



Downtown Erie Infrastructure Improvements Community Engagement Results

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Historical Context of Project

- Infrastructure audit – Rosksol Consulting. Presented April, 2020
- Downtown Improvements:
 - Placemaking
 - Intersection Bump-out Curbs
 - Pavement & ADA Ramp Upgrades
 - Bury Overhead Cables
 - Downtown District Alley Improvements
 - Parking Downtown
 - Downtown Streetscape
 - Tree Planting
 - Small Business & Residential Support Fund
- Bond issuance from Boulder Creek Development = \$3.8M

Tools Utilized

In person

- Walking tours
- Info booth conversations

Online

- Engage Erie
- Balancing Act
- Story Map

Collateral

- Newsletter and postcards
- Erie Edition – two page insert

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Downtown Tours / Information Booth
 - Eight different engagement events (seven Downtown & one at the ECC).
 - Engaged with roughly 850 people over the course of all in-person engagement.
- Erie Engage
 - 600 total visits between May 31 – Aug. 9
 - 303 people viewed the informational posters - #1 Placemaking (50) , #2 Streetscapes (40), #3 Parking (37)
- Balancing Act
 - 111 page views, 45 submissions. Average time on site = 5 minutes and 45 seconds
- Social Media
 - Six Facebook posts reaching a total of 10,556 people
 - Two Instagram posts reaching 1,836 people
- Print Marketing
 - 3,600 copies in two Erie Edition cycles
 - Flyers at Coffee with the Mayor
 - Flyers at touchpoints in facilities
- Town Administrator's Weekly Update – two issues

Balancing Act Results | Streetscaping

- Average submitted amount \$545.2K
 - I prefer the "better" option: 48.89%
 - I prefer the "good" option: 28.89%
 - I prefer no streetscape improvements: 13.33%
 - I prefer the "best" option: 8.89%
- Better Option - \$360K
 - **Project includes upgrades and improvements to:** Walkway treatment, tree lawn treatment, tree grates, amenity zone improvements, pedestrian crossing improvements, parallel parking improvements, street lighting, trees, landscaping at intersections & crossings.
 - 500 & 600 block of Briggs, two blocks east of Briggs on Cheesman and Wells.

Balancing Act Results | Tree Planting

- Average submitted amount = \$462.4K
 - I prefer topsoil/plant option: 44.44%
 - I prefer the Silva Cell option: 26.67%
 - I prefer the CU Structural Soil option: 15.56%
 - I prefer to not add trees Downtown: 13.33%
- Topsoil Option – \$230K
 - 100 new trees planted.
 - Most affordable option.

Balancing Act Results | Parking Downtown

- Average submitted amount = \$462K
 - Construct a large 42-space parking lot: 42.22%
 - Do nothing to add additional parking Downtown: 22.22%
 - Construct a small 28-space parking lot: 20.00%
 - Build a 100-spot parking structure: 15.56%
- 42-space parking lot – \$281K
 - Does not include costs for land acquisition or demolition (if needed).
 - Maintenance & rehabilitation costs would be ~5% annually.

Balancing Act Results | Pavement & ADA Ramp Upgrades

- Average submitted amount = \$454K
 - No roadway or ADA ramp improvements in the Downtown: 55.56%
 - Cape Seal surface treatment & ADA ramp upgrades: 42.22%
 - Asphalt overlay improvements & ADA ramp upgrades: 2.22%
- Cape Seal & ADA Ramp upgrades – \$896K
 - Recently completed milling and asphalt overlay in Downtown.
 - Upgrading pedestrian ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements = \$374K (34 Old Town corners x \$11K).

Balancing Act Results | Small Business & Residential Support Fund

- Average submitted amount = \$344.4K
 - Create a fund for \$500,000: 35.56%
 - Should not create a fund: 31.11%
 - Create a fund for \$250,000: 22.22%
 - Create a fund for \$1,000,000: 11.11%
- Small Biz & Residential Support Fund – \$896K
 - Expand the existing revitalization programs and utilize Tax Increment Financing to promote the goals of TOEURA to reduce blight within the Old Town URA zone and leverage public-private partnerships to encourage economic development.

Balancing Act Results | Placemaking Fund

- Average submitted amount = \$344.4K
 - No, the Town should not create a Placemaking Fund: 33.33%
 - Yes, the Town should create a Placemaking Fund in the amount of \$500,000: 31.11%
 - Yes, the Town should create a Placemaking Fund in the amount of \$250,000: 22.22%
 - Yes, the Town should create a Placemaking Fund in the amount of \$100,000: 13.33%
- Place Making Fund
 - Planning, design and management of public spaces to create activities and locations that promote health, happiness and well-being. The fund would support local art, safe biking and pedestrian paths, events/music, etc.

Balancing Act Results | Bury Overhead Cables

- Average submitted amount = \$127K
 - Yes, the Town should bury overhead lines: 71.11%
 - No, the Town should not bury the overhead cables: 28.89%
- Bury Overhead Cables
 - Burying of electrical and communication lines and removal of poles in the 500 and 600 block of Briggs Street and the alleyways to the East and West of Briggs St.
 - This cost estimate does not include the costs for ROW acquisition and undergrounding the laterals (equipment upgrades and trenching).
 - **REAL COSTS**

Balancing Act Results | Projects not supported by residents

- Alleyway Improvements average submitted amount = \$317.6K
 - I prefer no improvements to the alleyways: 71.11%
- Curb Improvements average submitted amount = \$264.5K
 - I prefer no improvements to the curbs or intersections: 91.11%

Summary

- Top supported Projects
 1. **Burying overhead cables** – 71% - *\$179K
 2. **Streetscaping “better” option** – 49% - \$360K
 3. **Tree planting topsoil option** – 44% - \$230K
 4. **42 space parking lot** – 42% - \$281K + acquisition of land + ongoing maintenance 5% annually
 5. **Cape Seal surface treatment (completed) & ADA ramp upgrades** – 42% - \$374K for 34 intersections
 6. **Small Business & Residential Support Fund** – 34% - \$500K
 - 64% support to create a fund between \$250K - \$1M
 7. **Placemaking fund for Downtown** – 31% - \$500K
 - 67% support to create a fund between \$100K-\$500K
- TOTAL = \$2,424,000

Downtown Zone Streetscape Improvements			
Downtown - Briggs St. and Wells St. (66' R.O.W.)			
Element Type	Concept 1 - 'Good'	Concept 2 - 'Better'	Concept 3 - 'Best'
Walkway Treatment	New gray, broom-finished concrete as required for repairs/consistency.	Scored, colored, broom-finished or stamped concrete .	Permeable Concrete Unit Pavers.
Tree Lawn Treatment	Crusher Fines over amended topsoil.	Permeable concrete pavers over CU structural soil.	Permeable concrete pavers over Silva Cells.
Tree Grates	None.	Paver grates (expandable to 24"min)	Paver grates (expandable to 24"min)
Amenity Zone Improvements	None.	Allow/incentivize private businesses/residences to install benches, bike racks, tables/chairs, trash receptacles, etc.	Install benches, bike racks, tables/chairs, trash receptacles, etc.
Pedestrian Crossing Improvements	Thermoplastic graphics at pedestrian crossings.	Scored/colored concrete at pedestrian crossings.	Raised intersections with scored/colored concrete at pedestrian crossings.
Parallel Parking Improvements	None	Scored/colored concrete at parallel parking areas.	Permeable concrete unit pavers at parallel parking areas.
Lighting	Upgrade existing street light fixtures to LED (Xcel).	Upgrade existing street light fixtures to LED (Xcel), add additional pedestrian lighting at intersections (Xcel or Custom).	Upgrade existing street light fixtures to LED(Xcel), add additional pedestrian lighting at intersections (Xcel or Custom), include signature lighting elements such as up lights at trees, in grade lights at walkways, lit bollards, and GFC receptacles for holiday/event lighting (Custom).
Trees	Keep existing, fill in missing, damaged, or unhealthy trees.	Replace with trees from TOE's preferred list of street trees, meeting species diversity goals, and selected for aesthetic enhancements/identity in the downtown as well as performance/longevity in the streetscape environment. Plant in CU Structural Soil.	Replace with trees from TOE's preferred list of street trees, meeting species diversity goals, and selected for aesthetic enhancements/identity in the downtown as well as performance/longevity in the streetscape environment. Plant in Silva Cells.
Landscape at Intersections & Crossings	Maintain/supplement existing plants and groundcover (mulch/gravel).	Enhanced container planting: pollinator friendly, xeric, with showy perennial flowers, shrubs & grasses. Includes new irrigation.	Enhanced Pollinator friendly, Xeric planting with showy perennial flowers, shrubs & grasses. Add branding elements. Includes new irrigation.
Probable Cost (per lf)	\$150.00	\$360.00	\$930.00