

# DARP: Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan

Capital Project Recommendations

City Council | April 12, 2021





By the year 2032, Downtown Lacombe will emerge as the symbolic “**Heart of Lacombe**”, celebrating its rich historic roots while embracing complementary contemporary architecture. With its **progressive and dynamic** central core, surrounded by **beautiful, safe, and highly livable** residential neighbourhoods, Downtown Lacombe will be celebrated as a **vibrant year round destination for all to enjoy**.

# Engagement Process



## Part 1: Public Consultation

## Part 2: Advisory Committee



# Part 1: Public Consultation

282

**Survey  
Participants**



**Online  
Survey**

Open Oct 21  
to Nov 30



**Information  
Videos**

on YouTube



**Social  
Media Posts**

on Facebook  
& Twitter

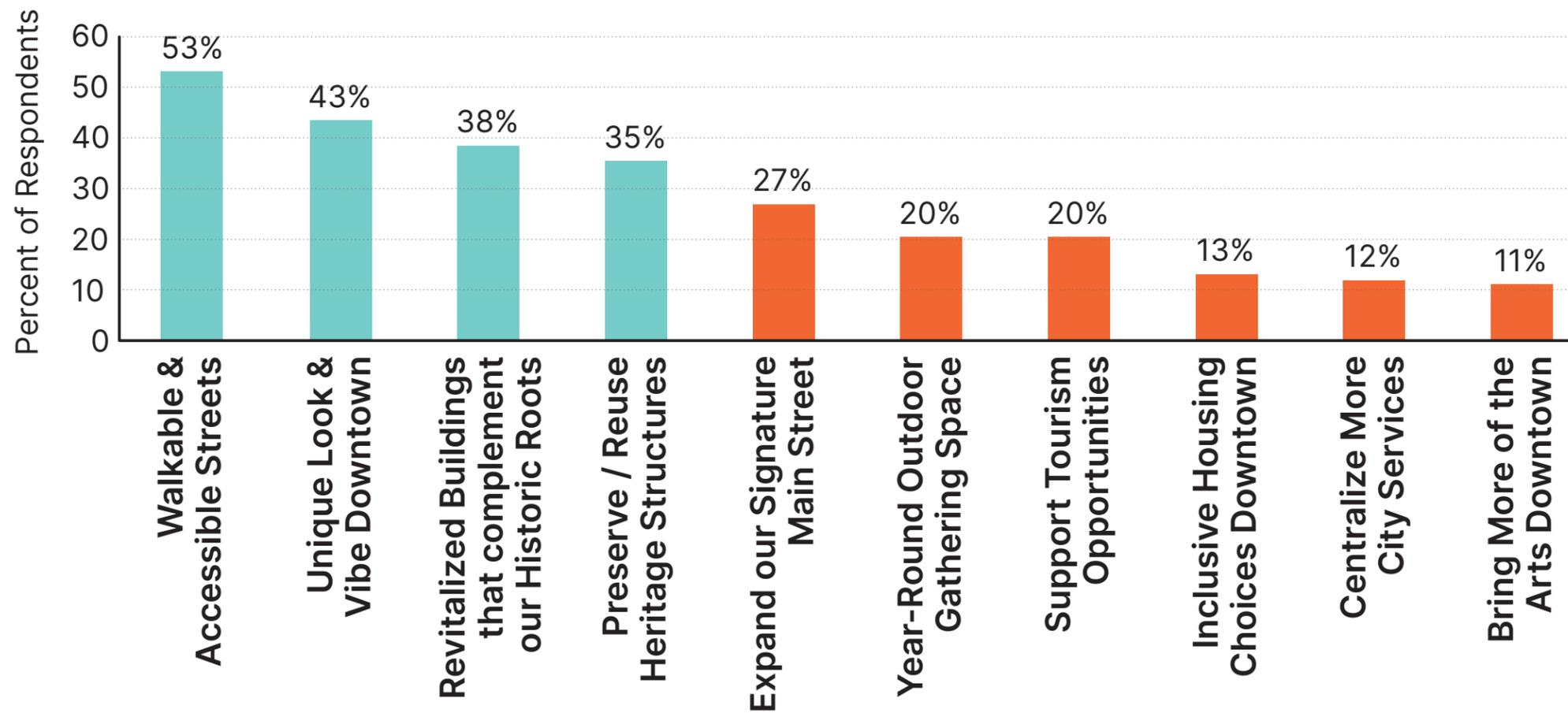


**Door-to-door  
Conversations**

with residents and  
downtown businesses

# Part 1: Public Consultation

## What will have the greatest impact on Lacombe's downtown future growth?



# Part 2: Advisory Committee

## Committee Members:

Melissa Blunden

Peter Bouwsema

Myles Chykerda

Troy Corsiatto

Tammy & Don Derowin

Hannah Downton

Tracy Duckett

Kim Kay

Joe Whitbread



# Part 2: Advisory Committee

## Project Criteria:

- » Does the project address the **vision and priorities** of the DARP?
- » Will the project improve the **perception and experience** of downtown?
- » Will the project support the needs of **residents and visitors**?
- » Will the project have a **long-term impact**?
- » Can projects be **leveraged** with existing work?  
(e.g. community initiatives, other planned City work)

# Public Space Connector

A unique opportunity to create a new pedestrian connection, activate Main Street, and act as a catalyst to enliven the downtown for residents and visitors alike.

**SHORT TERM** Part A: Site Selection

**LONG TERM** Part B: Detailed Design / Installation & Construction

## What:

- Build an inviting, beautiful space near Main Street
- Create an accessible walkway between streets, back laneways, and parking lots
- Include amenities like seating, invitations to stay/gather for all ages (e.g. fire pit, games, music), murals/art

## Why:

- Bring people to downtown to socialize, create a lively community atmosphere and visit local businesses
- Improve pedestrian connections to nearby parking
- Expand accessibility of downtown activities (e.g. barrier-free, free to use)
- Encourage year-round use of the public realm



# String Lights

Lighting in key locations to create a welcoming evening ambiance.

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## SHORT TERM Installation

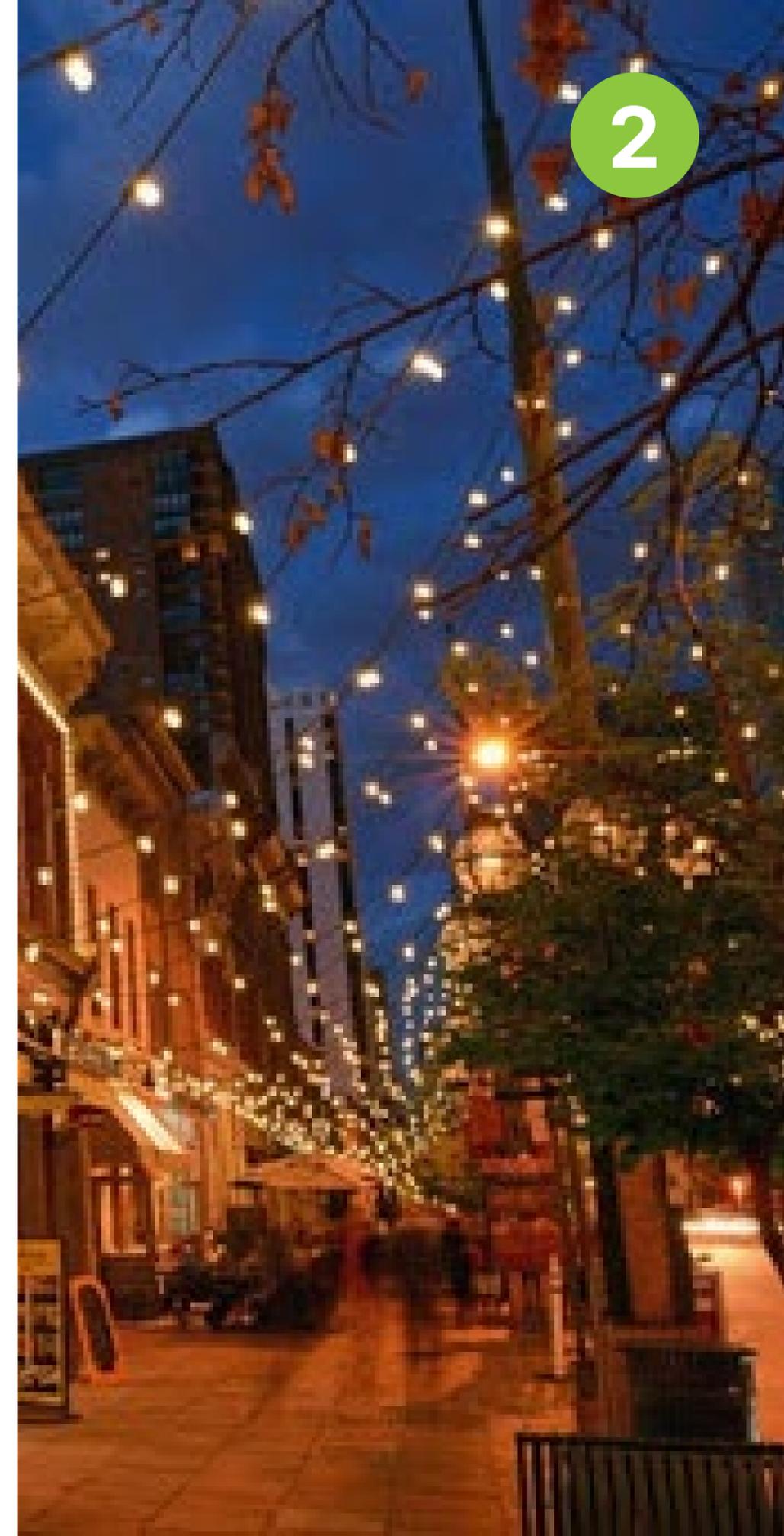
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### What:

- String lights are hung across streets, sidewalks or within street trees

### Why:

- Create a cozy, welcoming feeling while enhancing heritage character
- Encourage evening use of downtown and enable longer business hours
- Visually highlight key areas of community gathering and commerce



# Downtown Entry/Landmark Signs

A welcoming signal for visitors to downtown Lacombe.

**SHORT TERM** Detailed Design/Installation & Construction

## What:

- Welcome banners or landmark structures
- Potential to be movable to highlight various locations and events

## Why:

- Provide clear wayfinding marker to locate downtown
- Opportunity to integrate public art as a photo opportunity
- Potential to provide community/event information



# Pedestrian Accessibility and Improvements

Improve accessibility and street furniture to create an inviting, distinct, and inclusive pedestrian experience for all.

**SHORT TERM** Part A: Preliminary Design, Standards & Implementation Plan

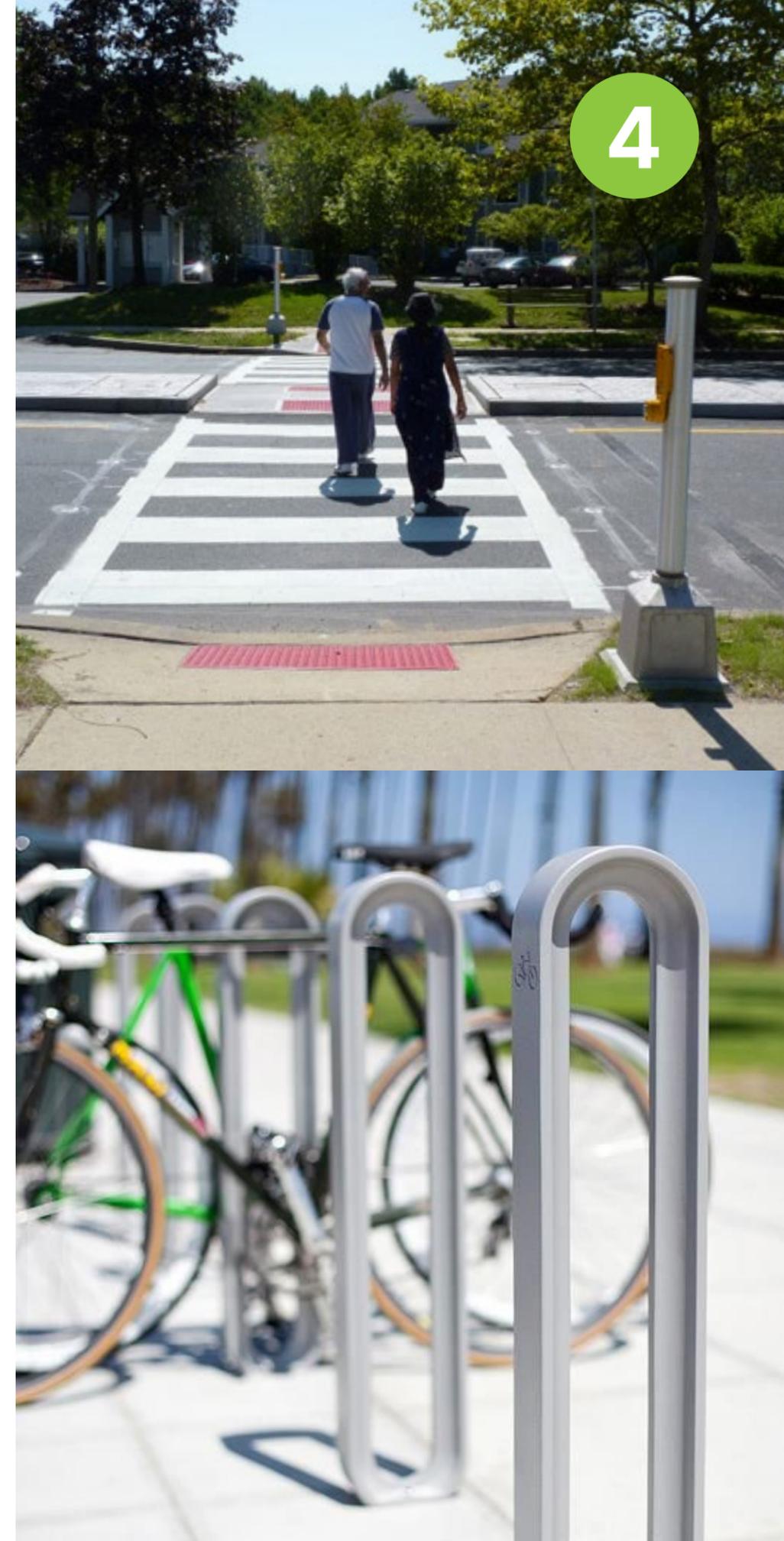
**MEDIUM to LONG TERM** Part B: Detailed Design / Installation & Construction

## What:

- Guide accessibility recommendations and implementation (e.g. mid-block crossings, zebra crosswalks)
- Guide and install additional street furniture (e.g. bike racks, benches, garbage/recycling bins)
- Leverage implementation with other downtown street improvements for efficiency and cost savings

## Why:

- Enhance accessibility beyond the typical City standard
- Provide a comfortable experience for all users and visitors to access downtown streets and amenities
- Support walking and biking for people to spend more time downtown
- Brighten public amenities and promote a unique, distinct downtown character



# Lest We Forget Park Surface Upgrade

5

The resurfacing of Lest We Forget Park to support continued community use through all seasons.

**SHORT TERM** Part A: Strategy Development

**MEDIUM TERM** Part B: Implementation & Construction

## What:

- Provide a durable solution to accommodate skating facilities in the winter, while minimizing/eliminating ongoing damage to the park
- Guide the installation, maintenance, and/or upgrade of ground cover in the park
- Solutions may include synthetic ground cover for existing ice rink area or investigation into alternate methods to install ice surface

## Why:

- Facilitate year-round use with winter skating rink to summer community event space
- Maintain and improve the quality of this important park space used by local residents



# Tree Asset Management Plan

A strategy document to support the long-term lifecycle of downtown street trees and preserve the character they provide for generations to come.

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## MEDIUM TERM Strategy Development

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### What:

- Proactive strategy for how/when to replace street trees
- Provide recommendations to allocate City funds for the renewal of street trees on an ongoing/as needed basis

### Why:

- Ensure the unique and highly-valued character that trees provide to the downtown area is not lost when trees reach their end-of-life
- Maintain and improve the comfort provided by trees in the pedestrian environment (e.g. shade, aesthetics, heritage)



# Pedestrian Friendly Shared Street

The formation of a pedestrian-focused street for people to gather and support local businesses in the heart of downtown Lacombe.

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**MEDIUM TERM** Detailed Design/Installation & Construction

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**What:**

- Convert street to one-way with angled parking and parklet spaces
- Periodic closure of street for pedestrian use on designated days/events

**Why:**

- Create a more comfortable pedestrian environment with reduced traffic on Main Street
- Encourage walking between businesses and destinations
- Create a focal point for large events, markets, and festivals



# Decorative Crosswalks

A unique and colourful intervention to brighten key intersections around the downtown.

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**LONG TERM** Detailed Design/Installation & Construction

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## What:

- Install pavers at key crosswalks using a variety of colours/patterns
- Provide a durable alternative to painted crosswalks

## Why:

- Brighten infrastructure to signal welcome to downtown
- Aid in the legibility and wayfinding of downtown by highlighting key locations or entry points



# Downtown Capital Project Priorities

PHASE	PROJECT	BUDGET ALLOCATION
SHORT TERM (2021-23)	<b>1A</b> Public Space Connector   Site Selection	N/A
	<b>2</b> String Lights	\$50,000
	<b>3</b> Downtown Entry/Landmark Signs	\$80,000
	<b>4A</b> Pedestrian Accessibility & Improvements   Preliminary Design, Standards & Implementation Plan	\$36,000
	<b>5A</b> Lest We Forget Park Surface Upgrade   Strategy Development	\$10,000
MEDIUM TERM (2024-26)	<b>6</b> Tree Asset Management Plan	\$45,000
	<b>5B</b> Lest We Forget Park Surface Upgrade   Implementation & Construction	\$270,000
	<b>7</b> Pedestrian Friendly Shared Street	\$250,000
LONG TERM (2027-29)	<b>4B</b> Pedestrian Accessibility & Improvements   Detailed Design / Installation & Construction	\$400,000
	<b>8</b> Decorative Crosswalks	\$64,000
	<b>1B</b> Public Space Connector   Detailed Design / Installation & Construction	\$500,000
		<b>\$1,705,000</b>

# Next Steps

## Ongoing Role of Advisory Committee:

- » Provide guidance and recommendations on how the **vision and goals** of the DARP can be achieved
- » Identify priority projects and **confirm priorities** for capital budget cycles
- » Inform the development of **additional strategies** and other planning/design work required
- » Provide input about the **design** of approved projects

# Questions?

