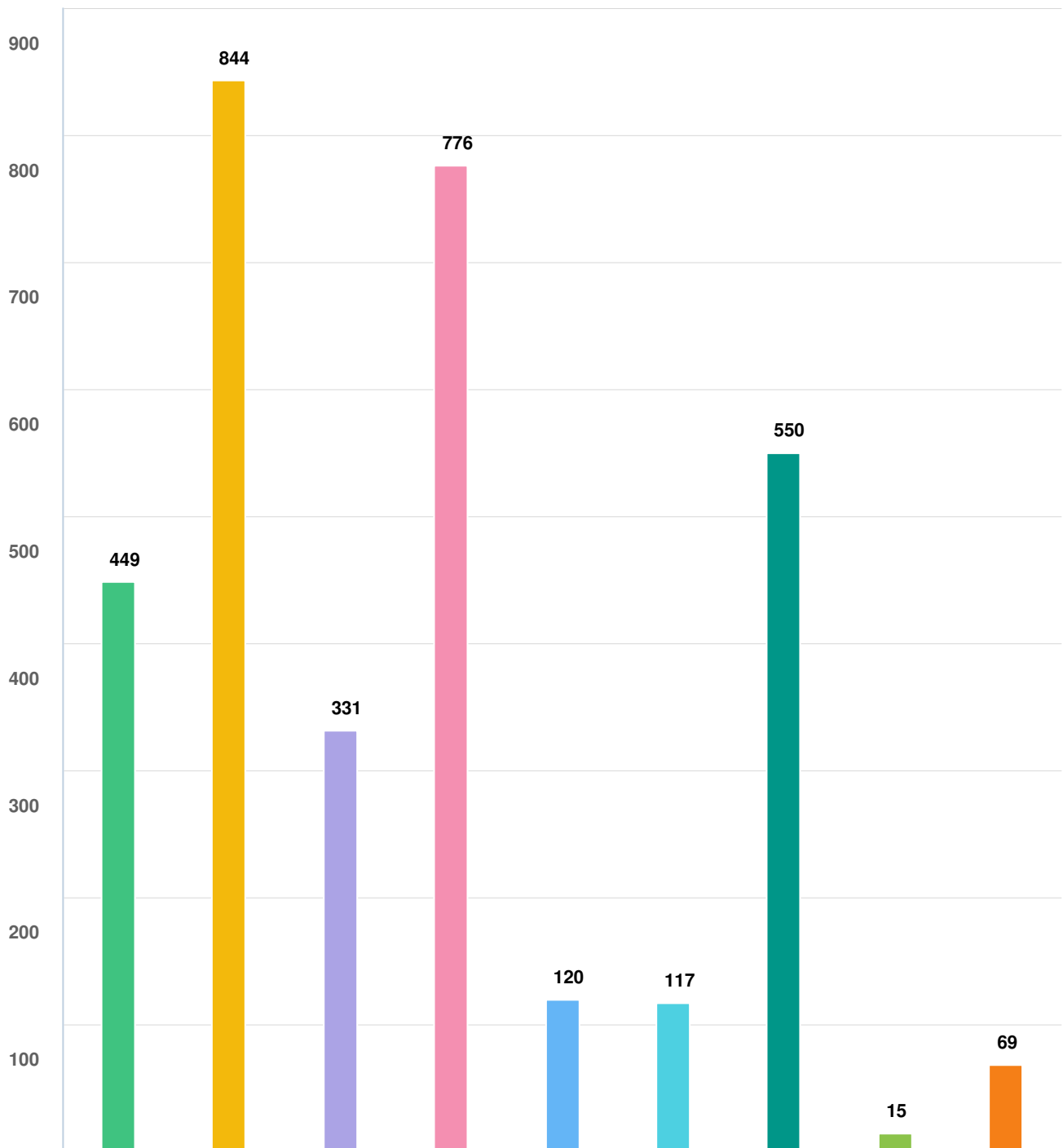
It is important to note that Figure 12 shows the top five actions and that none of the ‘top’ choices received more than 50% of the responses. None of the choices were overwhelmingly selected. There is a lack of consensus about the highest priority actions, which suggests all actions are important.

Figure 12. Actions that would help downtown - Top 3: 5 Most Cited Responses for Different Groups

Action	Provide more behavioral health and addiction services throughout Eugene	Provide shelters and services for people without stable housing throughout Eugene	Expand non-law enforcement programs that enhance public safety	Increase commercial activity and active storefronts	Increase police presence and law enforcement in Downtown	Support the creation of housing affordable for people with low incomes	Host more events that bring people Downtown to have fun: weekly, yearly
All Respondents	1 (38%)	2 (37%)	3 (37%)	4 (36%)	5 (31%)		
Weekday visitors	1 (43%)	2 (42%)	4 (38%)	3 (38%)	5 (35%)		
Infrequent Visitors	4 (35%)	5 (32%)	3 (37%)	2 (43%)	1 (46%)		
Men	4 (35%)	5 (33%)	1 (40%)	2 (37%)	3 (36%)		
Female	1 (42%)	2 (41%)	4 (35%)	3 (37%)		5 (31%)	
<40 Years Old	1 (46%)	2 (43%)	4 (34%)	5 (28%)		3 (42%)	
>60 Years Old	4 (35%)	2 (38%)	3 (37%)	1 (39%)	5 (32%)		
<\$50k in Income	3 (45%)	2 (46%)	4 (33%)		5 (19%)	1 (46%)	
>\$75k in Income	3 (37%)	4 (35%)	2 (37%)	1 (45%)	4 (35%)		
Children at home	4 (34%)	2 (36%)	3 (36%)	1 (39%)	5 (33%)		
Hispanic		2 (33%)	2 (33%)	2 (33%)		1 (35%)	2 (33%)
Non-white	1 (37%)	3 (33%)		1 (37%)		4 (33%)	4 (33%)

Downtown Priorities and Projects: Raw Survey Data

Q1 What is your connection to Downtown Eugene? (Select all that apply.)



Question options

- Resident
 ● Shopper
 ● Worker
 ● Visitor (events, activities)
 ● Business Owner
 ● Property Owner
 ● I access services (go to appointments)
 ● I don't have a connection to Downtown Eugene
 ● Other (please specify)

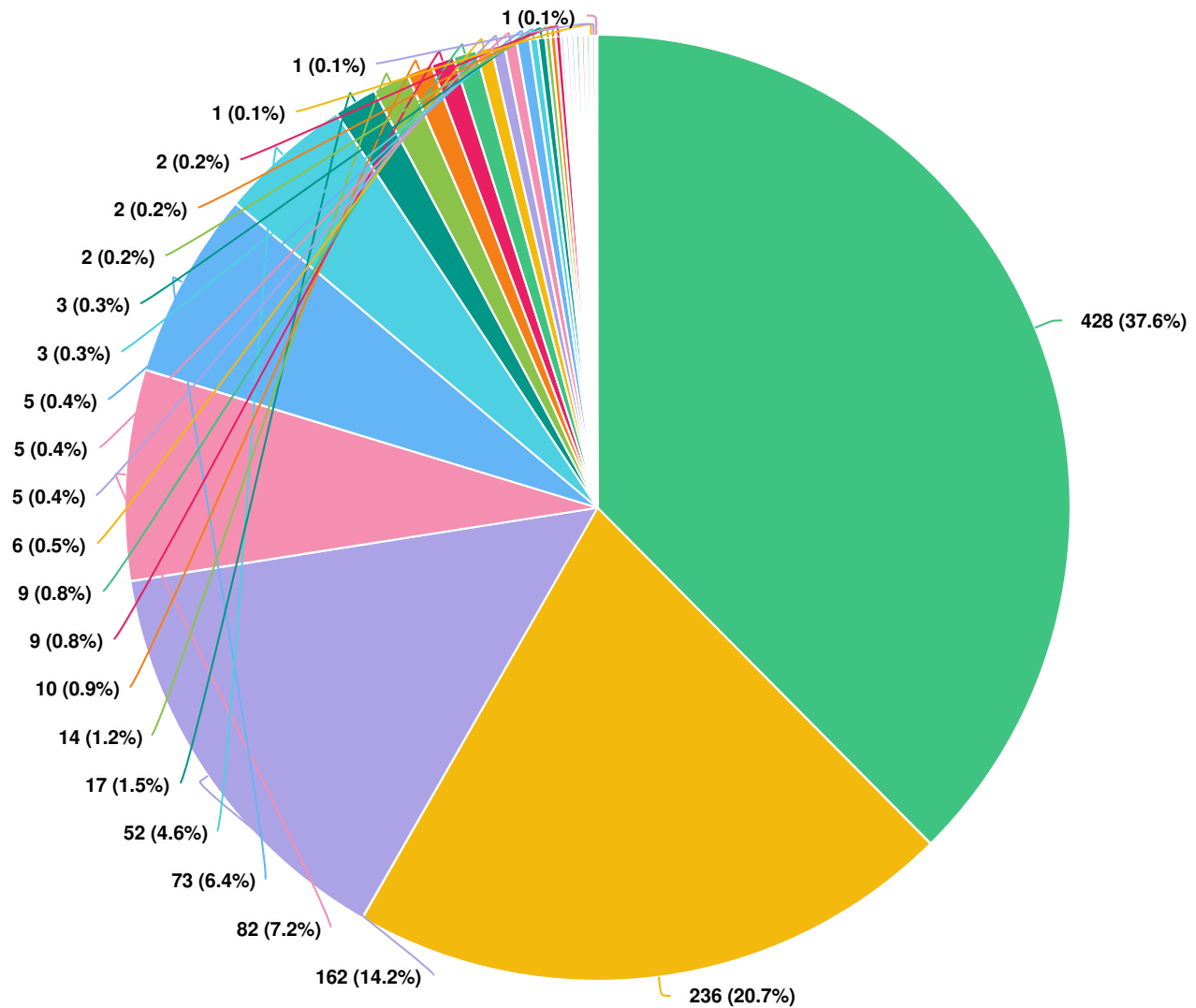
Optional question (1271 response(s), 0 skipped)

Q1 What is your connection to Downtown Eugene? “Other” responses:

Downtown Athletic Club
Library member and arts patron.
engage with civic activities
Take the bus. At downtown station frequently. Am on waiting list for downtown apartment.
Live in Westside. Downtown used to be a frequent destination and for several years we had a software business located downtown.
library
Eugene resident and taxpayer.
I have multiple family members who live in various parts of Eugene, and I go there often to visits and to do business
Church
i like to bike thru downtown
Library user, infrequent bus rider
I don't go downtown any longer - I used to go to town all the time, but I hate what has happened to our city.
Avoider
Volunteer
Cyclist using west Broadway and Willamette street bike route through downtown
I volunteer at Assistance League Thrift Shop on Willamette St; I go to church at First Christian Church
Hometown, my family still lives in Eugene and it is “home” to me in many ways
Student
Bus rider
Library volunteer
I'm currently a “visitor,” but I've lived a couple places downtown in the recent past, and it's my favorite part of town.
Real estate investor
Native Eugenian for 61 years
Use bus station and library a lot.
Library, restaurants
I live and own a home two blocks out of downtown
I used to live near downtown so I still like to walk around there and frequent my favorite places.
Too many homeless people being enabled by people who aren't exposed to their degeneracy ruin the entire city for me in any shape or form. The loud outspoken homosexual community is also cringe. The fact that everywhere I go I see BLM signs and I'm honestly quite sick of it.
Child lives there
Loved downtown for 5 years
Volunteer at a downtown venue
I park there for my activities there, or I walk there, or I take the bus.
I moved out of downtown because the crime and chaos was INSANE. I still have to go there and drive through every single day
Children enrolled in 4 j schools
Worked downtown for 30 years before retirement.
Library user
River front path multiple times per week
Retail and entertainment
Apartment owner
Volunteer at LCC
I mainly drive through Downtown on my way to other Eugene destinations. The only service Downtown I really access is banking.
restaurant, tasting room and tavern patron
Had an office downtown, but moved to Oakway due to danger for our employees.
I provide business consulting services to organizations located in downtown Eugene.
Access to downtown bus station and public library
Considering buying commercial property
Always part of my walking route from home and back.

Nightlife
My work and mail center is not far from Downtown. so I drive through it nearly everyday.
I live downtown, well 6 blocks west, and access the Library primarily.
I live in the Whit...downtown adjacent?
I'm a current board member of SUNA
Commute through on bicycle.
Blogger
My child has dance classes multiple times a week downtown.
eat and have business meetings at downtown businesses
Drive through to work in South Eugene
I am in Eugene on a daily basis but I live 20 minutes outside the city limits.
use the library and the bank
Gallery member
Past downtown police officer, and occasional patron
Resident of Eugene but not downtown. Restaurants
Born and raised
Jog, Hike, Art Venues, Music, restaurants
attending activities - especially art activities
coffee shop local
live in JWN
active in organizations that understand that downtown is everybody's downtown
Event planner
Business Manager

Q2 What is the zip code of your primary residence?

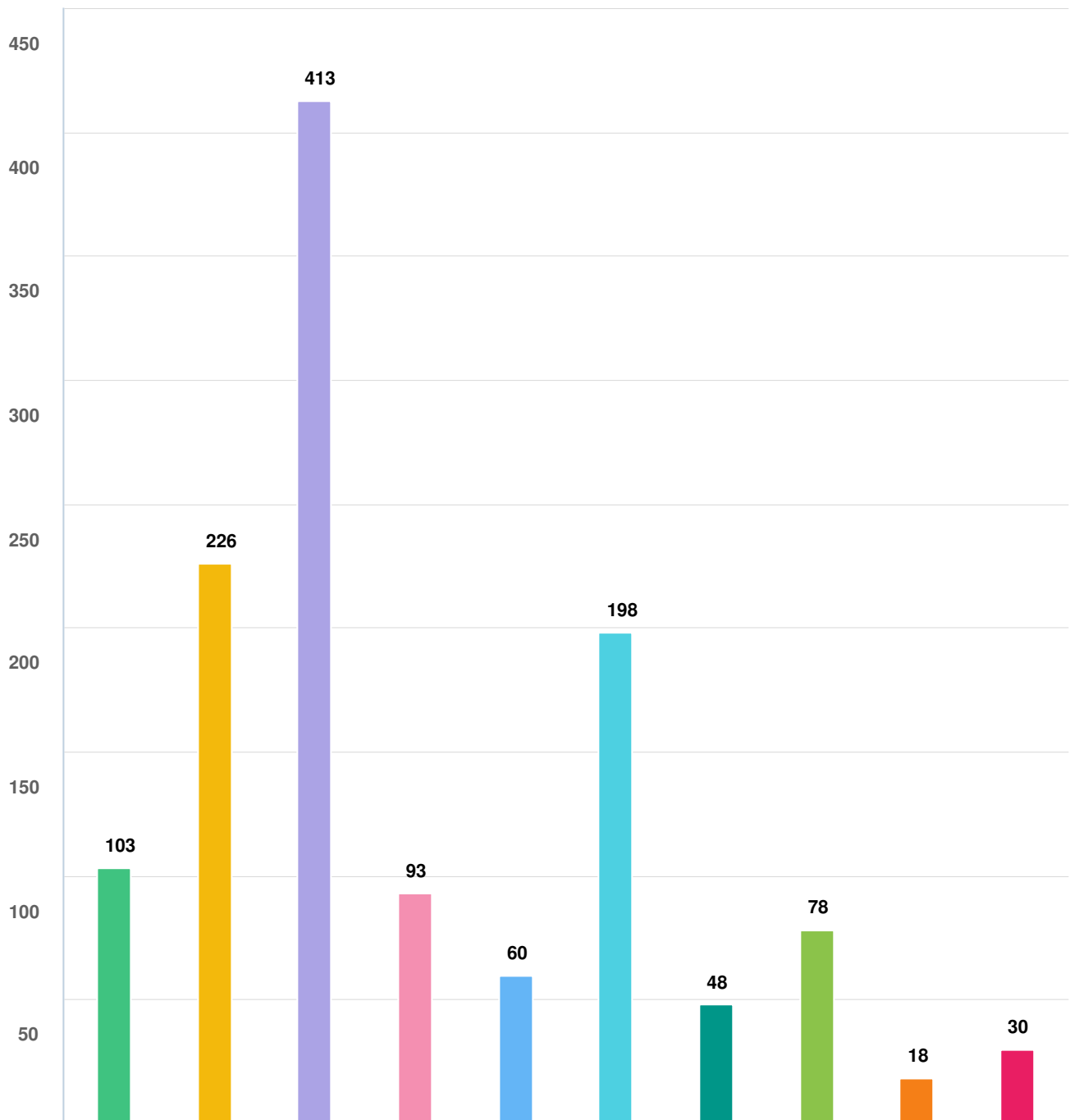


Question options

- Eugene, OR 97405 Eugene, OR 97401 Eugene, OR 97402 Eugene, OR 97404 Eugene, OR 97403
- Eugene, OR 97408 Springfield, OR 97477 Santa Clara, OR 97404 Springfield, OR 97478
- Emu U of Or, OR 97403 Spfd, OR 97477 Veneta, OR 97487 Junction City, OR 97448
- Coburg, OR 97408 Creswell, OR 97426 Crow, OR 97401 Cottage Grove, OR 97424 skipped
- Cheshire, OR 97419 Eugene, OR 97440 Bend, OR 97702 Elmira, OR 97437 Vida, OR 97488
- Pleasant Hill, OR 97405 Oakridge, OR 97463 Cedar Mill, OR 97229 Monroe, OR 97456
- Halsey, OR 97348 Harrisburg, OR 97446 Corvallis, OR 97330 Salem, OR 97302 P Hill, OR 97455
- Fall Creek, OR 97438 Allegany, OR 97407

Optional question (1137 response(s), 134 skipped)

Q3 On average, how often do you go to Downtown Eugene? (Please select one.)



Question options

- I live Downtown
 ● Every weekday
 ● A few times per week
 ● Weekly, typically on a weekday
- Weekly, typically on a weekend
 ● A few times per month
 ● Monthly
 ● A few times per year
 ● Almost never
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (1267 response(s), 4 skipped)

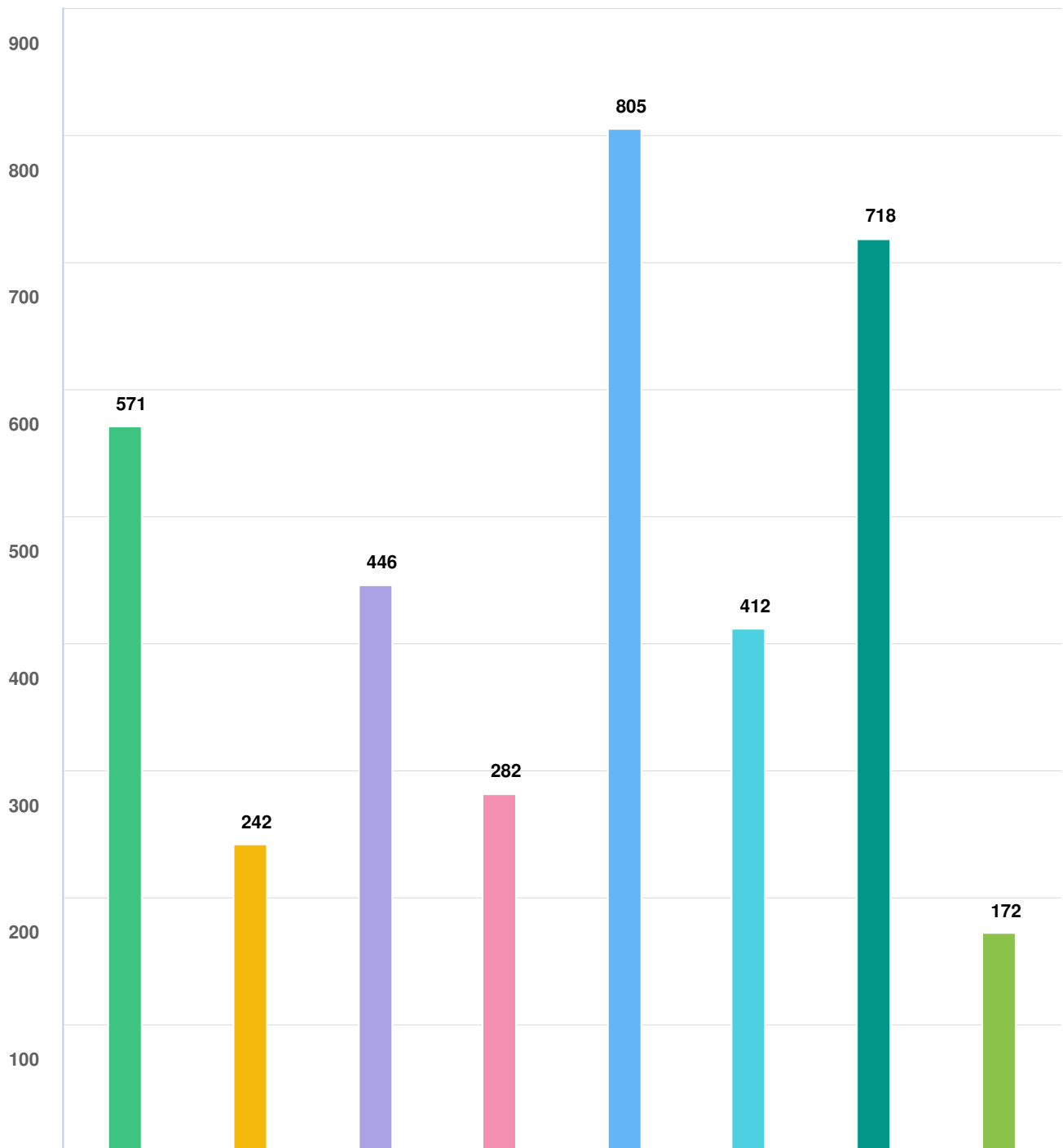
Q3 On average, how often do you go to Downtown Eugene? “Other” responses:

4 days/week weekdays and weekends
Work M-F, usually downtown one or both days on weekend.
5 days a week atleast
as little as possible, it is unsafe, it feels unsafe and unsanitary.
Every weekday and most weekends; 5-7x per week, sometimes multiple times per day.
NEVER!
Use to go all the time now I try and avoid it
Never. I don't use the bus, the 51, 52 and 55 are just fine - no need for an EmX down River Road.. EVER. I sincerely believe whoever is running this town has absolutely no business doing so.
a few times a month on weekends, a few times a month on weekdays
All 7 days of the week
Every day. Our workplace is open 7 days/week, and we are on site almost daily.
every weekday and on weekends
Once every other month
Daily to work and sometimes on the weekends.
I used to go downtown weekly however after the pandemic I do not have a need to go down as much.
5 to 7 days each week every week all year for the past 30 years (21 in our current location)
i try to avoid the area because of the congestion, lack of parking, and transient disturbances and trash
Nearly everyday, as I'm a business owner/operator.
Every day
1-2 x week, 1-4 x weekend
Every day
I avoid it at all cost I don't feel safe like I used to when I was a young little girl. I avoid it due to being harassed by homeless and the crime
Nearly every day both weekends and weekdays
Most days. I come downtown for work most weekdays and enjoy visiting businesses and events on weekdays.
Weekly - both weekday and weekend
A few times per week - I only go for work and/or Whole Foods. There is nothing else that attracts me to the area. it is dead. filthy, and walking along certain areas (Broadway and Olive/Charnelton) is uncomfortable.
every day 4-6 hours
Every day
Only to work, would come more if my family felt safe
weekends and holidays

Q4 If you do not go Downtown, why not?

It doesn't feel safe. 90% of the people are there for the bars, transients walking around high on drugs or trying to sell you random stuff, those with mental disabilities acting out, or high school dropouts acting like typical teenagers. You add those all up and it's not good. It's not a place for people doing regular daily tasks or shopping. There aren't any stores of relevance to the general public. The restaurants, clothing stores, smoke shops are all targeted at a certain demographic that doesn't appeal to the whole of Eugene. It's gotten really dangerous at night as well. 9 out of 10 times you will experience something that will make you feel uncomfortable. We moved our business from downtown as it wasn't even safe to walk to your car at night.
Too gross, dirty, unsightly, unsafe, dark, too many vagrants hanging around. I don't feel safe leaving my bike locked up, my car park, or walking around alone (female).
Safety & there's nothing for me there.
It's turned into the "Barmuda Triangle" -- not a pleasant or interesting place for an adult with cultural (or shopping) interests.
Unsafe and uncomfortable. Homeless, street kids and mentally ill have made it difficult to enjoy.
Nothing there I want, and hasn't been for many years. Also too many feral people.
It's dirty, unsafe, unsightly, gross, intimidating, dark, drug filled, old, failing, and offers no enticing reason to visit. Because of too many homeless individuals, I can't park safely, my wife and I are feel uncomfortable walking on the streets, and we are quite often harassed. The homeless individuals monopolize the spaces and destroy the environment (much like the rest of the city). Take a look at downtown Bend or Ft Wayne, IN, for some good examples on great downtown spaces.
Safety concerns, declining restaurants, shops, art
It seems very unpleasant. Prepandemic, my husband saw a lady poop on the sidewalk there. Dangerous people and no parking make us avoid the area, and we won't use businesses located there.
Homeless camps, panhandlers, don't feel safe, nothing much of interest to me
I have no reason to go downtown. I purchase food in my neighborhood.
I no longer feel safe in the core downtown area
Parking.
I do not feel safe
Primarily due to Covid.
It does not feel safe. My friends and family do not want to go there due to the people hanging around on the street. Most of the good businesses leave because of the unsafe environment.
no shops left in downtown Does not feel safe
Don't feel safe no businesses that attract

Q5 What do you think are the top 3 challenges facing Downtown Eugene?



Question options

- Unsafe
 ● Dirty
 ● Vacancies and empty storefronts
 ● Lack of destinations
 ● Homelessness
- Inappropriate behavior
 ● Mental illness and/or addiction
 ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (1269 response(s), 2 skipped)

Q5 What do you think are the top 3 challenges facing Downtown? “Other” responses:

Lack of meaningful things to do during the day. No shopping.
Would be great if a few blocks of Broadway/Pear/Willamette were not open to vehicles except late night/early AM service vehicles
Challenging intersections - I always feel like I might hit someone whenever I drive through downtown.
It's so hard to not choose all of these.
Not inclusive or welcoming to all
lack of housing, dominated by cars
Would like to see more roadways designed specifically for pedestrians and bicyclists, not cars.
The pollution and trash in Amazon creek, the Willamette river and our parks from the homeless community.
Too many luxury apartments, not enough affordable living spaces
Why would an adult who enjoys a pleasant, varied, and interesting urbanscape want to go there? Might as well spend time at the Oakway Center, even though it's not all that interesting. Want to see an example of what is interesting? Spend time in Bend.
not enough bathrooms and other public services and amenities
Sustainability
Not enough housing supply (affordable housing as well as market-rate housing)
Poor bike and pedestrian infrastructure. (I moved here from Portland. It used to be worse than Eugene but has been surpassing it for decades now)
You are not supporting higher order needs and possibilities of the human culture. You are way too focused on commercial and financial, catering to high income people.
Could use a free drop-in activity center, especially, but not only, for teens.
I don't know how to phrase it other than the "vibe" which is more industrial and less cohesive than other downtowns, even Springfield which has a cuter, warmer feeling area (Main St)
The city bending the knee to student housing conglomerates rather than solution oriented and affordable high density housing.
Lack of affordable housing
Non-Alcoholic Attractions are lacking.
No safe bike lanes/infrastructure.
A good deal of the time, proportion of "Out Of It " street behavior and people selling or using drugs, overwhelms shoppers, walkers and people doing business. Despite many starts and high interest in downtown, this keeps the area from stabilizing.
Lack of housing options for middle class workers
Very little events
Inability to enforce violations
petty theft hazard
Too large of a police presence, and too many cars
Lack of a sense of community
Parking
The perception that downtown is dangerous and filled with unhoused folks on drugs/with mental illnesses. I don't think this is actually the case, but I think there's a widespread perception that it is.
excessive police, too many anti-homeless businesses, loss of artistic soul through covered wall art.
City does not seem to be willing to live within its budget and continues to attempt to get more income through increased taxes and fees.
Geezus, most of your options here are dog whistles about the unhoused. How about NIMBY neighborhood associations' attitudes influencing city staff.

Lack of secure bike parking facilities. Lack of safe and pleasant transportation options that do not require a car.
Anchor stores
Lack of restrooms, especially if you have children and are out after the library closes. And LTD not keeping the lobby open while their buses run, especially in winter and late at night which helps with the unsafeness of being downtown
Crime
Parking
None of the businesses seem enticing, all of the businesses and restaurants are uptight and only interested in appealing to the tech industry/hipster/upper class people, not the regular people in town. I care less about visible homeless people just trying to live their lives, than I am finding less and less appealing about going down there.
To much tailpipe emissions.
Unleashed dogs.
Lack of parking
It is not centralized, parking can be difficult, I don't always feel safe leaving my bike parked there if I can't keep an eye on it.
Lack of walking biking routes seperate from motorvehicles
lack of free parking
Lack of non car access from other parts of the city.
The homeless need safe places to live.
Instead of separating challenges, lump them into one challenge because they are all part of the same problem. Homelessness, brings mental illness and addiction, making it an unsafe and dirty area.
Needs more pedestrian spaces and less space dedicated to cars.
Parking is unavailable, too expensive, and too difficult to operate the new credit card machines.
Car-centric infrastructure
Too car-focused, except for a few nice spots.
Traffic is engineered poorly in several places. Unpredictable (intoxicated, mentally ill) pedestrians unexpectedly jumping in front of moving cars leading to minor accidents (this happened to me recently).
Too accommodating to vehicles at the expense of safety and walkability. Also noisy and dirty because of constant engines.
Too Car-dependent - I'd like to walk around the city without many car- streets- my favorite part of downtown is 5th street market! And I'd like the buses to run more often and have more coverage, or just have tram or streetcar lines around instead. That way I wouldn't have to drive around and park as much.
Lack of accommodation for house less individuals
Bike theft
Greed on the part of property owners; Impatience on the part of people driving, walking, and cycling.
pollution from truck & auto exhaust and from smoking; difficult to safely access by bike
Drunks, loser cops, mall rats, homeless weirdos, gay shit, BLM shit.. and basically degenerate shit.
Inaccessibility
I don't experience many challenges downtown.
City Hall, centralized downtown, the Riverfront is not part of downtown get over it
Too many cars

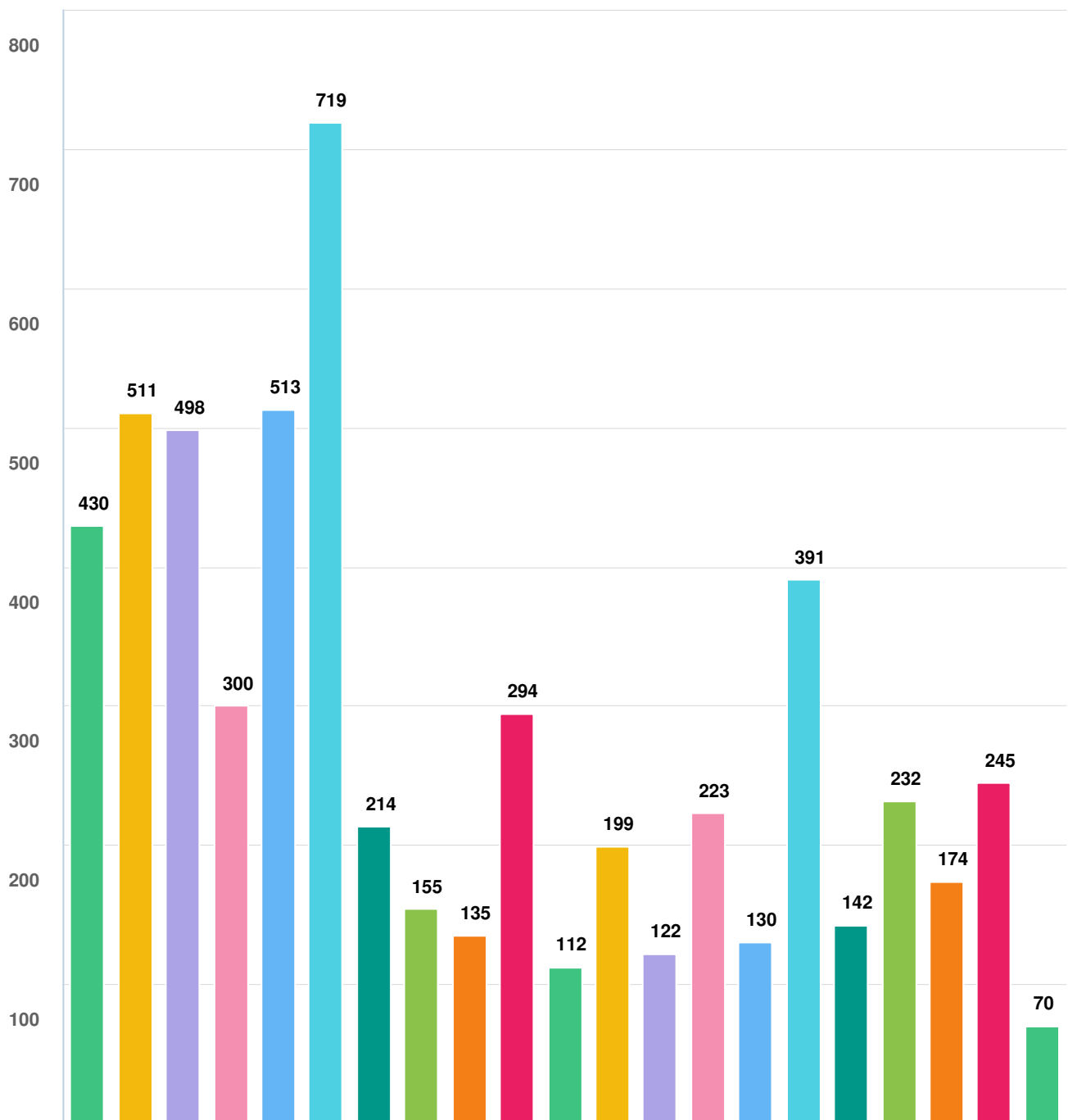
<p>Given the opening statement of this survey, specifically that improvements have been made that "... filled vacant and underutilized lots with purposeful buildings and significant community destinations ..." it's apparent there is a bias towards making land into buildings and destinations VERSUS preserving the land as green open spaces. One specific "challenge" NOT listed is the loss of open space, natural areas, and biodiversity. Reducing the urban heat island effect is one reason in itself for such areas. https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/reduce-urban-heat-island-effect Another reason is open space and mental health, and this study specifically concluded that "... In terms of total green space, however, psychological distress levels were lower in landscapes having a disaggregated distribution of urban green spaces (i.e., many small green spaces) relative to a single (or a few) large green spaces." In plain English, many small green spaces were even better than a few big ones. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169204621002723 and another is providing a place for biodiversity to live, too. This study is especially interesting in that it combines psychological health with biodiversity itself. Not All Green Space Is Created Equal: Biodiversity Predicts Psychological Restorative Benefits From Urban Green Space ... https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02320/full Mitigating the heat island effect, exacerbated by climate change, psychological health, and providing habitat to preserve and enhance biodiversity, in essence, to care about both people and wildlife, are core reasons why preserving and enhancing vacant lots into green spaces to fully "utilize" them is a VERY appropriate approach to take, because it again, represents CARING about people and wildlife in an increasingly overdeveloped urban landscape.</p>
Too many empty parking lots connected to small businesses, especially abutting sidewalks (set backs are far too large to encourage walking). Too many remote surveillance stations
Too many cops harassing the un-housed. It's just terrible to watch and makes me feel like I'm living in a totalitarian nightmare.
Doesn't feel as welcoming/inviting. More lighting, licensed buskers, food and other vendors to encourage foot traffic. More blocked streets and organized events
police are unfriendly and unhelpful
Rent is too high for how shitty it is
Car traffic patterns make walking/biking between destinations less pleasant
City subsidized huge freeways to serve suburban malls and office parks. Police abandoned downtown for country club location. Urban renewal destroyed historic character. 6th and 7th split downtown with Dangerous car sewer through heart of area blocking Hult Center from helping to revitalize area. Huge ugly parking garages linked directly to destinations like Hult reduce enlivening pedestrian street traffic. City created a wasteland by tearing down city hall. City prioritizes dangerous high speed car traffic over bikes and pedestrians. City repealed requirements for ground floor retail, creating the dead monstrosity apartments on Willamette. Anti-park chamber of commerce opposes attractive new public plazas and parks. Riverfront should have been a big new park for big new apartments nearby on Franklin. Instead it's mostly a wasteland but full of vacant lots.
<p>Downtown is EXTREMELY unsafe for women at night. Don't believe me? Go walk on Broadway after dark alone and see how many people harass you, call you names, follow you, drive by you slowly in a vehicle while saying disgusting things etc etc for not giving them money or your body. It's not just homeless- it's the drunk men and frat boys who are the most terrifying. This is a very serious issue</p> <p>P.s. Broadway is lined with homeless people and I don't go there anymore because of the anxiety of being harassed by large groups of people asking for money. Imagine a group of 12 people demanding something from you</p>
More arts programming needed
Broadway not being pedestrian friendly, parking meters, lack of interesting shops/businesses other than bars, due to astronomical rents.
On street parking
All of the above!
not enough community based activities to attract volunteers to address the basic needs of the downtown area, i.e. cleanliness, graffiti, homelessness, etc.
<p>lack of access for mobility-impaired individuals</p> <p>lack of undisturbed natural environments</p>
I would checkmark all options above but it won't let me. Downtown Eugene has become a haven of everything listed above.

There are few reasons to go downtown: few shopping destinations, parking is not free, lots of street people gathered in groups.
Shrinking parking and perception of lack of driving access.
It is not a welcoming place. Homeless people hanging out everywhere downtown, whether mentally ill or otherwise, make me uncomfortable. I don't feel unsafe, but its not a place I choose to spend time because of the street people and lack of a destinations. I would rather spend my time over by 5th Public Market and that neighborhood. It is welcoming and there are places I want to shop and eat/drink at.
Not a lot of events I want to go to.
Homelessness, Mental Illness. It wouldn't let me select these three, indicating only three choices were allowed. Please correct this for future survey takers.
The street campers and their destructive aftermath are the main issue but I cannot lump them into the categorizes of 'homeless' and/or 'mentally ill.' Although many suffer from these concerns, many are able-bodied workers who clearly choose to live on the downtown streets because it is easier to get handouts than it is to work for their subsistence.
Isolation of different fun areas like 5th street, riverfront area, and Broadway/Willamette. They don't connect easily. One way streets don't help.
Ugly buildings
Not vacancies, rather bringing in businesses with which people will want to engage (e.g., stores, entertainment, cafes, restaurants (yes there are some, but insufficient).
I think the economics of downtown are off. Downtown is supposed to be the economic hub of our City, in which the economics are also askew. There was (and likely still is) a lot of effort to court Bay Area and Portland tech companies to set up shop in downtown Eugene, however this brought in artificially lowered tech salaries and modestly staffed offices. Good in their own right, but I don't think they encourage the positive economic feedback loop Eugene needs. Eugene's economics are the ripple effect that will help us achieve our goals.
Lack of affordable housing, lack of green space, too many cars/traffic/not safe for walking.
Not very welcoming - lack of outdoor seating in summertime and hustle and bustle throughout the year.
Lack of housing in downtown and generally around Eugene. More housing in downtown would support more successful businesses downtown and help alleviate pressure on single-family neighborhoods to provide enough housing for all.
Perception that it is not safe
Parking is had to find
graffiti
LIGHTING!!! Less bad things happen in the light.
Keeping downtown's problems downtown and not spreading the city's ineptitude and problems into the surrounding communities, especially the Whiteaker.
Parking
Too many cars on roads. Too much space for cars.
Not walkable or bikeable enough
Character compromise (eg - Hated seeing Wells Fargo take over the space next to the movie theater)
People don't feel comfortable being downtown for extended periods of time.
Combined mental illness, drug use, homelessness and tying the hands of the police to enforce ordinances to curtail this.
It is not a very active downtown
I believe that the City Council is unwilling to make the hard choices to make Downtown a better place. Their lack of decisive action has created a vacuum which has been filled with chaos.
-need for an increase in affordable housing!!! -connectivity/circulation; connection to other districts for pedestrian & bike

police brutality: red hats need to go, too much focus on rich people
Parking
Too many cars and streets
Lack of resources for the unhoused.
Lack of public restrooms
Not bike friendly
Transportation
Aggressive architecture and policing
Lack of quality bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
Saturday Market & Food Carts. I see we have 250+ active, loved, amazing businesses in town that want to operate only one day a week. I see vacancies that are storefronts & housing that are dull 5-7 days a week. These businesses are not investing in this area. They are as transient as the disruptive & sometimes mentally stressed M-F crowd. Bridging businesses with community is the missing piece & a huge communication breakdown/challenge.
Policies that protect people who are the ones making downtown unsafe.
Metered parking
Post-pandemic renewal
What you list are symptoms, not challenges. If you're looking for obstacles to people using downtown, "all of the above" would be my answer. But the underlying issues are deeper and are deeply embedded in years of City policies that continue to be effective. I'd be happy to offer details, but not in this tiny comment box.
Perception
New construction is overwhelming existing resources and making it unpleasant to visit downtown. We do not need another multi story building in the area.
Lack of housing affordable for the general workforce
giant, horrible student housing. buildings that are mimicking Portland-area and have nothing to do with the small town that Eugene once was
traffic and crowded one way streets
Unattractive
Lack of vision, willingness and skills from leaders of the City of Eugene and its economic development department to improve downtown over last 40 years.
Lack of housing options
lack of shelter for houseless community members
Lack of city hall. And no cohesive plan on what actually is downtown. The riverfront is not downtown.
The problems downtown are symptoms of broader societal problems. They can not be engineered away just by adjusting downtown. That's why all previous efforts have failed.
Parking.
All the above
Lack of spaces for creativity, Outdoor spaces to hang out all year round such as o it door cafes / restaurant seating, spaces for youth, teens and families.
More affordable housing needed!
Parking
Too many stark alleys and banks with no weekend activity
All of the above to some extent
Free, close parking
Downtown Eugene has a lot of banks taking up real estate making a lot of the storefronts uninviting.

more bathroom facilities needed
No support for business owners from city or city council and a lack of commitment to a vision to revitalize downtown.
More small park areas with places to sit and more affordable shops and restaurants. Shops downtown now are for very wealthy people.
no real direction, no city hall, lack of vision
All the above
Vagrancies on 9th/Olive
Diamond parking
Some of our unhoused neighbors struggle with these and while it could be challenging for them, it wouldn't be challenging for downtown if they were housed I think.
not vibrant at night
These are all ways to say the homeless people are the problem, which has not been my experience. Public space is for all.
The never ending "re-investment" and "re-development" of downtown ad nauseum without ever addressing the actual needs of the community
expense, parking
ugly building, no imagination for people spaces
parking over 2 hours other than parking structure
too many police
not enough service for unhoused people, too many NIMBY business owners
close by free parking
perception of a lack of safety
marketing/awareness
drugs
No bathrooms
Need Police presence on foot
Need more restrooms
Greed Loss of Soul
sizeable group gatherings with drugs and dogs
sense of community
There is a lack of more accessible public spaces
Lack of drinking water access
There is LACK of unique style and ambiance on the streets.)
Problems to find parking on weekends

Q6 My future vision of Downtown Eugene is captured in these 5 words:



Question options

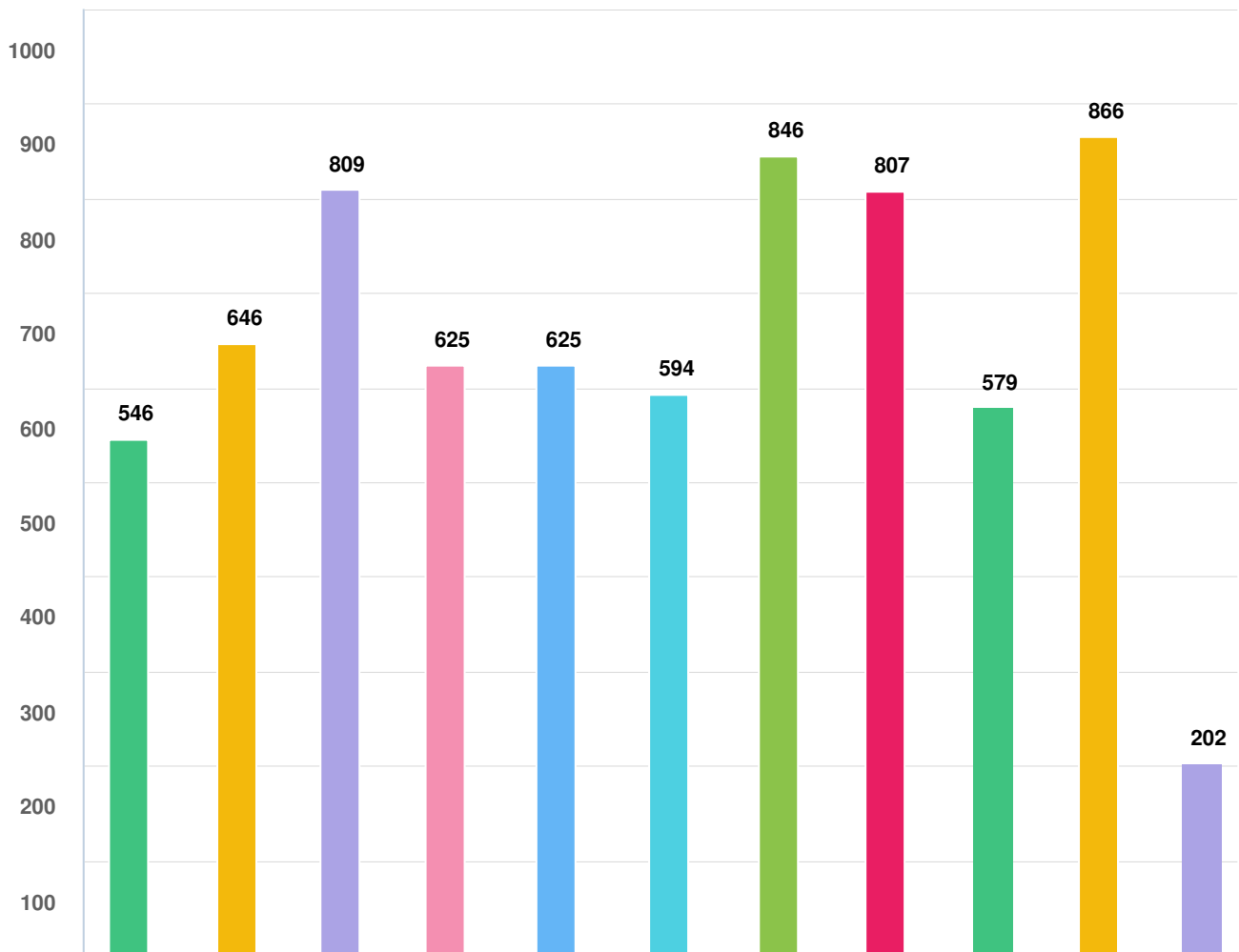
- Welcoming Clean Vibrant Full of people Walkable Safe Attractive Unique
 Beautiful Destinations Connected Inclusive Lively 24/7 Diverse Social
 Family-friendly Creative Bike-friendly Accessible Inviting Other (please specify)

Optional question (1269 response(s), 2 skipped)

Q6 My future vision of Downtown Eugene is captured in these 5 words: "Other" responses:

Eco-friendly
Mountain bike trails in or near town.
Native plants
In the rear view mirror.
inspiring + pedestrian-centered
Office buildings with no retail.
gasshole free
why are people allowed to sit on the sidewalks with filth everywhere. who thinks this is ok?
Wheelchair-accessible
More Mentle Help
High end
Consistently welcoming to regular citizens of all ages and incomes so that businesses and events and public spaces can thrive.
Homeless not camping everywhere
homelessness free, clean, many businesses that are NOT pot shops
Free of inappropriate behavior
Somewhere I can have my family when they visit and not have them feel unsafe or want me to move
financially self-supporting, independent from tax increases
Full of affordable housing and lacking in cops or red hats or other cop-adjacent wastes of breath.
Not too much construction...so sustainability and the environment would be the first thing that's important to me. I moved here 18 years ago in hopes of a nice, clean, small town environment and it's turning into a busy, dirty and crime ridden city due to corporate greed and NO accountability. I hope that it will not continue to go this way...I left Phoenix, AZ to have a better quality of life for myself and my son and it's getting tough to do that here. You also NEED more trained police officers in this city, there used to be many more and now it seems like a free for all everywhere here...the streets are like raceways, especially off of Barger and Terry Street.
No panhandling or laying/sitting on the sidewalks.
I can park easily
Have lived in eugene 70 plus years it's only gotten worse
We desperately need to slow down the construction of bland 5 over 1s. As much as we need housing, selling out to foreign student housing projects sacrifices the uniqueness of the area and rips off students while doing nothing to address housing for low income or mentally ill.
Tourists
Accommodating for homeless individuals
Accessible to my mind includes Bike-friendly..
There are no more homeless.
Business filled
Interesting
Downtown needs better urban planning for a variety of businesses, not just night life, bars and food -- not chains. Need to curate kinds and quality of stores. Flower troughs need to be built in -- not quick and portable. Also the large parking lots need security, too frightening to park there.
Old Trees Preserved
Open Spaces
Climate Adapted
Nature Protected and Enhanced
Street performance arts by the un-housed
Less college students and less student housing
I don't happen to think any of those things.
I would like to see downtown Eugene become safe for families and remove the homeless/drugs out.
Patrolled
Safe gets my last two items
Safe. Lively. Same problem as previous. I selected 5 and it indicated I could only select five.
Variety
clusters of related activities

all of the above
business friendly
Eugene needs a cohesive character; Downtown is missing its soul. Wayfinding is invisible, nothing seems connected. It lacks a sense of pride, it lacks a sense of history, and new developments have zero street appeal for the walking public. Do MORE of the Public Market and 5th Street Alley. Do LESS of 13th and Olive, for instance, which is very bland, blocky, anonymous, lacking in hardscape balanced with soft landscaping which, just might, give a hint that human beings live there and hint that they might be friendly... If the rest of downtown developments look like that then Downtown Eugene will suffer from Urban-cold-developments giving the ambiance of an unfriendly, closed off city. The street appeal of 13th and Olive cannot be fixed. It's too late. Please don't let the developers of the Riverfront buildings do ANYTHING like 13th and Olive boxes on bricks. It's happening now all around the area between downtown and UO - boxy buildings with zero street amenities, zero street appeal, zero 'walkability'. All of these anonymous, characterless buildings (not worthy of being called architecture) will define the city of Eugene as unfriendly, cold and robotic and nothing you do to Downtown will be able to counterbalance the damage they will do to our city. They will just drive up "market rate" and enhance the profits of developers. Just STOP letting them design and build 'housing' with zero lot lines to sidewalks, zero exterior appeal, zero trees and landscaping... all in the name of "expedience" to solve the affordable housing crunch. You will- are -making Eugene a city of blocky, boxy nothing buildings where people live INSIDE. Listen to the people who want to have trees, have the view of the river, the access to nature with in the city in a manner that is safe and sanitary. To do this you need the staffing and vision, and affordable housing so people in need have a place to live in safe and sanitary conditions without having to live in the parks or on the streets. Give grants for more murals and revitalization for older buildings. Come up with a city moniker - a personality with warmth and embrace the friendly, beautiful green city it is. The world is watching and the out-of-town, out-of-state, out-of-country developers need to bow to what this city can truly be IF the city politics can stay out of provincial political opposing agendas and row the boat in unison - before it is too late. Don't ruin the city because your are too cheap to hire a truly visionary futuristic urban planner that can make this city the best of everything for all people.
Prosperous
No homeless people or pan handlers should be tolerated.
Free of crack heads and vagrants and the disgusting messes of feces, urine, drug pipes, needles, and garbage they strew about.
Car friendly with plenty of parking, car-viable streets, and reasonable traffic signaling.
Hassle-free
safe from city/private security
Collaborative
No camping by the unhoused
Diversity of destinations (shops, services, restaurants, etc.).
fewer large, awful buildings
City government should stop MUPT-E developments outside downtown and spent the property tax from those outside projects in downtown.
Remove homeless
affordable
A place where our house less are housed, included, thriving, and full of life. A place where everyone has a home, where everyone is included and loved and provided for. A place that reflects how are marginalized are prioritized and lifted up, and have overcome the systemic injustices in our systems, governments, and economies.
A actual City hall. Like all cities across the country
fully taxed
Would not really matter what you do I would most likely never go down town
business friendly, inviting and supportive
free parking
A city that serves its tax paying citizens. Not making allowances for 90% of the homeless that do NOT want homes or jobs but are allowed to just do hard drugs anywhere. No camping in town. The city is filthy and disgusting and an embarrassment.
Ability to park for free. How fucking hard is this to figure out???
BOLD
circled all
Quirky
Local businesses, no large chains
friendly environment

Q7 Actions that would help Downtown Eugene include:(Select all that apply.)**Question options**

- ☒ Support the creation of market-rate housing to increase the number of people who can support the downtown economy
- ☒ Support the creation of housing affordable for people with low incomes
- ☒ Increase commercial activity and active storefronts
- ☒ Invest in renovation of Downtown public spaces (such as Park Blocks, Kesey Square, and Hult Plaza) and new amenities (such as lighting, benches, trash cans, restrooms)
- ☒ Improve maintenance of existing Downtown public spaces (ex: repairs, pressure washing, custodial services)
- ☒ Host more events that bring people Downtown to have fun: weekly, yearly
- ☒ Provide more behavioral health and addiction services throughout Eugene
- ☒ Provide shelters for people without stable housing in Downtown
- ☒ Increase police presence and law enforcement in Downtown
- ☒ Expand non-law enforcement programs that enhance public safety
- ☒ Other (please specify)

Optional question (1267 response(s), 4 skipped)

Q7 Actions that would help Downtown Eugene include: “Other” responses:

Reasons to go downtown would be things to do and see— not events but permanent attractions, stores, playgrounds, and interesting spaces.
Free parking.
More downtown restaurants or food truck pods with indoor areas to sit in cold months
Would be great if a few blocks of Broadway/Pearl/Willamette could be vehicle free but for late PM/early AM service vehicles.
Creating family friendly opportunities downtown like museums, gardens, and parks where people can also engage in cultural and creative activities. I've seen in other cities, artistic play structures that are swings and small merry-go-rounds, etc. but also look like sculptures. We need to create inviting environments for all community members. The more active and vibrant a place is the healthier it is for all.
Reduce parking and cars
Community member groups adopting a city block.
Elect a Mayor and councilors to replace Vinis, Keating, Zelenka, and Yeh so we have common sense, evidenced-based elected officials. Replace the City Manager, Planning and Development Manager and Planning Director.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More pro-social spaces of a variety of kinds, places for people to gather; for example: bunches of tables & chairs outdoors near cafes and food carts, less expensive co-working spaces, spaces like upstairs Growers Market with cheap office space for nonprofits, spaces like McNail-Riley house where people and groups can meet for FREE or extremely low cost 2. Yes to the amenities listed above (bathrooms, trash cans, benches), which i would not lump in with renovation of public spaces 3. Also more and better bicycle parking (for example, more covered parking, and choose rack designs that are accessible to a wider range of bikes)
Create and enforce no panhandling and no camping policies Downtown, or even better in Eugene. We have the proven results from our neighbors in Springfield and a thriving Downtown Springfield. They first tackled panhandling and then invested in beautification. It cannot be the other way around, it's just throwing money away otherwise. The area around Buy2 and Davis downtown is sketchy and unwelcoming because of all the travelers camping 24/7.
Only office buildings, no retail.
more ACCESSIBLE mental health, counseling, addiction programs. more harm reduction and housing options
Make panhandling and camping illegal.
less gas vehicle access
Protected bike lanes everywhere. The era of the usual "painted bike gutters" is over. Also, these should really be "slow transport lanes", i. e. welcoming to all, not just bikes. Cars should be allowed, of course, but no longer prioritized.
Invest in public toilets and trash bins that are large enough.
Develop more meeting spaces up to 50 -100 people where people can gather for free, like whirled pies.
Greater pedestrian and bicycle access and support, get the cars limited in the main core
Cannon Beach and Corvallis are examples of vibrant downtown core areas. They feel safe to be in them.
omg when will someone finance an adequate elevator for the hult? It takes a full half hour after a performance, with overflowing bladder. to get to ground level someday there will be a fire and lots of ADA people will buirn,overflowing bladder, to get from ADA seating to ground level.
Pass some laws that address the current difficulties. Example.....no blocking sidewalks or other public places.
stop favoring "market-rate" as a concept, who can actually afford \$1400/mo for a 1 b?
I would LOVE to see the two blocks between Willamette and Olive CAR FREE,,, this was a wonderful area during covid when the two blocks were for people and not cars,,,,,other places in the world are pushing back on cars, even turning intersections into playgrounds [super blocks in Barcelona] I am embarassed Eugene cannot even manage two blocks car free
If you want a better downtown, you need to invest root and branch in affordable and free housing for the unhoused and those generally living in poverty. You cannot arrest or gentrify your way out of this problem. You cannot play whack-a-mole. You cannot bus them to other towns. You cannot move them to other parts of the city. Police will NOT solve this problem. They are an arm of the law, not social and safety net services. They are a blunt instrument. Right now you're building tens of houses for the unhoused. You need to think about building thousands of homes.

Create one or two venues that would attract tourism, e.g. museums, indoor park for kids Don't allow people to lay down or sit on sidewalks or building alcoves Bring state, federal or city buildings downtown near the LTD bus station Have car free days on Willamette and Olive Sts., maybe Sundays Pay musicians to play music on the downtown streets Have more special events e.g. parades, street fairs, food contests, bike races,
Reducing income inequality would help our country and the world. But the small city of Eugene can only nibble around the edges of that problem. It CAN concentrate on making antisocial behavior unwelcome in the public space.
Build a city hall
Move homeless shelters out of downtown
Unique architecture and art
putting poor people in downtown isn't going to do squat. we need to remove homeless folks first - get legislation that prohibits panhandling, loitering, and incarcerate people for doing drugs on the street. Oregon ought to invest in private prison business ... there you could rehabilitate drug users, and have mandatory commitment for psychotic people who don't have the where with all to get off of drugs or who need psychiatric care. Get the young drifters, drug dealers out of the city! This is not unkind, unhuman. Many people are a danger to themselves as well as to the public. Do not keep throwing money out to the people who DO NOT WANT HELP! Buy them a one way ticket to California! And for God's sake limit Pot Shops. I can't even shop anymore in Walmart or other stores from the stench of pot. I would not recommend Eugene for anyone for a place to visit. The City Council has ruined the city by encouraging people to come here for free food and care. Everyone has encountered trauma in his or her life. That's a LAME excuse for being addicted to drugs. Why does OR have one of the lowest graduation rates in the county with just a population of 4 million people? How can this state with all of it's "liberal loonies" have a state that's on par with Mississippi, Alabama, etc for education? What are YOU doing wrong?
Increase Cahoots presence downtown
Make Broadway a year-round bicycle boulevard
Resources for people to get help. Affordable housing, shelters for homeless
I don't think throwing more money at homelessness and addiction or adding shelters will help that issue. I think you need to drastically change your approach. No enabling.
reduce police presence
fund detox
have police actually do something useful
use funds from reducing existing projects rather than increasing taxes
Shelters are not housing. Stop fooling yourselves into thinking warehouses and "huts" are a solution to the sky rocketing cost of living that government has forced on to our community. Less cops, more homes.
Make it easier to get to downtown without a car. Cars destroy a city. I just visited Utrecht, NL, and they got this *down*, by prioritizing the ease of walking and biking over driving.
Have the city buy the old LCC building on Willamette and turn it into transitional housing with a percentage being reserved for single disabled adults. A percentage for single vets and the rest can be divided between families and non using couples. And better solutions for bathrooms that are cleaned/maintained frequently and monitored to not allow drug use to happen in them.
The responses provided in this survey are leading and seemingly directed towards an agenda. As a scholar who has studied effective engagement with the public, this survey question's chosen responses should invalidate this survey. This is a terribly fashioned question.
Security officers and cameras
Reduce emphasis on bike dominated transport.
Improve safety on LTD busses., including security and/or fare checkers on all buses.
More proactively discouraging the homeless population from sleeping/living downtown
Environmental stewardship, reduce tailpipe emissions and burning of wood during stagnant air advisories.
Maybe a stabilization or navigation center could be located downtown
PUBLIC RESTROOMS!!!

Learn from past mistakes such as the Capstone Apartment Complex disaster. The Capstone folks abused and took advantage of naive and/or desperate city development and planning staff. City staff and Mayor Piercy were so desperate for development that they allowed themselves to get hosed. The Capstone folks basically took the MUPTE and ran. They left an ugly and cheaply constructed monstrosity with no aesthetic value that clearly did not even follow the original submitted plans. This was an egregious error in city oversight. In most cities, heads would have rolled after such a mess. The city must also do an inventory of student housing complexes and their current occupancy rates, many of which appear to be at less than 50%. Please stop the construction of unneeded student apartments. Focus on other forms of housing that are needed. Also the city needs to support a greater variety of businesses to locate in downtown. Businesses that people will want to go to. Think department stores, electronic stores and so on. Right now, you can't buy underwear downtown. That's a clear sign that things need to change! Get it?!!!
Do not allow panhandling and street camping
Increase private+public development projects -like 5th Street district
Move out the homeless and the people spread out on the sidewalk.
Homeless people harassing visitors, defecating in storefronts, and panhandling are not conducive to a "vibrant, family-friendly, and welcoming" downtown Eugene.
Give people safe, stable places where they can live on the street without interference from police if homeless.
Actively assist the unhoused by running community resource fairs to direct those who need help with housing, addiction, mental health, showers, clothing, phone, employment, food etc.
Safe walkable car free spaces are hugely desirable/profitable. And for gods sake bring back the trolley tracks! Do you have any idea what a draw that would be for people? Especially folks who think buses aren't great, the novelty is a tourist trap and a functional greener form of transport than vehicles that leech micro plastics into the water ways via tire run off. Plus who wouldn't love catching a streetcar to your destination?
No camping
Simple things such as strung lighting in trees goes a long way to create a welcoming ambiance at night. Also the intersection of Broadway and pearl is in desperate need of better stops signs or lights, people speed through the intersection without stopping quite regularly
De-emphasize car traffic in favor of transit, walking, and cycling infrastructure
Completely Redesign traffic plan. Close several streets to cars entirely to create outdoor public space. Turn legacy two ways into one ways. Any remaining two ways have protected left turns
PROTECTED BIKE LANES PLEASE. And somebody needs to take a look at the traffic light timing, makes no sense in so many places. It's clear epd doesn't give a flip about traffic violations so maybe more passive control like roundabouts and those crosswalks that make the streets narrower.
Expand protected bike lanes (those with a barrier between the street and the lane) and convert certain streets to walkable-only; reduce width of streets to make space for walkable and car-independent spaces; reduce the quantity of lanes on major boulevards to make space for tram or streetcar (light rail) lines, expand sidewalks and bike lane access on major boulevards
Find federal dollars for drug, and mental health treatment facilities for OOREGON Residents! Require 3yrs residence prior to offering homeless moving here housing or aid. Locals first!
More protected bike lanes
Free parking
Habitat restoration.
improve bicycle access to downtown; reduce air pollution by prohibiting public smoking, enforce restrictions on polluting trucks, and limiting gas powered vehicles in public areas.
Need businesses to employ people. Stop building and everyone shilling to raise the building height can eat a dick. Fuck the homeless. You fucking people are retarded. Look our town is going to shit because you're enabling poor people and people with mental illness. I can't wait for the day Eugene/Santa Clara creates such a high cost of living that it finally forces people to see how fucked up the homeless actually are because they'll be among them.
Not allow camping, panhandling and open drug use on public sidewalks
Reestablish drug court with consequences.
Your entire paradigm about housing affordability is not grounded in reality. It's not 'market rate' or 'for those of low income'. Our household income is Lane County median income and we can not afford any housing at 'market rate'. Rents in Eugene are obscene. The verbiage you have used in this survey is part of the problem, it is insulting, offensive rhetoric of privilege. This town is doomed. When we lose our current rental, we will leave Oregon. It's as if you have forgotten about the middle income people, the working class. What will your tenured elites do with only the homeless to keep them company after the rest of us migrate for survival?

Higher density housing in the downtown district. Remove height restrictions. Require high percentage of units qualify as low income housing.
Designated bike lanes or bike corridors
City Hall!!! If you are so dedicated to making the Riverfront part of downtown, buy the EWEB building and make it so. You cannot just keep telling us that the riverfront is part of downtown. Do something inclusive about it. And please stop giving MUPTE's it devalues everything.
More amenities (grocery stores, pharmacies, etc.) along with market rate housing. But gotta deal with the safety issues first
Not just improve maintenance, but expand scope: hire many more custodial staff to act as highly-visible street cleaners, whose primary job is to clean up sidewalks, parking garage areas, and so forth; and whose secondary job is to keep their eyes open for difficult behavior/interactions and call in public safety when needed (but not to intervene themselves).
Invest in the greening, adding green spaces and trees, of Downtown public spaces
Change tax law to discourage businesses from maintaining excessively large private parking areas that go largely unused. Downtown is simultaneously full of parking lots and yet devoid of available parking. It's insane.
Provide more food trucks and encourage/incentivize more public brew pubs (like Bend has).
Uphold laws in place that prohibit littering, camping, lying around and doing drugs on the sidewalk. If no law against camping, there should be one.
Keep all forms of police far away
More bathrooms, also cleaned regularly and park bathrooms open all year sunrise to sunset, possibly heated.
housing. housing. housing.
Stop catering to the bums and drug addicts. Stop attracting them. Start enforcing the law and enact useful laws.
Get rid of the convenience stores downtown. They seem to be where the problems start and provide "food", alcohol and cigarettes to the population that is making downtown undesirable and unsafe
Save the views for the common folk and stop selling them off to developers. Create more river views for the public - like the beautiful cantilevered seating area in riverfront park. Retain some views from the buttes that are guaranteed public access, with views through the trees and over all the houses so that from any where in Eugene the public can SEE Downtown, and SEE the River, and the UO and the beautiful BLM land and, and, and... This is part of the cohesive city planning and city identity. Move city hall into the old EWEB building, right next to all the future 'market rate' new developments at Riverfront Park to BRING MORE PUBLIC THERE. Create MORE Riverfront parks that have Views of the rivers with amenities and hardscapes and view-breaks in the riparian corridors.
Bring back the Eugene Celebration with abig parade downtown. Do it after school starts in the fall like it used to be so kid groups participate. Football be damned
Work with the state to be allowed to clean up the riverfront areas. Make it clear to those downtown that insecure behavior is not only unacceptable, but will be responded to by the city of Eugene. Provide police presence at the core downtown areas _all the time_
Non-denominational holiday decor like lights and wreaths or things like that for street lights and trees and bushes. Maybe a park with lights and displays like Shore Acres or Cottage Grove. Ogden, Utah had the best one I've ever seen with displays in little display trailers with winter and holiday scenes in them, sponsored and created by the local businesses. The trailers were advertisement for the business and since it cost money to rent one, they were income for the city. They also had cocoa and cookies for sale which generated income as well.
Families don't feel safe, kids are not comfortable. Create programs to promote safety. No drugs or needles. My friends would rather go to downtown Springfield than downtown Eugene.
Remove so called campers.
Get your citizens off the streets and into shelters or addiction/alcohol treatment. They lie when they say the only use drugs to stay warm. Help them anyways.
More arts prograsmming.
Parking meters and lack of pedestrian zone are my main reasons for not going downtown as much as I would like. Also not feeling 100% safe.
Get rid of the policies that allow threatening people, gangs, thieves, semi-permanent campers and drug dealers to take over the entire downtown area. If you can't do this, then don't bother spending any more money on the downtown.
Housing that is at the whim of the market will never solve the problem of housing service workers or unhoused people. All proposed housing solutions need to acknowledge and focus on that reality to express bare minimum due diligence from the City.

create pride of our city by local programs that have easily attainable positive outcomes such as cleaning up a park and a community drive to collect donations to provide equipment for that park or turning a neglected and abandoned property into a community garden.
We need a multifaceted solution for homelessness. NOT increased funding for homelessness like California, which has proven that throwing money at it only further enables. We also need to opt out of all state funded/promoted drug use. And, to create more affordable housing, reduce the system development fees, reduce the permit fees, & reduce the building standards. That's how they can still sell houses for the low \$200,000's in TX and AZ.
increase/expand options for mobility impaired individuals
Everything list above and more should already be taking place in Eugene. My tax money should already being used to clean and light downtown and to keep the police presence throughout the city.
Start enforcing laws and prosecuting criminals
Visible and persistent police presence is needed on Broadway, from High Street to Lincoln Street (the downtown core), 24/7
Complete new city hall and linkages between U of O and downtown.
Clean up the vandalism or better yet, get the offenders to clean it up. Let's provide more enforcement for property crimes.
Do not provide addiction/crisis center downtown. It doesn't matter which building it would be in. It would be seen as "downtown" and thus downtown something to avoid.
Attract local businesses.
The downtown farmers market site is a good example for a positive direction to revitalizing Downtown. When I go on Saturdays I feel safe, it is clean, and it is a wonderful way to reconnect. The downtown merchant area does not embody any of those concepts. I don't feel safe and the people congregating project an aggressive behavior. I would not under any circumstance be downtown after dark. Until that element of safety is addressed, I do not think any amount of beautification, social events, or increasing affordable housing is prudent or financially sound. I have lived in Eugene since 1980. For me, it has lost, and continues to lose, the charm that has always made Eugene special.
Include all of the 5th Street Market District in plans - MECCA, Eugene Gear Traders vibrant businesses
DARN IT!!!!!! pay for the things the darn city is SUPPOSED to give ME!!!! I pay through the nose in property taxes. \$11,000 per year on 14th and Lawrence for crying out loud!!!!!! Could the city please just figure out what other Oregon towns and mid-sized cities are doing to get the darn mentally ill and drug addled people off of the tiny tiny tiny tiny little area we call "Down Town" For God's sake. Can I please use my downtown? How is it that YOU ALL are so darned apt to coddle the vagrants rather than get them to another area where their foul mouths, arguing, fighting, begging, shitting, lolling, using sidewalks for their personal social places (hey don't mind me, the one paying nearly \$1000 a month to the taxing authorities WHILE I AM RETIRED!!!!!!!!!!!! JUST, DARN IT! What about a retired person paying (partially) for cops and others to "ask" the losers to move on, "please, if you wouldn't mind moving your sleeping bag (donated), your stolen bike, dog, trash ?????? To a place other than in front of one of the MANY abandoned commercial spaces. Hey! I get that you personally, who work at the city, might feel superior to me and maybe—if you look honestly at your SELF—probably a little self-righteous, but you know what? I matter just as much as the humans who blanket the streets of downtown Eugene.
Systematically remove beggars and sidewalk sitters.
There are so few people out and about, even on a weekday morning. It's depressing and spooky. I hate my 2-3 block walk to the downtown LCC building!
Stop loitering on broadway
If you could effectively remove the homeless presence during the track event, why can't you do that permanently?
cluster City of Eugene executive and administrative functions in an existing, underused, publicly owned building, like the former EWEB building.
We need clear expectations for appropriate behavior downtown and programs to enforce those expectations.
I would definitely put "better lighting" as a top priority, but not when coupled with a park remodel, which is definitely the lowest priority on the list
repair downtown streets they are in terrible shape! If you host events communicate them better, per event calendar online and printed. Unfortunately RG doesn't do it anymore. The events around the World Athletic Championships '22 were poorly organized and disappointing!
Day services so the library can be better utilized by all people. It can feel unsafe for families and library staff.
Enact local regulations which prohibit camping and sitting on streets and street corners. No overnight stays. Other Oregon towns have done this. Springfield a better model than Eugene by leaps and bounds.
follow thru on enforcement by not allowing criminal activity.

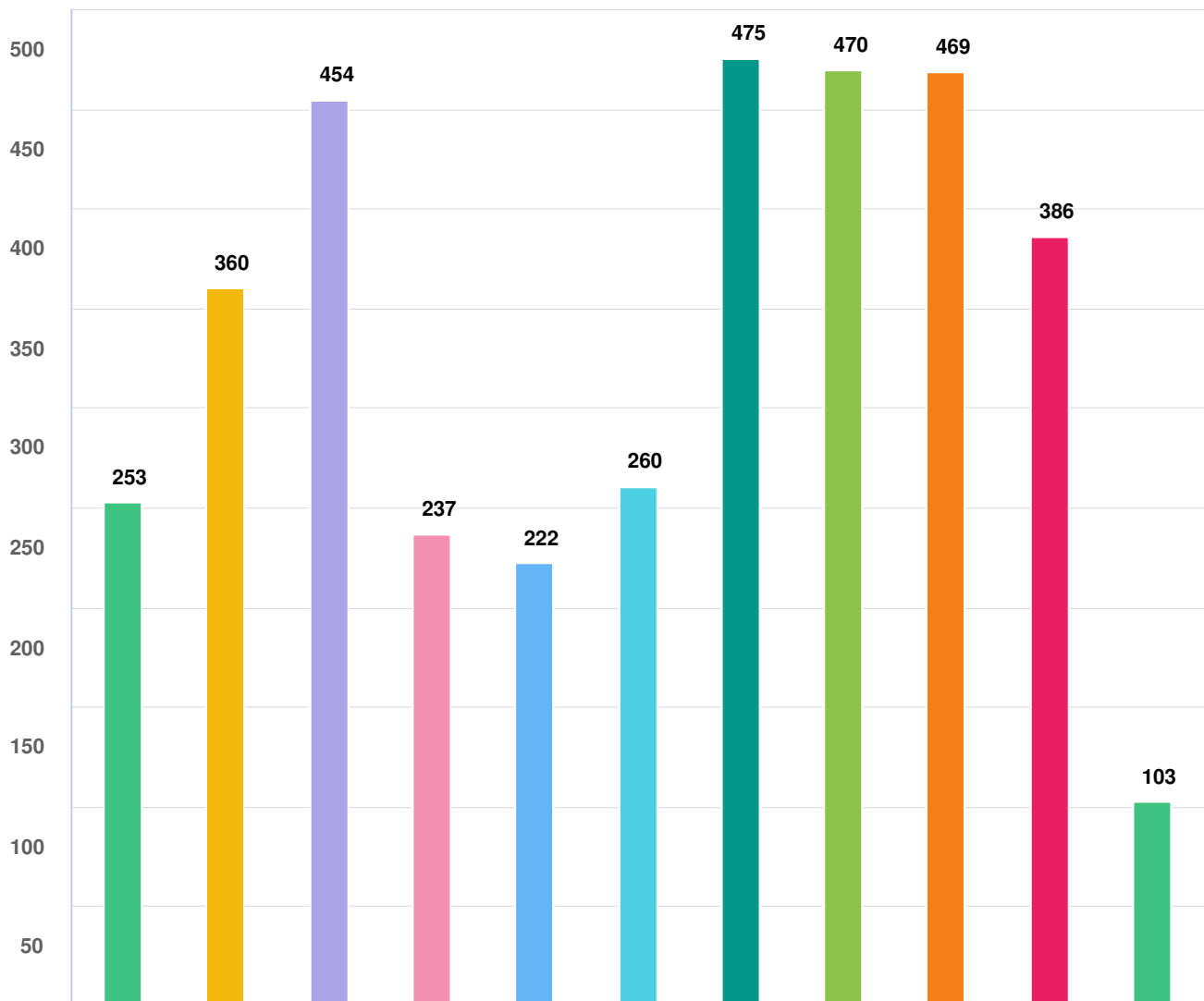
Many of my friends in Eugene are becoming increasingly concerned that the explosive growth of high rise apartments over the last 12 years will result in an explosive growth of uninhabited and decaying buildings in the future. I am hearing huge concerns that these high rise buildings are being built with tax payer money and then left with very high vacancy rates, while continuing to build even more high rises. Is the City of Eugene actually looking at housing need when allowing more construction to occur? I have heard that the city is 'hoping' that more apartments with bring the cost of rentals down, yet if building owners are intentionally keeping high vacancy rates, obviously this does not bring rents down, plus it build the false assumption that even more construcion is needed. Eventually we will have a lot of empty and abandoned buildings, or a crash in the rental market, or some other big problem related to this over construction. Plus - This is tax payer money that is being spent. WE are paying for this. WE do not want our tax dollars squandered. And WE will end up with the problems of over construction. Are you really looking at this and will you please address this with the populace to give us some hope that we (as tax payers and as a community) are not getting taken to the cleaners? Thank you
Invite, inspire, support homegrown businesses to set up good paying jobs. We did well with a Symantec or a Hynix giving a large swath of people livable incomes. I think investing in that commercial sector would help overall prosperity. Of the most prosperous cities of our size, many of them have strong private sector industries that employ a lot of people. Our top industries in Eugene are Healthcare, Education, and Government. I think we need to diversify and get our livable wages up.
We need restaurants downtown that draw a broader clientele. Now the only reason I go downtown is the Metro. Limit the type of bars that encourage people to congregate and cause problems, e.g. like Olive and Broadway.
Don't allow homeless to loiter and ask for handouts. Offer more art spaces, galleries and more festivals to support the artists.
Reduce homelessness, vagrants, and drifters
Housing that is affordable for people with a middle and lower-middle class income.
Let the police do their job, clean up Eugene as a whole. The City should not support and enable homelessness. Our taxes should NOT be spent on homeless services,
Addition of a multi-cultural center
Arrest and prosecute people who are committing crimes! Can't believe this has to be added as an option. Screaming into the abyss in front of a business, littering the sidewalk and parks with needles / poop / pee, open air bike chop shops in the parks, rampant bicycle / store / residential property thefts. These are the reasons I only go downtown for the farmer's market since early 2020 despite frequenting it as well as our parks much more often in the late 2010s. Make the police do their job, or fire and replace them all. No more enablement of silent protesting because their feelings got hurt in 2020 and they can't be racist anymore. Enough is enough. Enforce the laws or the city will continue its descent into lawlessness. 98% of downtown's problems comes from addicts who need to be forced into rehab or go behind bars. Case closed. Starting with this problem first is not optional; it is necessary to bring crowds back to downtown. It's the same reason you hear Seattle & SF losing downtown presences.
Whatever you do, quit dumping your bullshit on the Whiteaker. We're tired of the city preaching equity and continuing to oppress our community with an over abundance of the city's drug and homelessness burden. Clean it up, and protect the Whiteaker.
Close roads to cars to create a network of walkable, bikeable, car-free streets.
Increase parking; remove homelessness out of downtown; do NOT put behavioral health and addition services downtown; eliminate uncivil and socially inappropriate behavior. Finally, city government should get out of the business of providing goods and services that compete with existing private sector enterprises.
Get rid of all these heroin meth dealers and addicts that bring all the crime with them I'm a pot smoking partying liberal and I'm ready to go postal on all the street kids.
Supporting the business who choose to be in the downtown area with law enforcement, enforce trespassing, consider a zoned area that prevents loitering, enhance safety getting from parking garages to downtown.
Abolish Red Hats
there must be consequences for action/illegal behavior. currently there are none.
enhance downtown transportation connections with passenger rail, commercial bus, and airport.
Sleeping and/or sitting on sidewalks, foyers, curbs, streets not allowed. Sitting allowed on city benches. Provide more city seating and safe places for people to sleep.
Address homeless population
Build a City Hall
Prohibit folks just hanging out/sitting on sidewalks
Stop ignoring the homeless and criminals. There is a huge drug problem. You can't start any of these other steps until these current issues are resolved or at least dealt with.

Removal/dismantling of anti-homeless architecture, free public transit, easily accessible warming/cooling center
Give business owners the support they need to want to be downtown so that it is attractive to run a business and possible for it to thrive.
Prioritize downtown for people not cars
Hold people accountable for their actions!
None of this will matter unless City Council changes the policies surrounding downtown. Stop protecting the people who are making downtown unsafe and unwelcoming. Undo all of the policy that allows sleeping downtown, loitering, anything that does not let the police remove the ones who are causing the problems. How is that the %th street market area is so nice but a few blocks over it is totally unsafe and unwelcoming? Same with Oakway Center? if an addict was walking around 5th street market with a machete or a large blunt object yelling racist slurs do you think the police would show up right away? Yes!! Why don't the police come to Broadway and Charnelton?
Have you considered closing off Kesey Square to traffic and putting an art sculpture fountain in the middle of the intersection. (Just Kidding).
Day or night downtown Eugene doesn't feel inviting. I only go there if I have a specific destination. I don't like parking in the overpark lots, as they are crowded and don't feel safe to leave my vehicle there. The car congestion of through traffic detracts from my experience as a pedestrian or bicyclist. Last time I had a downtown destination I was meeting friends there at a restaurant and my recollection is a lot of red brick and gray concrete buildings. Blah.
Lastly, finding specific destinations can be tricky, as many store fronts and businesses are not clearly marked.
parking and vehicle accessibility
Grrr! This survey is proof of my previous "other" comment. The wording of the first two choices in this question imply that people in affordable housing don't support the downtown economically. That bias isn't even implicitly. I'd love to see the data supporting that embedded claim, as I suspect it's bogus. I'm all for expanding police presence, if done sensitively. How about traffic enforcement, for instance, which is intrinsically related to pedestrian and bike safety? I may be a little over-sensitized to this, having recovered for the past twelve months from a particularly nasty bike/truck collision, but data in nearly all cities shows traffic enforcement has dropped nearly to zero, with resulting increases in bad driving and horrible outcomes. Why would Eugene be different? On one of these answers, I'm not sure that the City's recent track record allows me to check the box on "Invest in renovation of Downtown public spaces. The jury is still out on that one. The "throughout Eugene" answers get closer to the jist of the problem. Despite a liberal voting record, most of Eugene is unwilling to be neighbors with what are seen as "problem people". I live in Whiteaker, and we welcome (nearly) everyone. Can we export that sentiment so that the South Hills and North Eugene regions welcome true diversity and are willing to walk the walk of being part of the solution to our social problems?
We need a proper big city art gallery.
restaurants/stores/activities that encourage employees to work in their downtown office rather than at home
After seeing the Holiday markets of Europe I was thinking why couldn't we have something like that in Eugene? We could decorate Downtown with lights throughout the winter months to make it less gloomy. How about walking police patrols every couple of hours' especially at night until the bars close.
Options shouldn't be all or nothing - for example, market-rate and low-income housing can be combined.
Prioritize walking and biking access and secure bike parking increase use, vibrancy, safety, and health.
Create an environment where the homeless either choose to leave the area or access the abundance of services our community provides.
Get rid of the drug addicts, drug dealers in the bus terminal the brings them all there.
Invest radically in our unhoused, our poor, addicted, and our suffering. We need to radically redirect our tax dollars and infrastructure to serve those in our community that are suffering and houseless.
Increase police presence and make Eugene LESS FRIENDLY to transients and vagabonds. only 5% of our homeless are from here. Why are the tax payers of Eugene burdened with creating housing and mental health/addiction services for other cities and states homeless?!
An actual city hall downtown. Or purchase the eweb building for use of city hall.
Increased support for public education, public conversations designed to improve understanding and decrease polarization, public health care
Accessible parking.
Just clean it up! Do the jobs you're paid to do! Tax payers are sick of the unhoused running amok.

Have spaces for arts and technology education and Transformative learning.
Additionally, a Japanese garden and, or downtown garden would be amazing. Eugene's sister city is Kyoto. The University of Oregon's Landscape Architecture Program has partnered with Kyoto for many years. This relationship could be expressed while the Beauty of Japanese gardening /landscaping would enhance our downtown and create a beautiful peaceful and unique space. It may be a lofty vision and it's possible.
Encourage the location of national chain stores downtown to help draw people to downtown (and out of private malls), which will increase foot traffic downtown and support local businesses, as well (ex. "Trendy-third" in Portland)
Remove parking barriers downtown to compete with malls that have free, open parking.
Reduce the number of bars and gambling establishments by creating a special nightlife district.
Why would anyone fill this section out when it is a near certainty that no manpower by the city is going to be tasked to actually read or respond to anything written here. To prove my point, since the city has a long and proud tradition of taxing its citizens and then grossly mismanaging those funds, I propose a hunger games for eugene. These games are to be held twice a year, during the summer and winter equinox. A tax-free cash prize of \$5 million goes to the winner/survivor. Any and all State residence of legal age are encouraged to enter. Elimination rounds will last 24 hours, and begin 60 days prior to the finale event which will run for 48 hours or until there is one remaining contestant. It's 100% voluntary. And the city will make hundreds of millions in tickets, merchandise, and broadcast licensing. I challenge anyone to a debate on how this would not be good for our city and society as a whole.
More green space
Prohibit loitering, camping, drug use, property damage including graffiti, police presence with actual enforcement
Downtown needs another food store. Depending on what part of downtown its kind of a food store desert.
Increase access to Eugene by bike and walking. Dedicate more of the public right of way to protected and connected bikeways and pedestrian plazas/walkways. Create welcoming alleyways as well by allowing businesses to open, inviting public art, and dedicated safe bike/ped access.
expand funding for Cahoots services
Stop allowing the homeless to take over the city. Enact and enforce laws.
Ban public camping Ban panhandling Prevent loitering
More small park places with places to sit.
do the work within the city's means, no more wasteful bonds and pie in the sky dreams
Only help those who actually want a hand up not a hand out. Stop supporting bad behavior. If people just want to lay around and do drugs all day and rob and steal then kick them out of town. As they only come here and because people are so giving. We are not helping these addicts but making it worse. Please use some common sense in dealing with this issue as most states East of the I-5 do not have this problem.
ahem
Stop giving parking tickets to people trying to bolster our local economy.
expand cahoots, mixed-use developments that are walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented
improve maintenance of existing private spaces
Remove large groups of transients/homeless taking up large portions of sidewalks doing drugs and loitering and littering
add a city hall
close down Broadway again
build industry, invest in this community not corporations
build industry so people can afford to live here
a crosswalk between the FM Pavillion and Park Blocks. Making all the two-lane one-ways into two-ways and reducing speed limits. Permanently closing Broadway off to cars.
fix "Piss Alley"
our weather can be limiting, hopefully the farmers market pavilion will help
create opportunities to deepen and expand understanding of houseless needs in our community - focus on relationship building rather than removal, exclusion, or hiding of our houseless community
shelters and services should not be right downtown, but frequent public transit to downtown should be available for those accessing homeless services wherever they are
more flowers

Start with expanding non-law enforcement programs or you have no hope
Expand and fund the expansion of CAHOOTS and Whitebird Services
Eugene celebration
Improve sidewalks, Cahoots/ PD on bikes
Culturally specific destinations for Black/Bipoc residents and visitors
current EPD staff is inadequate
fun interactive public art
Invest in more public displays in the Center that show the temperature, time, AND always include AIR QUALITY to prevent asthma and respiratory illnesses.)
Post information on air quality displays to return home if it is dangerous to breathe in pollutants and smoke.
I would like events presented in Downtown to be of quality and purpose, and the calendar of events should be all year round and not only in the summer

Q8 Now that you have told us all of the actions you think are important, what do you think are the top 3 actions to improve Downtown? (Please select your top 3.)



Question options

- Support the creation of market-rate housing to increase the number of people who can support the downtown economy
- Support the creation of housing affordable for people with low incomes ● Increase commercial activity and active storefronts
- Invest in renovation of Downtown public spaces (such as Park Blocks, Kesey Square, and Hult Plaza) and new amenities (such as lighting, benches, trash cans, restrooms)
- Improve maintenance of existing Downtown public spaces (ex: repairs, pressure washing, custodial services)
- Host more events that bring people Downtown to have fun: weekly, yearly
- Provide more behavioral health and addiction services throughout Eugene
- Provide shelters and services for people without stable housing throughout Eugene
- Expand non-law enforcement programs that enhance public safety
- Increase police presence and law enforcement in Downtown ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (1263 response(s), 8 skipped)

Q8 What do you think are the top 3 actions to improve Downtown Eugene? “Other” responses:

Stop unlawful actions. enforce the laws of the city and prosecute law breakers. Stop supporting bad behavior
Free parking.
Creating family friendly opportunities downtown like museums, gardens, and parks where people can also engage in cultural and creative activities. I've seen in other cities, artistic play structures that are swings and small merry-go-rounds, etc. but also look like sculptures. We need to create inviting environments for all community members. The more active and vibrant a place is the healthier it is for all.
Reduce number of cars and car parking
We need to enforce no camping on the rivers and creeks, the amount of trash, pollutants, going into out water ways is unacceptable
Get competent officials. The current crew is not at all up to the job. The City is paying over a quarter million dollars to a person who is qualified for her original job as a landscape maintenance person,
See above (list under Other in response to #6)
First to impose and enforce no-panhandling rules Downtown. And restrict loitering/camping downtown. Support the Eugene Public Library, they are key members of this battle.
Make panhandling and camping illegal.
less gas vehicles
1. more public meeting spaces described above, and, 2. Convert the old LCC building to around 50 cheap SRO rooms. So easy.
Make downtown unwelcoming for the groups of 'travelers' who gather and lay around the sidewalk. Tired of being harassed and threatened, and its one of the biggest reasons why I avoid downtown as much as I can.
This is the same question as number 6.
Homeless shelters out of downtown
get the homeless people, drug addicts, etc out of the city. How about the man who died from being attacked on a city bus this past week? That's reason enough not to go anywhere on the bus system. And why do you have these enormous buses that never have more than 5 passengers on them? Someone should have developed small buses that can be expanded or linked to another bus when demand became obvious.
Increase Cahoots presence
Make Broadway a year-round bicycle boulevard
reduce police presence
Get rid of all the people ruining the downtown. It is gross and unsafe.
Please do not increase taxes! Many residents, both home-owners and renters cannot possibly afford that after loss of work and business resulting from the lockdowns.
Make it easier to get to downtown without a car. Cars destroy a city. I just visited Utrecht, NL, and they got this *down*, by prioritizing the ease of walking and biking over driving.
Defund the police! Support CAHOOTS! Invest in prevention!
Have the city buy the old LCC building on Willamette and turn it into transitional housing with a percentage being reserved for single disabled adults. A percentage for single vets and the rest can be divided between families and non using couples. And better soultions for bathrooms that are cleaned/maintained frequently and monitored to not allow drug use to happen in them.
Again, "Now that you have told us all of the actions you think are important"? The city needs to hire someone who knows how to fashion effective, less biased surveys. I in no way feel that I have "... have told us all of the actions you think are important"
This survey is SEVERLY flawed.
make downtown a drug free , meaning no sale, use or presence of, drugs, dealing, behaviors. Downtown should belong to the citizens who pay taxes, should be safe and clean and should not be used a a drug epicenter
Improve automotive access and egress.
Improve safety on LTD buses, including security and/or fare checkers on all buses.
If you can't get a handle on homelessness forget everything else. Also what about city hall?
Increase law enforcement of criminal drug abusers in all parts of Eugene.
Increase private+public development projects -like 5th Street district
Move out the homeless and people spread out on the sidewalks.

Safe walkable car free spaces BRING IN MONEY AND SAVE THE CITY TONS OF COSTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE sorry I'm yelling I'm passionate about this. Have you checked out the Notjustbikes YouTube channel? There a video that calls out Eugene. Subsidizing suburbia. Check it out.
I really can't stress to you enough how much the city will benefit socially/financially/and really in every way if we lean hard into a car free or greatly reduced future. I basically wrote a thesis on this topic. The facts are that's the future. Whether or not we want to among the top American cities leading the charge in that is up to y'all.
1. Shift some development from market area to southwest corner of downtown; too many empty storefronts. 2. install CC cameras in Broadway Place parking garage
De-emphasize car traffic in favor of transit, walking, and cycling infrastructure
Completely Redesign traffic plan. Close several streets to cars entirely to create outdoor public space and safe non-car travel ways. Turn legacy two ways into one ways.
PROTECTED BIKE LANES
More protected bike lanes
improve bicycle access to downtown and reduce air pollution -- prohibit public smoking and get polluting trucks and cars out of populated areas.
NONE OF THESE SELECTIONS INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OF HOMELESS PEOPLE BUT TO SPEND MONEY ENABLING IT?! WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK! YOU GUYS SUCK ASS OMFG... I am going to start coming to meetings.. that's it.
Local drug ordinances
Again, you present 'homeless vs market rate clients' as if the middle income families can afford 'market rate'. Affordability is a relative term, it does not mean 'slums for the poor' it means affordable on one's income. Your chosen language is alienating and it is in itself a huge part of the problem. Eugene civic culture is dated and too straight and too white. The people who wrote this survey should be fired.
Up the quality of the experience! Better stores, better maintenance, better safety, better design and planning. Human behavior is directly related to its context -- better context equals better behavior (even bad actors have comfort levels and better is uncomfortable for some). Middle housing, fewer bars, permanent quality design of streets, not troughs, super-clean.
Improve accessibility and connectivity between parks (riverfront/skinner butte), add commercial activity there
CITY HALL! You tore it down, now rebuild it.
enforce existing laws
Preserve and Enhance Open Green Spaces on existing vacant lots (no more in-filling with buildings) and existing public spaces
Provide more food trucks and encourage/incentivize more public brew pubs (like Bend has).
Protect business owners from vandalism and trashing of their businesses by homeless. They now pay a tax to be protected, but it doesn't seem to be happening.
More public bathrooms, regularly maintained.
housing. housing. housing.
Clean up the town
Get rid of the convenience stores downtown. They seem to be where the problems start and provide "food", alcohol and cigarettes to the population that is making downtown undesirable and unsafe
Stop using Urban Renewal funding.
This is a snide question - to ask it twice like this is sarcastic. ALL OF THE ABOVE. And stop being so politically loaded with your questions. Who wrote such a sarcastic questionnaire. And Re-instate the rat traps in the downtown and city sewers. The rats are multiplying and showing up on the sidewalks and in the neighborhoods.
The homeless problem downtown is definitely a big issue as we all know, until they have housing it will continue to be,
make more pedestrian friendly by making Broadway closed to traffic again, remove parking meters
Get the homeless issue under control and get the drugs off the streets so I feel comfortable taking my children to the dang lint without seeing someone smoking crack on the sidewalks.
Same problem. Such a shame. Selected three, indicated I could only select three. So add these, increase police presence, provide shelters and services.
Stop loitering
Remove the homeless and violent people. It is ridiculous. As employers we pay a safety tax. Use it more wisely!
We need clear expectations for appropriate behavior downtown and programs to enforce those expectations.

Improve street, bicycle and pedestrian connections to other parts of "downtown" such as 5th street and the riverfront. Think fun, narrow trail/ parks that weave these places together that can be carved from existing streets/sidewalks with a trail of trees for shade.
EWEB buildings should be converted to some usable space, not torn down. They are beautiful and should not be wasted in the process of revitalizing the riverfront
Invest in well-maintained public restrooms in a few locations Downtown.
Housing that is affordable for people with a middle and lower-middle class income.
Same as above. Defund homeless services. Pass laws banning camping in the City limits, ban pan handling. Enabling the homeless makes the problem worse!
Arrest and prosecute people who are committing crimes! Can't believe this has to be added as an option. Screaming into the abyss in front of a business, littering the sidewalk and parks with needles / poop / pee, open air bike chop shops in the parks, rampant bicycle / store / residential property thefts. These are the reasons I only go downtown for the farmer's market since early 2020 despite frequenting it as well as our parks much more often in the late 2010s. Make the police do their job, or fire and replace them all. No more enablement of silent protesting because their feelings got hurt in 2020 and they can't be racist anymore. Enough is enough. Enforce the laws or the city will continue its descent into lawlessness. 98% of downtown's problems comes from addicts who need to be forced into rehab or go behind bars. Case closed. Starting with this problem first is not optional; it is necessary to bring crowds back to downtown. It's the same reason you hear Seattle & SF losing downtown presences.
Close roads to cars to create a network of walkable, bikeable, car-free streets.
Increase parking; remove homelessness out of downtown; do NOT put behavioral health and addition services downtown; eliminate uncivil and socially inappropriate behavior. Finally, city government should get out of the business of providing goods and services that compete with existing private sector enterprises.
without addressing the lawlessness that is downtown eugene, nothing will change.
Build a City Hall
Stop the high amount of drug use and overdoses.
Give business owners the support they need to want to be downtown so that it is attractive to run a business and possible for it to thrive.
Hold people accountable for their actions!!
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change the policy for the downtown area zone - remove anything that is protecting the unhoused, they do not need to be hanging around downtown they can go hang at the parks. 2. Make it illegal to loiter, harass, taunt, use offensive language slurs, etc. and act on it. Remove the offenders. Ban people from the downtown area (unless there for business such as taking the bus or an appointment for official business). People get banned from parks why cant they be banned from downtown? 3. Create policy that allows police to do their jobs 4. Revisit the contract for the Red Hats- they really do not do security downtown, what are the job roles really supposed to be and are they doing it? 5. Follow Springfield's model! I am a person of color and I feel more safe walking on the streets of Springfield than I do Eugene! I know I will not get attacked by a homeless teen! I never see homeless people loitering or addicts/mental health walking around with machetes, and yelling racist slurs and other obscenities! It doesn't happen, why not? Because of the Policies!!!
Look, deal with the homeless. There is a homeless industry in Eugene. It sucks up money with little effect. I found 100 million dollars "dedicated to the homeless" last year. Why doesn't everyone have a room, an apartment? Multiple agencies lay claim to the project. One agency's contribution to a housing project was having a class and brochures on "how to be a good tenant" Enough money has been provided. Solve this.
<p>Okay, let's be blunt. If the city wants to have a vibrant downtown (which I think is essential), it has to "spread the wealth" so that treatment and shelters are widely spread, and also increase enforcement and non-enforcement systems in the downtown. We can continue to pour money into luring businesses downtown, throw lavish parties, and make sure everything is "clean", but this doesn't create vibrant urban fabric.</p> <p>Step one should be making downtown attractive, and right now much of it feels like a war zone.</p> <p>Step two should be to add housing, preferably largely affordable, but some of both.</p> <p>Step three, after the first two steps are in place, should be to further ensure commercial revitalization unless that has already happened. From an urbanism perspective, the rest is window dressing.</p>
Expand bike-friendly and pedestrian-friendly networks to encourage fewer cars downtown and more walkable/bikeable neighborhoods
i don't know
Prioritize walking and biking access and secure bike parking increase use, vibrancy, safety, and health

Design spaces that are pedestrian and family friendly.
Downtown is unable to attract business/visitors due to homeless population, safety, and lack of businesses that the majority of the population would like to visit.
Invest radically in our unhoused, our poor, addicted, and our suffering. We need to radically redirect our tax dollars and infrastructure to serve those in our community that are suffering and houseless.
An actual city hall. Or purchase the eweb building before out of state developers create a cash grab for this property. Then get the MUPTE to build or remodel. MUPTE are not sustainable and don't help anyone but the (mostly) out of state developers
Increase support for public education. Cut class sizes to max 16 students per teacher, improve connections to parents to identify and Support at risk youth, promote and win national healthcare
Need to get the homeless and mentally ill out of downtown period. How you do it is debatable. Can't even go to our beautiful main library without running into stinky, dirty, vagrants who are clearly mentally ill. Does not feel safe.
Encourage the location of national chain stores downtown to help draw people to downtown (and out of private malls), which will increase foot traffic downtown and support local businesses, as well (ex. "Trendy-third" in Portland) Remove parking barriers downtown to compete with malls that have free, open parking.
See my previous comment regarding a hunger games for Eugene.
<p>Meaningful enforcement and accountability to clean up Eugene and finding effective ways to make it unattractive and uncomfortable to existing and future migrants who are loitering, camping, defecating, panhandling, creating crime, destroying property including excessive graffiti tagging, and exhibiting unsafe, unsanitary and disturbing behavior without contribution to being decent citizens in our community and to the well-being of other residents and overall public good. The City of Eugene has been and continues to need leadership and realistic vision in its problem solving that STOPS ignoring and, at times, enabling bad behavior and focuses on solving problems effectively. It's not rocket science and things could seriously turn around for the better if you were to focus as a coordinated City on stopping your creation of obviously foreseeable problems, which has been the City's result for many years now. The City departments without exception need to be more aware (not 2-dimensional on thinking) of how they are connected and, currently, adversely affecting each other. The City Manager must refocus City departments to find out more about how to work together for practical results and evening of burdens. This requires that the City coordinates with a compass that is mindful of how your decisions and actions (or lack of action) in one or a few department(s) will affect other City services, departments and residents. Additionally, the City has deteriorated meaningful focus and assist for the well behaved and contributing residents of this community, and consequently, you will permanently lose us and, with that, lose our contributions in community and neighborhood good will, creativity and innovation, and income which allows effective operation when managed appropriately. This needs immediate attention given the current state of deterioration. Please take a stance with spine that works for public good, well-being and quality of life and, within that, incentivize a community and place where community-minded people will actually want to live and work. By way of example of poor City management is your lack of vision in housing development together with hands off approach with UO and the growing percentage of UO students who behave incredibly selfishly and poorly without consequence, which foreseeably combined to create a West University Slum that is crime ridden, disgustingly dirty with constant strewn garbage and graffiti, and extremely disturbing behavior. The City and it's lack of forethought was primary in creating (and continuing to allow) this slum to add to the slum of downtown. The simple cause of the City not, for example, requiring developers, property owners and managers of the new (and particularly ugly) high rise apartments to actually manage the behavior and actions of their residents. Instead you chose to dump and rely on a depleted police force that has no resources or ability to meaningfully enforce anything. They have abandoned community policing, and are so depleted they can't even show up for most anything that is not an immediate emergency. So unsafe. Community policing is proven to work in part because there is a built in accountability and good will when people know each other. We don't have that much anymore due to City decisions and actions over the last decades. To fix current and future on these large apartment buildings, it's critical for the City to put the responsibility on the developers, owners and property managers to manage the sustainability. That is where it belongs, not on the police. This is key if you will be otherwise incentivizing developing more housing downtown. It must be negotiated and executed for sustainability of the surrounding community. If you do not require on-site managers with teeth in the obligations and enforcement on developers, you will simply be expanding and worsening Eugene's behavior, dirt and crime problems. That's simply untenable and we need true leadership in this from our City. No rocket science involved, but it does require thoughtful planning with a focused look to the future and how to incentivize, require and manage sustained responsibility on those who are best positioned to enforce it. That is the individuals and companies making the money off it (particularly when you allow tax exemptions without any sustainability factors). This City's leadership and departments get the poorest marks in practical, long term planning and solutions. It needs to accept that, when it incentivizes companies and corporations over neighborhoods, citizenry and community, it cannot rely on the companies and corporations to voluntarily act for the greater good. There must be conditions precedent and teeth in your set up with sustainable</p>

follow up enforcement, fines, and actions that are meaningful to the livability in and surrounding these massive housing projects. In doing so, the City should also allowing historical and buildings with heritage to be razed and letting developers to come in and build cheap and ugly new housing that crowds sidewalks and doesn't allow for parking strips and meaningful setbacks. Crapstone and the 515 apartment projects are apt examples among many. This is key not only for downtown and throughout Eugene. If the City has any interest in actually walking the walk so to speak on promoting livability and walk-ability of neighborhoods, you must create walkways that are comfortable. Forcing pedestrians to navigate walking immediately next to busy and extremely noisy and stressful streets because you require no setback and allow buildings out and even over the sidewalk without any buffer to our streets is in all circumstances a colossal losing design because you take any pleasant joy out of walking in and through a neighborhood. Shame on you for allowing developers to do this so they can make a few extra bucks which they take out of our community while we are left with the consequences. Please do not allow this to happen downtown. If we residents cannot be comfortable and safely enjoy walking downtown, we won't be going there. Simple consequence.
Downtown needs another food store.
Increase access to Eugene by bike and walking. Dedicate more of the public right of way to protected and connected bikeways and pedestrian plazas/walkways. Create welcoming alleyways as well by allowing businesses to open, inviting public art, and dedicated safe bike/ped access.
Ban public camping Ban panhandling
i thought the survey was suppose to only focus on downtown issues? Provide shelters and services for people without stable housing throughout Eugene Provide more behavioral health and addiction services throughout Eugene
Free. Fucking. Parking.
see previous but minus invest in renovation of downtown public spaces and new amenities
invest in this community not corporations
marked "Do not do this" re: market rate housing
basic street safety design improvements consistent with Vision Zero eg. getting rid of 2-lane 1 -ways more crosswalks, closing Broadway to cars
Need to be willing to deal with homeless +vagrancy so people will feel safe and want to come downtown.
More secure bicycle parking for workers
(More creativity in street decorations and ornaments)
(More public displays that, in addition to show temperature and time, always include AIR QUALITY INDEX, thus to prevent asthma and respiratory diseases.)
(In order for the city to be vibrant, they need to increase commerce and not have empty stores. Affordable prices and government subsidies to ensure the permanence of businesses.)
Post information on air quality displays to return home if it is dangerous to breathe in pollutants and smoke
Que haya servicios de baños y agua potable gratis en todos los eventos públicos organizados por la ciudad o por otras entidades.

Q9 Do you have any other thoughts or comments you'd like to share?

We cannot keep putting all the money into only shelter creation and cleaning up— we need to foster businesses, landmarks, and unique spaces. I stopped going downtown anywhere but the movie theater and the library, and now don't like to take the family to either of those places because of the safety issues. Super sad.
It feels like we're looking at two sides of a scale. On one side are the issues that create a negative experience and perception of downtown, the other are things that contribute to a positive experience and perception. If we can implement enough multiple strategies (business developments, events, beautification, mental health and housing services) to tip that scale more to the positive, then I think it will continue to create momentum and gain more weight, further pushing us toward positive outcomes.
At present the downtown area isn't a particularly welcoming place. Would be nice to turn the clock back to the old days of the Eugene Celebration, the expanded Friday Art Walk, etc.
Please please please expand CAHOOTS and prioritize additional shelter options beyond the mission, which has a weird religious component that doesn't work for a lot of people. They need compassionate care and a safe place to sleep. Mental illness cannot be meaningfully addressed by those who live under the constant stress of finding a safe place to stay.
Just getting people downtown would be great.
People hanging out on the streets, and threatening/illegal activity are obvious problems, but I think attracting more of the desirable people/activities we want (like on First Friday Art Walks, Saturday Market, etc.) , plus some law enforcement as needed, would be more effective than simply targetting the undesirable behavior.
Stop bike thief it's a major problem
I love downtown Eugene. I don't want to lose the beauty or the character that is already there. But it has been difficult for many decades to keep businesses open and thriving there, and people spare-changing, bumming smokes, selling drugs, and generally harassing people on sidewalks has also been a long-time problem. I don't want to tear down what's there and start over, I just want the city to foster, encourage, and support downtown in a way that makes it inviting and safe for all.
Create a true food truck hub at Kesey Square or on the parks blocks. With several quality food trucks and more picnic tables and covered from the rain. Along with non-police monitors. Have some live music downtown on a regular basis during the day. Bring back the annual Eugene Celebration and parade.
The homeless situation is out of control and makes downtown Eugene incapable of being a vibrant destination for residents.
Make downtown more like Oakway area. More storefronts, restaurants. It will help when the Riverfront is done. The main problem is the homelessness. That is why businesses have left and gone elsewhere. We need help for the homeless in this town. We need affordable housing and more mental health
It seems EUG is doing some good work for the unhoused. But more needs to be done to provide safe shelter, health services and housing. The community really needs to get a tight handle on who are these fellow citizens with income, housing or health issues, how often and how long they have been unhoused and what are their circumstances. When the various agencies know them as individuals or families, vets or seniors, substance abuse issues or whatever, then each can be directed to whatever it is they require. This is not something that can be solved with blanket resolutions for more shelters or more homes. Every situation is unique and each needs someone 'on the other side of the issues' to help them find the available services and follow up on follow thru. Anyone who wants it should have access to a social services 'case worker' if you will. Sounds like it would cost a lot but with streamlined and directed services the ancillary costs associated with homelessness would be decreased.
PARKING: keep the parking garages safe, clean, and accessible (meaning the elevators work), free parking on weekends and affordable on weekdays, feeling safe walking at night from parking garages to destination (meaning theaters and restaurants). Suggest free on-street parking and fewer "pocket parks" that remove parking spaces? I have never bought in to the excuse that downtown employees would abuse free parking for shoppers and event attendees, employers need to provide parking or transportation for their employees.

Do the residents of Eugene really want a city center that draws them in, or do people live in Eugene because of the natural surroundings, the climate, the homes they create in the various neighborhoods, etc. I realize this is a survey about Downtown Eugene, but honestly, it seems like there are a LOT of City resources being put into Downtown efforts (marketing, surveys, meetings, massive capital expenditures, increased police resources, etc.) Where does "Downtown Eugene" fall on the importance of livability? Is there a possibility that the City is trying too hard to fix a problem that really isn't an important problem on the scale of other Eugene issues? I'll also note that it seems to me that downtown Eugene is mostly workplaces and bars with a few other types of businesses thrown in. If people aren't going downtown, perhaps it's because they don't want to go to those businesses, and/or those businesses themselves are drawing a population that doesn't mix well with a more family/friendly or senior/friendly vision. Isn't it up to the marketplace of businesses to solve this issue?
Safety is #1
I believe that people heal when they learn to give to others. If drug rehab programs offered opportunities for those who are suffering to give to our community, they could make a positive impact for others and themselves. This not only builds self esteem, but it offers opportunities to feel gratitude and happiness which leads to healing. Pastor Gabe's work is testimony to this.
I was born and raised in Eugene and planned to stay here forever. I put my first business in the middle of downtown. I have since moved it to a cleaner, safer and more attractive part of town and actively sought a safer town to live in. Municipalities are driven by highlight locations such as downtowns. With a strong push in recent years to improved downtown I see the potential but it is soured by what it allows. Homelessness and similar unattractive low quality of life activity plagues the streets. It doesn't feel safe and that needs to be addressed before anything else can help. I lean far left on many issues but we need an aggressive approach that only right wing politics seem to support. The undesirable people on the streets on downtown need support when they are willing to try themselves but they need to be forced out if they want to be a drain on the system and not try to pull their own weight. The lack of destinations is next in line. What do you visit downtown? I have reasons to visit the 5th street market, VRC and Oakway Center for recreation and shopping. I don't need rugs, bongos and trinkets and I wouldn't go to downtown to buy them if I did. Fine and decent dining is limited. Nothing attracts the people who pay the majority of taxes that support the city. Family friendly is not an appropriate description and kids can't go there on their own. When I run and cycle around town I go around downtown so I don't have to pass through it. I want this to be a nice place but I'm ashamed to bring my friends from out of town when I want to show off where I live.
When you first address the unsafe conditions of downtown the rest can follow. This means addressing the crimes and inappropriate behavior that occurs downtown, homelessness, mental health, and drug and alcohol addictions that are present in that area. You cannot work on the other stuff without doing this first, or it will be a lost cause.
Transportation is also critical. We need folks to be able to access downtown without having to bring a car. So bicycle safety is important as is walking and creative forms of transportation. Perhaps even free transportation.
I can offer the services I do as a business to help improve downtown.
This is a constant theme--trying to revitalize downtown. You spent a lot of money trying to do this back in 2012, and it did not work. You need to make the area safe, and I think you're being disingenuous when you ask the public for help in this matter--- you KNOW what needs to be done, get rid of the vagrant population and make the area safe.
The challenges downtown is experiencing are not limited to downtown. They're issues that pervade our entire community. If we strive to create a healthy community where basic needs are met and people can afford housing, food, healthcare, etc.; where community members feel heard, seen, represented, safe and welcome; where families are supported and children are well fed and educated; and where people feel connected... then I believe many of the issues we see would disappear on their own.
Provide more available models for storefront incentives.
I think the empty storefronts are one of the biggest problems. If there are full storefronts and market rate housing, that would increase the desirable activities and offset the undesirable activities.
I love Eugene! I've worked downtown for more than ten years and no longer feel safe. Let's focus on mental health and addiction services so folks can be well. Low income housing, please!!! Thanks for the survey.
I don't feel comfortable taking my kids downtown it doesn't feel safe
Safe, friendly family, pedestrianized streets, that are policed and inviting to locals and visitors alike. Nobody I know goes downtown ever as it is unsafe, dirty, and under siege by drug users and pan handlers.
Peace is disturbed by loud 'music' that some carry around, or in their cars. It would be nice to curb unwanted noise beyond a decent level.

This doesn't seem like a brainstorming exercise. Half the questions are about actions that have already been conceptualized. If you were really brainstorming, nearly everything would be about more abstract concepts, e.g. feelings and reactions, and there would be more freeform prompts, e.g. maps to highlight pros and cons.
The persistent presence of unhoused degrade from my interest and willingness to visit downtown Eugene. Shops and restaurants choices have dwindled over the years (presumably related to an increase in unhoused and subsequent decrease in patrons). Eugene alone cannot solve societal drives of the country's homeless crisis, but Eugene is suffering as a result.
I'd like to see more updated and youthful apparel stores targeting the female 25-40 age range, modern fitness studios. Right now there are mostly restaurants in downtown. Having this mix of commercial businesses can increase foot traffic in the area. Many of the buildings look old and dilapidated. The building where the Saturday market is can be utilized more during the colder months. Having popup food carts in this area can increase foot traffic.
Many of the small local places only pay so much. Employees of these local shops need affordable places to live. Pricing out small shop employees does not benefit downtown.
Please address the mental health crisis and the homelessness problem.
I avoid downtown like the plague that it is. I hope someday it might become a safe and welcoming neighborhood. It is very far from that now.
My vision of downtown Eugene is similar to that of a European downtown, such as Copenhagen. Designed for people, not cars, pedestrian and bike centric roadways, green spaces, benches, open air cafes and the like. I feel like the 5th street market, farmers market pavilion and Riverfront park are great starts. I'd love to see these all interconnected in the style I mentioned above. Thank you for listening.
We need to enforce no camping on the rivers and creeks, the amount of trash, pollutants, going into out water ways is unacceptable. We need more crews cleaning the waterways all around the city.
Every. Single. Time. we go downtown someone is screaming or acting crazy and we leave. It's upsetting because we're urbanites. We used to go downtown on our bikes when we moved here. Too many people are passed out where we need to bike.
Increasingly, I hear people say EPD is a joke. There is a lot of crime in Eugene but not a lot of noticeable presence to head off the crime. Perhaps we should start with safety. People are afraid to go downtown after 5. Afraid to use public transport. Afraid of the erratic behaviors. I had a guy in my car window offering me and my 8 year old to party with bee and pot. It's just not safe. I never ever ever see police in the area.
I prefer the area along the front of the library and down to the EMX station now. It was awful several years ago, when there were groups that would spend time there. Having to walk through those groups wasn't fun. No smoking allowed helped.
Stop rezoning housing to make more space for luxury apartments. We do not need more luxury apartments. Please provide affordable housing to the residents of this city.
No
This city needs more affordable non-market housing. Co-op buildings. We don't need to build more corporate for-profit housing, which will only exacerbate the current housing crisis.
Affordable housing downtown would be close to services like public transportation. Increasing the resident population and foot traffic downtown attracts more businesses. All of this fosters a safer community.
Eugene downtown feels unsafe I don't let my wife go do there, unless she has someone else to go with. My young kids have seen things that they can't unsee so we don't bring them downtown.
Please get tenant in old electric building by train station
Empty storefronts are a killer. The reason they are empty are varied, however if downtown is not a pedestrian friendly, safe, clean, FUN place to go, it will suffer.
I believe in true solutions to homelessness and mental health and addiction. But I also believe we have to enforce the laws and make Eugene safe and not allow a free for all. We can only offer a certain amount of resources, and cannot solve the issues for the entire northwest. Take care of our local residents first and "travelers" need to move along.
Supporting market rate housing would be nice. It is going to be hard to attract developers with some of the new city ordinances that the city has pasted. The council needs to understand that investors are looking for an ROI. It is very hard to make project work with rent caps and other controls. As an investor that has developed properties close to downtown, I will certainly not be investing additional dollars with the restrictive ordinances. I would rather invest in other communities where my ROI is not artificially capped. The city also needs to approve projects quicker. Private investment does not work on the same time frame as the city.

There are so many possibilities! How about choosing a few alley blocks for covered semi-outdoor space, similar to the new block by 5th St. Market but more public and less profit-driven? How about a great outdoor space to host big dances and parties? We obviously need a big homeless shelter, and space for people to be safe and receive services. How about outdoor music performances every Friday night at the park blocks? Hey what about a City Hall? I could go on listing ideas, this survey seems unfortunately limited in its thinking.
Homelessness and open drug use are a large problem and main reason I avoid the downtown area. It would be nice if the homeless issue could be addressed with a combo of law and non-law enforcement presence. Cleaning up the vacant areas and downtown in general. Downtown Eugene has so much potential to be an amazing world-renowned place that could bring significant revenue to our little town but the social issues have to be addressed first.
Parking is also an issue downtown and a deterrent at times. Because if parking is available near city campers/settlements I prefer not to park and patronize elsewhere. This is a frequent occurrence.
I've lived in Eugene for 40+ years. Downtown used to be clean and welcoming. Since moving into downtown 2 years ago, I've seen a steady decrease in the livability. It's filthy and disgusting to walk the streets. The only bright spot is the 5th Street area.
It is not safe for anyone to walk or visit downtown. The violence, homeless population (that are on drugs), and hazardous litter are out of control.
downtown is a scary place, it's always been so my entire life. The problems plaguing downtown haven't changed. Homeless, Lawless, Filthy. It's been 30 years and so far no meaningful change. My wife is afraid to go downtown alone with the kids, I never go without utilizing my right to bear arms. I'd love to see it clean, the homeless pushed out, and effective policing, with subsidized rents for ground floor businesses that sell goods and services reducing in subsidies as volume of that type of business increases (to encourage diversity of business, like a real outdoor mall).
Go back to no cars in the downtown blocks. Keep planting trees. Keep having lots of activities downtown. Continue to be bike and pedestrian friendly. Keep improving the parks. Provide housing, shelters and treatment for folks who need these services.
Activated spaces like the new farmers market, 5th street development, and the waterfront are steps in the right direction. We need commercial/retail spaces on the bottom floor of downtown building to create permeable space, not office spaces that sit empty on the weekends or after hours. This leads to dead spaces during times you'd want people to be spending money downtown eating and shopping. Instead, they become unsafe and trashed. That said, and as a resident of West Eugene, we need to find shelter and services for those without homes without pushing them into communities without resources to support them. We need to stop pushing the problem around town and provide services that get to the root of the issue.
The housing affordability crisis in this town is one we have made by choice, intentionally or not. Downtown Eugene, and Eugene as a city, will not be a place we can be proud of until we can find solutions to the crises of homelessness and lack of housing affordability. The only way to solve this is to create more housing for people who want to live here. We need more zoning reform, tax incentives for development, and more public investment in housing.
Never go downtown, never will. Will not support a town that wants to ban Natural gas. That is truly insane!
the answer to homelessness crisis starts with mental health support. accessible mental health support and resources that people are able to use, compassionate outreach workers, less police involvement and legal repercussions, more giving people the tools they need to succeed and survive even if they are addicts. they deserve to succeed and survive just as much as you and i.
Make panhandling and camping illegal.
I think the Council already knows what is needed to clean up, rejuvenate, and develop a vibrant downtown community, and it starts with managing our homeless population. The surveys, and this survey in particular, are an endless, empty, waste of time and resources. Take action and implement meaningful solutions that humanely deal with the homeless while returning the city public spaces back to ALL its citizens. There are plenty of successful examples to model after across this country (Bend is great).
restrict gas vehicles downtown
I am considering moving my business out of downtown in order to avoid unsafe conditions & individuals (panhandling, harassment, drug use)
Affordable/Low-Income/Section 8 housing would be perfect for downtown. I've seen that when you allow less fortunate people to live with & around privileged people, & have access to their services (better schools, better public services for example), they thrive. A rising tide lifts all boats.

Downtown is a mess. It is not safe. Clean it up and make it safe and inviting for people to visit all times of the day. If you need an example of a city that has an active and vibrant downtown, visit Boise, Idaho.
Zero tolerance for crazies, street people, etc.
Please increase security at the downtown Library. There are too many unhoused camping inside, stumbling around under the influence, and smoking at the entrance.
Overall, I think downtown Eugene is trending in the right direction. I first moved to Eugene in 2003, and at that time it seemed like downtown was dying- There were many boarded-up storefronts, not to mention the giant pits where buildings once stood. Compared to what it was like back then, I think the downtown improvements have been incredible, and I am very happy to see that the city is still working to make things even better.
I think that beyond the issue with mental health, addiction and homelessness; downtown needs a more thriving downtown economy. I think that there are too many office and not enough retail stores and restaurants. The retail businesses are being shut out by the issues caused from the individuals who are living on the streets of downtown. I think that in order to revive downtown there needs to be more presence of community service or security officers and somewhere else for the unhoused to be. If there were a day-use place for individuals to go and just be, it could reduce the gathering of people downtown that prevents other residents from visiting. A day-use center should offer some connections to services but more importantly be a safe space for people to exist with no requirement beyond be safe and sane, we all need somewhere to just be, without having to jump through hoops or meet other people's expectations. The City could work with other agencies and have a one-stop place where people could exist but also get connect with resources IF they wanted to. I have been homeless and it is hard and discouraging to have to find out who can help and then figure out how to get to the various places.
The number of homeless people on our streets is the number one problem in Eugene right now, Our local government has to reinvest in our law enforcement system and allow officers to do their job and move along the homeless who congregate in downtown. Our downtown is not enticing when we can be accosted by homeless people who believe that they have an absolute right to camp or gather any where they want and give other people a really hard time as we walk past. We absolutely have to reduce the number of homeless who are taking over and ruining our once beautiful city
Homelessness is a complex issue, as a city we are failing to combat the issue. Down town businesses suffer because we have allowed downtown to become a filthy and unsafe place. Our city thrives when businesses thrive, which pumps funding into programs that help keep our city presentable.
I used to bike everywhere before I moved to Eugene. I do not feel safe locking my bike up places here. I keep seeing increases for " safety tax" etc but nothing has changed. I'd love the bike thefts to stop.
its truly shocking what has happened to eugene. i have lived here since 1982. who is the leader of the city? the mayor?? its so bad.
Safety, safety, safety! We recently relocated from a wonderful downtown apartment to Springfield for our physical safety, as well as the safety of personal property (tires slashed for no reason, broken windows to steal a yoga mat that we found a man sleeping on a block away, and absolutely zero police response). Many of our friends will no longer go to downtown in general, and absolutely NEVER at night. We have allowed this for far too long; I am an avid supporter of homeless assistance and social benefits, but we have sacrificed our downtown with zero results. The only way to improve downtown (more active storefronts and events that people feel SAFE attending), is to prove to the residents of this city that their own town is safe again. This is a bridge that is going to be far more difficult to rebuild than it was to tear down.
The Downtown area is a wonderful place to work and visit, but is more unsafe than ever. Too many folks who are downtown have issues that require more than a band aid. Stable and safe housing would go far, as would better mental health services. Thanks for the survey!
I know Eugene has engaged with the folks at Strong Towns. Take what they're saying to heart -- throughout the entire city, not just downtown.
The sense by many people, myself included, that downtown is not safe is the main reason that downtown continues to struggle. We have too many people downtown who are incapable of taking care of themselves and others who engage in antisocial behavior and commit crimes, including drug dealing. We should be inspired to act because so many of our fellow residents avoid downtown. Increasing police presence and law enforcement downtown would help address criminal behavior. However, we also must help people who are mentally ill or those who want to end their addictions. The shift from office-to-remote work is hurting downtown businesses that rely on the presence of workers. Converting underused office space to market-rate housing could reverse that trend with new downtown residents adding vibrancy to the area and helping support downtown businesses.
banks are not social places
Get the homeless and addicted what they need and downtown will have a chance.

I grew up playing in downtown Eugene, attending Saturday morning movies at McDonald theater, climbing on the structures, shopping with my parents and then again as an adult. I view Downtown now as an unsafe, filthy, and unwelcoming place to be. It's hard to park, it's uncomfortable to walk around the variety of characters that hang around downtown. I would love to see it become a safe, fun and family friendly place to be again. I grew up proud of Eugene, now I am embarrassed by it.
We avoid downtown, especially at night, and do not feel safe there. All this is sad because Eugene in the old days, and other towns now have lovely downtowns.
Dissolve building height restrictions. Approve more high rise hotels. Allow highrise forprofit corporations in center city. Permit at least six new restaurants downtown.
In my opinion... Eugene should focus on what would bring economic growth to the downtown. If that could happen, more tax revenue could help the downtown to become more vibrant and welcoming. A win for everyone. A side note...I have always voted blue. It is becoming harder for me to keep voting blue. I don't know if city leadership knows or cares about the level of frustration residents are feeling.
Public bathrooms for people hanging out on broadway to suppress public urination. Somehow enforce the no-smoking ban downtown (how??).
No more parking lots.
Why isn't the police substation on Olive St visibly staffed, open, and available to the public?
partber and i were mitel homeless when i had a nmassive stroke. vinnies helped with transitiinal hgousing and renter's rehab byut the evucyion is on our record so we can never rent iother than from emerald.
Unfortunately Eugene has become a place where a variety of different types of transient people gravitate to. I think in Eugene it makes sense to help those that want help, but get tough with those that do not, What many programs here do is to support poor behavior and lifestyles by propping those folks up. Sometimes people have to hit bottom to turn things around. The city of Eugene is playing the role of codependent.
We don't really have a downtown right now, everything is pretty spread out. If you want a concentration of business you need to cultivate local people not corporations
We are WORST then Texas and Florida in Mentle Help.
There is too much dark energy downtown. Vagerants and lawless individuals need to be actively encourage to leave the area.
Its far to late for this now, but one idea comes to mind is concept of co-op/co-own of space downtown. Give regular people a chance to financially invest more in these projects, and have a sort of public option where folks can actually yield economic benefits from the city growth opposed to just developers.
Taking away street parking and having to go to parking structures is scary. Bad idea, gives bad people a place to hide. My wife works at the Dinner, taking street parking away. She will not longer volunteer there. It just scary downtown. the 5th Street Market is safe, well lite, friendly, inviting, lots of people and things to do. Should just close downtown down. Back in the 60s, down town was the place to go, city put in the mall, never has been the same. Spend way too much money, just don't know how to make it nice.
I think this is on us also as people that live and work here. See something say something, be aware and conscious it is on us to take care of our city
Eugene had a lot of restaurants. And that's great! But when family comes in there are only a couple stores to shop in. You can "do" downtown in half a day. I wish there were more non-restaurant shops to browse. Love Saturday market, would love to see more happening with downtown during the week.
Again, car free two blocks. Many places that have closed streets to cars have found that business improves. Millions of people go to Europe to enjoy their walkable, pedestrian friendly and bike safe public places, not to visit streets full of cars.
In my experience, downtown Eugene is not dangerous or overrun with homeless people. My friends and myself go downtown on occasion for events, drinks, and food, and have done so for years. We all live in Eugene, and rather close to downtown. For us, there really isn't much reason to visit downtown more frequently than we do. Many people feel that the downtown area is fine for tourists or visitors, and we're happy to let them have at it. Getting the locals to spend more time and money there is going to require... more events? Unique shops? What is in downtown that we can not find anywhere else in the city?

Homelessness, mental health & addiction are huge, systemic issues that aren't easy to address at a city level. I'd be interested in discussing ways to create a safe space that respects everybody's right to be downtown. Right now it feels tilted towards ignoring the truth that folks with mental illness & addiction have some pretty terrible behaviors that negatively affect others. I feel like it's possible to set limits on behaviors while also addressing problems in a compassionate way. I wish our taxes were going to fund CAHOOTS - I see so much getting thrown at EPD and little benefits, honestly. Would that we could have some real compassion and collaboration for folks while still setting boundaries around behaviors in our common spaces.
Homeless and the mentally ill have to be serviced elsewhere.
I believe the reputation of the prevalence of homeless individuals is the number one problem of our downtown and city. It makes me feel unsafe when I go downtown with my family. There are also problems with cleanliness. It makes me not want to show the town to visitors. My sympathy is for the homeless individuals as well.
I support science and evidence based approaches to dealing with this problem, no matter the financial cost to the community. Eugene can be the city that follows through on figuring out how to actually solve this problem. https://www.nhceh.org/research-advocacy/evidence-based-practices
Survey questions are written in such a way as to bias responses towards increased police presence downtown. It would be unethical to use this biased survey as justification for doing so.
Take what you plan to spend on police and spend it on homes, food, safety net services, jobs programs, and UBI.
Truly is wild that the city council passes things like smoking bans and dog licensing requirements as a wink and a nod at getting the travelers to move along... yet there is no continued police presence to getting those people to leave. We gave the police \$20 million more per year, but still same old lack of police presence and slow response time. How much potential growth and tax revenue is squandered by Downtown feeling lawless? People don't want to go down there unless it's to drink. Period. Nobody lives down there because what developer is going to build a \$50 million worth of housing in a place where the homeless have free reign? Quite frankly, I find it insulting and infuriating that there even needs to be a survey for this when the problems are so VERY transparent. How many times do the people of Eugene need to tell you what the issue with Downtown is before you take them seriously? I implore the City leaders to walk from Noisette to Buy 2 to Kesey square at 9pm on a Friday night and see for themselves the lack of public safety and how utterly trashed the area is. God forsakes, just do SOMETHING to help!
I appreciate the mental health and homeless questions on this survey, and that is very important for Eugene over all. Downtown is strictly a economic zone. It should not have any services that attracts the poor. I have a homeless services near my home and it's great and I invite more but downtown should have a strong police presence and remove all loitering. A small group of citizens consistently sets the tone for our down town and it's gone on long enough. We should provide services to those in need but allowing bad conduct helps no one.
The city center is absolutely disgusting. I quit going downtown several years ago. At one time it was a wonderful place to visit. There are way too many people sleeping, spitting, cussing, looking for handouts -- the city is awful, something I never thought I would see.
Top 2 priorities are: 1. Law and order to make downtown safe thru much more police activity and stronger courts (it's not right now), and 2. Forbid homeless people in a large perimeter of downtown area. Anything else and you are wasting your time. I can't say this strongly enough.
I was in downtown Springfield recently, and it was clean and inviting, and there wasn't anyone sitting or laying down on the sidewalks. I wish Actors Cabarrat and Oregon Community Theater were more active and had better shows.
The city indirectly tries to help solve civic problems in many ways - subsidies to developers, redesigning spaces to make them more attractive or accessible, creating events. However, the number of mainly socially untethered males in the area has grown so much that none of the indirect solutions will preserve our city center.
We need housing options for middle class workers. We often focus on the houseless, but workers making middle class wages have few to no housing options and no one seems to be talking about housing for full time workers.
It needs services/products that people want, streets that give traffic sensible flow (not one way) and parking in addition to being clean, safe, and inviting
We used to visit the downtown library regularly, but it and the area around it now feel like one of the more unsafe areas of downtown.
Need to enforce policies and actually prosecute people. Eugene is a joke because folks know there are no consequences to crime
Downtown needs help now. I'm close to giving up

We need more unique sculptures and interesting visual displays that distinguish our city from other Cities. We need to incorporate what European downtowns do which is have living spaces on the upper floors and have shops on the ground floor.
Stop spending money on parks until you get the downtown area reactivated with successful non pot-selling businesses. There's no point in putting in parks when people are afraid for their lives and won't use them. Send the message to Tina Kotek that she needs to get Oregon from being the top contender for homeless population per capita in U.S. How about the state coming up with a "Safe Place" to live in one place in state... economy of scale. In Europe you are put in a campus to detox, kids taken away if you are an abuser, and you are put on a farm to learn horticulture or some other practical job skill. If the drug addicts don't want to sober up with FREE care, then tell them to get the heck out of Oregon, or at least go back to their families. That's another sore spot... that it's never the family's responsibility to care for their kids. Why is it that the lady who was accidentally run over by the Sani Pak truck, and whose family hadn't seen the woman for 8-10 years, is now suing for nearly 1 million dollars? Disgusting. How many times did they communicate with her, look for her or even know that she was in Eugene? I am sure the driver has a conscious and doesn't need money grubbing people coming after him for punitive damages. I work with a homeless woman who has recently gotten an apartment because she has held a job for the last 7 months. She has to ride the city bus to get to work now and I pray that she doesn't get killed coming or going to work. Perhaps Eugene ought to have Police duty on the transit system now? There's an expenditure that seems necessar, etc but very costly. Improving parks is a waste at this point... you need to guarantee the TAXPAYERS of the city a SAFE environment - downtown or otherwise. No one is going to go to the river park, Hult Center, 5th Ave, etc., when you fear for your life.
I absolutely love downtown and it has improved so much over the last 7 years. I would love to see more events because I love the downtown so much! I don't plan to ever leave and I'm excited to see what comes next!
I have worked downtown for many years. I used to walk to work every day. A few years back I was assaulted by a mentally unstable woman on Willamette street just south of 13th in broad daylight. I shouldve reported it then but did not because I had no faith anything would be done about it. Since then I have had property taken from me and been verbally assaulted on more occasions than I can count. I don't even feel safe walking the 5 blocks from my work to the farmers market on Tuesdays anymore. I strongly feel this city needs to develop a lot more accountability for those contributing to this dynamic.
More law enforcement is not the answer, people need mental health/addiction support rather than fear of discriminatory violence.
The City Government is innately the wrong entity to hold responsible for the cultural presence downtown -- only the noncommercial public can address these matters, and they are too estranged from each other to even talk about it. Compare to Borger Texas.
Low income housing allows for workers to support the local economy. When housing is unaffordable, no one can afford to work in the service industry. Who is going to work at those restaurants that people living in "market-rate housing" "who can support the downtown economy" are interested and attracted to? We need a socio-economically diverse community - no one actually wants to live a city consisting of extremely rich people. Who is going to sell you groceries, clean the streets, take your blood pressure? It's low income people that drive our economy, not rich ones.
City Hall needs to move to the EWEB building.
Zoning needs to be seriously reconsidered. The homelessness issue aside, there are so many dead zones because of the complete lack of mixed use zoning and requirements about space on the street. Look at the park blocks and what borders them: offices which have very little foot traffic. Offices should be in the upper stories and valuable property on the street should be for commercial space open to the public. The reason 5th street market is so successful is because this is intentional, by design, and downtown Eugene lacks this vision, instead allowing building owners to fill the space with dead cubicles and empty blocks. Downtown Eugene is plenty walkable but there's nothing to walk TO, only past.
Easier Parking
We recently moved back to Eugene after 17 years in other cities. We used to live in the Broadway Place apartments. It is sad that Eugene hasn't "figured out" downtown in all those years. Saturday Market and doctors appointments are the only reason we come to downtown.
The homelessness is a huge problem. It makes walking around downtown an uncomfortable experience at best, and dangerous at worst. Needles and garbage everywhere, and aggressive homeless folks really are destroying our public spaces.
Downtown eugene used to be vibrant and welcoming. It is now too much a place for those do not care for community and so is being abandoned by a big chunk of the population.

Build a community center somewhere between trainsong, whit, and Jefferson neighborhoods.
"Market Rate" won't solve anything, we need low income housing and small single family homes.
We don't need more police, we do need more jail beds.
I love this town and it has potential but in my 7 years here I have seen it decline and My partner doesn't feel like it's a safe place to start a family. I am scared to have kids here
Speak with Springfield leadership and city planners to follow the blueprint they have followed over the past 5 years. I live in Eugene and go to downtown springfield 2-3 times more often as Eugene downtown. Homelessness and transients are ruining this city.
The addicts are ruining downtown. Move the services intended to serve addicts out of downtown. The park blocks /bus station /West Broadway corridor (which should be the heart of the city) is dying because of the addicts and their behavior. No amount of money will help until you move them out of the area. The addicts will follow the free services.
Do we need so many bars in such a small area? Housed and well-heeled drunks can be as obnoxious as the mentally ill homeless, or more so!
I've been going downtown as little as possible for the past couple of years. Walking anywhere downtown is unsafe at near any time of day. I've had a knife pulled on me, my buddy has had it happen 3 times and had his car broken into, threatened with a bat, watched multiple people shoot up something in their arm just a few feet away, been asked for money every couple minutes while trying to eat outside a restaurant. It's just ridiculous. Programs to try and get to the source of solving homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness are great. But, the world has been trying to solve these problems for decades, centuries even. Eugene anytime in the near future is not going to be the place where it finally gets figured out - we don't have the resources available to make it happen and don't have the means to get them. If we want to make downtown safe, we need to be direct in how we make that happen. If we want to have business and life flourish in downtown, it needs to happen soon. Take direct action to solve the immediate problem now, and then implement fixes that will take years to see any benefit from.
I think Eugene is on the wrong track with behavioral health, addiction and homelessness. It's trending the wrong way which means what is being done is not working.
Individual people shouldn't be allowed to essentially colonize public places and make people feel unsafe walking around downtown. People should be able to walk in the city at any hour without fearing for their safety. I sympathize if the people doing this are homeless or experiencing other problems, but aggressive behavior should not be tolerated.
Eugene's attitude of "inclusion" includes people who make downtown unattractive to everyone else. That walking through downtown Springfield does not involve getting harassed is based on Springfield's different attitude toward people who do not contribute to a safe or interesting environment.
Panhandlers around specific areas (Keseey Square, outside Horsehead, Charnelton and Broadway) seem to create a sort of border around the core of downtown Eugene that discourages people who might feel uncomfortable being verbally harassed or worse. Those tall EPD blinking light stations seem to be a band-aid in place of real beat cops and I don't believe they mitigate crime much more than they encourage it by the assumption that real cops won't be around. Just my 2 cents. I want to respect people going through hard times as well as the people who keep us safe from those who would let their worst impulses win. If you're reading this, thank you for your consideration.
Look at other successes across country, Don't reinvent the wheel on what works
Get the bums out. It's not hard! They're ruining a city!
I walk downtown a couple times a week. I am almost always "bothered" by groups of men with pit bull dogs: aggressively panhandling, shouting and yelling. I have to leave sidewalks frequently to avoid tents, food, feces, people sitting on the sidewalks in groups, etc. I won't walk alone downtown. It's just too intimidating.
We all know the problem. So acting like it is not the homeless. Everyone tries to act like it is but the problem but it is. Until the city removes them, it won't go away. No amount of "love and support" is going to change that. Low income housing don't change it. Eugene welcomes homelessness and rewards people but enabling the bad behavior, then is surprised when more and more come.
Families do not feel safe in Downtown Eugene. Until we address the homelessness issue in our downtown blocks, families won't return.
Should not limit responses as a property owner I want people to feel safe. I want it to be clean and well-kept. Property owners need help keep vandalism to a minimum

the last time we tried to have dinner downtown, there was a person a meth without pants on, who the police and CAHOOTs wouldn't do any for or about. later, there was a shooting in the same spot. there is zero reason to go downtown if that is what leaders in this city allow. we moved in part because of the number of people who are intoxicated on meth in central eugene.
My husband dislikes going to downtown Eugene so much he would rather drive us all the way up to Salem or Corvallis to hang out in their downtown instead.
This is the time for the City to make an honest show of good faith, much like EWEB did, and tighten your belts. Every City department should be proving they can operate while spending no more than they have now, learning how to budget like any actual business needs to do in hard times. Thank you for taking this feedback to heart.
We don't need fancy parks or sports facilities. We need housing. Real housing that the poor can afford, even if it's 100% free is what the city should focus on the vast majority of staff time and funds on. Stop further militarizing EPD and fund what will actually solve our community's problems.
Stop building stadiums and wasting money. Fix the housing problem.
I actively avoid going downtown because of the proliferation of homeless drug addicts who terrorize the innocents of my hometown. It has become a shell of its former self and I'm disappointed in it whenever I go down there. This city needs to do more to keep our people safe and comfortable in our downtown areas and get the homeless the help and/or consequences they deserve.
I have lived in Eugene for 15 years and I watch downtown becomes the hub of homeless and it forces public out of downtown. As a business owner, I am worried if I would be yelled at homeless on my way to Planning Department. As a mother of two young daughters, I am sacred when I walk on downtown streets my children would be attached by homeless. As a tax payer, I am hopeless seeing our city government investment of so much of our tax into helping homeless and in return we get a unsafe, dirty, and scary downtown! We feel city does not care us, the 99% of the public, but devote all resources and our downtown to 1% homeless. Why! Why cannot we as public enjoy the park and the street in downtown? All projects city does is to provide more accomodations to homeless. What about our families, children and businesses? Businesses are hurt so much and they have to leave while they, including myself, are paying tax! We want our downtown back to a fun and safe environment. Please! Please take a look, this town has other people more than just homeless, we deserve a beautiful and clean downtown. I am not saying get rid of homeless everywhere, but can city take efforts to make our public space public not homeless at every corner? Look no further, even Springfield does better job than Eugene. Please take actions now!
Basic housing for unhoused individuals creates good will, stability for people in need, reduced addictions, increased social and economic gains for individuals, and impacts the community by providing an address so people can access services and seek employment. It may come at less cost to Oregonians and the people of Eugene than our current systems cost. Furthermore, providing permanent restrooms in the downtown area (I know there is at least one) that are free to the public will only help our unhoused population feel more cared for, safe, and seen as human individuals. When people are treated humanely they by-in-large behave humanely. When we give them no other choice but to urinate in doorway's and back alleys, we are not promoting basic human dignity. Will this cost more, yes. Will it save on mental health issues, yes. I'd go so far as to see a basic income provided to those on assistance's for a period of time. The data from other pilot projects in other cities show people are able to find better jobs and move themselves out of poverty with this help.
It doesnt matter how many eventa you run, if people dont feel safe or have access to clean bathrooms and warmth while waiting for buses, the events will be done in vain.
If you're going to force people into shelters and temporary housing, please make it safe, welcoming, and beneficial for those living there. Don't force them into prison-like conditions and treat it like its fixing the problem
None
This survey registration process is lengthy and seems intentionally meant to limit responses.
I visited downtown yesterday and slipped on a meth pipe at 11th and Oak while waiting for the crosswalk. Disappointing
Affordable housing is the most important, and most urgent, issue facing our community. This should be your primary focus above anything else.
Increasing police presence isn't a solution if the police won't arrest people for criminal activity and follow up on property crimes. We need effective solutions that target the specific people who are causing the bulk of the problems downtown.
I am really disappointed with this survey and am concerned that it will be used to make any determinations regarding the future of downtown Eugene. I would hope that it would be completely discarded and that a more scientific and reasoned survey would be created by professionals who have studied creating less biased questions. This effort really looks like it was fashioned by people who are not educated in survey creation.

It currently feels very unsafe as a mother of two small children to walk downtown alone. We've been yelled at, followed and overall try to avoid the entire Broadway area. Our house has also been broke into and items stolen.
I think I said it all in my last answer, thank you.
Eugene is no longer what it was when we moved here in 2000, the Springfield Downtown area has surpassed Eugene's Downtown.
Please increase the number of security officers and bike cops.
Downtown is a beautiful area with plenty of opportunity, but the lack of nightlife and the vacant storefronts means there's nothing to draw people in, and when something does draw someone in, they don't walk around and explore the area due to the unsafe conditions.
It's a tough problem, with no easy solution, but I appreciate you trying!
Create safe clean designated camps and shelters for people without housing . Do not allow camping downtown or on city streets and parking lots. create community patrols to help maintain a sense of safety. Bring back Eugene Celebration and promote other downtown community events.
It seems people avoid downtown, I think if you phrased the question differently you would get more hones information but giving answers to choose from you have told us what ois important to you and have already loaded the deck.
If you're going to turn downtown into a surveillance state; invest in decent cameras and lighting and livestream the action. You've got the fiber, and the core downtown area including Kesey, the Library and Broadway between High St. and Lincoln could be completely covered by 1080p cameras. Partner with local developers to build some apps on top of the 30-minute and 30 day archives; make daily highlight reels, let people use footage of themselves in whatever form they want (first feature length movie shot with the system would earn global media mentions); hold cosplay contests, livestream concerts, games and more.You already have most of the infrastructure to do this and it could be part of an economic engine to put Eugene at the forefront of culture while doing the panoptic behavior modification most of your sponsors want regardless. This way you aren't just slyly adding more cameras (public and private) and expecting things to change. If instead you're making a big splashy announcement "Lights! Cameras! Eugene!" and creating a media artefact with global reach and creating incentives for positive behaviors in the form of recognition and support. You'll at least have a chance at creating something that could drive not just the recovery of downtown Eugene; but take it to new heights in terms of being a place to see and be seen.
Stop supporting the citizens that only visit downtown for farmers and saturday market vs those that are there everyday.
The vast majority of people drive cars. Don't make it so hard to find parking!
Having adequate services for the homeless, including indoor housing, is critical. Then making sure that people can access intake into the system quickly. This is a national problem, let's make some booze and get national funding rolling and know how to spend it when it someday comes through big time.
Desirable cities in the west coast are drastically short on housing less than 1400 sqft per unit. Market rate is fine, but let's push those starter units and affordable apartments instead of luxury apartments.
I avoid going downtown and would never be there after dark. My office is in downtown.
Homelessness and crime are the biggest issues. It doesn't matter what renovations are done if it feels unsafe to go downtown.
Everyone deserves to be treated like a human.
We must resolve the homelessness issue in downtown. Businesses will come if their clients can come into downtown and enjoy the experience. Until this is resolved none of the other great ideas you have above will succeed. Springfield was able to improve their downtown I'm not sure why we can't do the same. I love Eugene's downtown and walk there often for shopping and events. After 30 years I have supported downtown improvement initiatives that eventually fail. it would be great if you could succeed where all the past initiatives have failed and come up with a long term solution that allows downtown achieve it's potential.
I've literally seen a guy sniffing coke off a sidewalk downtown early in the morning .

I've lived in Eugene for 25 years, and It's been sad to see the entire heart and soul of our community that made it so unique and lively be decimated by efforts to 'upscale' everything towards the rich, while pushing everyone else out of town or to homelessness so they hang out wherever they can, and it's their right to be wherever any other citizens can be in this town.

Eugene would be safer everywhere if we didn't just try to hide our scars and actually helped our neighbors, provided access to survival without being set up to fail, and support the small business heart of the community we once loved.

In the past 15 or so years, I've watched Eugene make one decision after another (tearing up the walking mall, allowing the Whole Foods Plus parking lot, give a big break to the olive st apartments people to build those EXTREMELY CHEAPLY BUILT quad apartments which are neither affordable, nor realistic for many people/not suited to the needs of the community that needs housing/couples/families etc.) which have only resulted in more and more loss- where is the Eugene Celebration? That was such a huge connection between the community and downtown Eugene. Oh, wait. I went to the last one (I couldn't afford the \$80 ticket, but a friend had an extra from someone who didn't want to go)- it was like a weekend in Nantucket. I couldn't believe what I was seeing; all the cattlegates and polo shirts. It was a shuddering death rattle of downtown Eugene, and you've been going the wrong direction ever since, trying to maintain the 'life' of it while killing what made it a community.

In the past year, I've had my car, while parked in my apt's parking garage downtown, broken into twice and stolen once (later recovered). I believe that increased police presence downtown is seen but not felt, in the sense that police are often around but do not significantly mitigate such crime or respond to it productively. The city of Eugene should, in my opinion, address the root causes of crime by providing better services for poor, mentally ill, and drug addicted citizens.

On a lighter note, Eugene downtown needs more food options. Venues close and new ones don't open in their stead, and there aren't enough options at varying price-points.

Screaming transients and drug addicts are probably my biggest concern when going downtown.

I don't feel safe downtown, especially at night.

Dealing with homelessness needs to be a priority. You can have all

The awesome

Activities you want but if people have to navigate a gauntlet of homelessness they will give up

I don't feel safe going downtown and I have to go downtown almost every day because I use the bus.

Downtown has deteriorated & is no longer a destination since I moved here 10 years ago. It is an embarrassment to bring out of towners here, not just downtown but many places in Eugene.

Address the homeless issue and I think businesses will want to return downtown.

It may be an impossible dream, but I'd like to see a department store located in downtown Eugene!

This is a strange survey. So vague and theoretical. The answer is simple: remove the people who are threatening the safety of others. What to do with them or how to prevent them from coming back? Housing, counseling, mandatory mental health care, etc. You figure that part out. If you don't have funds or it is not legal to do these things, then don't waste time on surveys.

Most services for the unhoused exist in downtown Eugene. Move them first. Eliminate loitering and begging. Find mandatory housing with mental health services.

I wish you'd given 4 options, as housing of all types, including shelters for people without stable housing is equally important.

Continue to make the city more bike-able and walkable.

The alleyways and deep doorway recesses create an unsafe feeling as a woman walking downtown. Outside of the voodoo donut and party bar area it feels like a desolate vulnerable area to be. Creating a continuous connected area with nature, art and pathways free of obstacles would help. The concrete walls and tunnel-like side streets also feel like traps. More people, more storefront presence, less Buytwo type stores and more mental health services and safe healthy places for people to gather.

Get cracking on developing all the empty lots in and around downtown,

Until the city of Eugene addresses the drug addiction and mental health issues that plague our homeless residents then we will never move forward. There needs to be more police presence so the the residents of Eugene feel safe to have a business downtown and to shop downtown. crimes need to be punished. When people are sited for drugs they need to have a program that they have to attend not just a phone call. The city of Eugene has failed the majority of its residents by allowing homeless to litter our spaces. At some point we need to stop taking and start acting.

Reduce carbon emissions and clean air. Offer and promote more incentives for people to make the needed changes, ie heat pumps, electric cars and bikes, promote car pooling, riding a bike etc. Decarbonize our electrical grid
I like downtown, and there are certain businesses there that I love supporting (eg, Noisette, J Michael's Books, Porterhouse, Broadway Metro, Spectrum). There are clearly people with addiction and behavioral health problems who tend to congregate downtown, and it's a complicated issue. Arresting them or throwing them in jail is not the solution. We need a more comprehensive plan for addiction services and housing for all of Eugene and Lane County (really, the whole state and country) to truly address the problem.
Unfortunately beyond the 5th St market area, downtown is pretty rough. There are some real gems like Broadway Metro, and honestly I'm not sure how they survive. I'd love to be able to bring my kids down and ride my bike and feel like it wouldn't get stolen. We lived in Boise last decade which would be my model for our downtown.
There is more parking downtown than housing or businesses. There should be some pedestrian only zones to encouragement community and human spaces. More quality bike parking. Many people are buying ebikes and would go downtown by bike if there was better/safer bike parking.
Crowds of people idling on corners is somewhat off-putting. (Not sure what category that falls under)
A town hall, we have nothing to show visitors our hub of local government.
Downtown need more help. I've worked and lived in downtown Eugene for almost 20 years. This survey seems kind of stupid. I think you know what needs to be done after walking around for 15 minutes.
The unleashed dog thing is out of control.
Stop (or at least zone) camping on public property. Increase police presence and enforcement to reduce crime and drugs on our streets. Bring in white-collar business. Clean the place up and take pride in maintaining a clean, well-manicured environment. Raise your standards!
I have lived in Eugene since 1994. I am truly saddened by how much lawlessness is allowed to happen here. Criminal drug abusers need to be treated while serving time in jail. Make our city clean and safe again, please!
Give people housing and money
I used to go downtown daily but during the pandemic I cut back. It's increasingly unsafe and frankly undesirable due to all the homelessness—pandering/uncleanliness. It's too bad, it could be a fabulous space.
i appreciate that Eugene is supportive of homeless, however I feel we have reached a point where we are attracting drug addicts and supporting that community rather than supporting the community of businesses, homeowners. Let's improve the city and parks and not make it acceptable to trash, smoke meth, rob, and light the city on fire. Let's support our police force. I would LOVE to have a police station like Cal Young's in the Far West Neighborhood. Let's improve 11th! (the pathway to the coast)
I've seen decades of surveys like this. When I ask anyone I know what would improve downtown, the answer is always "free parking". And yet Eugene leaders never seem to want to hear this. It wasn't even an option on the survey. Downtown Corvallis is a great example of a functional downtown. Free or very low-cost parking (20 minutes for a nickel!), very walkable, vibrant, dense variety of shops, cafes, and services.
I continue to be baffled by the city spending so much time on climate change. It is important but city government should be more concerned about what it can do locally, rather than trying to address global issues.
Adding housing in the area and removing parking would help make the space feel more alive, most of the places downtown feel like I'm supposed to drive there and not walk or bike in the space. Also removing car access and creating open streets would likely create a more vibrant and welcoming feeling.
I believe increased commercial projects will increase employment and financial opportunities for people. And addressing the drug addiction and mental illness crisis will eventually solve the homeless problems.
I think any and all efforts to invest in downtown are wasted, or at least diminished, if people don't feel safe going downtown. I'm pretty used to it, but I regularly see people acting erratically/inappropriately people will continue to avoid downtown as long as that is tolerated.
Downtown Eugene severely lacks reasons for people to come visit it. This is why you see 5th street so successful. It is the only city of its size I can think of whose downtown lacks anywhere to shop for clothing or high end furniture. We would benefit from a Patagonia, Nordstrom, West Elm, While some in Eugene City Council dislike big storefront names, having these destinations draws people in and encourages them to grab a coffee at The Barn Light or a burrito in Kesey Square. The current offerings in downtown are not enough of a draw, leaving it mostly empty besides transient populations.

If lower-income housing can be provided, homelessness would be eased, and the secondary improvements you suggest - addiction treatment centers, shelters, renovation and maintenance, etc - would be less needed. PLEASE focus on this - if working class people can't afford housing, the issues facing Eugene will simply worsen. A lack of cheap housing worsens the overall livability and vibrancy of Eugene by forcing working class people into higher degrees of financial stress, which manifests in all the ugliness that mars the face of Eugene today.
I already find Downtown Eugene walkable and safe, I am familiar with cities like Baltimore and New York City which are less walkable and safe. I think people in Eugene don't take advantage of the downtown, and things downtown 1) aren't open when they say they are, 2) are open at weird times when people can't go 3) there aren't enough businesses to even entice people to go downtown.
YEAH! Have I mentioned how much Eugene would blow off the map of popularity if we turned downtown into a pedestrian paradise? A real one, not the Americanized car first version of "pedestrian friendly". Dense affordable housing, walkable areas with mixed use zoning, an overall safe vibe, and something to actually DO and meet new people and get a sense of real community. That's the recipe for a thriving metropolis
You can move the homeless around all day, but every 100 dollars the median rent increases we're going to see a 9% increase in homeless people in this town according to the GAO.
Loving the new farmers market space. Love the outdoor eating space and improvements to beauty.
too much of a generally creepy vibe. too many break ins
People and business will come back if you make it safe again.
The vagrants make me want to avoid downtown offices, businesses, entertainment, food, services. Nobody wants to go there - it's unsafe dirty and a blight. Where's the police???
I would like to spend more time downtown, as I used to, but it is no longer enjoyable with loitering in the streets, overload of bars, bad behavior. It is a tragedy that such behavior has caused welcome businesses and restaurants to close downtown.
Don't displace problems from downtown so they end up in nearby neighborhoods, like Whiteaker, and Monroe Park.
I'm 71 years old. I've been driving in downtown Eugene since 1969. Until the last 10 years, the biggest NEGATIVE in going downtown was the chronic parking shortage. The city has systematically told people who drive to stay away from downtown, so I've only gone downtown occasionally for a show or dinner. In the last 10 years, the homeless and the down and out have taken over. I don't feel safe during the day much less at night. My wife won't go downtown without me. So, until you make downtown safe again nothing else matters to me because I won't come downtown.
The perception of safety downtown should be number one priority. Everything else flows from this.
Housing our neighbors who are otherwise living on the streets is essential to building a Eugene that's vibrant, welcoming, and safe for everyone.
We don't need \$500,000 single occupant bathrooms. We need more housing and more public space that is kept clean. Dignified relocation of problematic chronic mentally ill/addicted folk is going to be necessary in some cases and public sentiment is beginning to reflect that.
More police.
More bike infrastructure! Sorely needed. Slow down traffic. Encourage walkability and discourage cars.
Eugene has the opportunity again and again to be a unique and beautiful leader in innovation yet over and over again we just... don't. Be brave, make big moves! It's not hard to see where the future is heading, instead of taking the long way round let's just cut through and get to a city designed for PEOPLE instead of cars and businesses! Once you make this a good place for people, businesses will naturally do well and be clamoring to be here instead of us pandering to them the way we do now.
We should have a car-less loop every Sunday through downtown, the Whit, and 5th, year-round. Broadway and Willamette should be car-free at all times. The old 1-story buildings on Broadway should be replaced with European-style mixed-use housing and residential, with wide enough sidewalks to allow sidewalk cafes/restaurants. Fill in the parking lots and build housing.
Just get more people to actually use downtown on a regular basis.
Downtown needs to be more people-centric. All streets should be built with wide sidewalks, mid-block crossings, protected bike lanes, and space for outdoor seating and bike lanes. Cars should be seen as guests on downtown streets. Wide streets like 6th, 7th, and Franklin should have road diets.

I really like what has happened to Downtown recently. I definitely think mental health is a huge issue with many people without homes given no good options; more investments into these resources would be fantastic; fifth street market and the street redesign next to it are amazing, and my favorite part of downtown. I'd like to be able to walk from Skinner Butte down to Fifth Street Market down to Kesey Square (eventually) without walking on a sidewalk; pedestrian streets would be brilliant. I would also like for more protected bike lanes, as the existing ones are awesome and we should have more. I see significantly more people on bikes now that the lanes are protected, and not just separated with paint. I would also love for the public transport to be expanded; light rail such as trolleys or trams would be awesome, because I don't use the bus system as I think that while it is better than nothing, they don't run often enough and I don't really have a good conception of their tables; seeing the rails on the ground and having streetcars pass by every 5-10 minutes would be much better in my opinion. In this light, the downtown transit center could use expansion and renovation, and if it became a light rail hub of some sort or just a major stop I think it would see more traffic and take cars off the road. I don't have an urban planning degree (yet! I plan on pursuing it once I finish my transfer degree at LCC) but I would love to talk to the city council more and participate as much as possible in downtown's development. Please email me at ivanbiskis@gmail.com or call 541-228-8901. Or don't! I'm just one citizen.
Safe bicycle infrastructure downtown is lacking.
Speculators who sit on empty properties, or fill them with goodwill should not get any tax abatements.
Bring back the streatory! Downtown has an ideal location for a small car-free area. No cars, more lighting and seating.
Stop writing EPD blank checks until they can actually engage in good faith law enforcement. I don't want more cops downtown until they can be any semblance of accountable with the money and their behaviour, give the independent police review board actual authority to discipline and fire officers. Based on their efforts, EPD is more concerned with catching the 238th suspect from the BLM riots than any contemporary crime.
I come to the theatre and the bank but don't really do much walking around as it is dirt and unsafe and many of my favorite shops have left the downtown.
All too frequently I feel unsafe while biking, even on bike paths, due to the presence of broken glass and broken humans on the path. I'm a decent-sized adult male. I can only imagine how it would feel if I was a smaller person, or a female who felt even less safe around angry/disturbed men, most of whom have substance abuse problems. People should not be allowed to set up residence on the streets.
Please give more money to Cahoots and similar services. Please invest in helping residents and businesses be able to access affordable rental spaces.
Provide incentives for slum lords to improve their properties. There are so many houses falling down yet rent is high. Think Jefferson-Westside and other neighborhoods near downtown.
I believe the biggest problem for us all is how we each deal with the darkness in our hearts - first in ourselves, and then to help others.
Stop subsidizing market rate housing. Only give tax breaks to affordable housing projects
I would love to feel comfortable having my young children and wife visit downtown.
I don't go downtown much anymore because I don't feel safe with all the campers and travelers. Eugene needs more jail beds, police, DAs, lawyers and homeless camps with mental health and addiction services. Camping needs to be outlawed.
I've lived in Eugene for several decades and in the past I visited downtown very often to the farmers market, the library, saturday market, restaurants, concerts, and to businesses. I try to avoid downtown now; it has become filthy and unsafe.
Make parking easy and affordable, if not free
Look at other cities where downtown areas were empty and learn how they changed it through community planning and funding. I.e. Sacramento
Please continue to expand CAHOOTS and related non-violent aid.
Yea. We need to vote all of you out. Fuck you all with your socialist ass focus with your retarded understanding of taxes.
Make housing affordable! Build housing residents can afford not just students. Make it fair!!!
Effective prosecution of all offenders, with consequences.
Eugene builds subsidized housing and lux student housing but nothing at all for regular families. The hate you folks have for us is palpable. The problem is not 'the homeless' the problem is you, the class who wrote this garbage survey.
Housing First.

I do not go downtown because it is dirty, unpleasant, and unsafe. The city continues to struggle with the space while Obie-land thrives. What are the differences? What model should the city be using to improve and create a vibrant, welcoming downtown Eugene? I want to go downtown.... make it happen!
We should have a stronger policy around getting help or getting out of eugene for homeless downtown.
Whatever the solutions arewhich there will be many avenues to try....whatever it is we choose, we need to start now. It just keeps getting worse. It feels close to unsolvable now, I can't imagine sitting on our hands any longer.
Homelessness is a problem in Eugene, and we should work on that with empathy, however I think that providing shelter would probably attract more homeless people to the area. Providing services that could get these people off their feet and graduating towards being able to afford low income housing should be a priority.
It seems that there are models out there in urban planning which can serve as a guide for re-planning downtown. Now is the time to start over for showcasing the current contemporary era. Eugene has a college town mindset, accepting student standards as normal, beer pubs and bars everywhere, and it still lives in the 60's -- great history, but it's just that, history. It cannot be relived forever. The two influences combine to make those of us who have already lived both, at least once, to find other places to go. It is about growing up, going forward, not backward.
Downtown has never been shiny and clean or comparable to the upscale feel of many other towns of this size and demographics. But it used to feel like a relatively safe place to go with any age family member regardless of time of day. Now we avoid it unless something requires us to go down there. When we do go, we are extremely hesitant to ride our bikes due to fear of theft, and constantly vigilant against addicts who can be very unpredictable. The beautiful downtown Library is being tarnished by the volume and frequency of homeless treating it as an all-day shelter.
Downtown has so much potential that is not being realized because of issues with cleanliness, accessibility and usability. Why are there so many empty lots and parking lots just sitting there taking up valuable real estate blocking areas off from one another? For example, the massive dirt lot between the riverfront and 5th street. Why is skinner butte left unpatrolled to burnouts and not considered a prime downtown park like it should be? Why isn't putting something important at the eweb building a priority for the city? You can see the outline of a beautiful downtown, other cities have figured it out but it just seems like either we don't care or we don't know what we're doing. Also that we're fine with it being dirty and inaccessible. No pride in the city.
Please consider replacing the paid downtown blue ambassadors who walk around DT all day but provide no useful services (ie. maintenance, security, business support, community engagement) with city workers who help solve the problems the area faces every day. Also, consider creating a business support program or dedicated public safety/police support to help downtown businesses and property owners solve chronic problems (graffiti, garbage and human waste left by unhoused, illegal parking, unhoused people disrupting business, shoplifting, building vandalism., safety of customers and employees) The current limited services from Eugene police and Cahoots are inadequate and most businesses are not able to hire the private security and onsite maintenance that larger/wealthier property owners (UO, Obie Corp., Banks) have for their properties. The City could help by using some of the payroll safety tax to provide security and maintenance support for DT businesses. Finally, please extend the definition of downtown to include businesses north of 6th and west of Charnelton. Why are businesses west of Willamette and along 4th and 5th streets not included in the DT boundaries?
I think there is a lot that is very good downtown. One of the easiest ways to bring people downtown is to have children perform. Parents/Grandparents will show up for that. Also a PR campaign highlighting all that is wonderful would help people to recognize the positive.
In a walk from the Saturday Market to the Library two weeks ago, we had to avoid 3 street corners where people were screaming at passing cars. It's enough to make us want to leave town.
It seems that downtown Eugene has a minimal amount of permanent residents. I believe this is primarily due to a lack of high-density housing and daily essentials nearby. Generally, the benefits of living in a downtown area are high proximity to commerce and services. A resident should be able to walk to all of their regular destinations including the grocery store, coffee shop, doctor/physician, place of employment, restaurant, bar, bank, movie theater, etc. Otherwise, downtown living is really just high-rise suburbia. Currently downtown has some of these things, but the number of vacant shops means there are not an array of options for residents. I also believe many of the vacancies would organically become occupied with more market-rate housing nearby as new residents move in and businessowners begin to see opportunity in the downtown area.

It breaks my heart that the city tore down its own City Hall and has not made a plan to rebuild it. That's part of the heart of a city. No amount of one off events takes the place of that. And the answer to homelessness is housing. Until housing is available, the houseless will be an issue
I moved here in '98 to have access to good public transit and affordable urban living- lived in precisely downtown Eugene for 22 years. I now feel very unsafe on busses, and do not want to be in downtown because it is so unsafe. I teach students with disabilities how to ride the bus, and was almost hit in a crosswalk in front of Eug. Library while crossing with a light!!!!
I would appreciate seeing more street and sidewalk repairs, Lawrence Street for example. It helps for wheelchair transporters to stay out of the bike lanes. I'd also like to see more funds go to Cahoots, Chrysalis etc, perhaps more mental health crisis based on-call help.
Homelessness is the biggest problem for our community. There isn't any magical solution. City leaders should try to balance the needs of the homeless for compassionate services and shelter with the needs of businesses and other city residents for a vibrant, inviting downtown without the stench and behavioral issues caused by the large homeless population.
Can't do the other things: increase storefronts/businesses, get people downtown until you deal with the lack of safety. I encounter a dangerous person/situation downtown at least once a week. 5th St market is becoming Eugene's de facto downtown- because it's still local but feels clean and safe.
I actually think Downtown Eugene feels more inviting and accessible than it did when I was younger (and parts were closed to traffic), but there's still a long ways to go. I really want the City to invest more in low-barrier affordable housing, a public shelter, expanded car camping programs, and access to mental health and drug treatment programs, as well as safe injection sites. I want them to implement more parts of the TAC report. Sweeps and law enforcement alone clearly aren't helping, it's not possible to tell someone to go somewhere when they have no where to go. Also: my dream would be for Downtown Eugene feel a little more like Downtown Fort Collins, Boise, Burlington, VT or even Corvallis.
It's not only homeless people at issue – the situation along Broadway is dire, and I don't think those those people are all homeless. Many are rough and often seem threatening to others. The blocks on Broadway from Willamette to Lincoln is often a gauntlet. The police lights tower thing at Broadway & Charnelton adds to the feeling of anarchy. The groups squatting on the sidewalk, sometimes yelling at each other, clearly have no one around to curb their behavior. The intersections with just bare stop signs, not real signals, also contributes to the feeling of chaos and uncertainty – I think people underestimate how much that contributes to negative experience of downtown. The Overpark and Parcade ramps offer ample parking, but the stairwells are widely considered ludicrously unsafe and disgustingly dirty. The message is very strong – the city has largely ceded responsibility for keeping that part of downtown safe, and is instead pushing development around the 5th St Market area.
I think the house less community need help, not policing.
I voted for measure 110, but it has been an abject failure and has made things worse. Meth and heroin addicts don't want help they want more meth and heroin. This is unfortunate, but maybe it would make more sense to make the decision for getting help with addiction once you are in jail. The downtown has to be free of drug addicts or very few people will want to visit. That is obvious.
Clean up graffiti
Revisit existing plans, especially the apparent cutting down of old existing trees in the apparently planned redevelopment of the Salmon Fountain Park area and park area to the east side . . . such that redevelopment preserves the existing trees versus essentially saying that a redevelopment plan is more important than the lives of the old existing trees. Build a redevelopment plan around the trees, and not the other way around, as happened to the old trees where the new farmers market area once existed. Also, revisit policies allowing that permit the cutting down of trees, young and old, in the downtown area, such that they are preserved and need to worked around, and not cut down to get the work done. This also means revisiting policies that exist regarding the urban forest entity, such that, trees are saved and decisions made to cut down and thereby end the life of a tree, can be questioned.
Disband the police union.
Housing the homeless should be our highest priority.
Instead of banning natural gas in residences, you should put all your focus on cleaning up the homeless problem. The Willamette is being polluted with needles, camping gear, human feces, and other trash. This is against the law and it is disgusting! This is happening in neighborhoods all over Eugene.

There is the idea that downtown Eugene is "unsafe" this is simply not true, most people that say that are upper middle class white people that are scared of anyone they perceive to be "poor," Downtown isn't unsafe, but there are certainly things that can be done to enhance and improve downtown so that the upper middle class of Eugene doesn't continue to be like "Can't go downtown, there are scary homeless people and once one of them asked me for money for FOOD! Which was clearly for DRUGS!!!!!"
Homelessness is the top issue by far.
I love Eugene and it is a great city. I would like to see a more walkable downtown with better lighting in certain areas (Broadway and Willamette), even shutting down the streets more regularly with vendors, music and food carts. Also having some pop up vendors and buskers with a small license fee/permit and having more and cleaner public bathrooms available. Also buy the EWEB building at the riverfront and turn that in to City Hall. Develop the Steam Plant/Riverfront more.
Need to clean out homeless and drugs. Make the downtown safe.
We need housing, many of the other problems will sort themselves out. SROs, apartments, rentals, shelters....
It is idiotic that politicians keep doing things that cause Eugene to have more homeless people per capita than most cities in America. The pieces of shit are going to keep moving in. Intelligent, responsible, and educated people like me are going to keep getting out of this shit hole. You are catering to the dregs of society. This going to continue to have dire consequences. It is idiotic that you people didn't get any public input about things like lights on Pre's trail and paving the Ridgeline system. Those things were so stupid and you keep putting money into terrible ideas like that. The World Track and field championships were an embarrassment. Eugene's woke agenda is disastrous.
I live in and love downtown, but my teenage child is at an age where they should be able to walk alone the few blocks it takes to get to their school. However, downtown is too dangerous and unclear to even consider this. I love to walk with my child downtown - but we have to constantly cross the street to avoid bad actors and those in mental health crisis. I walk to my work/home downtown every morning and night and am frustrated by aggressive and unstable behavior, entitled drivers, and a sense that my choice to walk (and protect the environment) is viewed as the wrong one by the City. Please begin the equitable (both personally and geographically) process to shelter our houseless and uplift downtown into the economic engine it is meant to be.
Why was Wells Fargo allowed to occupy a prominent store front instead of a business that would increase social engagement. Their limited hours stifle a vibrant downtown corridor. A bustling business district should be renting to businesses that serve members of the community not themselves.
Improved safe biking infrastructure, including safe (perhaps valet) bike parking is super important. I often do not stop downtown on my way home from the university because I have to lock my bike so carefully and strip it of all lights, etc before I go in any of the stores, library, etc. I would frequent local businesses downtown so much more if I could leave my bike somewhere safe.
I remember when there was a temporary restriction downtown on dogs (maybe one had to show proof of dog license, but not sure) and I went downtown and the difference in cleanliness and safety was amazing
Stop using Urban Renewal funding.
Beware of Eugene city politics being so divisive (i.e., your 'committee's' infighting each other with opposing agendas like trees vs middle housing). Try imagining that everyone who lives here loves this place. If you can't get your committees to work together how do expect the citizens to feel cohesive and committed to improving the city WITH you. This city is financially Diverse, age Diverse, socio-ethically Diverse, education Diverse, politically Diverse, rural/urban Diverse. Don't expect Downtown to SOLVE ALL the problems of the city-wide concerns. Eugene need a monaker that is all encompassing, that carries the passion of the ducks fans. Hire a outside skilled urban planner to bring in a fresh overview of all the strengths of this beautiful city, one who can balance the ways to meets the needs of the less fortunate who reside here too. City planning is not a DIY job. Eugene needs to call in the pros.
End MUPTE! It's a giveaway to wealthy developers. Lots of projects don't get mupte and are built in the same area anyway. It's unfair and undermines taxpayer support. Thanks for working to make the heart of Eugene great again!
I think the core issue with downtown eugene is the large, under-connected area from the Broadway and Willamette area to the Fifth Street complex. The worst part being the scary, old, ugly parking lot along 6th right next to the new Fifth Street Alley - it's a massive eye sore. and disconnects the core, functioning parts of downtown from each other (as well as lack of formal routes between these parts of town, any business, etc... The Lack of the proposed new City Hall by the Saturday Market area, also, makes this a big miss in my opinion. Good luck. It's hard and costs money, but Eugene is so close to have a real, functioning downtown that it's a pity if we miss out on this opportunity.

Take advantage of sponsors to help bring entertainment and improvements to Eugene. It will help the businesses and the city. Also, please more low income housing and ways to help the homeless. Maybe distribute trash bags to those who are living in tents and offer them \$5 for every bag full of trash, not just recyclables. It will keep their sites cleaner and fewer workers will be needed to clean up the city.
It feels like we support those people that make downtown worse. There's more trash, drugs, urine and feces now than a few years ago. Crime is increasing with no resolution or plan to fix the crime rate. Just more officers won't fix it either. We need a Eugene Municipal Jail, like Springfield's. The data shows their crime rate decreased after its construction. Once crime was lowered then businesses could grow, then the customers came back. Look at their downtown compared to ours.
Thank you for seeking input.
I think 90% of downtown issues are a result of the city counselors that don't have the ability to see the real issues and pass ordinances to protect family's and folks who want to use down town business.
Please stop taking traffic lanes away and replacing with bike lanes so that one bike commuter can get somewhere in time while 500 cars are sitting in traffic. It's getting harder and harder for non-walking members to do anything anywhere in Eugene.
Eugene is already an icon city. But to maintain that we need to help the people who need stable housing and get help of the mentally ill and addicted.
Being "woke" isn't helping. 80% of police resources go to homeless crime or assisting cahoots. The DA not prosecuting doesn't help either.
More arts programming.
'Top main things for me are- -Pedestrian mall -Interesting shops businesses being able to thrive downtown -Housing for homeless so they're not always congregating downtown
You can spend all the money you have on affordable housing, beautification, renovation, and welcoming events but without safe, walkable streets (by walkable I mean without having to avoid bodies, tents, panhandlers, feces, and mentally ill or drugged up people threatening you) very few people will want to come downtown. Figure out the solution to this problem and then send out another survey that starts with "OK, now that we have a base for rebuilding downtown... what would you like to see next".
I am unhappy with the parking situation throughout Eugene. Too many apartment buildings without adequate parking. Our streets are congested with parked cars.
The new venue for the Farmer's Market has vastly improved the area, but disability parking close by is hard to find.
Responsible policing and new laws and services related to what those who are homeless typically struggle with will help most.
Thank you for the work you folks are doing to balance the needs of the community.
Hate going downtown. I hate going to work every day. This place has turned into a shit hole. I lived here for most of my life can't wait to leave. For the amount of property taxes, should have a vibrant, safe town, stop building dog parks in build attractions that will bring people to the community. Use our open space functionality. It is important to keep open space but we need to usable space downtown that people will come in use, especially out of towners.
The two most critical immediate problems in Eugene are 1) the lack of affordable housing for low- and middle-income people and 2) homelessness. I believe that the homelessness problem requires a two-pronged solution: 1) affordable and subsidized housing solutions, and 2) universal, non-discriminating, immediate, and comprehensive social services that include behavioral health, emotional health, addiction treatment, job-training, job placement, hygiene, and expanded veterans services.
An engaged and vibrant community begins with an identifiable community.
Bike valet so safe to bike and not get stolen
BLM is a domestic terrorist group funded by the Chinese Communist Party. And, while peaceful protesting is a glorious right, rioting and threatening business owners should NEVER be tolerated. So, why are these tax-paying businesses downtown not receiving protection? Let the E.P.D. have their "fangs" back. Similarly, Fire department call volume has mushroomed due to homelessness & helplessness. The Chiefs need to stop sucking up to the City Council, and start scaling the budget to plan for growth, or they will fall too far behind to ever catch up.

scrap most of the high development sort of ideas and go for more of a holistic approach (no cars/bad influencers). Making things more accessible should be a top priority. If you do not understand/agree with me on this point, I challenge you (as many people as possible) to spend some time going through your usually daily routine(s) but from the wheelchair user's perspective. See how accessible our culture/society really is when you are the one who has to deal with it.
I left Eugene 21 years ago by joining the Air Force. I just retired and returned home to bring my children back to where I grew up. We have been all around this world and have seen great things and some not so great things. Now that we are back here in Eugene. I am sad to say how disappointed I am, my children are more exposed to drugs and craziness than anywhere we have ever lived. I now have to explain why someone is yelling at other people with a needle in their arm as we walked to the library. It truly saddens me to say Eugene is not the city I grew up in and most likely will not be the city I raise my children in. I am shocked how the Eugene government has let the city get this bad. Oregon has a whole has gotten far more dangerous and not family oriented.
Stop ignoring the needs of homeowners in this city.
Municipal codes frequently and consistently NOT enforced downtown: littering, smoking, unleashed and/or unlicensed dogs, amplified music, blocked sidewalks. These violations can be seen by anyone at any time of the day walking down Broadway. Occasional police presence is not nearly enough - there needs to be a visible and constant police presence in the downtown core.
The sidewalks need to be clear of people and clean.
I currently go downtown for appointments, but due to the dirtiness, homeless addicts, and lack of feeling safe, and lack of nearby parking, I avoid it in the evenings.
Some of the homeless (?) people are aggressive. Except for the library, I've reduced my trips to Downtown Eugene.
Increasing low income housing and adding mental health/addiction services are important but terribly expensive. You should add a qualifier about cost to each option above to allow better informed choices.
Support transition to EVs of all sorts with ample and affordable access to charging stations, parking meter waivers/gift cards, builder incentives, etc.
I would go downtown more often but it just doesn't feel safe. Businesses are leaving downtown (and Eugene!) because they and their employees are not safe. We need our city leaders to stop being afraid to address behavioral problems!
Creating housing/ mental health/ substance abuse services for the unhoused will encourage new business, destinations and a family friendly environment.
Prevent building of high rises - they take away from the welcoming atmosphere. Close off some streets to traffic to allow residents and visitors to enjoy strolling and shopping.
Start paying city councilors and the mayor 75K and we'll get higher quality government. The compensation that they currently get is pathetic and creates an environment where we get privileged out of touch reps. Ordinary people need to afford to be able to run.
Downtown Eugene is a destination for people who both live in Eugene but also a huge number of customers and clients from out of town and of all ages and physical abilities. If it is to thrive as a destination, the accessibility of all constituents -- not just sunny daytime bike riders -- must be taken into account. Neighborhood nodes and high schools should be "bikable" -- downtown should be accessible to all.
This is the second survey we've filled out and things are worse downtown. We go to OCT and park close, walk quickly and don't engage with anyone on the street after having several bad experiences. That's the only thing we do downtown.
I added my comments under section 6. As a long-term resident of Eugene, I have observed many changes in the larger downtown area. I think you can look at the progress made by Brian Obie as a positive guide. (No, I am not in any way affiliated with, or an acquaintance of Mr. Obie). What he has done in the 5th ave area will do more to revitalize Eugene than other attempt the city has made. Use the talents that live locally. Listen to the community members that have been vested in Eugene!
Safety and parking are my number one reasons why I do not go downtown
AS long as people are hanging out on the sidewalks, downtown will never be vibrant

<p>I arrived in Eugene in 1982. The city and state were in deep recession. For decades the city has worked and advocated for a vibrant downtown. Positive improvements have included opening streets, attracting business, providing incentives for housing, all of which, over a very long time, have shown very positive results. Downtown was back! Over the past ten years those efforts have been largely reversed due to the loss (or perception of loss) of public safety, businesses leaving and unclear and unsightly conditions.</p> <p>As a start I believe we should do the following:</p> <p>Remove vagrant/homeless population from downtown and initiate policies and practices to maintain a safe and vibrant environment that will support/enhance/encourage commercial and civic activity. Safety and the perception of safety is paramount.</p>
Homelessness is a huge deterrent to people visiting downtown. The camping, trash and hoarding is a public health concern.
When the police chase the folks loitering in downtown out, they move to other locations - like my park. They need to find other places to be. Eugene is TOO inviting sometimes to people who can't take care of themselves.
I would go downtown more frequently if it felt safe.
None of it matters unless it is viewed as safe and clean
It's time to encourage homeless to move on and stop trashing the city. Stop the hand outs.
More social oriented businesses, no to Wells Fargo on a popular street corner, no to a buy 2, Larger events like downtown dodgeball, Sunday streets, eug celebrations brought people dwtn and increased people's comfort to going dwtn when there wasn't a larger event.
IN 35 + years of being downtown it is as bad now as it has ever been. More violent individuals and no police presence
Build FREE low barrier permanent housing. Use empty office buildings. Getting people off the streets must be FIRST.
Fix the survey. Don't make it so difficult to take the survey. Forgot how many hoops I had to jump through just to take it. Such frustration. The link you provided should go to the survey, that's it. No registration, etc. This is super basic stuff.
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<p>There is so much potential downtown, it's heartbreaking to see the city not do anything. I have lived in and traveled to many cities of similar size, and our downtown is one of the more run-down and depressing that I've seen. Eugene's homeless population seemingly takes priority over business owners, tax payers, residents and visitors and the future of downtown hinges on taking a different approach. The fact that a city of this size doesn't have a city hall / civic center is appalling!!</p>
<p>I have lived and worked (downtown) in Eugene since coming to the U of O in 1982. I have watched the repeated, unsuccessful investments of huge sums of money to 'revitalize' the downtown. For a brief period, it worked and the downtown core was a vibrant area to visit. But, that has changed significantly. As of now, the 5th Street Market area is the most successful at establishing a place I want to visit and show visiting family and/or friends. The notion of adding restrooms, park renovations, (sleeping) benches, low-income housing, and assistance programs to the downtown core area will simply exacerbate the issue.</p>
<p>The downtown core cannot thrive with the communal mentality of 'we need to give more to anyone who wants to come to Oregon/Eugene.' The multi-faceted problem will not go away entirely, it has always existed to some extent. However, the 'problem' will most heavily congregate in areas where free handouts, governmental services, and/or affordable housing are offered. Therefore, if the goal is to change the downtown area, I would suggest locating governmental assistance programs and educational services outside of the core area - but along major LTD routes that lead to areas of more affordable housing. Land is cheaper in other parts of the city and jobs are more plentiful in outlying areas. But, LTD will ensure access to the downtown area for those needing/wanting to go there.</p>
<p>My 30+-year career was in law enforcement and I have always voted with rather liberal beliefs. But, my career also taught me that many people find themselves in situations of homelessness, drug addiction, and mental illness because of repeated personal choices - not societal inequity or a lack of assistance services. There must also be some ramifications for failing to abide by basic rules of societal conduct. And, until the City Council and local District Attorney's Office shows a willingness to combine fairness with firmness, I will not support any more bonds related to this topic - and that is saying a lot since I have supported all thus far.</p>

<p>Businesses are being driven out of the downtown! A small minority are dictating to the majority. The downtown is very unpleasant; unruly people, not safe, dirty. This is causing the majority to leave/avoid the downtown. Misguided Kindness on the part of the city of Eugene.</p>
<p>Downtown Eugene is still mostly a street full of bars with a few good shops closer to Pearl Street. I don't hang out at bars so I don't often spend time there. It's not enjoyable to walk around because the destinations are limited, and the unhoused (?) people hanging out on the streets. Encourage some variety in the businesses there to attract a wider variety of people to visit on a more semi-regular basis.</p>
<p>I recently moved to Eugene with great anticipation. Reality has been a disappointment. I have lived in and traveled to a multitude of places as a basis for comparison. As a city, Eugene has the potential to be a vibrant economic center and destination. Instead, leaders have focused their efforts on failing solutions that do not promote economic sustainability - economic stability that could then help the underserved and disadvantaged. Rather than forming another committee to discuss a vote about a survey - do something. Public and business owner safety is not a matter of opinion. Dilapidation of public spaces that have been overrun by derelicts does not require discussion, it requires action. Then go to Bend, Fort Collins, Helena, Boise, or any other city that has successively revitalized their downtown for some ideas.</p>
<p>Re establish the Eugene Celebration and parade as the big weekend street party that it used to be. That introduces many people to the businesses and amenities that are in downtown Eugene. In my opinion, it was the greatest public relations advertisement there is! Surely we can huddle together sponsors from banks and businesses that are based there.— and it is a great unifying Venue, which we sorely need!</p>
<p>The city needs to consider what elements make the 5th St. Market area and Oakway mall so vibrant. People like to congregate to eat, drink and shop in safe, attractive surroundings! Until downtown can offer those types of amenities and activities it will continue to lose out to places like that. Maybe study some other cities of like size. My sister lives in Iowa City, and although it's half the size of Eugene, it has a very attractive, buzzing downtown.</p>
<p>Make downtown camping, drug dealing illegal. Bring back city employees to the office as well as county.</p>
<p>Most families with young kids who I know don't feel safe or happy going downtown. The center of gravity has seemingly shifted to the 5th street market. Obie properties is doing everything right. Clean, safe, well lit, lots of fun dining, coffee, and shopping options, and a good variety of activities to draw people in. I actually preferred the farmers market being over on 5th st too. Downtown should follow Obie's lead, if it wants to stay relevant.</p>
<p>The landlord/tenant laws are already skewed in favor of tenants. Please stop making it increasingly difficult to be a responsible landlord. Unaffordable housing is a function of the economy, and should not be our burden to bear. We still have to purchase properties at market value.</p>
<p>The downtown buildings are eclectic as if there was no building plan.</p>
<p>People make towns vibrant. They support business and culture. 24/7 residence and continuing venues have more impact than periodic/transitory events.</p>
<p>Access to city councilors to talk face to face</p>
<p>Other than the Saturday Market, my friends and family mostly avoid downtown because of the large number of people living on the streets.</p>
<p>why are homeless people allowed to congregate in downtown Eugene?</p>
<p>This is a long term project that will require diligent oversight and constant attention. Once things improve, vigilance must remain. We can't "pat ourselves on the back" for having a vibrant, welcoming beautiful downtown and then turn our backs on it.</p>
<p>1) I feel Eugene has ignored the common citizen for the developers of student housing. There needs to be more balance. If the developers want to continue to build these structures for students then they should be required to build something for the community or contribute to a fund that will. 2) There are empty multi story buildings downtown that could be converted to places for the unhoused to shower, do laundry, store their stuff receive a meal and other services they may need. St Vinnie's seems to be the only organization even trying to fulfill that necessity. 3) I found it particularly repulsive that during last summers track and field events the city hustled the unhoused out of sight and did the maintenance necessary to present a clean and safe environment. When the visitors left so did the efforts to provide that same environment to the people who live here. We as a community can and should do so much better.</p>
<p>The city needs to understand its limitations -- I doubt the city can be very effective in creating fun destinations. The city's job in that situation is to reduce barriers and create pathways to success, not through up roadblocks. The city needs to be less fearful of public backlash from a small segment of the population.</p>

there has to be a better way to keep transient and homeless people off the sidewalks and from blocking and trashing shops and businesses downtown! And fix the roads please. Eugene is ugly
1. Enforce the existing laws about vagrancies and panhandling. 2. Make incarceration meaningful with extensive mental health services in a safe, clean structured environment.
We have rest stops throughout the city, enforce loitering laws and allow the small businesses a chance to succeed. I'm tired of broken doors and windows at these businesses and hearing from friends and family how unsafe downtown is to visit.
City council throwing more money at all the problems is not a solution. Get rid of the homeless and drug addicts and downtown will thrive
restart the Eugene Celebration
I hope the Downtown Eugene area continues to grow into a space where the community can gather, but also a space that supports community members that are struggling and without homes.
the survey does not define "downtown". It would help especially in discussing the housing issues
My top three improvements were chosen based on my assumption that Cahoots is already a given as a truly wonderful program and we should continue to support it.
Eugene has brain drain because we don't have a vibrant downtown. The University educates people and they leave. We need to encourage people to stay through jobs, housing and entertainment, then we will have a vibrant downtown as more people need more services. Currently, I do not feel safe with my family downtown. Vagrants harass and ask for money. We need to stop having a bleeding heart for people who don't/can't work to improve the city we all live in.
Definitely believe there needs to be a better balance between supporting businesses and humanity towards the homeless/indigent population ...which has been less considerate of business to date.
I think that if the homelessness situation was improved, many of my concerns (safety, cleanliness, maintenance of buildings, and empty storefronts) would be solved.
You have surrendered downtown to filth and the mentally challenged. It is extremely nonreceptive to residents let alone out of town visitors. The ONLY place I bring guests is to the Fifth Street Public Market area. Why do you allow the mentally challenged to take over our streets? Businesses continue to leave because of the mismanagement of our City Council. As businesses leave, so too are their business profits and tax revenues leaving us. We are not a socialist state, we need business and personal profitability. Please open your eyes.
The anti-social behaviors of a few make it unwelcoming and feel unsafe for most.
Zero tolerance on anti-social behaviors, otherwise no other strategies will work effectively
Eugene will NEVER thrive downtown with the current hijacking of its streets by homeless people. We should have a vibrant downtown and we don't. City leaders have failed to govern effectively. I am not a cranky conservative, far from it, but the downtown will never be appealing or feel safe to a majority of Eugene residents if every sidewalk and street corner is home to loiterers.
I'm not an urban planner, but we do travel extensively all over the world. I would recommend looking at cities that are comparable in size and SES to Eugene and analyze what makes those cities work or fail. In my experience the downtowns that are inviting include: a wide variety of programs of interest to the area; interesting storefronts, a variety of dining experiences (not just pubs and pizza), clean, safe, plenty of parking; an item that is a focus (e.g. park, museum, natural item, etc) for visitors. In my 17 years here I find that the city gets bogged down on details much to the exclusion of results, sadly. I participated in a group in about 2006, that was tasked with planning to redo Broadway when (I believe it was) \$170 million was on the table for reconstructing parts of the downtown corridors. We met regularly, were served refreshments, met with the Council and mayor. After all, that the recommendations were put in a drawer somewhere and never saw the light of day. I try to imagine if we had started on that so many years ago, what downtown would have become. I wish you luck.

Hello, My name is Gavin. I have been living in Eugene for only a year and a half now, but I have lived in many American environments whether it be rural, suburban, or urban. I have lived on both coasts, in the north, in the south, and even overseas.

Currently I live just north of the railroad tracks in Ward 7 where I rent a room in a suburban house. I work at the Whole Foods just on Broadway. Using the Marie-Jacobs bike path I can ride comfortably nearly all the way to work. Near 5th street market there is a lot of pedestrian traffic as well as slow roads right until you hit 6th. Then there is seemingly an entire cut of the city dedicated solely to automobiles from 6th to 7th before returning to a downtown space. To the pedestrians and residents who live and work in the area this is a massive barrier that is extremely uncomfortable to pass through. It is also a barrier to anyone who is visiting downtown as it requires the use of an automobile to easily navigate through the "two sides" of downtown. With 5th street market and its various events and access to nature on one side and the "Broadway" area with the cinema and clubs on the other. I would love for both of those spaces to combine into one residential and commercial powerhouse that can be easily and safely traversed by anyone from one end to the other.

Along with slowly transitioning 6th and 7th to appropriate roads for downtown, I'd like for the city to focus on housing. Downtown is a prime location to build incentives for developers to make mixed use, dense urban buildings with either affordable or market rate apartments. This will, by necessity, increase the foot traffic and commercial vitality of our downtown area. The more people we have using sidewalks for day to day movement from work to shopping the safer our downtown areas will be for everyone, housed or otherwise. The commercial density would also provide citizens with more affordable spaces to build strong small businesses that are the backbone of Eugene. These could be in the form of small office locations or storefronts. With adequate lighting and safe infrastructure for pedestrians and bikes we could transform the downtown area to a place where everyone feels invited and safe while also having a large number of things to do instead of having a single destination before going home.

I feel that it is important for a city to play upon their strengths and reduce weaknesses. Eugene is well integrated with nature. In Eugene we have a few buttes for families to explore as well as a beautiful river running through just north of downtown. Eugene also seems to be an entrepreneurial growing zone. In all of the country I have never seen so many people passionate about their own products and commercial services. By having a strong and dense urban heart Eugene can play to both of these strengths and minimize its weaknesses all while retaining the nature around it that makes it such a wonderful city to live in and visit.

Simply don't allow criminal behavior. Take efforts to stop that. Tell the council to go visit Bend or even Albany (of all places). The "Eugene think" of protecting the rights of a few forgets you are removing the rights of the majority of good tax paying citizens. If there are not people accosting downtown visitors - businesses will come and consumers will come.

The library is amazing, so are the librarians.

More parking (personal vehicle use is not going down, but instead is moving to electric). Need more restaurant and retail shops in a tighter area to encourage people staying downtown longer.

Our employees regularly report being approached by individuals who are aggressive and not in control of themselves. No-one should be fearful of walking to their workplace. While we understand that there are challenges on all sides, there must be better solutions than what we have now. As an employer, our first responsibility is for the safety of our staff. Right now we aren't able to provide that outside our own front door, which is unacceptable. Please help.

Many of my friends in Eugene are becoming increasingly concerned that the explosive growth of high rise apartments over the last 12 years will result in an explosive growth of uninhabited and decaying buildings in the future. I am hearing huge concerns that these high rise buildings are being built with tax payer money and then left with very high vacancy rates, while continuing to build even more high rises. Is the City of Eugene actually looking at housing need when allowing more construction to occur? I have heard that the city is 'hoping' that more apartments will bring the cost of rentals down, yet if building owners are intentionally keeping high vacancy rates, obviously this does not bring rents down, plus it builds the false assumption that even more construction is needed. Eventually we will have a lot of empty and abandoned buildings, or a crash in the rental market, or some other big problem related to this over construction. Plus - This is tax payer money that is being spent. WE are paying for this. WE do not want our tax dollars squandered. And WE will end up with the problems of over construction. Are you really looking at this and will you please address this with the populace to give us some hope that we (as tax payers and as a community) are not getting taken to the cleaners? Thank you

I don't think looking at the above issues monolithically will get us there as it's an interconnected web of dependencies. For example, we talk a lot about homelessness, but if we move upstream of homelessness to the causes there's a pretty strong thread of economic stability in the region - our area is being externally influenced and priced upward while wages & salaries remain stagnant. I really like the idea of continually promoting events. I think it's a net positive in transforming space and supporting the arts. A lot of people really miss Eugene Celebration - it wasn't just an event, it was a special cultural thing that we've let go. Measure 110 was a disaster and there needs to be pressure to the statewide level on getting services implemented as promised per the law, otherwise work toward repeal is necessary. I'm concerned at the Town & Gown presence of the UO. They do not operate ethically (see their depressed salaries), do not play well with other public sector entities, and the student population has a massive effect on our community. If UO students create a transitive population shift commensurate with its student enrollment, that's some 30,000 people that make an impact on this community. If the majority of them are being pushed resources from family or student loans, we're effectively floating that entire ecosystem on credit and that's dangerous.
Need to address the issue of aggressive panhandling that has stopped people my age from going downtown for years. The only reason I ever go downtown is to go to the Metro.
I was recently in Fort Collins, a city of similar size and character. I was taken aback by the contrast in our downtowns. Fort Collins has a vibrant downtown with lots of really good, varied restaurants and a busy pedestrian section with lots of shops. If you haven't already, study what they are doing right.
Thanks for making this survey possible. I lived in Eugene for many years, and only recently moved outside the UGB.
I feel unsafe and grossed out walking into my office every morning. My co-workers and myself are harassed by people along the sidewalks and alleyways and our office building doors are usually covered in human urine. There is no rain coverage, especially when the few covered areas are "campgrounds" for people without homes. There are few stores or restaurants that appeal to people in there 20s. I avoid walking downtown as much as possible.
I believe in Eugene and look forward to downtown coming alive again
During last summer's World track events, downtown felt safe and clean. As soon as that was over, it went back to being dirty and offensive. I walk Broadway almost every day and, while I am not fearful of the people, it's very annoying to have unwanted comments and looks. Let's do whatever we were doing last summer!
I think the city does an amazing job with keeping flower baskets nice, and the physical environment clean, as best they can with the ongoing problems of non-functional people with nowhere else to go living in the middle of it all.
Free or inexpensive parking would help, too.
Downtown Eugene will remain unattractive for visitors and residents as long as homeless/ houseless/travellers roam the streets creating an undesirable atmosphere for the public. There are laws, rules and social mores that should be upheld to minimize the negative effect of these problem people.
1. Connecting - and maybe just conceiving of - 5th Street District/improvements as part of DT would help Eugene build on halo assets and strengths. Frequently my visits to DT are a byproduct of choosing first to go to 5th Street as a destination for a clean, safe, destination experience, then I may drive through DT. 2. Reminder - consider aging demographics. When you say "family friendly" there is likely a significant population of greater Eugene area who would bring aging parents DT rather than children & 18.
EUG needs to more aggressively manage the downtown area, which is unsafe and unwelcoming. I moved my business to another location for those reasons.
I don't think an increased law enforcement presence would help
Please avoid the choice of kicking individuals experiencing homelessness out of downtown Eugene. What you create is a scenario that enflames the issue because they receive the message that they are not wanted in our community and it doubles down the defensiveness and aggression of those experiencing the greatest hardship. We find constantly that community events where there is not a separation of our houseless population, but rather an incorporation and inclusion of these individuals, results in very few and sometimes no moments where intervention is needed. Invest in creating a community that acknowledges, respects, honors, and serves these individuals in ADDITION to our more stable and wealthier community members. THAT will create a safer and more appealing downtown.
Be sure we are learning and applying the lessons of what has worked and not worked for other cities of our size in terms of revitalization.
Make it illegal to camp in public spaces. Pick up trash.
need to focus on attracting businesses to move to downtown and retaining current ones. Need some high profile businesses to relocate such as REI

I do not have the answers, but Downtown needs to be accessible again with shops that people want to visit, ease of parking, events, safety and cleanliness.
Expanding services for the homeless has by all appearances, served only to attract more homeless from outside the area. There is a never ending supply and Eugene can't be expected to be the endpoint. It's time the city faced that reality.
The homelessness crisis is really a lack of affordable housing crisis. We need more affordable housing.
The City of Eugene has been without a home for almost 10 years. When are you going to replace City Hall?
Bring back Eugene Celebration. Create more reasons to come downtown - activities, nice shops and restaurants. Parking options need to be available and not costly to compete with other options
I've worked in Eugene for nearly 30 years and lived in Eugene for much of that time. The last seven the City has gone down hill steeply! The homeless people are determining the direction and fate of the City. I do not enjoy downtown and west Eugene, especially the hwy 99 area with the shelters.
Until we address the issue of unhoused people residing downtown who do not have aspirations of permanent housing then we are still going to have a problem. In addition we need to empower people who are not police (perhaps mental health professionals) to be able to remove people when they are causing disruptions. Of course we need a place to take said people to that is not jail or a hospital.
Can property owners or DEI handle some ongoing cleanup (e.g., downtown alcoves filled with vomit, human waste, etc.)? I know priorities matter, but really... there aren't just 3 things that must be pursued.
I am dead serious: Read this reddit post from today (11/28/22) and go through as many of the comment threads as you can tolerate: https://old.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/z6y4bd/note_placed_on_the_door_of_now_permanently_closed/ Portland has deteriorated in a non-exaggerated way over the past two years, and it is in large part due to police silent protesting. This is not some right-wing or left-wing talking point; there's hundreds of people talking about it from both sides of the aisle in that thread. This is where Eugene is headed if we do not force the police to enforce basic laws such as 'you can't steal anything you want from residents or businesses because the police will actually arrest you instead of laugh at you and hang up when it gets called in', and 'screaming threats for hours, whether towards someone or into the abyss, will not be tolerated'.
It's no longer safe to work downtown. I started 4 years ago and it's gotten much worse. I've told corporate it's the #1 problem we face. It's not a matter of if but when something bad happens. I had someone threaten to kill me and have had many people lose control. I regularly lock the store because of the behavior I see outside. I'm looking at moving from this job because of it and tell everyone it's not safe at night to go there. Even during the day you better stay alert.
Quit using the Whiteaker neighborhood as your historical dumping zone for downtown problems! We are a residential neighborhood that has had enough of the city's long term historical marginalization. You want to talk equity, bring it to the Whiteaker. We're continuing to suffer because the city decided to push their drug and homeless crisis into our neighborhood. Enough.
As quickly as possible bike paths need to be kept clean and clear. It is absolutely dangerous October through December to shop, commute or exercise on a bicycle in Lane County. Lawn care companies and residents blow all of their leaves into the bike lanes (Cal Young, Oakway, 5th Street, Coburg Road, Whit District, Downtown, Country Club). Underneath and inside the leaves are often branches, broken glass, garbage etc forcing cyclists into the street where traffic is also attempting to navigate often through narrowed areas. I agree leaf pick-up is a great service, but I believe the rate at which it occurs should increase. Homeless "camping" needs to be dealt with quicker. Let's keep Eugene clean, safe and empty of tent and tarp cities with the same diligence and dedication as was afforded in preparation for the Worlds. These communities are popping up again along the river paths, in front of buildings and along side city streets.
Looking forward to cessation of trains' horn blaring. Hope all trees be appropriate to the soil type and other site conditions.
Downtown Eugene is already beautiful and full of potential. The issues I hear from most friends and acquaintances, are the homeless creating an undesirable environment for individuals/families walking downtown. Downtown maintenance crews do a great job cleaning messes left behind from homeless, but if loitering wasn't allowed in the downtown area, similar to Springfield's approach, could that maintenance budget be better utilized elsewhere?
Start and enforce loitering ordinance, no camping. Respond to needs of downtown business owners

Homelessness and drug addiction is the main reason why people are not going downtown as much. I just talked to a couple this weekend who used to live downtown in an apartment but that it was just not safe and they had to move. We can only provide so much in the way of housing and services. At some point we need to tell them that if they don't use the services provided they need to go somewhere else. How about creating a city-wide services registry that documents who is using the services and actually trying to get help? The rest are beyond help. I see so many wrecked people downtown, it's so sad. I don't think they care or want to be helped.
Unhoused folks need daytime safe services and safe, comfortable, welcoming places to sleep and transition from the streets. It's not downtown's fault but it's downtown's blight. The county, state, and federal systems have failed people and it's a shame that it's falling to the city to address things ... and yet - it's up to the city to keep working to create more housing and more transitional housing and also day time services that are a draw for unhoused folks so they don't need to sleep on the street in the daytime because that is logically the safest way for them to get any sleep.
I was recently in downtown Boise, Idaho and it was vibrant and fun with lots of restaurants and people walking around. I don't know what they are doing differently than Eugene, but it seems like it might be a good place to check out. There were lots of college students downtown, which seems to contrast with Eugene.
Please provide social workers at the library and around downtown.
Eugene should make it difficult to drive downtown. Cars kill cities and people.
Our city and county governments should focus on traditional core government activities: public safety, good transportation infrastructure (for ALL kinds of vehicles, including cars), ensuring that the commons of our community (roads, sidewalks, parks, etc.) are kept safe and welcoming for ALL citizens and that these commons are not made effectively unusable by and unwelcoming to the general citizenry by inappropriate occupation and behavior by socially- and health-challenged individuals who take over streets, sidewalks, and other public spaces. In order to be successful businesses everywhere must be able to count on their customers being able to come to our establishments safely and comfortably. This is especially true in a downtown, where businesses generally do not own a large area of private land around their places of trade that they can ensure is welcoming so that customers can arrive and enter safely and comfortably. Instead, we who are downtown share the streets, sidewalks and parking in common and we must rely on our city to manage this commons so that our customers can indeed feel welcome and safe coming to our businesses. The City of Eugene DOES NOT TAKE CARE OF THIS BASIC RESPONSIBILITY. We desperately need our city to stop all their side-projects and focus on the essential task of making a safe and welcoming downtown. THAT is what will achieve all of the other goals listed above.
I lived in Eugene 45 years. During the first 25 years, I worked in, shopped in, and spent many hours Downtown, but not so much the past 20, particularly not at night. Why? The place continues to deteriorate, because we tolerate uncivil, lousy behavior on the part of a segment of people who care about nothing but themselves. Until you enforce basic standards of decent, civil behavior, and make downtown safe for everyone, whatever else you do is very much secondary.
People have to feel safe in our downtown. Unless and until that is achieved, all other plans will fail. We have allowed the disenfranchised to rule too many sections of downtown, and people are afraid. Afraid of intimidation, of mindless screaming, of filth and of physical harm. I am an able bodied male, I usually feel that I can protect myself. But ask my wife or any of her female friends how comfortable they feel downtown and they will likely give you several examples that demonstrate why they do not go there. Refer back to my first sentence. There needs to be a continual, forceful presence downtown to ensure that those who will not abide society's rules and expectations are evicted. This needs to be enforced 24/7. Until that happens, people will stay away from downtown, as they do now. I have lived here since 1980. I have witnessed a steady erosion of confidence that this can be fixed. I ran combat patrols in Viet Nam for a year. We hated to be out overnight, the enemy owned the night. That is the case right now in downtown Eugene. The law-abiding citizens of Eugene do not own the night. Or the day. Unless that changes, all other plans will fail.
'- "police presence" is not an unmanned trailer with blue and red lights. - some of the above "actions" are band-aid solutions that gloss over a problem, literally "washing" a daily temporary solution.
You covered the most of it, low income housing, services for the unhoused, encourage small business
Keep sidewalks and streets clean. I often see lots of trash, food containers, and articles of clothing lying about.
Please increase the density in the downtown area
I've spent my days downtown since 1997, and it has never felt worse. The City, County, and State need to double down on poverty, mental health, and crime. Otherwise we're throwing money at band-aids and making downtown look appealing while not getting at the root of what is hurting our people and our state. Right now there are too many other places around Eugene that are busy, safe, convenient to where people live, and easy to access. Thanks to everyone who is trying to make downtown a better place!

Eugene needs to find ways to encourage development of mixed use spaces to better densify our neighborhoods rather than sprawling. Increase height limits downtown, lower development fees, provide multifamily tax credits. Support developers in the creation of affordable housing. It isn't feasible right now. Keep providing safe spaces for homeless people, encourage them to move off the streets or provide them with housing based on their commitment to jobs or education. The homeless population in Eugene are mostly people that could get back on their feet with some help, police action isn't going to solve the issue, but more presence of community members might.
Maybe contact officials in Boulder and Austin. College towns I have visited that do not have the severity of problems that Eugene does. And yes they have expensive housing too. Maybe more expensive. The city seems to fall back on the belief that more people downtown will somehow magically solve the problem. They have it backwards. Get tough on the transient problem downtown and once people feel safe they will return. The statewide drug bill passed last year isn't helping. Hopefully that is rescinded.
Provide more behavioral mental health and addiction services OUTSIDE Downtown. Provide shelters and services for people without stable housing ON THE OUTSKIRTS of Eugene.
Put City Hall in the EWEB building which has abundant parking and bus access, enough space for departments to save a million dollars a year renting in private buildings, and would be THE place to go for city services instead of all over the city. Abandon the planned ceremonial bldg which is an expensive pacifier.
Do not allow drug addicts camping on the sidewalks. We are OVER IT. And tired of naive homeless advocates. I used to be one until Eugene allowed the skidrow cesspool you destroy downtown.
I feel like there should be facts or studies backing up this action. What would provide the best return on investment for improving downtown and addressing the city's homeless issues?
Last week, I witnessed a stranger peering over my next door neighbor's fence. When I asked why, he shared he's a realtor and the homeowner is getting foreclosed on - a senior citizen woman who lives alone. Something needs to be done so greedy realtors stop inflating our housing market. If folks weren't spending so much on rent, maybe they could support downtown businesses more.
Support the folks needing help, do everything possible to get rid of the free spirit, drug users/sellers, thieves, illegal campers, not welcome sign
Look at Springfield. Their downtown is currently more interesting to me than our own.
Our city can not make downtown more "attractive" by removing the homeless who are present in the space. We need spaces and programs to help people stabilize and find mental health resources to become well. My hope is for Eugene to be a healthy city and that our downtown would be a reflection of that wellness.
Homelessness downtown is a major problem. But the homelessness population is a diverse group of 4 or 5 major groups. No one solution fits all folks. People here who are not from here should be escorted out of town!
Please create more designated camping areas to eliminate urban camping issues.
Support businesses with local grants to improve their buildings and sidewalk amenities. Create a cafe culture downtown to attract more positive activity and create a zoned ordinance to prevent loitering in these areas.
Homelessness and people who appear to have mental issues make it difficult to shop or go downtown.
Jane Jacobs said it first - "eyes on the street!" https://medium.com/interviews-and-articles-on-art-public-spaces/eyes-on-the-street-creating-liveable-places-6051ff3096e7
A big part of public safety is just making the place livelier and more populated at all hours of the day (not just 9-5 with office workers), which naturally deters nefarious activity like bike theft, physical assaults, etc.
The City needs to better support businesses downtown. It's a shame we don't have more restaurants and little shops to go to. Take a hint from the Gordon and 5th St. Those are inviting places to go. Downtown was great in the 60s. Let's encourage Saturday Mkt visitors to go deeper into the center of town by having entertainment or exhibits in Kesey Sq. It's a shame we lost Sizzle Pie. The City really needs to get this problem solved. I feel safer walking/shopping in Corvallis or Springfield. Good luck. Please do something!
For 35 years, I have invested in Downtown Eugene, which I consider includes the 5th Street area. It saddens me to see that the City of Eugene is still struggling with the same issues over that entire time. One would think we would collectively learn how to make the Downtown better. But, we seem to wallow in our lack of improvement. It is time, way past time, for the City Council to make the commitment for permanent improvement.
Affordable housing is the largest issue. It is larger than downtown Eugene and needs to be addressed wherever possible. This is a now problem that will only grow as time passes if not addressed in a serious manner that supports low-income individuals.
Market rate housing is a misleading option: if more businesses offered cheaper services and landlords were appropriately regulated we wouldn't need to exclusively cater to rich folks.

I am HAPPY to pay increased taxes to help with homelessness.
As a college student, I would love to see the downtown area more vibrant and less empty. I love areas like the 5th Public Market and think develops like that could bring more people to Eugene.
Please if you could figure out a way to add more trash cans. I feel like there are so few in Eugene. Also I would love if Eugene had more of a community feel with community based areas. We need more event, we need more spaces that are family friendly, we need to bring some life back. I know people would love to help with this including myself.
I have been visiting downtown more recently and know it has a lot of potential. Whilst the issues of debris, safety, and comfort are issues I believe they are best addressed through both systemic policy and short term solutions. Adding more police may be part of the answer, but isn't going to solve things by itself. Affordable housing, mental health support, and other policies would go far in improving downtown.
I think its really important that in improving Downtown, we dont end up pushing the homeless out and away but instead incorporate them in ways that help get them off the streets and somewhere safe
Move city hall to EWEB building. You will otherwise never hav any city hall. I would never vote funds for it. It has been a mess since the old city hall was torn down instead of being used
eugene is suffering from a breakdown of the local criminal justice system. although it is not popular in the main stream media to talk about or to have a properly functioning criminal justice system, it is imperative to the livability here.
I think that we need to prioritize expanding support for the houseless crisis going on in Eugene. They need housing and support! They need to be prioritized. Mixed use housing also would be so helpful to make housing more affordable and to build safe, connected communities.
As a 20-year-old female, I do not often feel safe Downtown, and living there I would love to access the amenities more so, especially on bike or foot. Still, I feel unsafe doing so due to the lack of safe bicycle infrastructure and the homeless population.
The issue that impacts Downtown the most is illicit drug use, mental health crisis, and crime. If that is addressed, people will feel safer returning to the area.
As a student at the University of Oregon and also being from Oregon and knowing non-students who live in Eugene, affordable housing is really key to helping the community thrive once again.
Allow business, especially restaurants, to open in a timely manner.
I hope that Eugene adopts a housing first approach in order to tackle the homeless crisis.
Everyone should be able to sit and visit in downtown Eugene. Provide more space for sitting. On benches. Create a safe daytime sleep site if necessary.
Go visit Bend and Boise Idaho.
Downtown needs to be a less desirable place to hang out if you aren't engaging in business or community activities. That could mean enforcing a no loitering policy and/or creating other areas for people to just hang out. I'd love to see a no smoking zone for sidewalks and street corners in that area, especially for marijuana..
I would like to see more residential treatment facilities for the unhoused and for those who have mental illnesses.
It is embarrassing to live in a city without a City Hall. A well designed "People's House" would be a draw and a stabilizing influence. It could have dining, evening event spaces, a government library, welcome center and free WiFi. This would encourage people to become interested about, involved with, invested in, and ultimately understand how the city runs. A populace that sees viable evidence of a caring government is less likely to riot.
Create ways to incentivize and support new and young entrepreneurs, e.g., an incubator program, rent subsidies, etc.
The homeless and "travelers" sitting on the sidewalks are the biggest barriers to feeling safe and it's time to get them out of downtown
Bank branches kill vibrant intersections, More mixed-use please
Eugene has the potential to thrive. We need to draw in more people by providing a safe, drug-free, and accessible place. Sometimes roads and sidewalks are block by homeless encampments. You would gain a variety of residents that can contribute to the economy of downtown businesses. But we must feel heard and safe while there.
The city of Eugene needs to stop criminalizing homelessness & displacing the poor. The actions that have been taken to "aid homelessness" have often been inhumane and unjust (sweeps, arrests, etc). We need affordable housing (without strict rules and barriers,) better access to treatment for mental illness & addiction, and most importantly more compassion for our unhoused neighbors.

Just start at the basics. Figure out how to get people health care and mental health care timely. Get some affordable housing and figure out how to get some decent paying jobs around here! Secondarily when events come around, maybe try not to cause businesses around the entire town to suffer so that the public market can thrive.
All of my issues with downtown Eugene are either exacerbated by or are a direct result of the inhumane treatment of homeless people on the part of businesses and law enforcement.
Sizzle Pie shutting down is sad. Opening a bank across the street is terrible, A bank right there in the most visible spot downtown is not welcoming or good for the community. Our downtown is so depressed. There aren't enough stores or restaurants and at night it feels unsafe.
Right now downtown is a place I work and then only visit for specific needs. It would be wonderful to come downtown for a meal then feel comfortable walking around and shopping with my family. Recently my 4 year old and I walked from the library to the parking garage on 7th she was exposed to things that I shouldn't have to explain to a 4 year old. People sleeping in front of store front, Random men were yelling, etc and it didn't feel safe at all for us and it was the middle of the day. I cannot imagine taking her downtown at night and the most unfortunate part of that is, for many months of the year it gets dark at 4pm. I've visited places that are doing it right; Boise has a robust and walkable downtown, Chico had an amazing Thursday night market with live music and vendors and it brought the community together, Nevada City has fun events and great walkability,.
I don't know that this is going to be fixed when so many of the wealthy purses/policy decision makers live in the South Eugene bubble where they can idealize about equity policies downtown and then travel/go to bubble friends homes for their fun. It is wild to me that there is so little to do for college 'kids' and families until I worked serving many in the senior south Eugene population and realized that these are the policy deciders- people who have political policy ideals and weight in decision making but don't actually exist or socialize where they are being implemented- and don't suffer when they are not working. I am have lived here as a single, dating, and now working/married/with young children and am uncomfortable downtown and increasingly avoid it.
Homelessness is not just a downtown problem and the mix of homelessness policies and downtown revival measures is flawed. If you think these are „either or“ then I have low hopes. The survey structure suggests you do.
In my opinion, I think the three biggest problems facing downtown are: 1) Homelessness; 2) Unsafe conditions; 3) Lack of destinations (restaurants, unique shops, bars, etc). The immediate priorities need to be finding a housing solution for those without stable housing and provide them with health, addiction and basic life services so they don't go back onto the street, and then increasing safety parameters, including both non-law and law enforcement, brighter street lights, and cameras. Many residents do not visit downtown because they feel unsafe and there are too many homeless people. Once those issues are prioritized, then I think more businesses will want to open up a storefront downtown.
A downtown 24/7 service center for people without stable housing would go along way to promote mental well being, provide greater access to services (including basic care), and would give people a feeling that they are cared for.
Eugene should be commended for efforts to improve areas of downtown: you do try. Bringing residents to downtown is contingent on housing that's affordable with some market rate, but not all market rate. Residents will help attract businesses that hire & service them, like grocery stores (not just Whole Foods). As for the homeless that hang out & live on the streets, they are a significant hindrance to solving downtown's problems. I guess housing options for them is part of the solution, although I'm not sure. I'm more certain social & mental health services are important. Living on the streets is a symptom of deeper problems. One more thought on housing: Eugene doesn't need more market rate housing in general. And beware of developers saying projects won't pencil out, or pleading for tax relief. If there wasn't a market here, they wouldn't be here in the first place.
I am not likely to bring guests downtown- looks seedy and “owned” by derelicts and street people. I don't like the term homeless because 90% of the streetpeople are there by lifestyle choices or mental health issues.
LCC (and LCC students) needs to be present, active, & engaged at every downtown event, meeting, & solution.
It's tragic that we allow so many people to live in inhumane conditions on our streets. I understand that this is not a problem that our City can solve on our own, but I think it's crucial that we have sufficient housing and drug/alcohol and mental health services in our community.
It has become impossible to walk with a family downtown or attempt to run a business downtown. Vandalism, theft, complete lawlessness has turned this beautiful city into a hellscape.
Please create three categories for projects: Act Now (1-3 months), Act Soon (3-6 months), Act Future (6mo-1 year) if changes cannot happen in one year then clearly our City Council is the problem.

It is very hard to work at a business downtown. Daily we deal with human waste, needles, and garbage on our property. We report car campers over and over and no one responds. We feel abandoned.
Provide secure, attended bike parking with plug ins for e-bikes.
Downtown EUG has so much potential, but my wife is scared to go alone. It is generally just unpleasant to be downtown at almost any hour of the day. Swift measures should be taken.
Thanks for opening up the process. It's difficult task, one constantly being worked on since before my arrival in 1976.
Do you address the causes (homelessness in greater Eugene, mental illness, high rents for businesses, poor parking/access) or the symptoms (lack of storefronts/destinations, lack of events, congregating homeless population)? Looking at this same issue over the last 30-40+ years I would say that DT Eugene is not set up right on its grid. There are quaint walkable neighborhoods in Portland that achieve high volume traffic with boutique storefront businesses and cafes. There is block after block of thriving restaurants and shops in DT Olympia. I have never seen DT Eugene thrive. The streets seem narrow. The shop facades are usually hard to identify what is behind them. There is almost always some disenfranchised mentally ill person yelling to the sky or berating passers-by. The colors are drab and gray (flower baskets aside). Why would anyone want to go there? I want Monet and instead I get Dali.
I work downtown and live near downtown and no longer feel safe walking downtown. In the past I have frequented downtown, but now it is dirty, stinky, and unsafe. I am actually considering moving to another neighborhood. I think that the council and city planners should take an active role in deciding what businesses go downtown in addition to making it clean and safe. For instance, how was Buy 2 approved to occupy a prime location downtown. In my opinion, when that store opened up it signaled the beginning of the end for downtown. I am hopeful and invested in that not being the case, but I do think Buy2 needs to be removed. Thank you for your hard work and for putting this survey together.
Non-law enforcement programs need to be implemented completely separately from the Eugene police department.
Downtown is an asset to be grown. Low income housing is needed, but in no way should it be downtown. Make people feel safe, keep it clean and provide incentives for developers to build market rate housing to bolster tax revenues (like for health and addiction services...) and incentives (with clear sunsets) for restaurants and retailers to invest in downtown
Just because people want to be in the area does not necessarily mean they should be allowed to be in the area. inclusivity, sure. Inclusivity includes Responsibility! If you want to be a part of a society, you should have to BE a part of that society. Same rules, same consequences. Don't follow the rules, suffer the consequences. Enforce existing laws.
I have lived in several cities the past few decades. Eugene is the best at providing homeless facilities, services, and housing. Yet camps and vehicle break-ins (mine twice now) and crime continues. Any solution is not going to be MORE services, outreach, and money to homeless programs (Cahoots, addiction services, temp housing, etc.). Focus should be on the people who live and work here and police. There are more than enough homeless services at present.
Look at what works and replicate it. Vibrant activity occurs where there is a plentiful mix of retail and restaurants and the ability to provide a controlled and safe environment. How do you get to full street level occupancy of retail and restaurants with a well-lit, clean and safe controlled environment? That's what downtown once provided with dept store anchors and infill in between. That product is provided at 5th St, Oakway, VR, Shoppes at Gateway and downtown Springfield (closer than ever, anyway). If you want downtown Eugene to be vibrant and patronized in that way, there is a demonstrated pathway. It needs to include street level space leasing in a robust and somewhat coordinated way, probably with incentives to mitigate risk to small businesses at least for an initial lease period. Success likely requires a sense of security and mitigation of personal risk relative to volatile behaviors currently demonstrated regularly by addicted and mentally ill people. I think everyone feels compassion, but also uncertainty and personal risk around people who appear and behave in unpredictable ways. You also need to get workers back into downtown office space. Their patronage is essential for restaurants and downtown retail.
I think this is one of those "push polls" trying to get people to say what they want is more services to the homeless. What I want to see is accountability for the money already spent. I loved Eugene when I got here. I now think it is a dangerous place to live and has corrupt local government and a "helping class" that sucks up the money that was meant to serve people who live lives of poverty and desperation. And, yes, I am planning to move elsewhere.
I would love to go to a wide variety of restaurants and cabarets near the barmuda triangle, but am deterred by feeling unsafe at night. Problems at WOW hall area are also a huge deterrent.

Until people feel safe visiting downtown, private investment will not happen. Increasingly, businesses do not feel being downtown is viable. One can only see what is happening in downtown Portland to see what is occurring in Eugene. Perception is reality and the city needs to get more proactive in making downtown be and feel safe.
Create a team effort healthy culture of welcome , pleasantness and security.
Housing, housing, housing. All the rest will solve itself
Affordable, stable housing is a key factor to fixing many of Eugene's issues. People want to blame addiction and mental health but there are numerous cities throughout the US that have significantly higher addiction problems but they don't have the homelessness problem we do. This is largely because housing isn't affordable here. There also needs to be greater police presence and follow through on the laws we have on the books.
Is there a viable way to motivate owners of vacant buildings to quickly convert those buildings into mixed-use, including middle-income and low-income housing and the services people need, including a grocery store? As an interim while that is being developed, can the owner receive some kind of incentive to open the spaces for emergency shelters? It would take cooperation from zoning regulations, the fire marshal, insurance companies, etc. And require the people who are housed there to make some kind of effort to participate - paying some amount in money or sweat equity, helping each other, or participating in some other way as they work to build up savings or skills to get back on their feet.
While I support densifying the downtown core, I believe the the scale of building heights and masses to the width of sidewalk/pedestrian zones is wrong. Pedestrian zones should be wider than they have been allowed on recent new developments in the downtown. It would appear that SOME setback should be maintained vs ZERO setback
I work in downtown Eugene every weekday and I am not safe walking to my car to go home at night. Homeless people/criminals with mental issues continue to walk our lot, break into our hotel guests' cars and our and employees and guests feel unsafe. Homeless/Mental come into our workplace and disrupt, yell and take breakfast and market items. Our hotel guests feel unsafe. This is driving guests to post negative comments about our hotel on all social media outlets about the Eugene area.
It has been tough to justify having an office in downtown/ Eugene. We do not feel safe being present at night. Theft has been rampant (my vehicle was vandalized/total loss). Drug use is open and I do not feel comfortable bringing my family to my office/downtown. Customers would prefer to not meet at our office (broadway). This is a hinderance to business and may result in our re location and many other businesses. I am eager to see downtown come to life in a healthy and positive way. Where everyone is welcome in a safe and respectful manner.
It was more vibrant and safe before 1970 when the original downtown Eugene Mall was built and most of the existing buildings in Eugene were razed and streets became sidewalks.
Increase pedestrian level of comfort and decrease number of vehicles driving through downtown. Not a full street closure of the downtown but an improvement of the system by decreasing through vehicles and increasing pedestrian connection and safety.
as a business owner located downtime, the homeless situation is untenable. the current environment is absolutely not safe (let alone inviting) for our employees, clients, or those living on the sidewalk outside our entrance.
It's weird that we don't have an art gallery that is as amazing as our library.
As a new community member to Eugene, and someone who considers themselves able to get connected pretty quickly in a new community, I have found it hard to know where the restaurants and stores are so that I can make some quick stops over a lunch hour. I really want to support the local businesses, but sometimes it takes me 15 minutes just to figure out what restaurants are still open from the downtown map I use. I have also come to realize that there are restaurants and store fronts that I have walked by dozens of times without even know they were there, so better signage would really help. I have found in other communities that events like hot chocolate crawls (or beer or wine) is a great way to get people downtown to check out places they might not otherwise know exist. I do think the art walks do this as well, but there might be other demographics of the population that would come downtown for different types of events. Finally, since moving here, I haven't really had a reason to bring my family downtown (with the exception of the Riverfront Festival - but that isn't in the downtown). I think the library is a good draw - but for someone who lives close to one of the satellite sites, going downtown isn't necessary. Has there been any talk about moving the Children's Museum downtown - or another kid-friendly attraction like that? Maybe add a splashpad downtown somewhere? We did get downtown for the Halloween event...but it didn't really get us in any of the businesses, so my family still hasn't really fully experienced the downtown after living here for nearly 6 months.

Increasing affordable housing and low-entry housing for the unhoused will increase public safety. Increasing affordable housing will also decrease homelessness because people on the cusp of homelessness will have housing options affordable to them. Providing low-entry affordable housing and housing first programs will increase the safety of all residents and visitors to Eugene, make the city cleaner, and lead to a more vibrant downtown and more commercial activity.
My wife does not feel safe going there, particularly at night. Homelessness and bad behavior drives away shoppers and diners, which means less people walking around, which means less safe, etc. I have not seen police on the beat for some time.
nothing said about financing anything
Free parking, no loitering allowed
The destination "hubs" currently feel spread out. As a newer resident of Eugene, I feel like I need to get into my car to go from place to place. It feels disconnected, and there aren't enough attractive businesses or destinations tying it all together.
As a business owner downtown, public safety and accessibility are top priorities!
Difficult to take toddler downtown after sundown - should be safer!
I love downtown. I live 10 blocks from Willamette Street on purpose so I can bike or walk most anywhere I need to go. I use downtown businesses and bike through downtown at least twice a day, if not more. Because of the unhoused issue, many folks I know who live elsewhere avoid downtown so that needs to be dealt with in a humane way. I volunteer with the Egan Centers and see the struggle and mental illness of that population. Those folks cannot just be swept under the rug or sent elsewhere—we need programs to provide reasonable housing and mental health care. Other cities manage to do this and it ultimately saves money and lives.
Lay off all the City's economic development policy makers who failed in last 4 decades and hire young educated skilled leaders. Old policy makers are very inefficient and their policies are outdated.
Eugene would greatly benefit from missing middle housing. The downtown also has huge gaps where it feels unsafe because there are no business or only one type of business that all close early. In order for streets to feel safe parking lots and other gaps should be filled with single story mixed use that maintains the character of the city while creating more housing supply and accessible restaurants and businesses. The construction of fewer highrises and using this growth instead to fill in gaps in the downtown would make the city more safe and walkable.
We were just in downtown Springfield and felt it was significantly more safe and welcoming than the Eugene downtown area.
If you clean up and move out the addicts and homeless, much will improve in the other noted areas.
We do not need more police in Eugene.
For 20+ years downtown has been plagued by the real and perceived inundation with harassing or camped individuals and groups and the lack of rest spots, public restrooms, and trash bins for the larger public, which impels visitors to drive and go to specific destinations. This is counter to other goals embedded in this survey and to CAP2.0, Vision Zero, and other livability, economic, and image goals. Downtown centric safe places and services for those in need with consistent non-police advocacy for a clean and welcoming downtown needs to be coordinated with enhanced bike/ped access/experience and focus on local merchants and services to fulfill all resident needs in a 20 minute neighborhood.
The wa/Jeff skatepark is an amazing park. As a mother of 3 boys who live on their bikes it is a major disappointment that we cannot safely enjoy this space. The park could be a great attraction if managed correctly, especially during the rainy seasons as it is the only covered skatepark. It would be great to see more youth events and competitions at this park, vendors and food trucks.
Homelessness and mental health issues are the biggest issues downtown and it's been like that for many years. There needs to be a much bigger effort and solution that helps these people get off the streets and get treatment/assistance with opportunities to improve their situation. It would be extremely beneficial to the individuals and the community as a whole.
Until we get control of the homelessness issue in Eugene I see little chance of positive growth or prosperity. People can't afford the current home rent levels. I have met many very nice people that are homeless. No matter how nice a person is, once they are forced out onto the street it is a matter of time before most of them develop mental health issues. Sleep deprivation, poor diet, and the stress of constant fear can turn anyone into a drug addict, alcoholic, or both in no time at all.

I know this is a complex problem that can't be fixed overnight but am frustrated. There are several service's we have available such as 310 and 410 Garfield, Conestoga sleep sites, the mission, Eugene service station, Dusk to dawn and the two housing first building such as the commons. There are a multitude of services to assist with mental health but with minimal consequences for actions, unchecked substance abuse there is little hope for these services to help. Is there public data on the number of homeless people in the city? Is there data on the number of beds available through all the services? I understand this is a National as well as local issue but the homeless issue doesn't look like it's representative to the population size of our community. It seems like the enforcement and rules regarding the Unhoused activity around the city aren't keeping up with the problem.
I have lived here my entire 45 years of being alive and our downtown, no matter what the mayor/city council does has always attracted drug addicts and homeless people. I didn't think our downtown could get worse but I have never seen it so bad in my life. Nothing will change, unless we actually start holding people accountable for their actions, and, make it a safe and welcoming place to go. I would never take my family down there at night time.
Let's stop talking and taking surveys and waiting for public opinion, just do something. Try something. All we do is spend time talking and spending money without any real action.
Los income family housing is desperately needed
Our city must do significantly more for our unhoused. In a way our city has sinned against our poor and house less and our city and citizens if privilege must repent and make things right.
I mostly go downtown for appointments in large buildings or to take kids to the library. There are often crazy people yelling obscenities. It's very hard to see spending any time downtown as a family. We love the alley and the 5th street market though. It almost feels like the city has just opted to let a private company take the management of that part of downtown while jettisoning the rest. That area works well and should be the model for what people want downtown.
Over the last 20 years efforts to improve the downtown have failed, while at the same time Oakway Center and 5th Street Market have become successful areas for Eugenians to gather, shop, and eat. People would go to downtown to do these things if they felt safe and businesses would be successful. Unless you deal with the crime and homeless issues you are wasting time and money investing in downtown.
Stop spending money on renovations and improvements when the main improvements have to do with GETTING THE HOMELESS AND TRANSIENTS OUT OF OUR CITY! Renovate all you want, if you dont tackle the homeless problem swiftly and aggressively whatever improvements you make will get shit on by the existing homeless and transient population. Take care of that, then maybe we can talk about renovations.
I used to love the Eugene Celebration when the city ran it. If more events like this happened, maybe every month or quarter at the least, it could bring people back downtown. Corvallis seems to have it together with their downtown atmosphere, shopping, restaraunts, etc.
Locals do not like going downtown. I had a storefront at 8th and Willamette and moved to 5th Street. Local business increased significantly. Rent was too high to offset the business risk at the location. Spaces are too big for people to take a business risk. They need to be subdivided. A lot of theft at downtown location with no action by police. Problems with homeless at downtown location.
Build a actual city hall. Or buy the eweb building.
It's unsafe downtown. The homeless and street life are violent verbally and physically and pooping on the street regularly. Bringing in businesses before that's taken care of is backwards.
Just to repeat: we have been trying the ideas in this survey for decades with no meaningful change because downtown isn't the problem, our societal disconnection , national policies not based on long term cause and effect, and habit of dumping our social problems on public safety and public schools without adequately supporting them are the problem.
A vibrant downtown is the bedrock of all other civic progress. Whatever your eventual priorities, downtown should come first. Moving the police station across the river was, I think, a mistake. We should evaluate where we are delivering services in the city. As long as downtown is struggling, services for people in crisis should be delivered elsewhere. We had a person beaten to death on an LTD bus and the city has said & done nothing. The city should concentrate on city problems first.
Before the city grants any more property tax waivers, do followup on the existing waivers to see if the builder has complied with the conditions, i.e. affordable residences.
Find a way to solve the problem of people sleeping and defecating on the sidewalks

Downtown should be a place for people to gather and enjoy! Not house the unhoused, be abused by dangerous dogs, inhale the smell of urine and we should not have to step over passed out people to buy a family gift!!
The downtown area could be a destination place if not for the fact that it feels unsafe. My 13 year old daughter went to the movies downtown last weekend with a friend. They wanted to hangout after, get dinner, etc. We decided against it. 1 because of all of the unstable people that hang out downtown, 2 it's a ghost town so if they did run into trouble who would help them, 3 there's nothing open for kids her age to do. So sad, it could be an awesome place for family and friends to get together. Think 5th street plaza, but not so uppity. :-)
New Years Eve celebration used to be fun. Monthly Art Walks are nice.
Many unhoused share psych disorders, getting them help and off the streets is the only way to help. Funds are stretched thin I'm sure. We pay taxes and would love to see the funds used for these folks. Those that can help themselves who are littering our city should be moved along, but not until they clean every piece of trash and crap they leave behind. Maybe be part of a cleanup program since they are able to physically function and do drugs all day. Why should I help those lazy people who can be part of the solution.
Remove or clean up abandoned cinder-bloc, graffiti - covered building at corner of Olive & 6th (across from Hult center garage,). Has been in this condition for more than a year.
Support infrastructure that promotes healthy lifestyle, encourage walking, healthy food stores/restaurants, encourage vegetable gardens. Suggest being involved in the Blue Zone project.
bright lighting and annoying music did not work to dissuade street folks...continue to attract businesses that stay open after 5:00 p.m.
Affordable studio spaces for artists and people with various practices. That would bring people downtown and have an energy of creativity and expansion- learning, growth, being up to something! I have a cello studio that I would love to have downtown and I simply could never afford to rent the space to have a studio. That's the case for most people in Eugene, particularly artists.
Market Rate and mixed income housing is also important for a vital downtown; however, there must be a great environment that will have people want to stay and engage in life downtown. What draws people? And had people wanting to return and participate? I live on E 2nd ave and I'm not interested in spending time downtown. However, the one thing that has me come downtown up to three to four times a week is my Chiropractors and Pilates classes because it's a great space that tends to my health and well being. Or when I, as musician every so often have a gig downtown. Which is rare. There aren't really any venues these days other than the Cow fish or Cafe Perugino OR the Saturday market where live music can be played. That's a HUGE missing for our downtown: the LACK of live music and venues for live music!! A diversity of great live music has a city be vital. Eugene has SO many fine musicians - it's kind of ridiculous and yet the spaces aren't available. Years ago Davises had live music. The Moroccan restaurant had live music, and now that's just not happening. Except for at some of the bars. Which is not family friendly and many people aren't interested in attending. Thank you SO much for taking the time to read this (: Who doesn't want a vital beautiful connected and inspiring downtown?? Where people from all over the world when they visit really experience abundance, creativity, connection, beauty, joy, inspiration and transformation.
Good to focus on service for the homeless but we will always have some who will never access those services and will continue to be a problem downtown. Need a solution for them. Hate to get to this point....but time to consider where/how to house the mentally ill who refuse treatment.
It would be great to connect downtown and the new expansion over at inn at the fifth. It would be nice to walk over the street by the Hult center. The area around the bus station needs some rejuvenation.
Eugene is too attractive to the homeless and/or challenged individuals. Have them register like they do for food stamps and use the program to limit and direct resources in our community in efficient and coordinated manner so that abuses are minimized.
I understand that one of the reasons we lost Sizzle Pie was because Eugene would not get a handle on the loitering and mentally ill unhoused issue downtown; that has to be the first step or else all other strategies will have less chance of success.
Downtown looks drab and dark. It needs more life and more creative shops that speak to more than the upper class. Affordable housing in the area would provide an increase in shoppers. It needs a variety of shops that are not gentrified. Affordable storefront rental for new small businesses.

Walking in downtown Eugene gives one the impression of being in an open-air insane asylum. Two main things keep people homeless. Drug addiction and mental illness. Drug addiction leads directly to property crime. Jail is a good place for the criminals. No, it doesn't rehabilitate, it gets them off the street for a period of time, the more serious the offense, the longer the period of time. The longer period of time, the longer the addicts can stay clean. Liberal policies, like decriminalizing possession of the worst drugs like cocaine and heroin and other so-called "harm reductions" are not working. How about the city start considering how to improve the quality of life for law-abiding tax payers and get its focus out of the gutter, literally. The mentally ill need compassion and a place where they are REQUIRED to live. Tax payers have rights to a quality of life that supersedes someone's right of freedom to wander the streets searching garbage cans for their next meal and using business vestibules as their bathrooms. The mentally ill need something like a halfway house with limited outings for the residents. I guarantee you it will cost the city less and more importantly be more humane. Until you do this, people will continue to feel unsafe coming downtown, and any other improvements are a waste of money.
Downtown has suffered from the effects of the pandemic - businesses not surviving etc. feel the perception of non safety is just that - a perception - more people and activities, more businesses, plus more shelter space for the unhoused would go a long way to solve this.
It has got to be safe. Get the street people out of the area. We need to be compassionate and make people be responsible for themselves. Too many freebies and handouts attracts more people who just want to bum around.
We need to have a place other than jails or hospitals to deal with people that have mental health issues.
COE can benefit from utilize existing law enforcement resources, and allocating additional specialized law enforcement details to help enforce excessive loitering, open drug use, graffiti and theft. Law enforcement can also work with other social services agencies to coordinate service for those who want it, but should enforce existing laws for those who prefer to reject services and continue to create a nuisance. Business owners, and their employees and patrons have the right to enjoy a safe and clean downtown.
A big hindrance from engaging in activities in Eugene is the \$15 cover for seemingly every live event in Downtown/the Whitaker
When we moved to Eugene in 2017 we quickly realized it was on a cusp. We are now invested in this town and still hope the situation can be turned around, but we fear it is slipping the other way. Please do what is needed to make Eugene a safe and inviting place, we cannot be the next Portland.
I know this is a difficult subject and that if the answers were easy, the City would have found a solution by now. It's also easier for me to sit in the comfort of my home and write in about my frustrations, but I write as a mother of 2 young children who works downtown and who often doesn't feel safe walking to and from my office. I also don't feel comfortable taking my children downtown unless it is to a specific destination - Saturday Market, Hult Center, etc. My child takes dance class downtown and the studio doesn't feel safe there either and must ask a security guard to parole more frequently during the evening hours to ensure the children are safe walking to and from class. While I appreciate the City's efforts to acknowledge this particular problem and engage with the community, I also don't think it is our job to "come up with the answers" or even to pretend that we know what steps would be most effective to help solve the problem. Isn't that where our elected leaders seek out national and international precedents, published studies, and other experts within the field to come up with an actionable plan? Perhaps this is happening and shame on me for not knowing what steps the city is taking in this specific challenge of an unsafe and problematic downtown (covid didn't help either). As a resident of Eugene, I am ready to the City to present a path forward instead of another survey to gather thoughts.
I think using the model of a similar city which has immensely grown the downtown in the past 20 years, Boise, Idaho, could be very beneficial. similar size, university, riverfront with green belt, active diverse city, with attention to open spaces, walkable, bikeable
Downtown will never become a lively, attractive center for greater Eugene until we solve the homeless problem and make the area one that is welcoming and safe. We should not consider downtown as a separate problem from the community at large. Once the greater community considers downtown to be a desirable place to be, many of them will wish to live there and the number of residents will naturally increase, which in turn will support more businesses.
When people live in a place, they are more willing to invest in the safety and economic development of that place. The University of Oregon and the City of Eugene have turned a blind eye to the skyrocketing costs of downtown housing, mostly caused by an overemphasis on student housing and white-collar office space. I, for one, work as a Custodian at the UofO, and would welcome the opportunity to live Downtown, where I would not need a car to drive to work. But there is little to do in Downtown, and it is very unsafe and expensive. Until more people move downtown, commercial endeavors will not survive. And people will not move downtown until there is adequate affordable housing and sufficient safety.

I do not desire to spend time downtown because there are not clean or safe places that are fun for family activities or shopping. Businesses will never want to be a part of downtown Eugene if their property is not protected from homeless or vandalism. It is embarrassing to have this area be overtaken by those who are not respectful of personal or public property. Bringing the Ems to the fairgrounds would be a very big mistake if we do not clean this area up first.
Incentives to connect buildings to the public spaces. Covered walkways and more sidewalk dining. More parks and trees.
Stop building all these high rise apartments when People are homeless and mental health issues are a big problem. Stop letting rich people like Mr. Obie get his way about everything cause he is filthy rich this is so wrong. It is sending the wrong message to people who are mixed race and black oh this filthy rich white msn always gets his way and what he wants, and they don't care about us other folk who are LTBQ and black and mixed race. It was stupid to build a space for the farmers market which sits empty several months of the year which could help homeless . Also shame on you city council for tearing down city hall. I am sick and tired of you guys raising taxes lying and not using more for what you say you will, and then come crying for more money cause you miss managed it and pissed it away stupidly when you really should be adding more police mental health stuff and place so we can get these people help and off the stress instead of building high rise apartment with out rages rent wake up and get your head out of your ass this is not brain surgery and our current Mayor is such a whimp at least Kitty made things happen
The city should talk to all the business that have left downtown, Townsend tea, Starbucks, Sizzle pie , Killer burger, and many more. Someone needs to make the hard call and clean up the streets to make downtown for the 1,2,3,4,5 or 6th time, sorry i forget how many times Eugene has tried to "fix" downtown. Downtown was doing well around 2014 to 2017. Building "market rate" housing will not solve downtown homeless problem, maybe ask the homeless what they want? Most shops downtown are not selling goods and services to people that live in "market rate" housing. Why is the 5th street market development prospering while downtown rots? My guess is that it is safe because 5th street staff move along the people that are not productive members of society. Why is Springfields downtown doing so well? No one is getting shot in downtown Springfield. I lived downtown from 2014-2018 at 10th and Lincoln and later at 12th and High, my back yard was White Bird Clinic. We can not sustain the current downtown environment that is only benefiting a few. It is time to clean up the downtown core once again and make it safe for everyone.
The increased police presence makes me feel unsafe. I don't like surveillance or armed patrols. I wont go downtown if it feels like a police state. I also want to mention that the Saturday market is very inaccessible to people in wheelchairs. Try it sometime.
No one actually believes anything they write here will be read or listened to.
Create housing that is mixed-income.
Expand the walk-ability /free busses between different parts of downtown (5th street market, Down to Earth, Smith Family Bookstore, 11th Ave, Willamette Street, etc)
Needs to be safe and clean before adding improvements.
I think EugFun has been doing a great job bringing fun events downtown and they should keep it up! It was discouraging to see that Sizzle Pie closed and is now empty, I had thought that was doing well. More vibrant, locally owned businesses downtown not soulless chains, that would inspire me to go more often. When I go downtown to eat out I go to Party Bar or downtown, they are doing such great work that I believe in. Let's encourage and incentivize more businesses like theirs!
I have been a business owner in downtown Eugene since 1995. The situation with mental illness and drug addiction, including homelessness is out of control. I understand that there are limitations on what the police can actually do but I feel as if the city is turning its back on the situation and allowing it to occur. An increase in police presence I feel would help illuminate problem people. Every day there are people Being disruptive and using alcohol and drugs directly in front of my store. It's very frustrating. Another issue of concern is constant urination and defecation near my building. It's not only disgusting but also a hazard environmentally. Springfield seems to have solved this issue. I understand that the desirability of downtown Springfield is not what it is in Eugene. The city Council and our city government should seriously consider building a jail. Having to hold people accountable and make them pay for their crimes with actual jail time would be a huge incentive to keep on the straight and narrow. Unfortunately, it is my opinion that a large majority of problem, people, downtown or beyond any type of rehabilitation. They have made choices in their life and are now paying for those choices. I also understand that many of these people are mentally unstable, and have lived such a horrible life that they have no choice, but to be homeless. It is sad, but the awful truth is that there are rules in society.
More funding for police and more funding For social services/mental health and addiction services
Not at this time

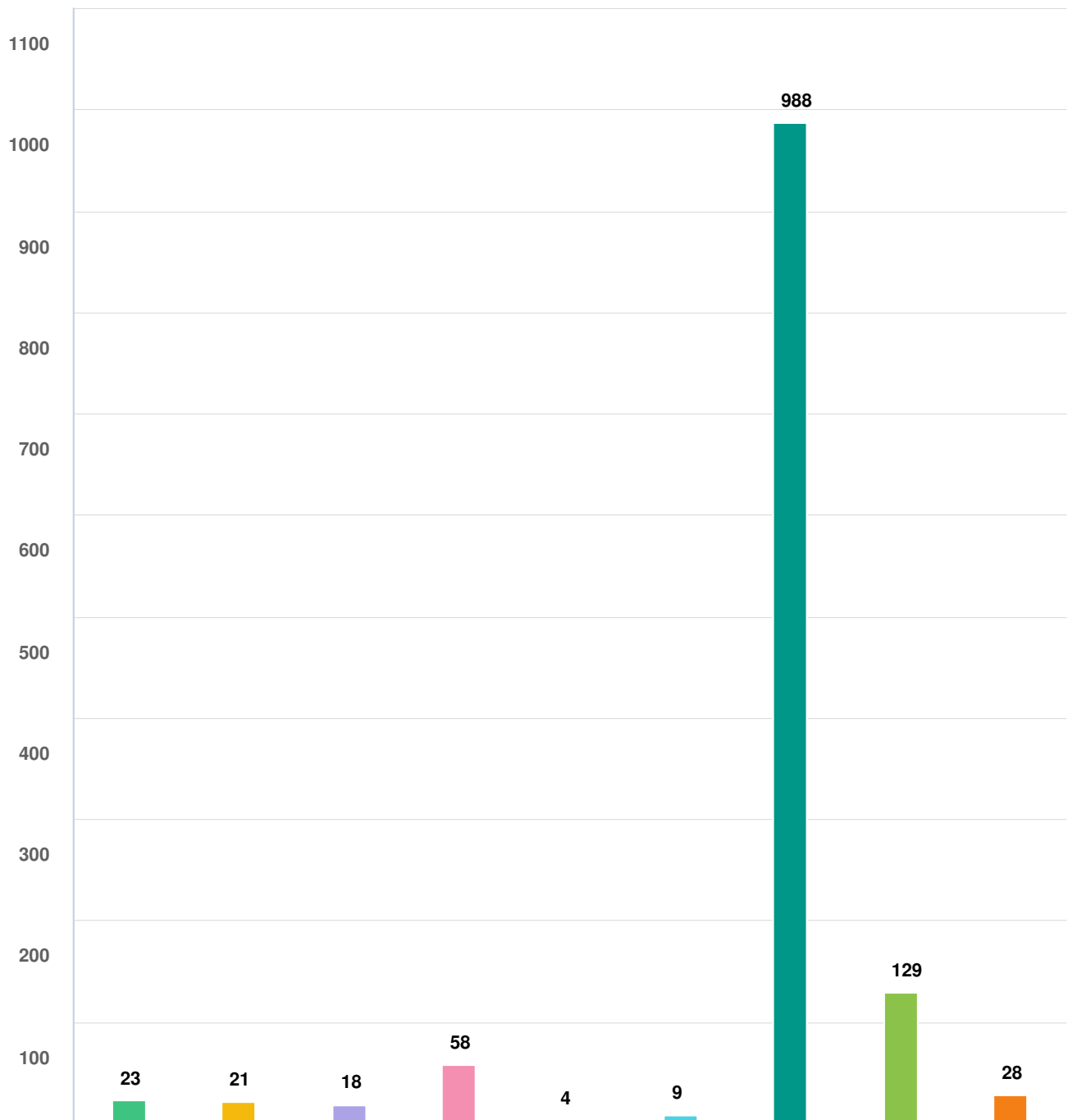
Access to Downtown by bike and walking is soooooo crucial. Bikers and peds spend up to 3 times as much as car drivers. I think the problem with downtown Eugene is that cars are more welcome in the public street space than bikes and peds. This dynamic needs to be reversed to create a more vibrant and safe feeling atmosphere.
The lighting downtown is not great and as a woman it feels unsafe at times.
The environment creates opportunity. Allowing it to degrade will continue the dissolution. I eventually moved my business in 2020 due to people doing drugs in the parking lot, sleeping in the bushes, using the sidewalk as a toilet, breaking windows of my building, intimidating behavior, etc. Clients didn't want to come downtown. Not conducive to professional service work. And it's declined since. Out of state visitors were appalled. In trying to be fair to a few, we wind up alienating the majority.
First make area safe who currently are in the area regularly and help other and/or create boundaries and expectations ... then spend money on making it beautiful. In years I'm never seen the homeless, mental health or transient leave. People may come and go but we always have the concerning people. And the unwanted excitement of their behavior wavers. Eugene's naturally has this gravitation pull that bring settling unsafe clientele to downtown. That's on if the special things about it, but at the same time people who work and live in this area should be frustrated or scared even. Fund the police and cahoots. Restriction of businesses that specifically market towards the support of this behavior.... Shelves stocked full of 40's, kratom and cigarettes.
Allow businesses and cultural institutions to call for help with clearing homeless individuals away from their entry doors and buildings. Patrolling the main downtown to keep people from loitering and setting up camps on the sidewalks...
Downtown small businesses have suffered immensely in the last decade. Empty storefronts, houseless population feeling and being unwelcome downtown with nowhere to go, many local residents fearful of walking downtown. It's big problem that seems to be growing without resolution. The Farmers' Market is finally built and open, but nothing happening there most of the time~ could it become more of a destination? always something interesting presented, diverse, unique to Eugene? lectures, movies or big screen broadcast (e.g. world cup on big screen), live music quartet, choir, etc Interactive attractions to engage ~ a carousel? science museum? covered stage open to seated and walking audience? jugglers, theatre, TedTalk style essays
Utilize public spaces better; ex. new Farmer's Market space could be a nice small venue for concerts.
Downtown is no longer a safe fun place to be, i would really liked to see it turned around
Businesses cannot be expected to remain in downtown if it is not safe. It creates concern among staff and keeps customers away. Any plans or efforts by the city require support via law enforcement to ensure safety. Otherwise, there is no point to investing in programs, events and businesses. The outcome will remain the same.
I want to go downtown and feel safe and not have to step over the homeless to get to where I want to go.
Move the homeless! Maybe require they perform community service (work crews). The last town I lived in had a very successful program of moving them out - they were provided a bus ticket to the next town, and a police officer stayed with them to make sure they left on the bus!
Better use of small spaces for plants and places to sit. Quit painting all the buildings grey and black. Looks like 60's Russian concrete block buildings. Quit having outside builders erect more ugly, ugly cheaply made buildings!!!! Builders don't even live here! Maybe a new city council and/or mayor will help.
Too liberal, rules must be implemented and laws followed by all- including homeless. Dirty, gross and council is polarizing good working contributors and housing providers in favor of homeless, low income, students and anyone council sees as "less fortunate". We are only "more fortunate" because we work hard and follow the rules. When I call police for help, they are unable to help me in favor of the scary homeless person scaring me. It's so bad!
Almost didn't take survey because nothing ever gets done. Start enforcing laws for those breaking laws. Why is it taxpayers would be jailed for same thing these people get away with?? Any drug counselor will tell you that enabling behavior is the worst thing you can do for an addict - so why do we enable??
what happened to the other big plan you all had for the city blocks. seems you create these big plans and fail to follow through for the big picture plans you promise us and only end up catering to a small group of favored individuals that either do not live in Eugene or come here to abuse our kindness and services
Please utilize other cities and states' strategies that work, rather than inventing the wheel. Also, whatever studies are available to explain why this situation is so bad in Eugene, the homelessness and food shortage plus the drug use and mental illness.
The homeless is a major turnoff for going downtown.

Eugene is situated in such a beautiful location in Eugene, and both property owners, students, and visitors should be proud of their City. The homeless situation is very challenging, and I certainly do not have the answer to this increasing problem throughout the United States. Many homeless are Veterans, families with children who cannot afford housing, as well as folks suffering from mental illness and/or addiction (alcohol, drugs, etc.). They need assistance to take steps to improve their situations - so many of the earlier programs to help them get back on their feet were closed due to financial reasons. Families need to feel safe when visiting Downtown Eugene, but presently Downtown is dirty, dismal and frightening to walk around. It is not safe and therefore residents, visitors, students and families are frightened to visit, even during the daytime but especially in the early evening. It saddens me because it was so different and vibrant when I first visited in the late 1970's. We moved here almost 4 years ago from the San Francisco Bay Area for retirement as we have family members who have lived here for many years. But as "senior citizens" with grandchildren, we cannot safely visit down town with those grandchildren. As a woman, I cannot feel safe shopping downtown, looking for parking spaces, and/or walking to and from my car. More community policing might make it safer. Grateful for the survey, and I sincerely hope that the City of Eugene will find some answers, as well as the fortitude and finances to make the needed improvements to ensure safety and our pride for such a lovely City which could use many improvements.
On 2 questions there is a limit of up to 3 answers. I chose 3 & it says I can only select up to 3. Faulty survey!
Clean it up!
The homeless, drug addicted, mentally ill and the criminals in down town have not been willing to abide by any guidelines and be accountable for their behavior. The simple expectation of these groups of people is that they are to be served, demand to be served, with out any willingness to give of themselves.
My husband and I went out just last night, Saturday, to the Oakway Center. We had such a pleasant time walking around shopping, eating etc. . When we got home, we started talking about why we never go downtown for an evening out. It's obvious; it's just not safe and pleasant. When you go to 5th street market, or Oakway, you feel your in a family friendly, safe, lively environment. There aren't groups of teens doing drugs, or homeless people camping out. You can't feel safe walking around shopping and having dinner, drinks etc. when there's people harassing you, or behaving in dangerous unpredictable ways. The police need to be able to control the vagrancy in downtown Eugene, so that the residents and visitors to Eugene are able to enjoy it. 1/8 of the population is keeping the rest of the population away. And it's not right to the businesses that are struggling so hard to create a vibrant downtown. The City of Eugene must allow the police to create a wholesome and safe environment downtown. Then, we can talk about the investments needed to enhance the aesthetics, and foot traffic flow of the downtown. But there's no point in talking about upgrading parks and facilities downtown, until the homelessness and vagrancy problems are solved. It's that simple.
Until there is action taken against all the vagrant and homeless, downtown will suffer.
Please visit other areas in the country and see that nice towns are not ran by druggies. Go to Virginia or North Carolina and you will see. I know there is a law that you cant ban camping without providing a bed. Well rent an old warehouse and stack it full of cots tight enough where they are uncomfortable and see how many homeless just leave the area.. And stop the drugs from our community...We recently moved from River rd to Veneta to get away from it... Even though we are in town most days for various reasons. I guess you are going to let all the bums keep running the city until its complete chaos before doing anything.
If we are going to invest in renovations and cleaning spaces up we should simultaneously invest in things (housing and mental health services) so that we aren't spending money only to have beautiful spaces trashed over and over again. For example, trash is an issue, simultaneously cleaning up AND creating a keep Eugene clean campaign that offers more trash and recycling bins as well as building community pride around keeping our beautiful city clean.
- Grant subsidies to businesses and commercial property owners to ensure that businesses prosper- The "Block Party" in Eugene needs to be better organized, as the one in Springfield was much better this summer, so that it can be enjoyed by all. There is a lack of promotion on social media. Do outreach to make participation more inclusive and diverse. That is, not only advertise on facebook but connect with organizations of all kinds to help promote. Publish an agenda of events, i.e., a map of activities that specifies schedules. Events should be organized monthly and have an annual calendar.- The police should not be increased but there should be a balance in the way the police do their job, they should not stop cyber-monitoring but there should also be a presence of the authorities in the events.
I am very concerned about encountering people carrying guns on the streets. I have small children who want to go out on the weekends. I would like to feel more confident and safe to be able to take my children to events that the city organizes for families. I would like to see more security such as gun detectors at events. I would also like to have drinking water and bathrooms available at all the events so that I don't have to drive children back home before the party is over because they want to go to the bathroom.
Invest in cleaning the streets and more garbage cans. There should be drinking water available and more bathrooms on every other street around the Downtown area.

Next to the bus station they need to set up an information center for homeless people or day labors (job seekers per day)
<p>The above responses would make downtown more welcoming to all, especially to older people and children. We own a house on Broadway not far West of our City Counsel rep and we are walkers. We fully enjoy the entertainment options downtown, including subscribing to several series at The Hult, subscribing to the O.C.T., attending frequent music events at the Jazz Station and several of the local bars, and we fully support the remaining restaurants we walk to multiple times per week. We also walk to the bus station to attend University of Oregon athletic events, and we walk to the library, and we just walk, walk, walk and we remain more active than most. We are thrilled that we are able to do so. Many times, we walk with our near 90-year-old mother/mother-in-law and with our underage grandchildren to go to these places. Many times (or actually, most times), we run into some issue when walking with these relatives to get them out for fun. It always stinks on the sidewalks (especially in a couple of known spots), and we almost always encounter a mentally-ill person behaving inappropriately (yelling, swearing inappropriate language, blocking the sidewalk alone or with others) who sometimes, though not nearly always, is with a group of people likely on drugs spewing foul language who assist in blocking the sidewalk, especially in the same (easily-addressed?) spots we always encounter them. I read in the New York Times this week about new steps Mayor Adams of New York City is taking to remove these people to get them to treatment, and the same article referenced new steps being taken in Washington State and by the governor of California. We can try some of these steps. We do not need more apartment buildings, although they may help, as much as more comprehensive facilities which would be more cost effective to get these people help with mental health, drugs, and a place to stay at night in a GROUP setting. These solutions, by the way, do not have to be downtown, a place which could be a destination for all for shopping, eating, and entertainment. During my long life, I learned that you had to work to be able to live in the best areas, and until you got to that point, you could live in an area which would serve as a stepping stone to that better place. There is plenty of room at the community college and in other places with more vacant land as one drives away from downtown where real estate is cheaper. Let us address the issues of the homeless people and the mentally ill people, and make downtown more welcoming to all, especially older, frail people and young people out with their families, by selecting the most effective 4 (not just the limit of "3" above) proposed steps, which could really be boiled down to 3 steps: 1. "Provide more behavioral health and addiction services THROUGHOUT Eugene" (not just downtown), 2. "Provide shelters and services for people without stable housing THROUGHOUT Eugene" (not just downtown), 3. "Increase police presence and law enforcement in Downtown" (and throw in another proposed step above the augmenting these steps with that 4th step, "Expand non-law enforcement programs that enhance public safety", which really is an inherent part of the mental health step and the law enforcement step. Another key: I found out about this opportunity for public input as part of a random article I spotted in the Register-Guard, a rag I do not routinely bother to take the 2 minutes it now takes to read this woefully cropped iteration of its former self (and a publication thousands have recently cancelled and stopped receiving). The availability of public input should be made by way of a public mailing or at public kiosks or handed out to people walking downtown in the near future so more ideas or confirmation of existing ideas can be provided by more people. Another step which should be taken, which was not provided as an option above, would be to pass an ordinance (easily done) to make sitting or lying or sleeping on sidewalks illegal. It is easier to move out of other's way if you are standing. Such an ordinance would not inhibit the rights of citizens to congregate and to freely associate. Homeless people and mentally ill people taking advantage of these new steps can then be welcome to come downtown to take advantage of the entertainment, food, and other features downtown can then better provide to all and, as George Jefferson said in the old sitcom, they can then be "movin' on up!" and we can have much safer and more pleasant experiences.</p>
People like Tom Kamis (The Davis) are essential to a successful downtown.
I am a progressive liberal, but I don't understand why we allow homeless/drug addicts to set up camps anywhere they want. Safe places have been created for them, at great expense and now it's time to move them to those spaces so the public can enjoy the taxpayer-supported spaces.
Evict Diamond.
<p>People are openly doing drugs, selling drugs and making downtown feel very unsafe. Just walk through the alleys and streets.</p> <p>No hope without much higher police presence and taking drugs off the streets.</p>
Own home close to downtown, worked in downtown businesses my whole life.
<p>Cap height of new buildings</p> <p>LEED certified buildings</p> <p>renovate older buildings instead of tearing down</p>
<p>More art and music Incentives for organizations to serve community Tall apartments close to sidewalk are bad, overpriced More quirky shops, Eugene celebration</p>
<p>Would like more storefronts to browse.</p> <p>More police wont solve problems, invest in resources like cahoots</p>
Add human powered illuminated parade route, art walk, BEAM. Map/route included on paper

Create a unified vibrant downtown, add more lighting
Live downtown, don't feel safe walking
Ride the bus Love downtown, would pay more taxes "I would vote to raise my taxes to help downtown thrive"
Not comfortable after dark Make developers pay full rate for their projects stop subsidizing with tax abetments Use MX, support special events and regular events downtown such as Saturday market Concerned about graffiti and panhandling
More support for nontraditional housing models: co-ops, community land trusts, etc
new in town, want to be involved in community events and local solutions
Prioritize non vehicle traffic encourage growth and lively street atmosphere downtown, specifics on written map
doesn't feel safe, needs more lighting traffic improvements and help for unhoused
Parking lots need improvements in the center of downtown
Wants free parking
More free parking, or cheaper parking per hour
Blatant drug use, homeless everywhere
have lived in cities such as LA and New York, have never felt as unsafe as downtown Eugene
More community focused events
(Review the study they did for public safety in the Center. Do not invest in what has already been done). (Create an effective TRIAGE (Community Service Officer, Police Officer and Neighborhoods Associations) collaboration to identify safety areas, development opportunities and accessibility locations. Also taking into account public safety). (Eliminate observation towers as they just intimidate people. Have officers walk around and connect with all downtown users including merchants.) (Ensure that all attached neighborhoods have the same program as they only transfer problems to other areas of Eugene, examples of neighborhoods attached to downtown: Friendly Neighborhoods, Rose Garden, etc.) (To have in place specific programs for behavior norms in downtown without neglecting civil and human rights). (That all City Councilors walk downtown accompanied by TRIAGE to learn about and identify issues and opportunities to connect directly with all the people who use the center.) (That the Major demands all the Neighborhood Associations to get involved and execute their role.)
If people who have nowhere to go had a shelter or a center where they received food and services, we wouldn't have so many in the church or in the library solely because they have nowhere to take refuge from the inclement weather.
(Emergency alarms to warn people of public dangers such as environmental pollution, earthquakes, kidnappings, robberies, or any other situation of violence or danger that may affect the community.)
(1. Keep bicycles in a perimeter outside pedestrian areas. 2. The housing they are building is very ugly and cheap, it encourages downtown to become one big slum (Hovel). Better to build town houses, even if they are tiny but well made wooden houses that are individual units.)
I am a user of the library and I always see a lot of homeless people. I think they should have their own care center in Downtown so that they are given the proper services for them and not use the library as a shelter.
I am a musician, and if I want to play music in the street, the Eugene government won't let me, but they do allow mentally ill people with inappropriate behavior to shout profanities in the street. - I don't agree with parking tickets, as they affect business owners in the long run. The downtown space is too small to have so many demands on visitors. I know what people think because I have been a cab driver and have talked to over 4 thousand customers in 5 years. People communicate to me that they leave the city disappointed because of the filth, the dangers, the poor safety, and the lack of fun and entertainment. - This is an old fashioned hippie town that has no style or character, the rules are conservative when the city presumes to be progressive. They do not make room for new ideas. They want to impose rules of a modern metropolis city when we barely have 165,000 inhabitants. We need to recreate the style and character of our city. - Support small and micro-entrepreneurs so that they can move their business forward and not put barriers to the development of these businesses. Like sending them to other cities like the coast or small towns to start their business because permits are restricted in Eugene. Another example is that they don't allow you to set up a table with your merchandise, which needs to be on the floor. It's a ridiculous rule since customers don't bend down to look at the merchandise.

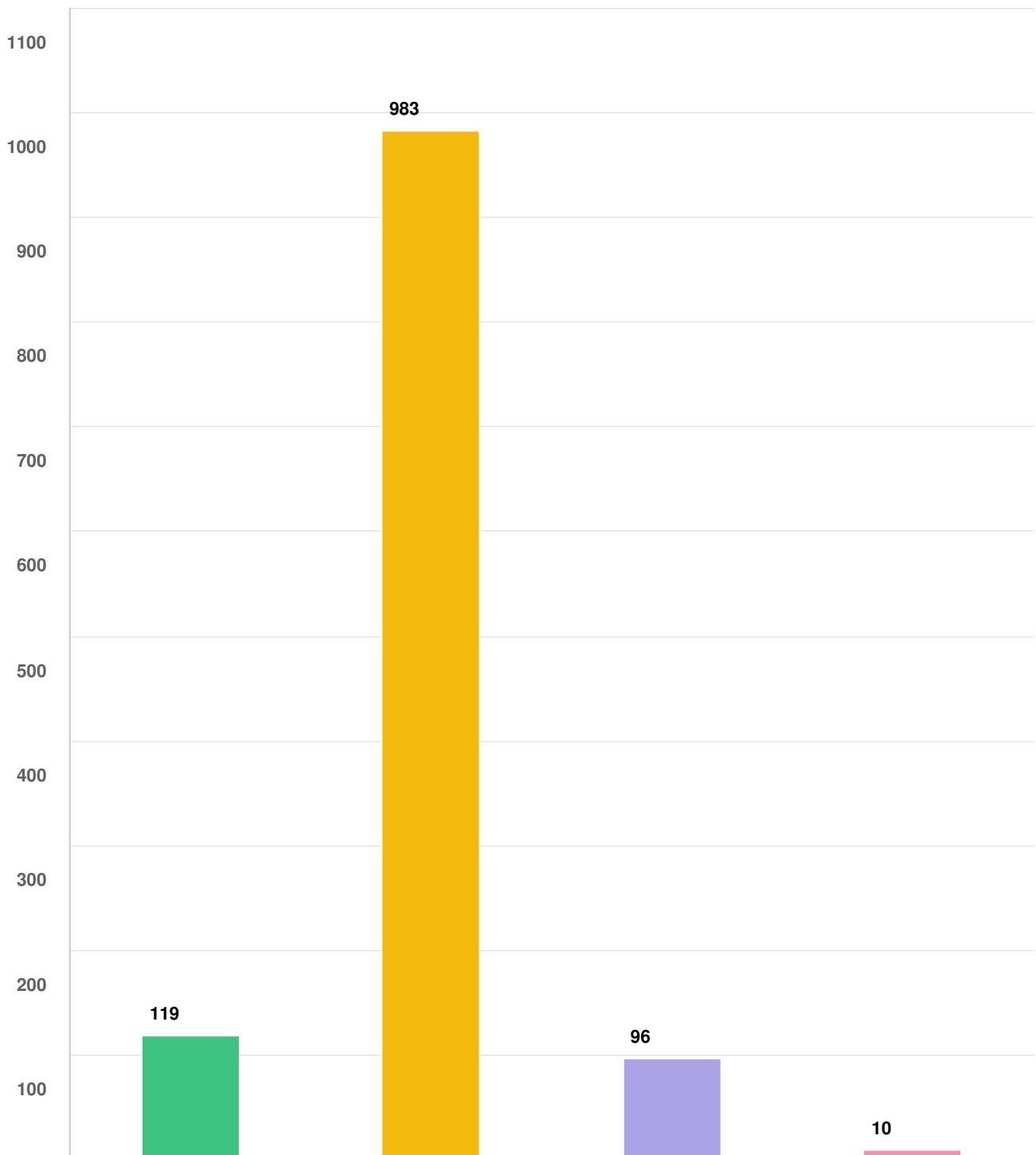
Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply.)



Question options

- American Indian or Alaska Native
 ● Asian or Asian Indian
 ● Black or African American
- Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x
 ● Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 ● Middle Eastern or North African
- White
 ● Prefer not to answer
 ● If you don't see yourself in the list provided, please self-describe:

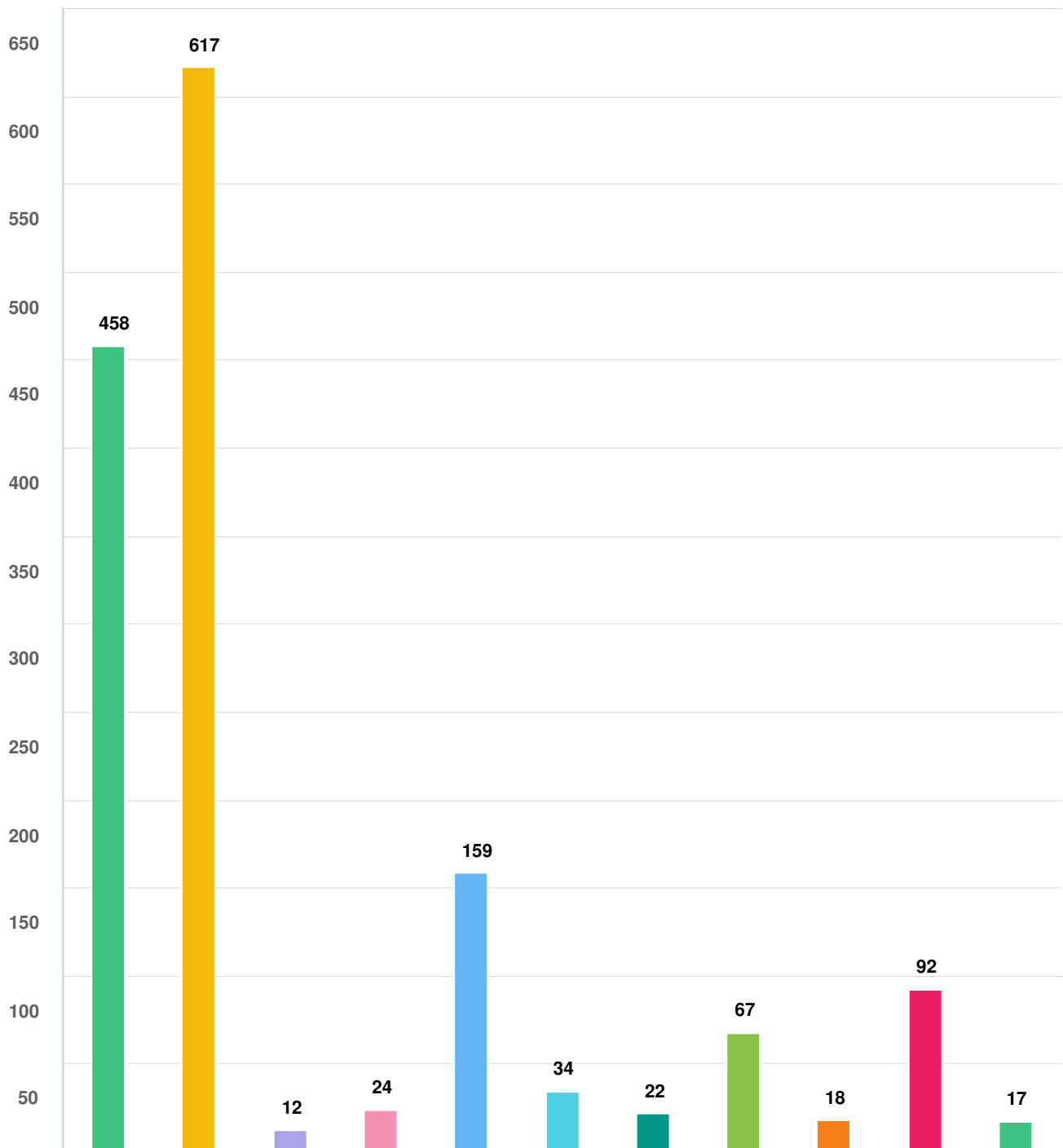
Optional question (1211 response(s), 60 skipped)

Do you experience a disability?**Question options**

● Yes ● No ● Prefer not to answer ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (1208 response(s), 63 skipped)

Please tell us about your sex/gender/gender identity. (Select all that apply.)

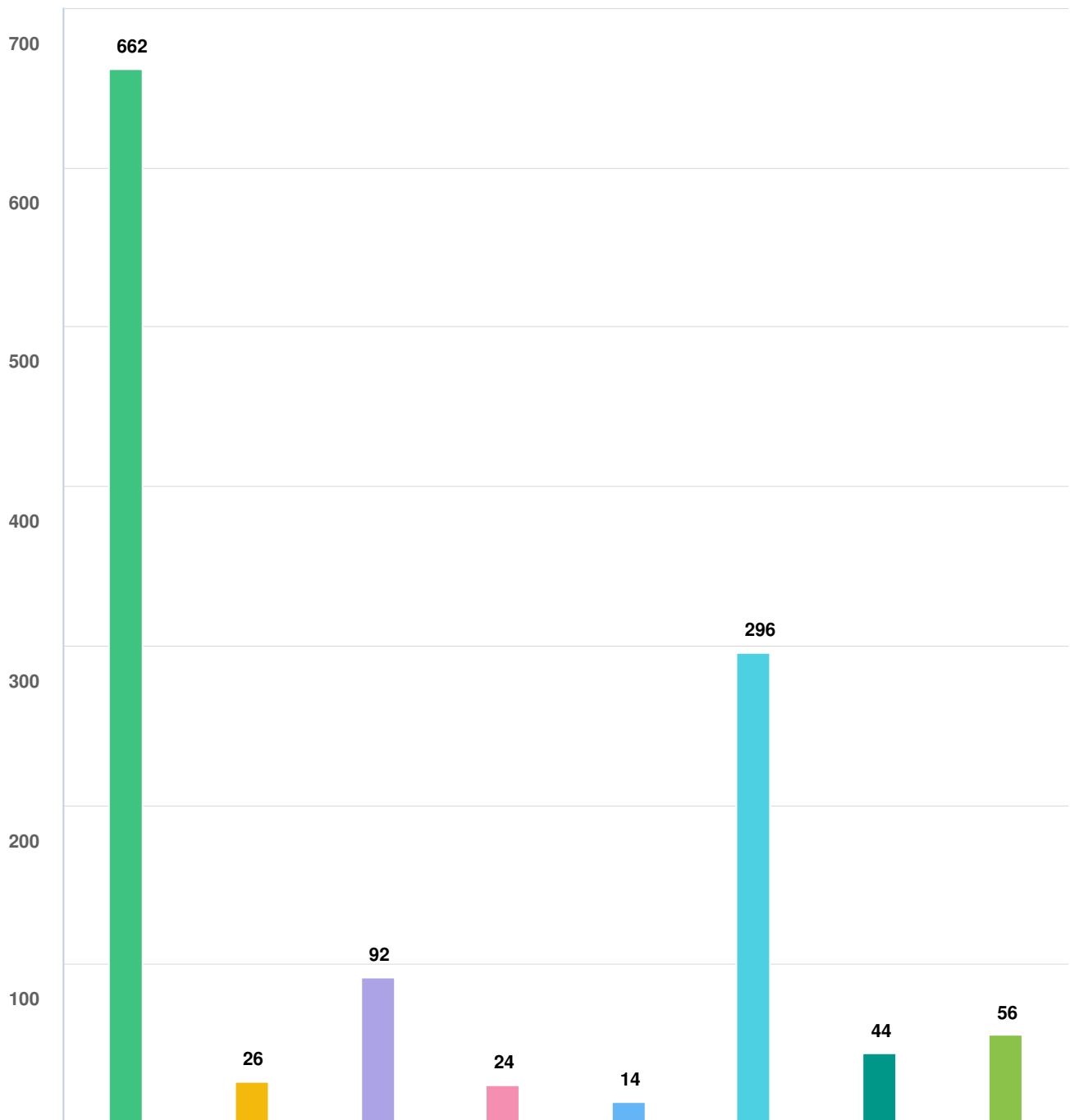


Question options

● Male
 ● Female
 ● Transgender
 ● Another gender identity
 ● Heterosexual
 ● Lesbian
 ● Gay
 ● Bisexual
 ● Another sexual identity
 ● Prefer not to answer
 ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (1216 response(s), 55 skipped)

Which of the following best describes your employment status?

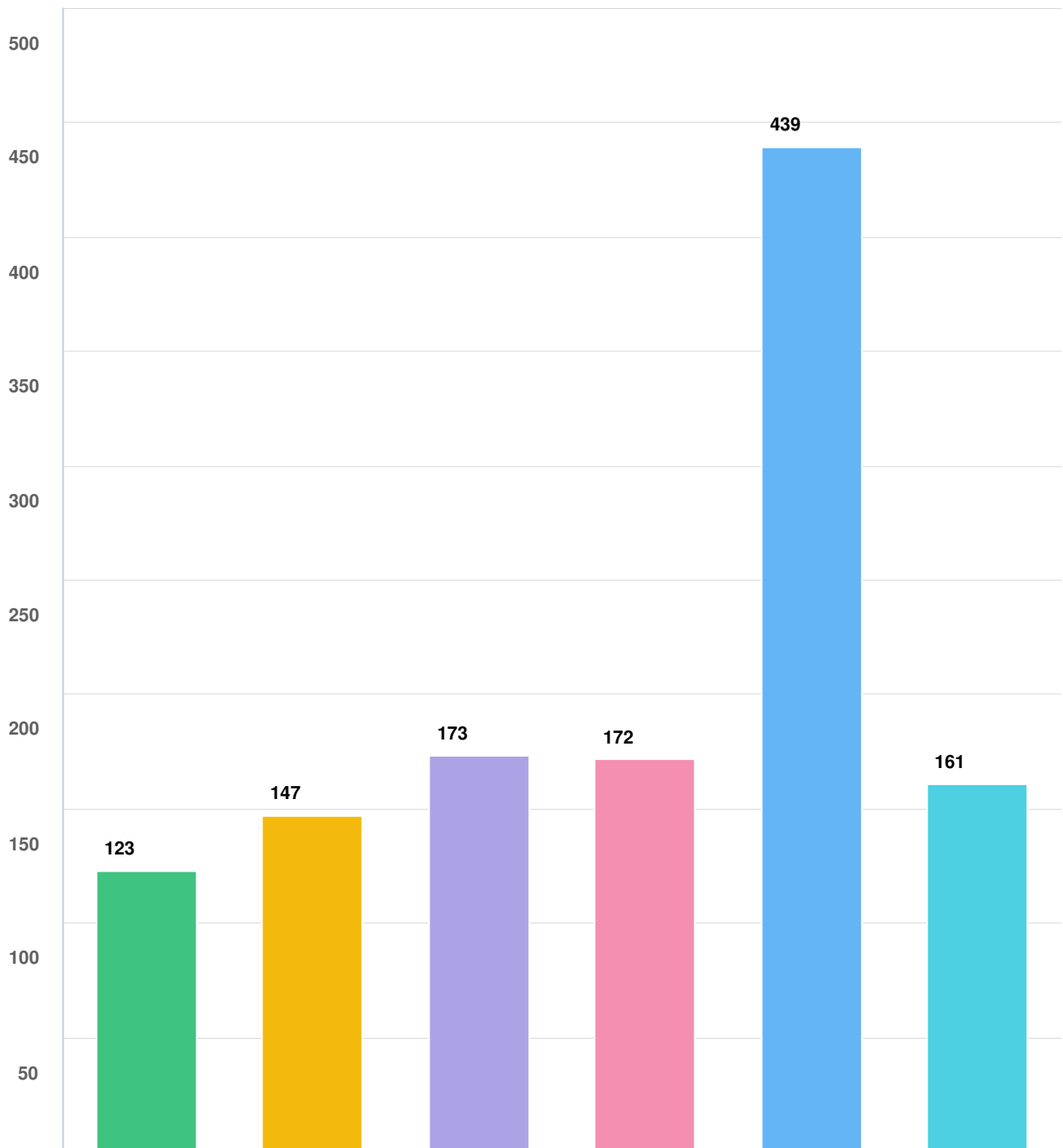


Question options

- Employed full-time
 ● Employed part-time and seeking additional work.
- Employed part-time and not seeking additional work
 ● Unemployed and seeking work.
- Unemployed and not seeking work.
 ● Retired
 ● Student
 ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (1214 response(s), 57 skipped)

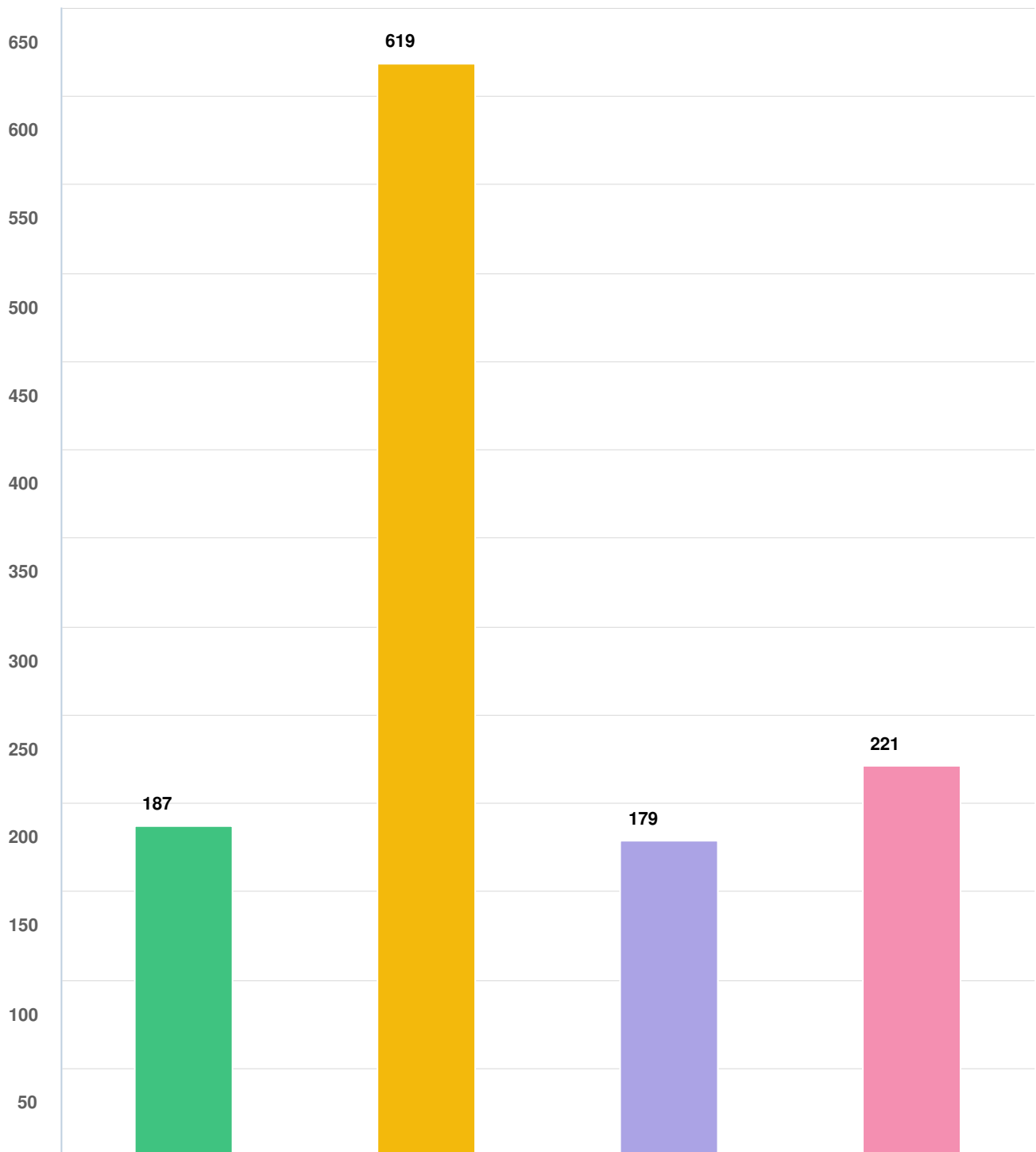
Would you say your total annual household income is...



Question options

- Under \$30,000 ● Between \$30,000 and \$49,999 ● Between \$50,000 and \$74,999 ● Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
● Over \$100,000 ● Prefer not to answer

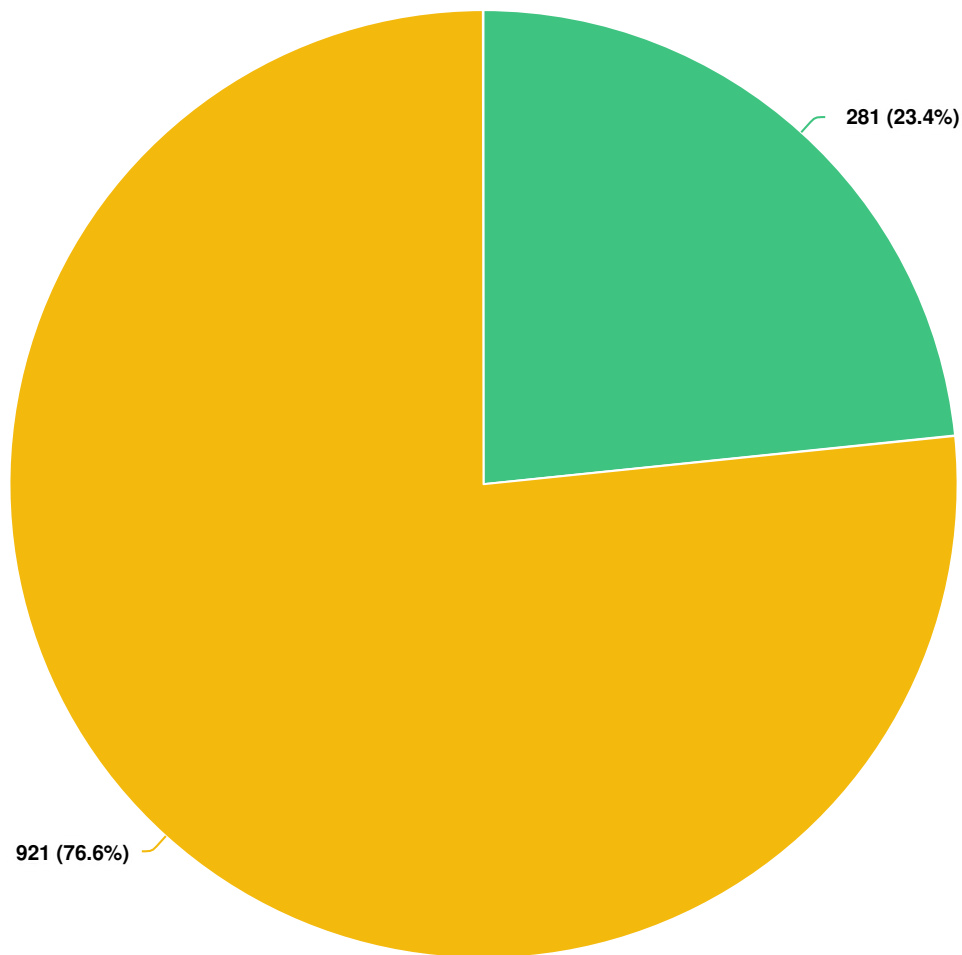
Optional question (1215 response(s), 56 skipped)

How many people live or stay in your home?**Question options**

● 1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 or more

Optional question (1206 response(s), 65 skipped)

Do children age 17 or younger live in your home?



Question options

● Yes ● No

Optional question (1202 response(s), 69 skipped)

Downtown Priorities and Projects: Submitted Ideas

This attachment includes a comprehensive list of ideas that were submitted during the Downtown Priorities and Projects public engagement process. Staff utilized this list against existing City Plans and Policies to inform the priorities and projects included in Attachment A.

Commercial Activity & Development

- Marketing to let people know what is there now: 5th St. example
- Recruit businesses to serve residents: hair, groceries, etc.
- Rent subsidies for small businesses, especially marginalized communities
- Provide affordable rent to support new/growing businesses
- Activate vacant space with activity, not just static art: "makers" working in vacant space, "pop-up shops"
- Attract business that are not associated with alcohol
- Attract businesses/restaurants that appeal to kids and youth
- Food truck pods with indoor areas to sit
- Eliminate height limit for new downtown construction
- Address niche interests (e.g. zines, outside art)
- Support small entrepreneurs
- More public-private development projects
- Less expensive or free co-working or meeting spaces
- Regulate ESP market (provide more opportunities for people to earn at low cost)
- Activity on both sides of the street
- Active street fronts, eyes on the street
- Only office uses, no retail
- Science Center, Children's Museum, History Museum: move them downtown
- Be open to outside/national businesses, such as Old Navy
- Land use: remove building height limits
- Less marijuana shops or bars
- COE purchase key properties to drive re-investment (e.g. Rug store)
- Redevelop vacant buildings into live/work spaces
- City investment in commercial spaces to increase flexibility (e.g. splitting large properties or retail spaces to incentivize re-development)
- Redefine downtown investments and focus to small area
- Locally sourced development and construction
- Public investments to incentivize private development (e.g. waive SDCs for downtown development or targeted type)
- Target incentive programs to focus on critical locations that need redevelopment
- Incentives to developers to buy and revive buildings
- Fully tax downtown development, no MUPTE
- Environmental stewardship, reduce emissions, improve air quality
- Change the tax structure to incentivize positive activity/disincentivize vacancy, negative activity
- Incur costs for negative impacts such as vacancy, smoking
- Incentives for redevelopment, incur costs if property is not utilized

Events & Culture

- City Parks and Recreation events and activities
- Regular Friday evening event with live music, streets closed to traffic, restaurant/ bars participation, police presence
- Multi-Cultural Center
- Community gatherings such as Eugene Celebration; change perceptions of downtown
- Public art: fun and interactive
- Pay musicians to play on street
- Arts programming (e.g. illuminated night parade, family activities, etc)
- More meeting spaces for events
- Farmers Market there every day of the week

Housing

- Mixed use housing with space for artists
- Redevelop parking lots to housing: City could more transparently share parking studies to show there is sufficient parking even if lots removed
- Housing: Affordable
- Mixed availability housing, mixed income
- Housing: Permanent and supportive
- Increase capacity of shelter services: there is a huge waitlist
- Create a place for homeless to sleep & use restroom inside a downtown area
- House the homeless
- Co-op housing model downtown
- MUPTE to incentivize 100s of housing units
- Make MUPTE more attractive. After revamp, hasn't been used. It's been misunderstood
- Collective/sliding scale housing for homeless

Public Spaces & Mobility

- Downtown shuttle
- Separate electric and people-powered bicycles
- Expand options for mobility impaired individuals, wheelchair access
- Roadways for pedestrians/bicycles, not cars
- Sidewalk improvements: design and construction
- Free parking
- More lighting
- More bike facilities; more protected bike lanes
- Clean the street and sidewalk
- More green space, trees
- Infill vacant lots with green space
- New City Hall: build or repurpose EWEB headquarters
- More public restrooms
- Broadway/Pearl/Willamette vehicle free except for early mornings and late evenings
- More car-free days
- Remove anti-homeless architecture

- Create spaces that attract family, youth, and places to sit
- Options downtown that don't require money, such as parks, playgrounds, museum, garden
- Downtown community center (with housing above, and resources for people)
- More spaces like the Farmers Market Pavilion
- Need bridge over 6th & 7th
- Need more trash cans, custodial staff
- Maintain tree lights
- Late night libraries
- Make better connection with river
- Safety maintenance on sidewalks and other infrastructure
- ADA compliance with sidewalks/ramps, better accessibility

Public Safety

- Hire people who've been homeless to help clean up downtown
- Clean team: court system where minor infractions are worked off by cleaning downtown
- Education about pedestrian safety and cycling rules, collaborate with PeaceHealth Rides
- Ambassadors and Red Hats: combine, focus on specific area
- Municipal jail: provide a stick as well as carrot
- Downtown Ambassadors: expand the program
- Red Hats: abolish or increase
- Expand Cahoots, possibly divert EPD funds for open positions in short-term to do so
- Reduce law enforcement presence
- Increase law enforcement presence
- Staff Olive St. station
- More social service responders, gentle policing presence, set expectations and follow through with regulations
- More cameras downtown
- Safety for homeless
- More diverse law enforcement representation Downtown
- Educate about perception of safety vs. actual safety
- Create trust with law enforcement
- Increase communications between public safety responders

Social Services

- Kiosk with staffing to provides service solutions for people in need
- Access to facilities such as showers, bathrooms, place to sit down, make phone calls
- Youth centers that provide activities as well as services
- More detox facilities
- Address homelessness and mental health/addiction services city-wide will help Downtown
- Non-traditional work crews
- Incentivize homeless people to stay and contribute to solutions
- Activate more services for people with behavioral and addiction issues
- Behavior: Develop and implement a program for collective agreement and accountability for downtown behavior

General

- Align stakeholder groups invested in downtown
- Expand diversity on City committees and advisory groups
- Stronger City leadership: align staff and Council
- #Landback: indigenous land movement
- Reduce income inequality, increase equity
- Require City employees to return to downtown
- Independent from tax increases
- No panhandling and camping policies
- Establish policies to address camping and loitering on street

Fwd: Urban Renewal District

BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Thu 9/22/2022 6:53 AM

Eric Brown
Downtown Manager
City of Eugene

541 682 5208

From: Diane McWhorter <dmcwho@efn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 4:31:23 PM
To: DOWDY Will G <WDowdy@eugene-or.gov>; BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>
Cc: Tom Webb <tomwebb@eugenSaturdaymarket.org>; Shannon Lee-Hutson <greeneyedbeadweaver@gmail.com>
Subject: Urban Renewal District

You don't often get email from dmcwho@efn.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL 

Hi Eric and Will,

Thanks so much for pointing me to the City Council worksession June 13th when the future of the URD was discussed. I'm sorry I missed it and my feedback is late to the table. I appreciate the opportunity to give a short answer to what Saturday Market thinks about extending the funding source past the expiration date coming up. While I haven't had time to survey our members, I think we are neutral on how the city gets its funding, and what concerns us is that our basic needs are supported.

To my observation of the Council and the city temperament in general, I think the opportunity to do the full Park Blocks redesign that we worked so hard on is gone for the foreseeable future. The pandemic put basic needs in the forefront for all of us and there are many more pressing needs than that particular project. However, improvements to the Park blocks are still needed.

While our economic position and that of our members would probably not benefit from the disruption of the full project, I think there is still some interest in the expansion of our Food Court space as it is becoming an archaic model to try to run a restaurant out of an 8- or 10-foot space. Perhaps there is some way to look at that piece again, with a new idea, with or without a stage improvement. Finding room for food trucks might help us. Again, I'm not speaking for every member, but that was the one part of the redesign that was widely supported.

Primarily what we need are simply repairs to the sidewalks and plaza spaces we are using. Those are subjects that come up every week for our members. The damaged parts are evident and when it rains, the drainage in some places has not been kept intact so we get lakes and puddles. Safe walking in crowds is essential.

My request from our organization would just be that Park Blocks Improvements be on the project list in development. Some small amount for maintenance and a few repairs would encourage our members and maybe most of it could be done in the off season or during the week so the event is not impacted. A few of the Council members seemed to agree. If you think it would be helpful for me to contact them, let me know.

I'm personally looking forward to the improvements that will come with the 8th St. project despite the issues we'll be working to solve, since the end result will benefit us (except for the loss of parking of course) and it will let the rest of the citizens see that Saturday Market was included in the project after all. I believe that in general our organization followed the process closely enough to see that the city did the best it could with the conditions surrounding the decisions made for the farmers and the World Games. The pandemic was just hard on everyone and the recovery is still ongoing for most. We're all doing the best we can. As always I appreciate the efforts of the city in general and in specific for my organization.

Let me know if I can help. I actually have a couple of ideas for art projects that could help in the southern blocks, but I'll wait for the right time for those.

Best regards,
Diane McWhorter
Chair, Downtown Developments Task Force
Eugene Saturday Market

Fwd: Downtown Priorities and Projects – Interview opportunity

BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Fri 9/30/2022 3:19 PM

Eric Brown
Downtown Manager
City of Eugene

541 682 5208

From: GROVES Randy B <RGroves@Eugene-or.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 2:44:54 PM
To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>
Cc: DOWDY Will G <WDowdy@eugene-or.gov>
Subject: Re: Downtown Priorities and Projects – Interview opportunity

Eric, I would be happy to participate in an interview but I'm very interested to see what staff comes up with! I'm a fan of mixed use housing but I know that we have other needs as well to make compact growth work. I'm also still interested in lifting the height cap in our downtown.

Sincerely, Randy

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From: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 2:39:27 PM
To: GROVES Randy B <RGroves@Eugene-or.gov>
Cc: DOWDY Will G <WDowdy@eugene-or.gov>
Subject: RE: Downtown Priorities and Projects – Interview opportunity

Thanks, Randy.

I am looping in Will so that he knows your availability. We should try to schedule the presentation for sometime in the first two weeks of January.

Do you want to participate in an interview? No problem if not, but I don't want to miss the opportunity if you are interested.

Thanks,

Eric

From: GROVES Randy B <RGroves@Eugene-or.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 2:25 PM

Attachment G

To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>; MEDARY Sarah J <SMedary@eugene-or.gov>
Subject: Re: Downtown Priorities and Projects – Interview opportunity

Eric, thank you for this information. I want to let you know that I will be in Mexico leaving on January 22 and returning on Feb. 5. Last year I was able to connect to one meeting virtually but not another one. If possible, I would really like to attend the January meeting but I'm concerned about connectivity issues.

Sincerely, Randy

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From: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 1:40:41 PM
To: VINIS Lucy K <LVinis@eugene-or.gov>; SEMPLE Emily <ESemple@eugene-or.gov>; GROVES Randy B <RGroves@Eugene-or.gov>; CLARK Mike <MClark@eugene-or.gov>; ZELENKA Alan <AZelenka@eugene-or.gov>; YEH Jennifer K <JYeh@eugene-or.gov>; SYRETT Claire M <CSyrett@eugene-or.gov>; KEATING Matt <MKeating@eugene-or.gov>; EVANS Greg A <GEvans@eugene-or.gov>
Cc: FIFIELD Anne E <AFifield@eugene-or.gov>; D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>; SELSER Lindsay R <LSelser@eugene-or.gov>; BRAUD Denny <DBraud@eugene-or.gov>; DOWDY Will G <WDowdy@eugene-or.gov>; BISHOP Lydia S <LBishop@eugene-or.gov>; WARD JACOBSON Cambra D <CWard@eugene-or.gov>; FREED Brooke A <BFreed@eugene-or.gov>; AGUILAR Rachel G <RAguilar@eugene-or.gov>; julie cogitopartners.com <julie@cogitopartners.com>
Subject: Downtown Priorities and Projects – Interview opportunity

Mayor and City Council,

In June, you directed staff to develop a list of actionable projects that will move us further toward our vision and goals for Downtown Eugene. Staff recently launched an effort to create this list, what we are calling [Downtown Priorities and Projects](#). We want to provide you with an update on the process and extend an invite to you to participate and provide input, prior to considering the full list in January.

Process

To develop the list of Priorities and Projects, staff will conduct broad outreach to a variety of stakeholders through interviews and focus groups. Staff will engage stakeholders who have been part of planning efforts in the past and conduct proactive outreach to people who have historically been underrepresented in these processes, such as youth, people of color, residents with low-incomes, unhoused individuals, social service providers, and people with disabilities. In addition, staff will launch an online survey and host a community event on November 15 to clarify challenges and opportunities, and gather input on priorities and actions.

We will present this list of Downtown Priorities and Projects to Council in January, when you will have an opportunity to begin strategizing on how best to implement the priorities and actions that come out of this process.

Councilor interviews

We want to invite you to participate in an interview where you can learn more about the process and provide input on the list of actions. We expect the interview to take no more than an hour of your time, and it can be conducted virtually or in-person. We are hoping to schedule interviews October 10-21. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Rachel Aguilar (raguilar@eugene-or.gov, also cc'ed here) for scheduling.

Thank you,

Eric Brown

Downtown Manager

Planning and Development | City of Eugene

9 W 10th Ave, Eugene OR 97401
541-682-5208

Attachment G

He/Him/His

Messages to and from this e-mail address may be available to the public under Oregon Public Records Law

From: Andrea Gilroy <bookswpictureseug@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 12:16 AM
To: VINIS Lucy K <LVinis@eugene-or.gov>; BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>; Downtown Eugene <downtowneugenemerchants@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Downtown

[EXTERNAL 

—forgive the second email; I hit send instead of save!)

To all whom it concerns:

My name is Andréa Gilroy, and I own Books With Pictures Eugene. My business is located squarely downtown and I have been reading the news about Sizzle Pie with shock and some dread. I know how dedicated everyone receiving this is to preserving the downtown core, and I felt compelled to share my thoughts and concerns. Thank you in advance for your time.

I fear that there is a prevailing sense among the community that Downtown is doomed, or perhaps already dead. Some feel it has been so for years, others assume the focus on 5th Street and the Riverfront is an attempt to re-center the “downtown.”

I am passionate about the importance of the Downtown zone. It is far more accessible to the various sectors of our community (including students and those without cars) than there 5th Street Area (Since the Riverfront is still being built, I can only truly compare 5th) and—more importantly—is truly a public space. Obie owns and controls 5th Street as essentially a corporate facsimile of a public space. It’s a lovely space! I enjoy spending time there. But the parks, the library, the new Farmer’s Market pavilion, the bus station, the courthouse, and the eventual new City Hall, indicate the downtown area serves as space for the *people* of our city—not governed primarily by private interest. Spaces like these are vital to the health of a community.

I know from my experiences with folks involved in many aspects of running the city that everything is so complicated. But I would like to share the largest concerns I have as a member of the downtown community.

1) Too many empty spaces

The loss of Sizzle Pie is only the latest. We all know how many thriving businesses do exist in the downtown area, but walking by large, high-profile portions blocks downtown that are empty—or essentially empty—makes it seem that the area is being abandoned. The “Rug Store,” the building previously occupied by Sykes, the space in between the Drake and The Horsehead, the former Pizza Pipeline—the are large, obvious, empty spots. The art installations are nice, but clearly a stopover.

2) Not enough diversity of businesses

If we want people to come downtown and stay downtown, there needs to be more than corporate offices and restaurants (and especially bars). People need places to go and things to do before and after their meals. If the city could find ways to encourage retail (and a multitude of types of retail!) businesses to come downtown, I truly believe it would transform the experience of coming downtown

Parking Is Tricky

It is frustrating to see empty lots next to packed lots. Validation is expensive for small businesses like mine. I would like to see more opportunities for free parking (eg meters free after 5, not 6) and more advertising that the first hour of parking is free in the downtown lots.

Overpolicing and underpolicing

I think we all know this is the trickiest. Downtown has a reputation (ultimately unfair, I think) of being unsafe. As a person on the street, I tend to feel like a police presence is either overbearing—patrolling can feel like looming, and it is frustrating to watch people be stopped and hassled for silly things—but more often underwhelming. We know that a large portion of the issues downtown come from unhoused people who also have mental health issues or drug issues. There are not the sorts of people I want to call the cops on. However, the downtown Ambassadors hours are limited and CAHOOTS is wildly overburdened. When someone who is unwell is walking across the street or yelling, it seems like there is no right answer for me to turn to. More frustrating is a “public safety office” right at LCC—with tons of police vehicles constantly parked in front—is almost always empty. I know the police force is also overburdened at the moment. But how can we make our public places safe for all our citizens unless we figure out a balance?

The Cost of Entry is Too High

I am hoping to upgrade our space when we reach the end of our lease in 2024, and I would like to stay downtown. However, looking at the rent costs of the open spaces is deeply discouraging. Rent is an issue for everyone in these difficult times, but its a major issue right now for folks looking to start a business. Perhaps the city could offer incentives to businesses either to keep rent lower or to help new businesses that want to be downtown. The COVID support was necessary but will not help *new* businesses get started.

I know that you are all aware of the difficulties I have outlined above, and I thank you for the work you put in to support this space. We all know people *will* come downtown. Saturday Market, Halloween Trick-or-Treating, and even my own event in May (Free Comic Book Day) prove it!

I have been thinking all night about the closure of Sizzle Pie and the prospect of another empty building at perhaps the most prominent corner downtown. This prompted me to write, as talking to the people who can do something about the issue is one of the few things I think I *can* do right now.

I am always happy to discuss my experience as a (pretty new!) small business owner downtown, and excited to think about the ways business owners, politicians, and city administrators can work together to keep our downtown thriving.

Thank you for your time.

Andréa Gilroy

She/Her

Owner, Books With Pictures Eugene

Re: DT Priorities and Projects - Focus Group Invite

Michael DeLuise <deluisem@mac.com>

Tue 10/11/2022 6:09 PM

To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Cc: Julie Fisher <julie@cogitopartners.com>; FIFIELD Anne E <AFifield@eugene-or.gov>; D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>

You don't often get email from deluisem@mac.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL △]

Eric, Thanks so much for inviting me to these important and timely meetings. Though I no longer live Downtown I did leave my heart there when I moved to South Eugene with Downtown still being a major hub of my life.

I will be on the Oregon Coast the week of these meetings but would still like to share a few ideas I've been thinking about for some time. I hope you find some suggestions useful.

I've been involved in our community's life for eight years. For several of those years I served as Chair of the Downtown Neighborhood Association and on the Active Transportation Committee. Though not directly Downtown I am still active in other community organizations.

Working closely with you and other great professionals on City and County staff has been a highlight of being part of this community. You and your colleagues do good work.

You might agree with me that Eugene does have quite a few non profit community focused organizations fueled by their reliance on volunteer people power. This is good but as I see it, it also adds challenges to efficiency, effectiveness and often the ability to get anything done.

Maybe it's a cultural thing that comes with being in a college town. Lots of committees of smart people who talk, posture, discuss and just keep on talking. Often nothing gets done.

For instance several years ago I participated in a group looking at possible solutions to the Homeless and Substance Abuse challenges. In that meeting were representative Executive Directors or senior administrators of two dozen organizations. The 90 minute discussion was mostly focused on the fund raising and staffing problems these groups face. Almost no talk of those their missions serve.

All I could think was ... can't some of these services be merged or at least managed by an umbrella organization? Maybe a City or County office or an organization such as White Bird or the YMCA?

You may remember Robert Castillo. He was a homeless man who saved a Starbucks customer being stabbed on Willamette. A EPD officer bought him new glasses after his were broken in the scuffle. Anyway these past three years I have been quietly mentoring Robert. I helped him relocate to New Mexico where he grew up. Today three years substance free, living in subsidized housing, he has a full time job and has even written a book of poetry working closely with the City of Albuquerque and the mayor's office. I did not feel he could accomplish this success in Eugene.

Could there be a more productive avenue for the volunteers of Eugene? Rather than dedicating their time to sitting in committee meetings could the City partner with the Eugene Library, LCC or U of O to offer training in mentoring, fund raising, board member responsibility and community relations? I just feel the many hours we sit in non productive highly repetitive meetings could be better spent if volunteers had the ability to be effective.

I suggest that under your direction and the City's leadership the positive change we truly need can be accomplished.

Thanks for listening. I will not be in any way offended if you feel I am not on the right track. As you know I truly appreciate what you do and praise your abilities. Call on me if you want to explore further or have an idea on what I can do to help Downtown and the entire community to thrive.

Mike DeLuise
631-513-6719

On Oct 11, 2022, at 1:45 PM, BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov> wrote:

Hello,

I'd like to invite to join a brainstorming session to identify solutions to the variety of issues we face in Downtown Eugene. The results of this work will inform a draft list of downtown priorities and projects.

Please consider [signing-up](#) for one of these two dates:

- **Tuesday October 25, 5:30-7 PM Online (zoom link will be sent a few days prior)**
- **Wednesday, October 26, noon-1:30 PM in person downtown (exact location TBD)**

Sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AAAB28ABF9C61-downtown1>

We are working hard to balance views and interests represented at these meetings, so if you have additional people you would like to invite, please send suggestions to julie@cogitopartners.com. We will also be hosting an Open House and a community survey in November, when we'll be looking to involve as many people as possible, so there will be future opportunities for participation as well.

Visit the project [webpage](#) to learn more and to sign up for invitations and project updates: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4723/Downtown-Priorities-Projects>

Looking forward to seeing you at one of these sessions,

Eric Brown

Downtown Manager
Planning and Development | City of Eugene
99 W 10th Ave, Eugene OR 97401
541-682-5208

He/Him/His

Messages to and from this e-mail address may be available to the public under Oregon Public Records Law

Michael DeLuise
deluisem@mac.com

FW: Urban Renewal List

BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Thu 10/20/2022 1:03 PM

Eric

From: Andy Vobora <Andy@eugenecascadescoast.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 11:48 AM

To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Subject: Urban Renewal List

[EXTERNAL 

Eric – I talked with Anne Fifield a while back and she suggested I ask you to include convention space on the project list you have been developing as part of the discussion surrounding maintaining the urban renewal districts. Let me know if you need anything more. Thanks

Andy Vobora

Vice President of Stakeholder Relations

Travel Lane County

754 Olive St Eugene OR 97401

Direct: 541.743.8770

Cell: 541.501.9398

Main: 541.484.5307

Raise the Roof! Learn more at SportsforAllSeasons.org



FW: Focus Group Idea

BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Wed 10/26/2022 6:01 PM

To: D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>

FYI – for our email inventory.

From: NOEL Julie A <Julie.A.Noel@ci.eugene.or.us>

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 11:28 AM

To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Subject: Focus Group Idea

Eric,

Eugene is currently short 30 Police Officer positions and it has been a challenge to get those positions filled. Why not, in the interim, divert some of that funding to a social service outreach team like Cahoots? They are overwhelmed, as they do not have the staffing to handle all of those in need on the streets. If we could expand their mobile services, we could have services come to the people. This would decrease the need for EPD's involvement, in certain cases. This idea is in line with our mission to have a Safe, Vibrant and Welcoming Eugene!

Julie Noel

She/Her

Downtown Ambassador

Cell: (458)221-3396

jnoel@eugene-or.gov

Downtown ideas

Philip Farrington <PFarrington@CDCMGMTCorp.com>

Fri 10/28/2022 4:39 PM

To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Cc: Sue Wright <skwright@cdcmgmtcorp.com>; Silva Chambers <SChambers@CDCMGMTCorp.com>; BRAUD Denny <DBraud@eugene-or.gov>; D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>; QUICK-WARNER Brittany (SMTP) <brittanyw@eugenechamber.com>; FIFIELD Anne E <AFifield@eugene-or.gov>; ***Eugene Mayor, City Council, and City Manager** <MayorCouncilandCityManager@eugene-or.gov>; Eugene Police Chief <PoliceChief@ci.eugene.or.us>; DOWDY Will G <WDowdy@eugene-or.gov>

[EXTERNAL [A](#)]

Eric,

Thanks for hosting the focus group session on downtown I attended yesterday. The problems facing downtown don't lend themselves to solutions easily fixed by Downtown UR district funding. Interventions focused on built environment (oversized chess pieces in the park blocks, streetscape enhancements, etc.) are fine if we had a healthy/safe environment, but that is sadly not the case.

The 2004 Eugene Downtown Plan stated "approximately 15,000 people work in the downtown area." I'd venture that figure is far lower today, particularly with many employees (including city staff) working from home at least partly, and with businesses leaving downtown. A cursory, unscientific tally I did several months ago indicated nearly 500k sf of vacant commercial space being marketed downtown. This may greatly underestimate the amount of vacant space, and does not account for candidate sites for infill and/or redevelopment.

I encourage city staff to gather data more systematically to discern trends and identify problem areas – even on a block-by-block basis – and to target interventions in partnership with adjacent property and business owners. The city has staff talent and resources that can be applied toward site-specific solutions to help make downtown inviting and safe for employees, visitors, residents – and make people want to invest in downtown.

The city should pull out all the stops to provide investments in downtown housing and employment. Here are just a few ideas:

- Waive SDCs for downtown development – particularly housing (regardless of resident income levels or rents/ownership if condos).
 - Downtown infrastructure is basically built out regardless of uses, so it is improbable that downtown growth generates the need for infrastructure capacity expansions. Practically speaking what happens is a developer writes 5-6 figure checks to the city with the funds being spent for improvements elsewhere on the thin premise that the new development downtown would be benefitted by providing roads, parks, etc. in other parts of town. Downtown essentially has all services needed to accommodate growth, and changes in use or redevelopment should not be burdened by impact fees.
 - Right now, developers who are granted MUPTE approvals are currently eligible get up to a 50% waiver on local SDCs. I'd suggest there be a 100% SDC waiver for MUPTE projects (and/or Vertical Housing Development Zone projects should the city create such a tool) or maybe apply to all development/redevelopment projects downtown, whether for employment and/or housing purposes. The process to secure city incentives is bruising, requirement-heavy and carries a lot of risk. If a project can get through that, they should also be eligible for a 100% SDC waiver.
 - Portland is exploring a new ordinance that would waive all SDCs for downtown conversions from office to residential uses. Not sure how their draft ordinance is written, but it is worth considering. We have scarce few multi-story office buildings downtown (I work in one), but if they were to

convert – all or in part – from office to residential uses, then I think a full SDC waiver should be granted as a direct incentive. The city could tailor an ordinance that might require non-residential uses on the ground floor (even this could be qualified by being non-residential uses that support residential above – e.g., leasing office, fitness and/or meeting facilities or amenity rooms for residents only) and waive SDCs as an inducement for investment downtown.

- Eliminate height limits for building downtown.
 - Height limits are arbitrary and if a developer wants to invest in a project (housing, office, mixed-use) downtown that is more than 120 feet tall, is that really a problem? Other than a few recent student housing projects, an 8-story building downtown is considered tall. Taller buildings downtown could be part of Eugene's future if code limitations were removed.
 - If there are view corridors that must be preserved (which is arguable), an ordinance could be tailored to allow certain viewsheds to be preserved while allowing taller buildings elsewhere. Current code is ripe for appeals and objections that really do little more than add time, cost and risk to an otherwise good project. Case in point: the Obie Co. had to go through an expensive and risk-filled variance process to get a roof-mounted sign atop the Gordon Hotel. Despite objections, the proposal was approved – but again costing money, time and introducing risk. I've heard no one since complain about the sign. Our worst fears are seldom realized; we shouldn't indulge naysayers from achieving our broader objectives for investors to help us create a vibrant downtown.
- Work with the private sector to develop public-private partnerships.
 - These could be partnerships outside of the usual method of TIF or CDBG funding, and not just for affordable housing projects or for riverfront improvements, but to find means of securing grants and other resources that could achieve multiple objectives. For example, recent federal EDA grants for mass timber research and development are being applied toward middle housing development in the Portland area. Eugene could be a pilot for similar study of mid-rise or high-rise residential or mixed-use projects using mass timber and/or modular construction at an infill or redevelopment site downtown. Construction and financing costs are difficult to realize market rate projects as well as subsidized housing projects, and city support and leadership could prove valuable in creating innovative projects for vertical housing or mixed-use development.
- Public safety needs to be prioritized – and have carrots and sticks.
 - Long ago the city established standards for sidewalks wider than in any other area. People that now literally litter the sidewalks physically impede access, which must be addressed. Having red caps or blue coat ambassadors stroll downtown but essentially walk past people violating laws and city ordinances is a waste of resources. Apply those resources to physically making sure downtown sidewalks are not hangouts would make a discernable improvement.
 - The county's proposed crisis stabilization center is a dramatically needed facility for mental health interventions. The need for wrap-around behavioral health, addiction, and other support services as well as housing for the homeless and indigent is evident. But currently there is little consequence for individuals who create an unsafe environment downtown. Springfield's municipal jail provides a substantial disincentive to behavioral crimes, and it shows in the renaissance of Springfield's downtown. Eugene would be advised to develop its own facility, perhaps in conjunction with the county's efforts.
 - I'd suggest acquiring the former Central Print building/site, and couple that with redevelopment of the county's parole and probation building to create a multi-purpose site for treatment and for incarceration for non-felony offenses.
 - I'd also encourage the city to support legislative revisions to Measure 110 that would afford cities the ability to prohibit open drug consumption and possession in certain areas. Time, place and manner regulations can and should be applied to downtown streets, and we should tolerate behaviors that inhibit all residents from enjoying a downtown that is safe to work, live and play.

The city must first address public safety before other interventions have enduring success. That was the finding from the Project for Public Spaces five years ago when they advised the city, and it has gotten no better since. One

of the primary goals of the city's Downtown Urban Renewal Plan is to "Improve the function, condition and appearance of the Plan Area ..." Resources need to be marshalled to address function and condition for us to realize a truly vibrant downtown.

I'd be happy to discuss further.

Phil

Philip Farrington, AICP
Director of Planning & Real Estate Development
CDC Management Corp.
800 Willamette Street, Suite 750
Eugene, OR 97401
Office (541) 338-8334, ext. 1
Direct (541) 600-8018
Cell (541) 600-7030
pfarrington@cdcmgmtcorp.com

From: Andy Storment <andy@astorment.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 2:37 PM
To: FIFIELD Anne E <AFifield@eugene-or.gov>
Subject: Session Followup

You don't often get email from andy@astorment.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL 

Anne,

Thanks for everything you do for downtown. One of the items I forgot to mention in the category of short term things to do downtown that would help is have a "Back to the Office" requirement for all downtown government employees. Summit Bank which is one of the largest private downtown employers has worked through the pandemic as an essential service and continues to require all their employees to come to the office. The 3 people who work for me in my office are the same. More people, more activity, supports the coffee shops, restaurants and retail shops and improves the general sense of safety in numbers. Just wanted to make sure that one had another by it.

Thanks,
Andy Storment

From: Morgan G <morgan2732@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 5:24 PM
To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>
Subject: Re: Thank you and Open House Invite

[EXTERNAL 

Thank You...I enjoyed the meeting for sure. But I must say the disconnect was mind blowing. I felt we were living on different planets and speaking different languages and accomplished little. I felt it was just an unhoused advocate meeting discussing broader US homeless issues. I am way past that. I don't need another outline of how can we help the street criminals destroy our businesses even further by incentivizing them to block our doors and commit violence and hard drug offenses even more. Some people are fine with letting our beautiful downtown just be a skid row cesspool. No thanks. I grew up around stuff like this and currently am around this stuff daily. I don't just stay in the hills and have no understanding. I live and breathe it daily. Everyone has their role but too many times the only rights that matter are those of the homeless street addicts. Yes they are people to. But they come for the drugs and we all blew it by voting for extreme decriminalization. I voted for and campaigned for that for decades. Oops. They do not have a right to mob up and block the sidewalks. How would you feel if they were on your front lawn everyday committing crimes? Maybe the next time they threaten us we should bring all our big dogs down here to confront their dogs and their knives. Im so sick of it. Maybe we should block them from getting by like they do us. We need sidewalk cleaning every 4 hours, awnings all removed and trespassing enforced. I don't care how it sounds anymore. I blame my peers in leadership for allowing this as we have been screaming for attention 18 hours a day for 3 years about it. It's not out of site out of mind for us. As I said I have also volunteered at shelters...given things away to street folks for years...served Food Not Bombs in parks and attended homeless marches in DC. And I've also lived out of a tent for a year. So what. Im a far left leaning Bernie democrat. Republicans are going to sweep because my people are so out of touch with reality. Im not fear based or compassionless. But my job is different...I don't work as a social worker been if my girlfriend did. I just am not going to take the violence, extreme hard drug use and mob mentality that has taken over downtown to the point that the ONLY people walking around all the time are street punks and other homeless blasted out of their minds on meth and heroin.

Kindest Regards,

Morgan Glenn
Flour Of Lyfe

FW: Downtown Event participant comments

FIFIELD Anne E <AFifield@eugene-or.gov>

Mon 10/31/2022 12:33 PM

To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>; D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>

Can we add this to public input for DTPP?

From: RUSSO Edward N <ERusso@eugene-or.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 12:16 PM

To: FIFIELD Anne E <AFifield@eugene-or.gov>

Subject: FW: Downtown Event participant comments

Ed Russo

Business Outreach Specialist

City of Eugene

C: 541-554-1797

O: 541-682-5484

From: Sandy Caughron <sandycoughron@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 7:54 AM

To: *Eugene Mayor, City Council, and City Manager <MayorCouncilandCityManager@eugene-or.gov>

Subject: Downtown Event participant comments

[EXTERNAL 

As a member of a large local dance performance group, Thrill The World Eugene, I have had a lot of experience performing at different street corners in the downtown area for 11 years. We have had a few hundred performances at different corners: Kesey certainly but also by the Library, by Steelhead, at 5th street outside by Marche, multiple curbsides along Broadway, 8th and Oak parks block and Saturday Market/Farmers Market area.

I felt sad, frustrated and honestly uncomfortable performing at Kesey this year in the evening in October (The Saturday Oct 29 Halloween event with the street closed was no problem...that felt safe and fun). Drugged or psychotic people engaging with us during our attempts to perform was not fun.

Kesey has become a dark, foreboding space to be in at night time and I will not go back. I see the closing of Sizzle Pie as one of the biggest deterrents to safety and comfort on that street corner. No people, dark, decreased human voices. Creepy. Similarly, an evening grabbing an outside beer at National Taphouse was aborted by two screaming homeless people at our table space.

Anyway, the main reason I write is that I feel that the reopening of another restaurant in the old Sizzle Pie space seems vital to the safety and comfort of the Kesey space and I hope the city is helping to promote this. A tax break perhaps? I don't know, but my downtown comfort has greatly decreased and that makes me feel sad.

Fwd: Appalling conditions - Broadway and Charnelton, Olive, Willamette

BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Mon 11/21/2022 8:33 AM

To: julie@cogitopartners.com <julie@cogitopartners.com>; D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>; FIFIELD Anne E <AFifield@eugene-or.gov>

Sharing as input

Eric Brown
Downtown Manager
City of Eugene

541 682 5208

From: SELSER Lindsay R <LSelser@eugene-or.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 6:38:03 AM

To: BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

Subject: FW: Appalling conditions - Broadway and Charnelton, Olive, Willamette

From: stellar222 Primary <stellar222@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2022 9:17 PM

To: *Eugene Mayor, City Council, and City Manager <MayorCouncilandCityManager@eugene-or.gov>

Subject: Appalling conditions - Broadway and Charnelton, Olive, Willamette

[EXTERNAL ⚠]

Hello -

I had the misfortune of going to downtown Eugene (see above) on Saturday, November 12, 7 pm, to visit a local tap house.

I was stunned by the conditions there - bodies strewn about, people wandering through the streets, sirens wailing, police lights flashing, dogs barking. I thought I was on the set of a horror movie.

IF it is your intent to:

- frighten the citizenry
- abandon the streets to lawlessness
- destroy the business environment

You have succeeded.

Sincerely,

Online Form Submittal: Downtown Priorities and Projects - Public Comment

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Tue 12/6/2022 1:44 PM

To: D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>; BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

[EXTERNAL 

Downtown Priorities and Projects - Public Comment

Name	Danielle
Email	Davis
What is your connection to Downtown Eugene?	daniellealexisdavis@gmail.com
Please share your comments, thoughts, and ideas about Downtown Eugene.	<p>Incentives for new business to set up shop. I've heard from small business owners that rent is so high. Subsidies, incentives. The downtown feels mostly dead and crawling with houseless people. I try to walk around after the library with my small child and we get harassed, pan handled and I'm afraid of stepping in human excrement. The houseless people need an incentive to go elsewhere too.</p> <p>The first Friday art walk is amazing and really enlivens downtown. More events like that. More restaurants are needed especially.</p>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Online Form Submittal: Downtown Priorities and Projects - Public Comment

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Tue 12/20/2022 12:02 PM

To: D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>; BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

[EXTERNAL 

Downtown Priorities and Projects - Public Comment

Name	SHERRILL Kirchhoff
Email	s.kirchhoff88@gmail.com
What is your connection to Downtown Eugene?	Downtown Dweller
Please share your comments, thoughts, and ideas about Downtown Eugene.	<p>I miss having a downtown. Shopping is almost nonexistent; not even a drug store. I miss be able to walk safely; I was struck by a car on Nov 9th as I crossed W. 13th at Olive---in a crosswalk with the WALK signal by a driver making a left turn. I miss sidewalks that are safe; so many downtown sidewalks have the brick inserts which are now coming apart. Repairs consists of asphalt; many of my friends have fallen because of the poor condition of our city's sidewalks. I miss seeing other people on the streets of downtown engaged in shopping, dining, even window shopping. Instead, the majority of the people I see walking from my apartment on Olive Street to the Farmers Market or the 5th St Market are unhoused and in desparate need of medical and mental health assistance. I miss sidewalks made of concrete rather than the plastic ones on both sides of Olive Street in front of Capstone. Those sidewalks curl up in cold weather and when it rains those cupped squares fill with water. Dog droppings are common in that area and throughout the city. I wonder about a Planning Dept that would allow a developer to build a 4-storey storage building 8' from a condo building. I know we can't go back to the 'old' Eugene, with shops, restaurants, people because once VRC arrived, downtown was in a death sprial (unlike Salem who said NO to M&F in a Mall and YES to M & F and Nordstrom's downtown). Downtown is a sad place now. I go there to support Davis' (who should receive an award for persistence---and good food), the Library, and Kiva. Otherwise, It's a sad walkway to the bright lights of 5th Street and a very small section of East Broadway. 65 later: goodbye Eugene.</p>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Online Form Submittal: Downtown Priorities and Projects - Public Comment

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Mon 12/19/2022 8:05 AM

To: D'SOUZA Amanda M <ADSouza@eugene-or.gov>; BROWN Eric G <EBrown@eugene-or.gov>

[EXTERNAL 

Downtown Priorities and Projects - Public Comment

Name	Carson
Email	Quam21@gmail.com
What is your connection to Downtown Eugene?	Resident
Please share your comments, thoughts, and ideas about Downtown Eugene.	The sidewalks smell like urine and there are homeless people everywhere. 5th Street is a nice alternative. The City should pass stronger ordinances and enforce existing ones to restore livability.

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Downtown Urban Renewal District - Technical Details

Urban Renewal Basics

In Oregon, Urban Renewal is enabled by ORS 457 and is used to help cities and counties implement plans to revitalize specified areas within their jurisdiction. An Urban Renewal district has a Plan that documents planned investments and infrastructure improvements that stimulate private investment, leading to economic vitality and livability. Urban Renewal districts have an Agency Board and in Eugene, the City Council has the role of the Agency Board.

The primary revenue source for urban renewal is tax increment revenue. Tax increment revenue comes from property value increases since that district was created. To be eligible for tax increment revenue funds, projects must be included in the Urban Renewal District Plan. The identified projects in the Plan, however, can be specific (such as 'high-speed fiber'), or broad (such as 'infrastructure'). Urban Renewal funds can be used for purchase of real property, rehabilitation or construction of buildings, site improvements and costs related to those things, and improvements to streets, sidewalks, and utilities.

Tax Increment Revenue

The primary revenue source for Urban Renewal is tax increment revenue. Tax increment revenue comes from taxable property value increases since the district was created. These increased property values generate tax increment revenue, which is directed to the district. When an Urban Renewal district is first created, the assessed value within the district boundaries is established as the "frozen base." If any boundary expansions subsequently occur, the assessed value within the expansion area is added to the district's existing frozen base. Any new property taxes generated within that area through increased taxable value is called the "incremental" or "excess" value. Overlapping taxing jurisdictions continue to receive property taxes on the frozen base, while the Urban Renewal Agency receives property taxes related to the incremental value. This is called the "division of tax" method of raising revenue in an urban renewal district.

An Urban Renewal Plan identifies planned investments, their estimated costs, and expected tax increment revenue. The Plan sets a spending limit, known as the "maximum indebtedness." When an Urban Renewal district is established, taxing jurisdictions that overlap the district forgo some of the tax revenue they would otherwise collect from that area. Overlapping jurisdictions regain that revenue stream once the district expires. To the extent that the district increases assessed value over what would otherwise have occurred without Urban Renewal investment, the taxing districts should see an increase in tax revenues in the long term.

Although school property taxes are reduced as a result of urban renewal division of tax, in Oregon the net impact on an individual school system's operating budget is complicated because schools are funded by the state on a per-pupil basis. The state determines how much money must be allocated for the education of each pupil across the state. If the money is not available from local property taxes, the state will make up the difference. An additional factor is the impact of compression, which results in 4J experiencing a net benefit as a result of the Urban Renewal districts in Eugene. (See explanation below in "fiscal implications" section.)

Eligible Uses of Tax Increment Revenue Funds

To be eligible for tax increment funds, projects must be included in the Urban Renewal plan. The identified projects in the Plan, however, can be specific (such as 'high-speed fiber'), or broad (such as 'infrastructure').

The Urban Renewal Agency must determine the scope and types of projects that are included in the Urban Renewal plan. Oregon statutes (ORS 457.170) govern the types of projects that may be funded with tax increment funds:

- Plan and implement neighborhood development programs;
- Rehabilitation or conservation work;
- Repair and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements;
- Acquisition, sale, and lease of real property;
- Clearance or rehabilitation of property acquired by the URA;
- Construction or reconstruction of streets, utilities, and site improvements;
- Relocation of individuals living in the URA; and
- Carry out work which a housing authority is authorized to perform (under ORS 456.055 to 456.235).

Some Urban Renewal agencies use tax increment funds to pay all or some system development charges, building permit fees, or local improvement district assessments. These costs are part of 'site improvements,' which are allowed under state statute.

Process to Amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan

If Council wishes to continue to use Urban Renewal as a redevelopment tool in the Downtown District, it will need to approve a substantial Plan amendment, known as a "Type 1" amendment. A Type 1 amendment requires multiple steps and public outreach, which would take approximately four to six months from when Council starts the amendment process. The steps include:

1. Agency Board directs the Agency Director to prepare a draft of an amendment to the District Plan. This step initiates the staff work to draft the Plan and to conduct an analysis of blight in the District.
2. Agency Board holds a work session to start the Plan amendment process. Staff provides a draft Plan amendment for the work session.
3. Notify overlapping taxing districts and the general public.
 - Notify overlapping taxing districts that amendments are proposed and inform them of the proposed hearing date. Districts receive a copy of the draft Plan and are given 45 days to provide written comments.
 - Solicit concurrence from overlapping districts. (A Type 1 amendment requires concurrence.)
 - Mail out postcards to the general public and place materials and proposals on the City website.
4. Planning Commission reviews and comments on the proposed amendment.
5. City Council Public Hearing on the ordinance amending the Plan.
6. Council work session to review overlapping taxing district recommendations, comments from the public, and the Planning Commission recommendation.
7. Council meeting to consider the ordinance amending the Plan.

In order to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan to retain the current level of tax increment revenues, Council would need to approve any amendment by June 2023. This estimate would allow for the 30-day referral period and, if referred, the necessary amount of time for the amendment to be placed on the November 2023 ballot.

Fiscal Implications – If the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan is amended with an increase to the spending limit

The Downtown District generates approximately \$2.6 million in tax revenue per year as of FY22. The \$2.6 million in annual revenue will continue to be directed to the District, and that revenue will continue to grow. Table 1 below shows estimates of tax revenue from the overlapping districts.

Table 1. Division of Tax Impact on Overlapping Taxing Jurisdictions in FY22, Estimate of Current Property Taxes, Net of Discounts and Delinquencies

Taxing District	Type of Tax	Downtown
Education Taxes		
Eugene School District 4J	Permanent Rate	\$880,000
Eugene School District 4J	Local Option Levy	\$0
Lane Community College	Permanent Rate	\$115,000
Lane Education Service District	Permanent Rate	\$40,000
Total		\$1,035,000
General Government Taxes		
City of Eugene	Permanent Rate	\$1,300,000
City of Eugene	Library LOL	\$0
City of Eugene	Parks & Rec LOL	\$0
Lane County	Permanent Rate	\$235,000
Lane County	4-H/Extension LOL	\$0
Lane County	Public Safety LOL	\$0
Upper Willamette Soil & Water	Permanent Rate	\$10,000
Total		\$1,545,000
Bonded Debt Taxes		
City of Eugene	Bonded Debt	\$5,000
Eugene School District 4J	Bonded Debt	\$0
Lane Community College	Bonded Debt	\$0
Total		\$5,000
Total Taxes		\$2,585,000

Source: Lane County Assessment & Taxation, Table 4e, Detail of Urban Renewal Plan Areas by Taxing District, Tax Year 2021-22.

Note: Although local property taxes to schools are reduced as a result of the division of taxes, school budgets are only minimally reduced, all else being equal, because schools are funded through a per-pupil formula from the state, and any loss in local property taxes is made up by an increase in state funding. This chart does not take into account any effects of Measure 5 compression on education taxes.

If the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan is amended with an increase to the spending limit, the annual collection of tax increment revenue will eventually hit a cap per a newer state-mandated requirement in ORS 457.470. This annual cap does not affect the overall Plan spending limit, but rather it's a cap on the amount of tax increment revenue the District can collect in any one year. When the cap is reached, the annual tax increment revenue will plateau and remain flat in each subsequent year until the total spending limit of the Plan is realized. (Tax revenue beyond the annual cap would be directed to the overlapping taxing districts.) The practical impact of the annual cap is that it would take longer to collect enough tax increment revenue to reach the spending limit of the Plan. The annual cap can be waived if written concurrence is obtained from taxing districts imposing at least 75% of the amount of taxes imposed under permanent rate limits in the urban renewal area.

Fiscal Implications – *if the District no longer collects revenue from the division of tax*

The tax increment revenue (approximately \$2.6 million per year) will be directed to the overlapping taxing districts. Under this scenario, the City's General Fund would receive approximately 50% of what the Downtown District collects (\$1.3 million per year). Lane County would receive approximately 9% (\$235,000 per year) and School District 4J would receive approximately 34% (\$880,000 per year). The actual revenue received by the overlapping districts may not match the amounts shown in Table 1 due to 'compression.' Compression occurs when the tax amount calculation for an individual property exceeds the Measure 5 limits of \$5 per \$1,000 of Real Market Value (RMV) for education taxes and/or \$10 per \$1,000 RMV for general government taxes. A property in compression pays a lower tax rate than the sum of all applicable tax rates. The Downtown Urban Renewal District diverts permanent tax rate dollars out of the education category and into the general government category, which causes reduced compression in the education tax rate category for some properties.

It is important to note that if the Urban Renewal district no longer collects tax revenue, the impact to School District 4J's overall budget *would be negative*:

- **4J's permanent rate.** Schools in Oregon are primarily funded on a statewide per-pupil funding formula, rather than by the level of tax dollars generated within school district boundaries. If the local property tax revenue does not meet the per-pupil level, the state makes up the difference. If we assume a constant school funding formula and all else remains equal, staff estimate that 4J loses around \$20,000 annually as a result of permanent rate tax dollars diverted to the City's Downtown Urban Renewal district, much less than the amount of property tax revenue that flows to the District.
- **4J's Local Option Levy.** The Downtown District generates no revenue from the local option levy. However, it indirectly impacts the revenue generated by the levy, due to compression. The Urban Renewal District diverts permanent rate tax dollars out of the education category and into the general government category, which causes reduced compression in the education tax rate category for some properties. The end result is that 4J receives around \$170,000 more revenue from the local option levy annually because of the compression relieved by the Downtown Urban Renewal District. The state funding formula does not apply to local option levies, so 4J realizes the full benefit of this increase.

The net impact to 4J of the District ceasing to collect revenue from the division of tax is a decrease of approximately \$150,000.

Increasing the Frozen Base

In considering whether to amend the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan, the Agency Board could consider increasing the District's frozen base. When an urban renewal district is first created, the assessed value within the district boundaries is established as the "frozen base." If any boundary expansions subsequently occur, the assessed value within the expansion area is added to the district's existing frozen base. Increases in the value of the district above the base amount is called the "incremental" or "excess" value. Overlapping jurisdictions continue to receive property taxes on the frozen base, while the Urban Renewal Agency receives property taxes related to the incremental value. This is called the "division of tax" method of raising revenue in an urban renewal district.

Under Oregon law, an Urban Renewal Agency has the authority to increase the frozen base. It is important to note that the ability to increase the frozen base is subject to certain limitations and restrictions and must be done in accordance with state law and the provisions of the urban renewal plan.

Map of Downtown Urban Renewal District

