



AGENDA | SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

August 04, 2021 at 4:30 PM
Council Chambers - Apex Town Hall, 73 Hunter Street

Town Council and Administration

Mayor: Jacques K. Gilbert | Mayor Pro Tem: Nicole L. Dozier
Council Members: Brett D. Gantt; Audra M. Killingsworth; Cheryl F. Stallings; Terry Mahaffey
Town Manager: Catherine Crosby | Assistant Town Managers: Shawn Purvis and Marty Stone
Town Clerk: Donna B. Hosch, MMC | Town Attorney: Laurie L. Hohe

COMMENCEMENT

Call to Order | Invocation | Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

All Consent Agenda items are considered routine, to be enacted by one motion with the adoption of the Consent Agenda, and without discussion. If a Council Member requests discussion of an item, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. The Mayor will present the Consent Agenda to be set prior to taking action on the following items:

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Gilbert will call for additional Agenda items from Council or Staff and set the Regular Meeting Agenda prior to Council actions.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public Forum allows the public an opportunity to address the Town Council. The speaker is requested not to address items that appear as Public Hearings scheduled on the Regular Agenda. The Mayor will recognize those who would like to speak at the appropriate time. Large groups are asked to select a representative to speak for the entire group. Comments must be limited to 3 minutes to allow others the opportunity to speak.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[PH1](#) Russell Dalton, Traffic Engineering Manager

Possible Motion to approve schematic designs to carry forward to final design phase for the Saunders St Parking Lot, Commerce St Alley, Seaboard St Alley, The Peak on Salem Alley, Saunders St Gathering Place, and Salem Streetscape, as well as "Smart Parking" solutions.

OLD BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

WORK SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

| Agenda Item | cover sheet

for consideration by the Apex Town Council

Item Type: PUBLIC HEARING

Meeting Date: August 4, 2021

Item Details

Presenter(s): Russell Dalton, Traffic Engineering Manager

Department(s): Public Works & Transportation

Requested Motion

Possible Motion to approve schematic designs to carry forward to final design phase for the Saunders St Parking Lot, Commerce St Alley, Seaboard St Alley, The Peak on Salem Alley, Saunders St Gathering Place, and Salem Streetscape, as well as "Smart Parking" solutions.

Approval Recommended?

Yes

Item Details

Staff presented the recommendations from the Downtown Projects final design effort as schematic designs at the Council work session on August 22. Due to public concerns raised at the work session, Council continued the discussion and possible motion to this special meeting date as a public hearing.

As a reminder, staff have provided schematic designs for the Downtown Projects for public comment and are ready to share information with Council and receive direction on key decision points prior to moving forward with final design. Early public outreach for the Downtown Projects included virtual focus group meetings January 27-28, a "two-minute" online survey March 3-24, and in-person Downtown owner and tenant meetings on April 26 to review draft schematic designs. Final versions of the schematic designs were shared in a virtual public workshop from May 17-31 as well as during an in-person public workshop on May 24. Staff have since received and summarized comments from a public comment survey of over 450 respondents and will present that information along with the schematic designs. There are design options for both the Saunders St Parking Lot and the Salem Streetscape as well as various elements to consider within all the projects.

Attachments

- Schematic Design Summary List & Decision Points
- Public Comment Summary
- Detailed Public Comments



Decision points for Downtown Projects Council Work Session

June 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Saunders Lot

Option A: Maximize Parking

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| CONSTRUCTION COST* | \$2,163,000 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|

Option B: Preserve Green

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| CONSTRUCTION COST* | \$1,940,000 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|

*Includes 25% contingency, 5% escalation, and 10% CE&I

ADDITIONAL COST THAT APPLIES TO A & B EQUALLY:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| ESTIMATED ROW & EASEMENT COST | COST TBD |
|--|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| SOLAR CANOPY (OPTION)** | \$760,000 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|

**Requires further discussion on use of power output/surplus power

Note: Original CIP Allocation for Saunders Lot \$1,200,000

Commerce Street Alley

| | |
|--|-----------|
| CONSTRUCTION COST* | \$178,000 |
| ESTIMATED ROW & EASEMENT COST** | \$130,000 |
| RELOCATE DRY UTILITY SERVICES (OPTION) | \$128,000 |

*Includes 25% contingency, 5% escalation, and 10% CE&I

**Excludes administrative cost of acquisition

Seaboard Street Alley

| | |
|--|-----------|
| CONSTRUCTION COST* | \$743,000 |
| ESTIMATED ROW & EASEMENT COST** | \$202,000 |
| RELOCATE DRY UTILITY SERVICES (OPTION) | \$192,000 |
| COMPACTOR PURCHASE (OPTION)*** | \$70,000 |

*Includes 25% contingency, 5% escalation, and 10% CE&I

**Excludes administrative cost of acquisition and expansion of CSX lease area

***Purchase compactors instead of leasing (qty. 3) w/ platforms (8yd size, excludes delivery, install, or contracted pick-up service fees)

The Peak Alley

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| CONSTRUCTION COST* | \$91,000 |
| ESTIMATED ROW & EASEMENT COST** | \$44,000 |

*Includes 25% contingency, 5% escalation, and 10% CE&I

**Excludes administrative cost of acquisition

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| GRAND TOTAL OF ALL THE ABOVE (ALLEYS) | \$1,778,000 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|

Note: Original Combined CIP Allocation for Alleyways \$500,000

Salem Streetscape

Option A: Vertical Curb with Drop Zones

CONSTRUCTION COST* **\$1,470,000**

Option B: Curbless with Parking

CONSTRUCTION COST* **\$1,979,000**

Option C: Curbless with Drop Zones

CONSTRUCTION COST* **\$1,943,000**

*Includes 25% contingency, 5% escalation, and 10% CE&I

ADDITIONAL COST THAT APPLIES TO A, B & C EQUALLY:

ESTIMATED ROW & EASEMENT COST** **\$15,000**

SMART TRASH CANS (OPTION)*** **\$59,000**

CHATHAM ST SIGNAL UPGRADE (OPTION) **\$200,000**

ASPHALT TRAVEL LANES (OPTION)**** **(- \$176,000)**

**Excludes administrative cost of acquisition

***Upgrade Proposed Trash Receptacles to be Smart Trash Cans is \$92,318 - \$33,621.25 = \$58,696.75 overall price increase

****Asphalt Drive Lanes: \$31,877.00 (mill & overlay) - \$207,734.44 (permeable pavers) = \$175,857.44 potential cost savings

Note: Original CIP Allocation for Salem Streetscape \$2,500,000

Saunders St Gathering Space

CONSTRUCTION COST* **\$202,000**

ESTIMATED ROW & EASEMENT COST** **\$0**

*Includes 25% contingency, 5% escalation, and 10% CE&I

**Town-owned parcel

Note: No Separate Original CIP Allocation Identified; Proposed for Salem Streetscape Add-on

Smart Parking

Primary option: Saunders Lot Monitoring Only

CONSTRUCTION COST* **\$17,000 to \$31,000**

Sub-option A: Saunders Lot plus Seaboard Monitoring (Railroad parking only)

CONSTRUCTION COST* **\$31,000 to \$60,000**

Sub-option B: Saunders Lot plus Seaboard plus On-Street Detection (207 Total Spots) using Cameras

CONSTRUCTION COST* **\$72,000 to \$125,000**

*Excludes potential cost of easements/lease agreements and utility coordination/relocation; price range reflects variability in various systems and technology available subject to final design specifications

ADDITIONAL COST THAT APPLIES TO ALL OPTIONS EQUALLY:

APEX BAPTIST CHURCH LOT MONITORING* **\$32,000 to \$56,000**

*Excludes potential cost of easements/lease agreements and utility coordination/relocation; price range reflects variability in various systems and technology available subject to final design specifications

Note: No Separate Original CIP Allocation Identified for Smart Parking

DISCLAIMER FOR OPINION OF PROBABLE COST BASED ON SCHEMATIC DESIGNS:

Since the Landscape Architect and Engineer have no control over the cost of labor, materials, equipment, over the Contractor's methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, the Opinions of Probable Costs provided for herein are made on the basis of his OR her experience and qualifications. These opinions represent his OR her best judgment as a design professional familiar with the construction industry. However, the Landscape Architect and Engineer cannot and do not guarantee that proposals, bids, or construction cost will not vary from Opinions of Probable Costs prepared by him OR her.

Downtown Apex Design Projects Workshop Comment Summary

Over 450 people actively participated in the Downtown Design Projects Public Workshop, providing 575 written comments. The information below represents a brief summary of the extensive input provided through both the in-person and virtual workshop options. Information is summarized by project. Overall feedback for each project is summarized in an initial chart, followed by a summary of themes distilled from the written comments.

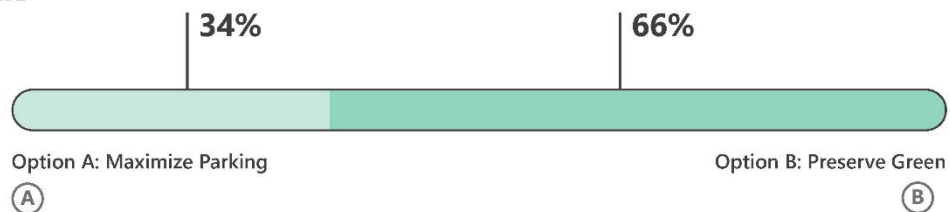
| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Saunders Lot | 1 |
| Commerce Street | 2 |
| Seaboard Street | 3 |
| Saunders Street Gathering Space | 4 |
| Peak on Salem Alley | 5 |
| Salem Streetscape..... | 6 |

Saunders Lot

Q: WHICH SCHEMATIC PARKING LOT DESIGN DO YOU PREFER FOR THE SAUNDERS LOT?

Saunders Lot

Total respondents:
292



Summary of themes from 77 comments:

- Add design elements to the preserved area (in the “Preserve Green” alternative) to enhance this community space.
- Retain and implement the sustainability strategies (e.g. solar canopies, stormwater capture/reuse, EV charging).
- Implement smart parking, but make sure it is user friendly and clear that parking is free.
- Build a parking deck. It will provide the most parking, meet future needs, and can be built in a smaller footprint to preserve even more green.

Commerce Street

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN FOR COMMERCE STREET?

Commerce Street

Total respondents:
276

Average
76%



Summary of themes from 116 comments:

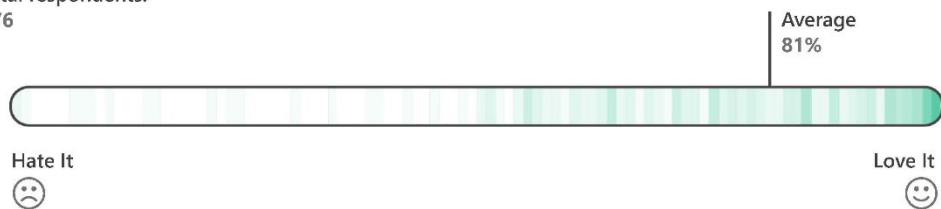
- Common themes for the Commerce and Seaboard alleys:
 - Eliminate the asphalt artwork/Implement the asphalt artwork.
 - Provide cool, shaded spaces for people.
 - Clean-up the utilities and consider going underground.
 - Ensure the functional needs of businesses are a top priority.
 - Add elements to encourage and support cycling.
- Commerce-specific themes:
 - Prioritize trash consolidation and containment - it creates visual and olfactory issues, and detracts from the investment in creating people places.
 - Complete pedestrian improvements for the full length of the alleyway.

Seaboard Street

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN FOR SEABOARD STREET?

Seaboard Street

Total respondents:
276



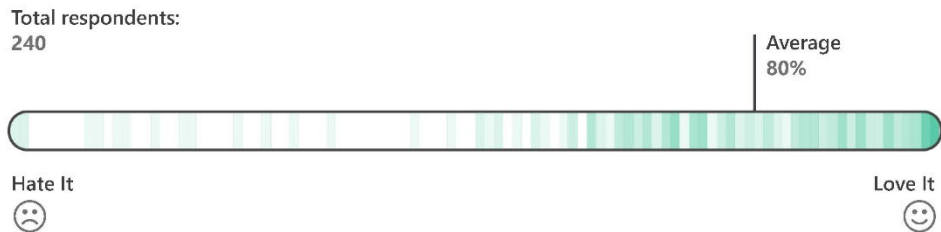
Summary of themes from 98 comments:

- Common themes for the Commerce and Seaboard alleys:
 - Eliminate the asphalt artwork/Implement the asphalt artwork.
 - Provide cool, shaded spaces for people.
 - Clean-up the utilities and consider going underground.
 - Ensure the functional needs of businesses are a top priority.
 - Add elements to encourage and support cycling.
- Seaboard-specific themes:
 - Implement the green elements (ornamental trees, pollinator bioswales, planters, permeable pavers).
 - Be cautious about the safety and practical aspects of mixing gathering spaces and functional spaces.
 - Expand the space for gathering and eliminate some of the parking.
 - Plan on space for food trucks.
 - Incorporate design elements or themes that capture the history of the area.
 - Work with business and property owners to understand their needs and evaluate back-door access for customers

Saunders Street Gathering Space

Q: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SAUNDERS STREET GATHERING SPACE SCHEMATIC DESIGN?

Saunders Street Gathering Space



Summary of themes from 73 comments:

- Install the mural exactly as shown/Use a more traditional color palette/Keep the message but change the art/Allow the public to vote on the murals.
- Keep the lending library – this is an important elements of small town charm.
- Keep the rock garden/eliminate the rock garden.
- Keep the existing tree and add even more green. New trees will take a long time to reach this size. This specific tree is part of the Apex nostalgia and the location is the site of many memories.
- Eliminate some of the games in favor of more green.
- Implement all changes that allow this space to be used for people.
- Use this space for more parking.
- Program events for the new gathering space.
- Develop a plan for maintenance. Especially if movable/loose pieces are implemented and string lights are incorporated.
- Add a water feature.

Peak on Salem Alley

Q: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PEAK ALLEY SCHEMATIC DESIGN?

Peak on Salem Alley

Total respondents:
237

Average
82%



Summary of themes from 59 comments:

- Add the stage – more places like this are needed for entertainment and gathering.
- Remove the stage - it will create too much noise for residential areas.
- Implement improvements as shown.
- Leave the design of this area up to the private property owner.
- Block through traffic as shown – this is a dangerous location for calls to pull onto Salem Street.
- Add a water feature.

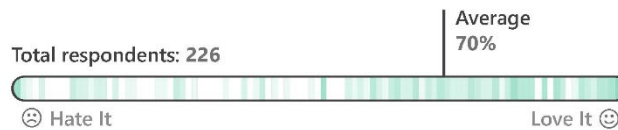
Salem Streetscape

Q: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN OPTIONS FOR SALEM STREET?

Salem Streetscape

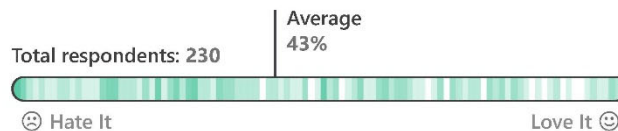
Option A:

Vertical Curb with Drop Zones



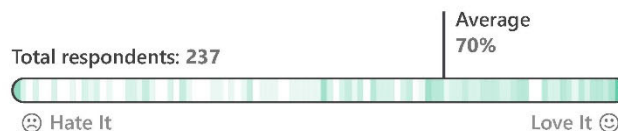
Option B:

Curbless with Parking Option



Option C:

Curbless with Drop Zones



Summary of themes from 111 comments:

- General
 - Do not implement substantial changes that will disturb businesses after a difficult year.
 - Make this happen as soon as possible!
 - Continue streetscape enhancements to Center Street or it will discourage people from visiting businesses.
 - Close Salem Street to traffic/keep Salem Street open to traffic.
 - Develop a plan for maintenance.
- Design Elements
 - Keep the permeable pavers, soil cells, shade for pedestrians, street trees, lighting, and the expansion of the outdoor gathering/dining spaces.
 - Eliminate string lights as the strings will be ugly during the day and when bulbs go out.
 - Reconsider at least some of the counter-height tables, especially since they are facing and adjacent to traffic.
 - Reduce the number of trees. People like to see the buildings and they create a maintenance issue.
 - Add sharrows or bike lanes, more space for bicycle parking and locking, and make sure pavers are bicycle friendly.
 - Use decorative signal posts.
 - Carefully select the trees and use native species.
 - Raise crosswalks to slow cars. Add a mid-block crossing if cars are slowing down and parking is removed.
 - Add a line down the center of the street.
 - Select a different paver – it is too grey and people will miss the color from the existing brick pavers.

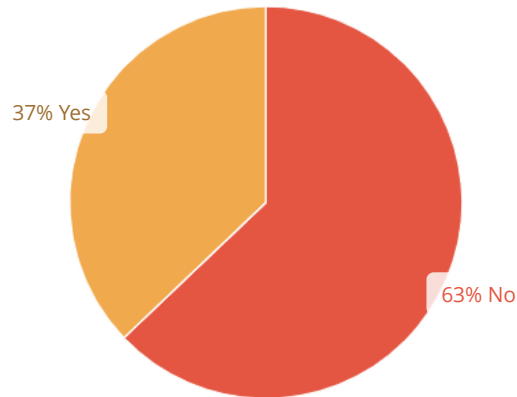
- Maintain a paved roadway instead of using pavers. Pavers create a mall feeling instead of a downtown.
- Parking
 - Do not remove any parking. It is vital to businesses.
 - Reduce parking as shown – it balances the need for additional space for dining and gathering with the need for easily-accessible spaces for shops. Placement is appropriate. Some parking is needed to bring activity to the street, otherwise it will feel desolate during times when there aren't many pedestrians.
 - Eliminate all parking except the drop zones. Parking contributes to crashes, slows traffic, impacts the pedestrian environment, and detracts from the overall design. Parking also conflicts with cyclists, creates site line issues, and makes it difficult to see businesses.
 - If parking is maintained, it should be with the curbed option only.
 - Shift drop zones to opposite ends of the street.
 - Make sure time limitations for drop zones are enforced.
 - Add 1-3 more drop zone areas – these will be vital.
- Curb versus Curbless
 - Implement the curbed option as it is perceived to:
 - Feel more open given the need for extensive bollards and fixed features with the curbless alternative.
 - Better handle stormwater.
 - Improve safety.
 - Discourage jay-walking.
 - Effectively redirect cars onto the road.
 - Implement the curbless option as it is perceived to:
 - Add flexibility for festivals and events.
 - Increase accessibility.
 - Improve the pedestrian feel of the corridor.

Downtown Apex Design Projects-Online Workshop

Project Engagement

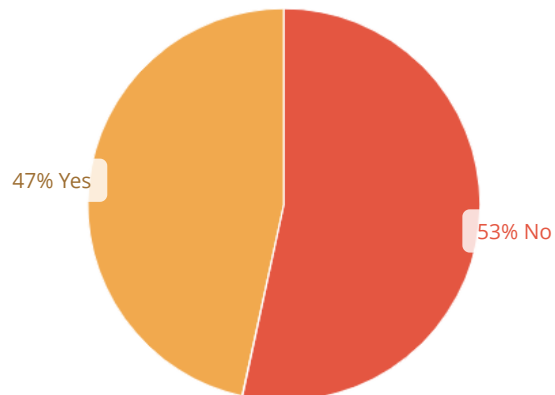
| VIEWS | PARTICIPANTS | RESPONSES | COMMENTS |
|-------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| 1,671 | 451 | 3,935 | 575 |

Did you participate in the original Downtown Master Plan process in 2019?



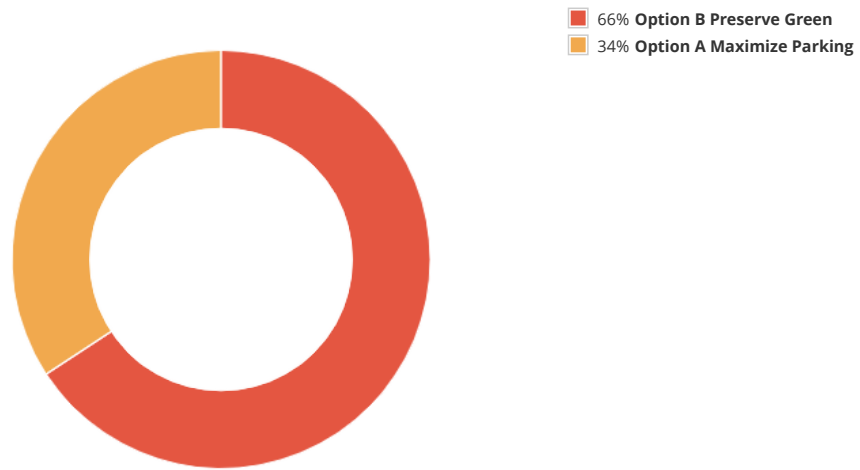
404 respondents

Did you participate in the Downtown Design Projects Two-Minute Online Survey?



367 respondents

Which schematic parking lot design do you prefer for the Saunders Lot?



292 respondents

Feel free to tell us how you feel about the Downtown Parking Schematic Designs for the Saunders Lot. Were there design elements you loved or design elements you wish you had seen but didn't? We want to hear all of your feedback!

I like the Farmer's Market near this space as a community-building feature of the town. Assuming it is preserved, some marked crossing with a light amount of wayfinding signage leading to Salem St. access to bridge the FM to downtown and vice versa would be good. Maybe some art from historical town life to farm life along the way.

2 hours ago

I chose the Preserve Green Option because NC is a lush, subtropical region, and I believe our town should reflect this by supporting the broader eco-system of which we are part, while at the same time encouraging the creation of ease and enjoyment in going about daily interactions with the town. I came from a highly urbanized area, and there is a huge push to regreen the urban environment and lamentation of past planning decisions that have prioritized parking over cultivating an enticing place for people to interact, meet their day to day needs, and enjoy. Green/colorful plantings can help to camouflage ugly parking lots making the area more attractive to walkers and indeed help encourage walkers to leave their car behind, especially if the areas they need to traverse to get to their destination are appealing enough. I am thinking about the parking lot adjacent to Bright Leaf Square in Durham, which always seems depressingly grey and gets incredibly hot in the summer. I am keen for us to avoid replicating that. I notice plan B offers less accessible parking spaces. I don't know if this is a good or bad idea because I am not familiar with the demand for accessible parking. Would the spaces offered by plan B be adequate?

16 hours ago

Though it's called "Preserve Green", option B results in a loss of trees. This is in an area where large trees were already removed to create the existing version of the Saunders lot and the largest white oak trees in the downtown area were cut down in what was formerly the Senior Citizens Park. Neither of these plans is "maintaining the historic nature of downtown Apex".

Although a parking deck isn't needed immediately it will be before long and in the meantime it would be a means to preserve the green space that makes Apex beautiful.

With a few picnic tables the small bit of woods in the northwest corner of the Saunders Lot at the back of the gravel area would be a great little park at cost of only a few difficult to reach parking spaces.

18 hours ago

To be honest it's difficult to answer this question in isolation. So while I've chosen the "green" option, I would likely consider changing that choice if I knew that other elements in the downtown plan would offer green options elsewhere. At this point in the workshop I have no idea what will come next. I'll come back to this if I have time, but need to get to work...

20 hours ago

As much as I recognize and suggested additional parking for downtown, it does need to be implemented smartly. Preserving green space adds to the charm and coolness of the area. With much of Apex being clear cut for new subdivisions, it is important for air quality and wildlife to preserve greenspace. It also enhances the natural beauty of downtown.

3 days ago

Re: parking detection, I'm not a fan of public surveillance cameras, even if they're just being used for parking detection, so I'd vote for either of the other two options.

4 days ago

There is usually a lot of parking around the Methodist Church and it's such a quick walk. Maybe good wayfinding signage to increase usage of those lots would be better than trying to build as much parking as possible. PLUS good sidewalks across the tracks at Chatham and also Center Streets!

4 days ago

Please make the electric car charging fee-based. In any case, I don't want my taxes paying to charge someone else's electric car.

4 days ago

I feel like you can always go back and remove some of the green space later, but we have a lovely green small town and I would like to see it remain that way for as long as possible.

4 days ago

Parking deck to maximize parking and green

4 days ago

The difference is 27 parking spaces... seems like a win-win to preserve a little more green and still have nearly 400 parking spaces that close to downtown. Plus the tree cover will keep cars cooler on those hot summer days.

4 days ago

Pp

5 days ago

Keep the trees! I like the idea of shaded parking areas and reusing storm water to water the trees.

5 days ago

SAVE THE TREES

5 days ago

I have a hard time comparing the two in this format. They don't seem that different to me so I opted for maximize parking in the hopes there will be more options for "greening" downtown in other ways.

5 days ago

Love the "count" for the parking lot, and the potential for a solar canopy for charging stations.

5 days ago

Short term (15 min or less) parking for those getting coffee, grab and go food, or dropping off an item at a local establishment.

5 days ago

Making more spaces without cutting down trees is good. Assuming the 28 in red and parentheses means those spaces are going away, that is not wise.

6 days ago

Maximizing spaces and saving trees is a positive. Eliminating, 28 spaces from Salem is just not a good idea.

6 days ago

I Like the Solar Canopies. Need to figure out if they will be allowed to transfer power back into the grid if that's how they are meant to operate. I hear that's always an issue with small solar operations like this. The energy is usually wasted, and if that's the case it seems like a superfluous expenditure.

6 days ago

I think the parking OFF of Salem St. Should be maximized and thought through, long term. Considering the towns growth projection, the ease of eventually going vertical with a parking deck should be thought through now even if it goes unexecuted for 10 years.

7 days ago

Would suggest a new approach if a lease agreement is not met with gravel lot. Would not like to see the town proceed with not being able to deliver the net gain of spots promised

7 days ago

Love the design! Very well thought out. Thank you! Will Apex create a bus line (similar to the GoCary bus for seniors)? If so, might you want to add a bus stop? Will there be a bike route to direct people away from the main road since that could jam up traffic. Also, will there be a place to dock electric scooters like they have in Raleigh so people can rent a scooter and get around that way or is this space too small for that?

7 days ago

I love the modern parking technology. I do not like the idea of adding any public graffiti art, if that is the idea. There are way more ways to make the area look nicer while still being classy and building character and culture.

7 days ago

Preserve the green while we can. If trees are damaged can always pave area later.

7 days ago

No parking deck? We could minimize footprint and actually get more spaces. Saunders Street is the perfect place for a parking deck because visibility from Salem Street would be minimized, hence preserving the integrity of the historic downtown feel.

7 days ago

1. Will real-time smart parking info be available online or via an app? It would be great to know how much parking is available before deciding to drive downtown. 2. Parking is currently free downtown. Is the town considering charging for parking after redevelopment?

8 days ago

How is the capture and reuse strategy for wastewater going to eliminate the damage to properties downstream from the caused by years of increasing impervious surfaces?

8 days ago

Preservation of trees, use of solar energy and green community gathering spaces outweigh a few more parking places, in my opinion. Really appreciate the thought and consideration going into this and the continued opportunity for public input!

8 days ago

Why would we not go ahead and build a parking deck?

9 days ago

We need to do everything possible to minimize tree loss, especially old growth trees that have been part of the Apex landscape for generations.

10 days ago

Option A provides more accessible spaces, which are greatly lacking in downtown.

10 days ago

I would like to see a building or platform with parking to maximize space. This way future parking expansion will not require more land.

10 days ago

FYI - The usage data was not taken at peak times. Saunders lot is 95% full - including gravel on most Weekend nights.

10 days ago

Great that you are considering EV and offsetting with solar panels.

11 days ago

Since space in downtown is limited it would be nice to see a parking decks instead of huge parking lots.

11 days ago

While parking is important - there seems to be plenty of parking for normal day to day usage downtown. I know we are looking 10-20 years out...but that can be addressed later.

11 days ago

Maybe include a section for golf cart parking. Smaller spaces for locals who want to get around downtown area in golf carts.

12 days ago

I personally would love to maximize the parking in a smaller footprint. In comparison to other downtowns in the area, Apex is already small. It would be great to use the space wisely and leave as much space as possible for people to gather (parks, green space, beer garden, etc.). Utilizing a multi level parking structure would be a great way to maximize space. Expanding parking by going up instead of "out" is a great way to double, or triple parking space without taking up valuable space. I know several residents are adamantly against a "parking deck" but they can be done with just two to three levels and built to blend in and accentuated with murals and beautiful plantings.

12 days ago

I think that anytime we can preserve green space we should.

12 days ago

It's hard to see the difference scrolling up and down versus side by side. I don't understand the need for car charging stations... seems like people with electric cars don't need to plug in while they are shopping or dining for an hour or two. Seems like a big expense when people can just charge up at home.

12 days ago

The downtown area is so pretty and I am glad you were adding parking spaces, but I'm also glad you have a plan to preserve green space. I think it is an important balance to meet the goal of increasing parking while also maintaining the beauty of the downtown area

13 days ago

how do we ensure parking for persons without technology? (e.g. non-"smart" parking with meters/cash payment)

13 days ago

i STRONGLY favor the Preserve Green option. Your analysis shows you can add many more spaces overall than even the design plan identified, so why sacrifice greenery and "public realm" elements for simple capacity? A "maximal density" parking lot is a blight, visually, thermally, environmentally.

13 days ago

What kind of sound abatement for adjacent neighborhood, was at friends house and noise from Wine Bar was ridiculous. Will this make it worse?

13 days ago

Wondering what would happen to the new market location if that area is paved for parking. Prefer the green space increases in the entire area. Love the idea of pollinators and noise abatement. Would love to see that space be able to be used for events, if needed. While I think electric car use will increase, many people who come to downtown Apex would be able to charge their cars when they get home.

13 days ago

I'm all for preserving the green!

13 days ago

I like the idea of being able to save some of the large existing trees. I am assuming the trees are in good shape and will be able to be maintained for several years to come? The map refers to this area as "community gathering space". What amenities would be included here?

13 days ago

Love the gathering space with option B

13 days ago

Option B is titled Preserve Green but a lot of green is lost with it. Perhaps the back of the unpaved section of the Saunders Lot in the northwest corner could be kept as a small park with picnic tables. Planting small trees is not the same as preserving, especially after large trees were already lost with the creation of the Saunders Lot in its current form. The largest white oak trees in the downtown area were also recently removed from what was formerly the Senior Citizens Park and is now police parking. A parking deck may not be needed yet but it will be at some time and taking that approach now could do more toward preserving green and "maintaining the historic nature of downtown Apex".

13 days ago

Plan for public art in either scheme, using islands and entryways. Add pervious pavers or something similar.

13 days ago

Paid parking sucks

13 days ago

I still would prefer a parking garage. Apex will outgrow this as soon as people start using the downtown area again. This is just a bandaid- not a real solution.

13 days ago

Downtown Apex has flourished because of its charm. It's the quaint, small-town feel that people love. If you lose all of the trees, even if just in a parking lot, you lose so much charm and character.

13 days ago

I think I'd start with Option B. Appears to be only 27 spaces less than Option A. If the community gathering space is underutilized and additional parking is necessitated, you could always move to Option A later.

13 days ago

I prefer to have parking more dispersed throughout downtown rather than such a large surface lot

13 days ago

Please save the huge tree and trees across from the police station and around the parking area. Provide benches around the tree, provide tree uplighting and make it another focal point of the Downtown Apex's charm and history.

13 days ago

I think it would be nice to keep a small green space area, where the canopy and picnic table currently are, without giving up too many parking spaces. I have used that exact space.

13 days ago

I think it's important to be as "green" as possible and I really like the public art opportunities.

13 days ago

The more trees the better.

13 days ago

Much prefer additional greenery over a few more parking spaces.

13 days ago

I love the parking availability meter at the entrance! Also I feel that having a grassy/treed meeting/waiting spot on the parking lot is best for convenience and safety.

13 days ago

I like the digital counter representing available parking spaces.

13 days ago

Greenery is what makes this area unique, I think the preserve green option is both efficient in bringing in more parking but also allows for more character.

13 days ago

cant see where the lighting would be

13 days ago

Appreciate the desire to control stormwater runoff and add to tree canopy

13 days ago

I chose option b because I think it important to have community space. The additional 20 or so spaces provided by option 1 are not needed, in my opinion. I think here is a conflict between creating a tree canopy and providing solar covered parking. Can you really have both and be effective? I think this issue needs to be sorted out. I'd prefer trees, personally, as they offer great stir water benefits. Also, more attention needs to be given to the street edge along Saunders St. to creat a more urban feeling downtown, a small masonry wall, decorative feinting, or combination of both with landscaping should be provided to creat both a visual and functional barrier between pedestrians and parking.

13 days ago

I like the attention to preserving greenery. The difference in the number of spaces seems negligible.

13 days ago

I appreciate how option A is designed to include green space within the parking areas. Once this minimum is satisfied, functionality of additional spaces (benefitting Salem Street restaurants/shops) outweighs additional green space.

13 days ago

Would love to see more EV charging options. The couple that exist are rarely available during busy hours and if you didn't know they were there, good luck finding them as signage isn't the best.

13 days ago

Honestly, we need parking. I get it. However, let's get the automobiles completely *off* Salem. No driving through downtown on that street. With regards to the two different options: Option B looks better with regards to aesthetics. Which is important of we're going to try and keep charm and natural beauty of downtown Apex

13 days ago

I own an electric vehicle. Driving to and from downtown Apex does not put a strain on my overall vehicle range, so I would find any small charging capability unnecessary. There might be a better use for the power captured by such a station however.

14 days ago

EV Parking is a great addition to the lot. Has the town considered EV parking for residents/vistors at the community center and town hall?

14 days ago

I love how you're able to include so many green options in the Option A, even though were maximizing parking. I think its best for all downtown businesses if we add as much parking as possible in this lot as people are used to parking here and looking here first for a parking spot

14 days ago



14 days ago

People just want a safe place to park to visit the shops and restaurants in Apex. Focus on maximizing space and keeping it safe. There's plenty of other places downtown to focus on sustainability and beautification along the main drag

14 days ago

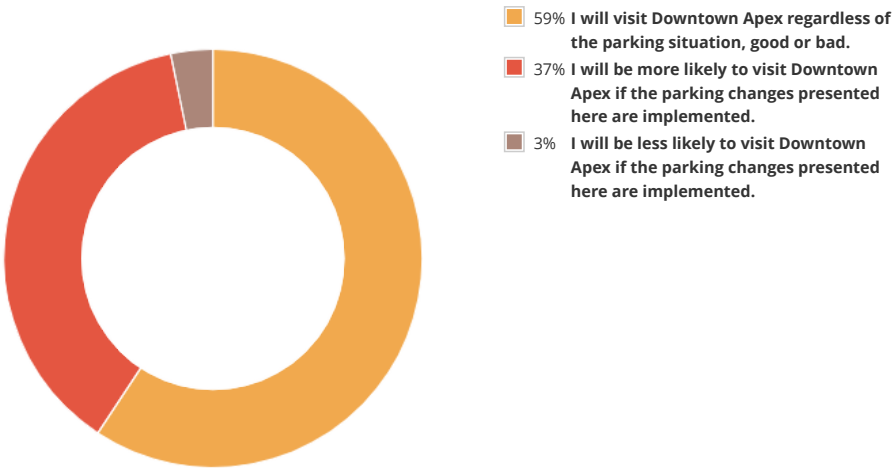
Retaining large trees and utilizing this space for public... much better use than for vehicle parking.

14 days ago

If a mobile-friendly app was available to share parking availability in Downtown Apex, how likely would you be to use it on a regular basis?

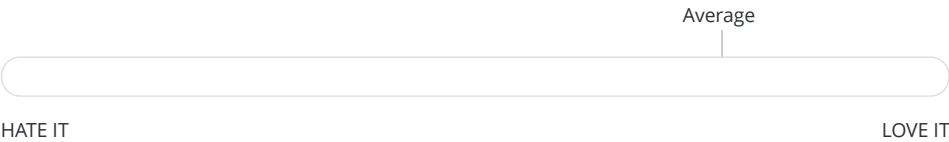


Would the parking changes presented affect your likelihood of visiting Downtown Apex?



307 respondents

What do you think about the schematic design for Commerce Street?



Feel free to tell us how you feel about the Commerce Street Schematic Design. Were there design elements you loved or design elements you wish you had seen but didn't? We want to hear all of your feedback!

Wish the outdoor seating was near the restaurants. Assuming the outdoor seating is open to non patrons, may be make that more clear with very light signage. Something about Apex gathering/free space. Maybe some art with a little sound to buffer trucks/utility...wind chimes? whirligigs, water feature. Could be educational about water along Salem flowing to two different reservoirs.

2 hours ago

I love the idea but the asphalt art shown looks tacky and will not age well. Can small trees be incorporated anywhere? It still feels so concrete-y.

10 hours ago

I love the idea of making the alley an active part of downtown. The biggest challenge for Apex is that it's just the one street, so anything that makes the parallel alleyways into a useful part of the center is welcome.

14 hours ago

I think it is a brilliant idea to transform uninviting alleyways into useable and vibrant public realm. I think this is especially useful when downtown is hosting a big event and folks (with children especially) are looking for a calmer space to take a break from the action. I would always encourage thinking about how shade from trees or overhead can be used to make it feel cooler in the summer. Right now, this is a space I would totally avoid during summer days.

16 hours ago

The space looks great but it would probably be very hot on a summer afternoon. There isn't room for a very large tree but a mid size one like black tupelo, American linden or southern sugar maple might work to provide some shade.

18 hours ago

The notion of this street becoming an area to sit when there's no commercial or recreational draw seems absurd to me. Now something like an art or sculpture walk that would draw me to move from one end of the street to the other with occasional seating because there's something view or do and lots of greenery to distract from the otherwise very concrete surroundings would be nice. But then I might not want many cars around. To me this would be a great pedestrian only area or at least just loading zone spaces. Otherwise make this a solely parking zone. Art on the street or walls would still be welcome to make the area nicer, of course.

20 hours ago

more sustainable options!

yesterday

Incorporate well-lit and camera monitored areas for cyclists to securely park their bikes for free. This comment is also applicable to the main downtown parking scheme. It will encourage bike commute which will help keep vehicular traffic down. This will especially be impactful if downtown is easily connected to the greenway system.

3 days ago

I like the design, but don't the parking and the proposed community space belong to the building owners? Basically I don't see even an upgraded Commerce St adding a lot of utility, so I wouldn't spend a ton of money on it. It's too narrow to be very useful.

4 days ago

Great solution to a very ugly part of downtown

4 days ago

I have no need to go back there so why spend money on it.

4 days ago

Nice to have a gathering place or two, e.g. outdoor dining area behind the Salem Street Pub and The Provincial. Small trees in large pots and umbrellas for shading.

4 days ago

I think less people know about Commerce Street or don't use it because of the appearance. These changes will definitely make it more inviting.

4 days ago

na

5 days ago

Love how colorful it is!

5 days ago

I like the idea but don't know how you are going to solve the dumpster issue. Even if they can be screened, they are smelly and attract vermin.

5 days ago

LOVE the art and visual appeal. That area is so unappealing right now. I love Grow Preschool, but it's an eyesore.

5 days ago

Looks inviting like it would increase the space available for the public.

5 days ago

I like the idea of beautifying the street. I also like what appears to be a sidewalk behind the stores/restaurants. I take Commerce St frequently when doing my walks as it allows me to avoid dodging people on the sidewalk on Salem. However, Commerce St right now is quite ugly to look at and has little room to get out of the way when a car does come through.

5 days ago

I think it looks very nice, however I just don't see it being used very much. I would not want to hang out behind a building, with parked cars all around.

5 days ago

Traffic should be "one way" and diagonal parking would make it easier to pull in and pull out. It would make traffic more predictable for pedestrians and street use. You could narrow the pathway for vehicles, create more space for pedestrians and street use. I would be in favor of this order" buildings, gathering space, pedestrian space, parking, then one way traffic. Putting pedestrians between parked cars and traffic seems like a bad idea.

5 days ago

I never had an issue with parking in the past. If these changes mean I will have to walk farther, I will never go to downtown Apex in the summertime.

6 days ago

Too unsafe for everything that is going on there.

6 days ago

I love the idea of it but I feel like it's incomplete from a pedestrian stand point. What is the small pedestrian zone meant to accomplish? I'd prefer to see the entire alley converted to a pedestrian friendly facility with murals and artwork throughout the alley, and pavement art over the entire length. I feel that it's still too car oriented. Also I have concerns about the black top in terms of the amount of heat it gives off (not ideal for pedestrians), and long term aesthetics. I think a much cleaner look would be achieved with brick pavers, as it would be a permeable pavement solution that would help mitigate some of the drainage issues in the alley

6 days ago

I think garbage is still going to be a major concern on commerce street. I also think the town should make it a priority to own commerce street.

7 days ago

The bike path seems odd as there is no mention of bike parking or other bike paths throughout the downtown or connecting areas. The street art, although pretty, would be distracting to folks new to the area that are looking for directional help (turn lane, do not enter, one way, do not park)

7 days ago

Love this idea and especially the opportunity for local artists to be involved in murals, as well as pollinator plants and safe gathering spaces.

7 days ago

How many building owners have bought into this. If they haven't participated, and are presented this who's to say they will have conversations with tenants. The trash consolidation does not sound good to have next to a preschool, when town property is nextdoor.(the APD) Parking should be limited to businesses and how they see fit for daytime use. With lack of parking on Salem these alleys will be a lifeline for deliveries and customers picking up or dropping off

7 days ago

Granted improving the view and usability of this street is a plus, I do not believe this is a high people traffic draw area. It is still a back street with only a few businesses that consistently draw many citizens (thinking eateries) each day. We have and need to continue occupancy by other services/industries, however their clientele do not generally hang out in these streetscape areas.

7 days ago

I don't see a theme for the art for Apex Might we incorporate the history of the people of Apex as a timeline in the art starting with the original people? In the precolonial era, the town's area was inhabited by the Tuscarora tribe of Native Americans. Might we add tributes to any women or people of color to highlight and welcome a diversity of cultures in Apex.

7 days ago

I work at Grow Preschool and I wish there was something that could be done to contain the dumpsters. The smell is really bad at times.

7 days ago

I like the attention paid to making this renewed space as "green" friendly as possible. It would be further enhanced if there is a preservation of green in the saunders parking area.

7 days ago

This is not a space I use so I defer to the businesses and building owners in these spaces.

7 days ago

Not sure we need community meeting places here, would people try to enter businesses here? Are there enough spaces for employees?

7 days ago

Like addition of accessible spaces, consolidating utilities, dumpster art, wall murals. From picture I cannot visualize where the fencing would be and if it would also be a safety issue for "hiders". Like the impact of street design but feel that is more frivolous

7 days ago

As stated before, please no graffiti art as seen on the street and sides of buildings. Again there are way better ways to look better and more inviting than by using graffiti which looks tacky and is not classy at all. To me it drastically lowers the value and appeal of the surrounding area. I've seen beautiful downtown areas turn into ghost towns because they added graffiti art everywhere so no one from outside of downtown wants to go there anymore. It's colorful sure and vibrant, but it just doesn't look good. I'd rather the street art be replaced by cobblestone streets or similar if you want it to look better. Think design changes instead of slapping colorful art up. Let the culture of the area be subtle with unique design elements instead of an eyesore being pushed in your face. Check out Omaha's Old Market if you want to see how a downtown shopping center like yours should look.

7 days ago

I like the idea of cleaning up the alleyway and making it more visually appealing, however inviting pedestrians to an alleyway that is currently used for tractor trailers and utility service trucks that service the restaurants and retail spaces, seems dangerous. This alleyway is often clogged various types of vehicles that require them to block the entire thoroughway for periods of time for deliveries and services. I am 100% on board with the paving of the street and parking spaces, as well as burying wires and offering better storm drain management, but I prefer this alleyway to minimize pedestrian traffic for safety reasons.

7 days ago

Not sure about the string lighting, not sure if that would be sufficient lighting, or durable lighting year round.

8 days ago

1) It is an improvement over the current situation. 2) It would be nice to include a space for bicycle parking.

8 days ago

Love moving toward hiding the trash bins! Love the murals, art, planter boxes, string lights and gathering spaces. Not sure about the fence. What is the purpose? Perhaps other plantings instead of a fence?

8 days ago

Today it is uninviting. It seems cluttered and dirty. We never go down it. If it can be used more effectively I'm in favor it. I like the gathering spaces and additional parking. Traffic calming is key though. Don't want cars racing through it or using it as a short-cut/cut-through to avoid traffic. Maybe it can be used for small festivals/parties/ concerts.

8 days ago

We overall like the look of it but we were hoping for something more dramatic and more of a hang out area for families.

9 days ago

I love seeing anything be done with that space. It seems rather wasted now.

10 days ago

Meh... It's still a lot of asphalt so not a place we'd spend any unnecessary time.

10 days ago

I think it is fantastic with one caveat. Where it bumps into the wrap around area where the old growth trees and rock garden are. Those trees need to stay - they are an iconic part of Salem Street and they should be incorporated into this Commerce street/wraparound schematic.

10 days ago

I like that it will look more inviting but worry about congestion back there. I like the utility lines being out of sight.

10 days ago

Not a fan of the colored triangles

10 days ago

The Commerce Street Schematic Design takes away from the original feel of a small town. I realize progress is possibility needed, but I love Apex as it is.

10 days ago

Can do without the pavement art. Right now it'll look fashionable but in 5 years time it'll look like it was fashionable 5 years ago.

10 days ago

Runoff management is definitely needed. The illustrations completely remove the carts/dumpsters which gives a false impression of the resulting experience.

10 days ago

Better than existing. However, I won't probably seat there if I'm looking at the parking.

10 days ago

I would suggest that the parking spots on commerce be reserved for workers in the shops. This keeps them out of the more public parking lots.

10 days ago

I did not like the colored triangles, I hope that isn't put into the final design. Something more subtle or natural looking would be far better. This would be outdated very quickly.

11 days ago

It's not practical unless you can do something about the smell of the trash, especially in the summer.

11 days ago

I don't think it's practical unless you can do something about the garbages. It smells so bad I. The summer that

11 days ago

More use in the other area for eating or drinking. Maybe some shade for summer

11 days ago

Currently this space is an eyesor e- any changes would be great. Improving parking and adding art and gathering spaces are great ideas.

11 days ago

Like the rainwater paving solution and the use of pollinator planters.

12 days ago

would have thought there might be some alley restaurant offerings

12 days ago

I like the idea of running wires underground, parking, and having community space. I don't like the idea of the painted roadway and hanging lights. I'm not against artwork or sculptures but I feed all the bright painting kind of takes away from the Apex that we know.

12 days ago

Love the art, especially on the street. Love the plant containers, hanging lights and community gathering space

12 days ago

I like the idea of cleaning it up- utilities, street art, dumpster art, etc. but I really don't understand the point of a gathering space behind the stores. I don't see people using this space as realistic. I'd rather have more parking and customer pick up for carryout, etc.

12 days ago

Great additions! Removing the wires and tidying up the street looks great. I do love the original color of the blue building though!

13 days ago

disagree with the approach of hypermanaging the layout of the private buildings and parking spaces. this is not the purview of the Apex government.

13 days ago

Wish there was more connectivity. It doesn't seem like the community gathering spaces would likely be used because they don't really flow as a part of downtown, and there isn't enough to make it a new, vibrant section of downtown. Might be worth getting rid of some of the extra parking spaces to add more community gathering spaces or a unique spot with bench swings and a little water fountain or something. Parking spots won't matter if this isn't a place people are going to want to come and spend time.

13 days ago

I don't even think of the current space as a "public area" and have never parked or even walked through it. The design rendering is transformative. I will say, of all the elements, I couldn't care less about the existing utility wires. I'm not opposed to burying them but I don't see a need to prioritize it.

You show bikers and maybe a bike lane. But the other plan elements I've seen so far don't appear to include much bike infrastructure. Would such a lane connect to any other biking corridor? And perhaps bike racks or rent-a-bikes could occupy some of this area?

13 days ago

I wish the alley was completely walkable, no road, no cars whatsoever. Limiting the town to one walkable street is too small of a dream. Town is growing, one street is just not enough. Big this big investment, the alleys should also be converted into walkable areas.

13 days ago

I did not like the triangles on the street...that is not Apex and will only get dirty and tired over time.

13 days ago

I would love to use this space, especially because there are not a lot of options for meeting friends, visiting outside, etc. However, with the stores facing Salem St and the need to walk around to use the space, what would draw me there? It may be nice if this could be an area for food trucks or pop up carts, etc. I've seen some vendors recently on the corners on 55, and maybe this would be a good place for them to draw people downtown. I also think the alley is so narrow that if Salem becomes pedestrian and cars are using this alley, it won't be a great space to hang out (e.g. noisy, fumes). I love the idea of re-purposing the parking spots on the corner (near the rock garden) for a unique gathering space. That space could be really fun!

13 days ago

The pedestrian/bike zone is right behind the parking spaces. Is there an opportunity to pull this zone between the parking and community area? Also how does it tie to the area behind the buildings? Does it just stop?

13 days ago

Would like to emphasize gathering spaces, outdoor dining/socializing and public art.

13 days ago

Love it all!!

13 days ago

One or two shade trees would be nice. It looks like the area would be very hot on a summer afternoon.

13 days ago

Overall I like the plan. I'm pleased to see native pollinator friendly plants shown but that sounds like a lot maintenance if changed seasonally. Evergreen native plants such as dwarf yaupon hollies could provide continuous visual appeal. I don't see a solution for the existing dumpsters.

13 days ago

Designate some space that allows, with a permit, an artist to paint their own mural. Similar to the rotating graffiti in the River Arts district of Asheville.

13 days ago

Biggest concern would be smells from the dumpsters.

13 days ago

Love the artwork.

13 days ago

Unsure of thoughts. I use the ally already to get around.

13 days ago

I think the design is aesthetically pleasing, but commerce street, in my opinion, doesn't need to be a hangout space for people. That street is an access point for business owners and employees to get to their place of work. With the exception of Grow, it's all back doors that people don't need to hanging out around. If I worked at any of the businesses that this design would affect, I'd strongly dislike entering and leaving through the back door with people using that same area as a common space.

13 days ago

I know we want more parking, but would eliminating these parking spots make the space more inviting?

13 days ago

I like the clean up of wires and making better use of the space. I don't think additional funds should be spent on the presentation. At the end of the day it will be used for deliveries and disposing of business waste (including discarded food and drink from Salem Street and others).

13 days ago

Just a comment, imagine it's already being considered...it often smells terrible back there because of the dumpsters, that will need a solution:) Hopefully that can be remedied, making better use of Commerce Street is a great goal!

13 days ago

Is there a plan to improve the JJ Duckart LLC property between the preschool and Rose and Lee? Google maps shows that people park there but I realized I don't actually know the use of the property.

13 days ago

Please preserve the huge tree with light balls the community worked so hard on and keep the Apex Community Rock Garden. The trees help create the charm and feel of downtown. It is not worth cutting down the few trees we have to gain one or two additional parking. I under removing the smaller bushes but use the existing trees to keep the character. Use Cary for an example they kept most all of their older established trees and added uplighting.

13 days ago

Functional, attractive, adds parking and social space.

13 days ago

Love the possibilities! Making it friendly and inviting rather than a service alley is a grand idea!

13 days ago

A much cleaner, brighter look.

13 days ago

I loved all of it! Especially the asphalt art and the "you've reached the peak of good living" mural!

13 days ago

I don't see the need for the smart parking with so few spaces.. Also, please keep the rock garden and the lending library. Such a cute part of downtown Apex. Our grandchildren LOVE that. And are happy to sit on the wall next to the Rock Garden

13 days ago

Might as well keep this area parking for employees and childcare center only vs downtown visitors.

13 days ago

It currently looks pretty bad back there. Anything we can do to utilize the space better and clean it up aesthetically, I'm all for.

13 days ago

I think it would be great to have it as an optional public gathering area to be able to close down the street to host events - vendor fairs, farmer markets, mini-fairs, concerts, plays, etc

13 days ago

What about eliminating those parking spaces behind the buildings and creating a small fountain/picnic area?

13 days ago

Certainly will look better and be a more friendly looking area but will still remain a space that you just walk thru to get somewhere vs being a location you stay in.

13 days ago

Would want to be careful with ambient lighting since we have too much light pollution in our town as is.

13 days ago

I love it! It's very inviting and I would love to go there and have a cup of coffee or a burger at one of the outdoor tables.

13 days ago

Overall, it is fine; however, what makes me feel more towards the "Hate It" end of the spectrum are the "artistic accents" at both ends of the alleyway. In my opinion, such art on the street, especially at the bookends of the street, create confusion more so than anything else. Removing the art element all together or compromising to have the art more centralized in the alleyway would, in my opinion, be a better way to incorporate art into the Commerce Street Schematic Design.

13 days ago

The parking behind the building is not necessary and takes up too much space. I think more public gathering space with landscaping and trees or shade covers would create more activity.

13 days ago

The removal of bushes to keep people from hiding is a problematic statement that I do not support.

13 days ago

should not have parking along the building - in the summer gathering space is right up against the cars. Swap the bike/walking area and put all the car parking along the side of the rail road tracks.

13 days ago

I think if you can also improve the facades of the rear street to make it a place "people want to be" -- that will add even more space for outdoor activities/dining.

13 days ago

not a good idea to change the parking for employees and business owners on Salem street businesses

13 days ago

The improvements at the intersection of Saunders and Commerce make sense (e.g., community gathering space, lighting upgrades) but investing in cleaning up wires and other upgrades do not makes sense since there is little to attract people to the street as it is still a place for automobiles. If the road was closed and make into a space 100% for people (e.g., seating for outdoor dining), then these improvements make sense.

The improvements described above look like a major investment in improving a space for cars, not people, and I think that is a poor use of the towns limited resources.

13 days ago

We LOVE the added color to the pavement!!

13 days ago

It shoves out business functions

14 days ago

Unlike fences and walls, hedges provide benefits for us and the wildlife that lives in our gardens. They have the natural ability to capture pollution, reduce noise, mitigate flooding and provide food and shelter to wildlife.

To indicate in your before picture, overgrown hedges create places for people to hide is a simple truth only meant to cause fear and therefore get an additional parking space. Seems dishonest in your approach, who are you appealing to with this type of approach. I may be in full favor of the changes but not with the descriptions you are claiming.

14 days ago

Missing an opportunity to turn that into more outdoor space. Don't need the parking spots.

14 days ago

I like the improved visual appeal of this space.

14 days ago

Since this is the rear of businesses, where do you envision garbage collection stations? Also there are a lot of service (power, tel, cable) that will need to be mounted on walls that are not shown? have they been moved elsewhere?

14 days ago

would like to see space used for more outdoor seating or recreation rather than parking.

14 days ago

Really love turning this into a fuctional space that's also fun. I think more spaces where people can walk around after or before dinner, take photos, relax and stay downtown, the better!

14 days ago

While this area may be in need of a revamp, I question the logic of adding a walking path when there is a perfectly good side walk on the other side of the buildings and nothing of interest to see on this side of the buildings. Businesses would definitely prefer people walking in front of their stores. Perhaps if these areas could be opened for extra outdoor seating for restaurants instead of even more parking they would be slightly more useful? I question the overall ROI for this project unless work needs to happen for safety/flood reasons.

14 days ago

Primarily concerned about trash management, particularly for the restaurants that back up to commerce

14 days ago

Again if parking and safety is your main objective then functionality should be the goal. Anything you do to this area will be an improvement

14 days ago

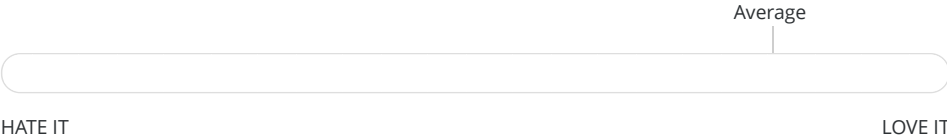
Should be pedestrain only with more green space.

14 days ago

Feels more inviting to walk through.

14 days ago

What do you think about the schematic design for Seaboard Street?



Feel free to tell us how you feel about the Seaboard Street Schematic Design. Were there design elements you loved or design elements you wish you had seen but didn't? We want to hear all of your feedback!

I think the idea of using either of the alleys for public space is a bad idea. Businesses need their alleyways! I'm all for cleaning them up and beautification efforts, but I'm very concerned for the business owners if this area becomes public gathering space.

28 minutes ago

With smart parking, anything that can be done to indicate when fees are not charged would be great. Went to Asheville for dinner, and parking was so confusing, though smart meters were in place. A local was kind to volunteer how it worked. Was also a pain to have a pay lot where you have to contact a business through text to pay...then found the businesses around the lot closed early. Just a bad experience all around. Luckily in walking distance of open businesses, but a sketchy area to walk through. Don't want that here....

This design seems such an improvement. I assumed that area was for utility and business owners, only.

an hour ago

Love seeing more ornamental trees. Big improvements with the power lines. Again though, the asphalt art is really tacky and will not age well.

10 hours ago

Love it. We have more demand that space downtown, and converting this alley to a useable public space would be fantastic.

14 hours ago

Exciting! I love all the greenery and plantings. I have long admired the native plantings in Pittsboro outside the co-op grocery. I think the trick to using native plantings in an urban area is to have it look intentional. It is such an amazing benefit of our area that we have so many native nursery's and plant specialists. Lot's of potential to designing something unique and beautiful. Using native appropriate native plants can cut down water use and maintenance. Please make access to shade in gathering areas a consideration. Thanks!

15 hours ago

The permeable pavers are an excellent selection. The Tupelo is a great choice of street tree but I'm appalled to find that a known invasive tree like Chinese Elm is on the list. Let's have native trees.

18 hours ago

I guess that I just really don't get what the overall goal of the downtown plan is. An area that is designed for parking doesn't really change just because some trees and tables are added. The area is still ultimately designed for parking. I get trying to have mixed use and make everybody feel better. But the kind of financial investment these changes require would seem to me better spent on Salem Street. I don't like sitting in parking lots. Seating needs to be associated with the fronts of businesses, not their back entrances/exits. And then there's the train, oh my.

20 hours ago

Again, I like the idea of cleaning up and beautifying the alley but I don't believe it needs to be an outdoor gathering space.

3 days ago

Proper maintenance (garbage and quality of surface) of alley streets will also enhance pedestrian access.

3 days ago

Love the pollinator garden!

3 days ago

Another nice solution

4 days ago

Again no need to go back there.

4 days ago

Maybe LaRancherita and the Beer Dispensary could serve out back? Leave space for food truck or two?

4 days ago

I love it more than the Commerce Street redesign (and I loved that one to the max). Really great work on this redesign. Looks amazing!

4 days ago

I think this would greatly improve the area. Help to brighten the area and increase the downtown space. It will also help to set the downtown area of Apex apart from some of the other local downtown areas. One important thing would be upkeep though...it can go downhill fast if the green areas and even painted streets or art are not kept up.

4 days ago

Doesn't just look like the place where you take out garbage anymore.

5 days ago

How will the back entrances to the shops be affected by the design? Won't the owners have to redo these entrances so they fit in with the design? I don't care for the wild designs on the pavement (but understand this was just for illustration purposes).

5 days ago

MORE outdoor gathering, eating and functional spaces! Love the visual appeal

5 days ago

Love the design aside from the few parallel parking spots along the circle. These extra spaces will lead to the space feeling cramped while only providing a few extra parking options. I feel like removing these few spots in favor of more pedestrian space will be a lot more inviting.

5 days ago

ANYTHING will be an improvement to this underutilized space!

5 days ago

One way through put, diagonal parking, one community trash receptacle (treated the same as another shopping plaza), focus on outdoor dining, amenities. Possibly places for outdoor games (cornhole, maybe a small play area for kids to play while parents eat.

5 days ago

Same..will no longer go to downtown Apex in the summertime.

6 days ago

Same answer as Commerce St.

6 days ago

I love the idea of reviving the alley. I think a permeable brick pavers would be better for long term aesthetics and for drainage. I think there could be some additional "fun" space reserved for kids here. That's the one thing I see with Apex as compared to Cary dt. Apex's downtown is more geared towards adults and senior folks, however Apex has a lot of young families, and I think this plan would do itself a dis-service if it didn't include some fun space for kids as well. I was thinking near the Caboose area. In fact, I think it's even worthwhile to sacrifice some parking spaces for it.

6 days ago

Mostly like. But, it's interesting how the town is presenting grand scale ideas that will require significant property owner buy in and money. While the general public will view it as town upgrades. There needs to be more conversations with property owners before the public gets disappointed and criticizes the town for not delivering on the project

7 days ago

If the idea is to tie all of the now different but close business districts together from Salem & 55 up past the Center Street area, might there be some way to draw on a common art theme that uses varied mediums to show the history AND new diversity of Apex? Might there also be room in the art considerations for "gamification placemaking" ideas - thoughtfully adding fun and engaging game elements that are tied to something citizens care about in common. Like this thing Volkswagon did: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRgWttqFKu8>

7 days ago

Might you add some shade sources for the outdoor seating? Also will you have heating units for outdoor use in the winter. Last thing - the pattern on the road - I realize it is just a draft but could we have everything be part of a community theme that represents the heritage of all the people who created Apex starting with the Native Americans? Maybe have a Native American design on the street? Is there an overarching theme for historical Apex?

7 days ago

There is some good and some bad to this plan. A lot of employee parking will be shifted to places where customer parking is now and so there will not be any "added" parking here for customers. A lot of these businesses can not use the back doors for customer entry due to building layouts. The area definitely needs to be cleaned up I'm just not sure this is the way to do it.

7 days ago

Wires need to go and improve lighting for safety a must. Design is pleasing to eye. Would be nice for food places for more outdoor seating.

7 days ago

No street art. Again, just doesn't look good, especially after a couple years. Also didn't see it in the design but if possible, get those wires underground. They are just as much of an eyesore as the art.

7 days ago

Looks great! Just curious about how delivery trucks and utility service vehicles will work in the mix of all the people traffic?

7 days ago

1) I'd like to see more bicycle parking/ spots to lock my bike while enjoying downtown; 2) How about an area for food trucks to park and serve customers occasionally; 3) A dedicated pick-up/ drop off for uber/ lift; 4) I don't like the symbols that indicate paid parking spots.

8 days ago

Storm water run off is a concern with the increased surface coverage, even with "permeable surface" solutions.

8 days ago

Like the trash consolidation, drop-off or short-term parking options. Like the pedestrian areas, lighting, trees, pollinator gardens, and art. Maybe art could be softer somehow - rather than geometric shapes, something that has more natural curves?

8 days ago

I agree the overhead wires, phone, electric, etc should be placed underground.

10 days ago

Pavement art isn't appealing. Everything else is great.

10 days ago

I live across the tracks and walk into town frequently. Before the parking area was created area always looked unkempt. With the addition of the parking it looks wider and a bit more attractive along the tracks. I feel hiding the dumpsters, adding plants, etc. would be a nice addition to this area.

10 days ago

More shading would be good. If not by trees then maybe some hardscapes like pergolas.

11 days ago

Only practical if you can do something about the smell of the trash

11 days ago

Love the plant selection

11 days ago

Doing anything with Seaboard is great, and these look like a good way to extend the feel of downtown.

12 days ago

If you are going to the trouble to clean up the utility wiring and all, why not thoughtfully engineer a plan to bury the electric and communication lines in accessible vaults and pathways.

12 days ago

If you are going to the trouble of re-doing the street and relocating utility wiring, why not bury those utility lines in accessible vaults. That takes away the eyesore.

12 days ago

I think it is a HUGE improvement! My only feedback is that a lot of time, budget, and effort are being put into this in order to improve the experience of our downtown for people and based on these drawing, the parking looks like it is encroaching on the "people" space. All the pedestrian spaces in Downtown Apex have always seemed super tiny and cramped with multiple obstacles in the way (benches, lamp posts, store signage, etc.). This is our opportunity to create something beautiful for people to enjoy. Based on these drawings, it looks like the parking closest to the community gathering space with string lights is making that space look/feel small and cramped. While I know parking is necessary and important, my question would be Is it worth making a brand new space, designed for people to gather, feel tight/cramped for a handful of extra parking spots?

12 days ago

Love the art, the lighting, the plants and gathering space. LOVE hiding the dumpsters and tidying up the power lines.

12 days ago

Much more clean and friendly space in the new design. Helps expand downtown beyond just sal street

13 days ago

burying the lines is an excellent idea. most of the rest is hypermanaging privately owned space. Apex is a desirable location BECAUSE of the organic and slightly disordered downtown: WHY are we wrecking our lovely downtown by making it a sterile, overplanned environs? the desing includes specifying where PLANTERS are to be located. how crazy is that?

13 days ago

For the Saunders alley, I thought the visual elements were very important in making the space appear inviting. In this space, I think functional elements--as a pedestrian, gathering, ambient space--are what matter most to bringing life to the space. I would consider reducing or eliminating the parking spaces, or perhaps making them EV parking only (which at least have no fumes and less noise,) in favor or more seating and art. And add playful elements that are child-oriented. One visual piece I do have questions about is the railroad side--must that remain simply grass up to the tracks? While I think the trains going by can be charming, and so they should be hidden, some low landscaping (encroaching on the street/parking, if the RR Co. owns and won't allow planting in the grassy area) might improve the feel of the space.

13 days ago

I like it but think that the community gathering space is too small .

13 days ago

The asphalt art is ugly, a waste of money and will look horrible and dated in a few years

13 days ago

I wish the power lines could disappear altogether. Love the gathering space, the seated areas, and the covered patio seating near ELK Foods and Peak on Salem. The space there may allow for some street performers to draw people in. Lighting would be great. Would be nice to "connect" to the caboose-draw it all together, as that entire space will become even more vibrant with proposed priorities. I think this area could be a real gem for downtown. A nice urban park design would be great. Perhaps we could work in areas to play chess, or bocce, etc, as you see in some bigger cities. Apex is lacking a bit on things to do downtown when friends visit. Eating and drinking and shopping are great, but other free and fun activities will get people downtown and they will stay longer and spend more money. I would love to see lots of flexible entertainment options (games, performers, interactive art for all ages), open/green space for hanging out, and interesting carts, pop ups or activities to make it very interesting and fun! This alley could be a destination to draw people to town!

13 days ago

Love the trees and the asphalt art. Trash containers out of site is so much better! Burying utility lines connected to the buildings is a must.

13 days ago

This will create great outdoor seating/gathering options!

13 days ago

Love the pollinator bioswales

13 days ago

The permeable parking area is good. The small ornamental trees shown look like Natchez myrtles which are overused. How about natives such as serviceberry, dogwood or viburnum which are similar in size?

13 days ago

Like the idea of having a turnaround incase all parking is full so you don't have to loop back through downtown. Will businesses actually let in customers via the rear entrances?

13 days ago

Add a decorative fence along the CSX right of way. Possibly it could be set far enough back to allow more seating between the parking and the fence.

13 days ago

Love the drop and go. Would like a better idea of what peak alley will have. It would be great for all utility lines to be underground. And dumpster smell is concern. But love it!

13 days ago

Again, although aesthetically pleasing, it does not seem to have businesses in mind. Coming from the viewpoint of a former employee of one of these businesses, where do employees park? How do they easily access their main entry-exit if the area right by the back doors is dedicated to a community gathering space? It is also more than inconvenient to reduce/move many of the dumpsters from directly behind most of the businesses. While I agree they're not pretty to look at, moving them makes it so difficult for owners and employees taking out their trash and recycle, especially when they have more than just one load of trash or boxes to recycle. Also, this space is the back of the buildings along Salem Street. Who wants to hang out in the back of buildings anyway where there is no public access to enter the businesses? Again, although pretty, this does nothing but put people where they really don't need to be, it doesn't bring money to the businesses along Salem St, and makes it beyond miserable for employees and owners. You don't see the back of the White House, or the underground workings of Disney World, or on a more relatable scale, the backside of strip malls and grocery stores because they're not pretty, but functional and necessary. This is similar to that. These businesses need ways to get in and out easily, to get rid of their trash easily, etc.

13 days ago

Artwork and vibrancy will help a lot

13 days ago

Permeable parking is helpful.

13 days ago

Eh?

13 days ago

Stormwater management and utility improvements are mandatory for this area (including trash and grease trap consolidation). What is missing is there are no dedicated parking spaces for business owners and employees nor is there easy access to rear business entrances for deliveries.

13 days ago

It would be wonderful to clean up and make good use of Seaboard Street in many of the ways illustrated! Our concern is for the neighbors living right on the other side of the railroad tracks and the noise that might come from outdoor areas depending on what they are used for. Please do not let those areas be used by businesses that would create a lot of noise (bars, bringing in bands or playing loud music, etc.)

13 days ago

Would love to see the city take this opportunity to put all utilities underground (assume issue is \$\$\$). Hard to tell from sketches but would hope the buffer space between public spaces and residential area complete visual separation.

13 days ago

This is great. I always park behind Scratch/across from PD HQ since Seaboard is less inviting. If Seaboard is improved, I would be more likely to park there.

13 days ago

Add more outdoor gathering, seating, and lighting.

13 days ago

Attractive, inviting, more functional, more parking. No down side.

13 days ago

Looks great! Making these alleys into real spaces is terrific!

13 days ago

Love the picnic tables, plants, bushes. Again a much cleaner look.

13 days ago

Hard to tell if there is a way to walk from Chatham St. to Saunders/Peak Alley without having to walk in the street or through the convenience parking. This would be needed. Also can't tell if the retail outlets will have a door for customers in the back - especially for bars/restaurants.

13 days ago

Love ideas for fixing trash/recycling ugliness. It usually smells and looks awful. I'd prefer more outdoor gathering space vs short-term parking, but understandably there needs to be space for deliveries.

13 days ago

There is a big focus on parking spaces for cars, but I'm not seeing any space or design elements for bikes. With the increased housing around downtown, encouraging people to ride a bike to downtown vs. drive their car would extend the availability and usability of the parking plan. As the area grows and so long as downtown Apex can bring people out (shop/dine/gather) the need for additional parking will become an issue again.

13 days ago

This area is underutilized. I would also have to question where the loading/unloading would be for the business owners of DTA. If there are other options or a loading zone can be maintained elsewhere, it would be good to know. It would also be good if this could be purchased instead of leased from CSX to guarantee we will maintain the parking.

13 days ago

Is there any way to get rid of the above ground wires entirely?

13 days ago

Would still like some spaces that can be used for eating lunch, sitting, etc. to get off the main street busy-ness.

13 days ago

Getting overhead wires in both alleys will do a lot for appearances. Concern here again for lighting and how much light pollution would result from ambient lighting. In both alley designs, there are planters and small tree plantings. Who is going to maintain those? We already have some places around town where plantings have died from lack of water, etc. Larger trees tend to take care of themselves. Having vegetation all divided up into planters, etc. is going to require some ongoing work!

13 days ago

This is a huge improvement.

13 days ago

Bike racks or a bike parking lot would be great. Maybe I missed it?

13 days ago

Again, the street art causes me to skew towards "Hate It." Putting street art at the ingress and egress points just doesn't seem, to me, the best place.

13 days ago

Those overhead lines have to go and making the area a "place you want to be" would be a vast improvement for outdoor activities/dining. Salem is becoming so crowded to walk down.

13 days ago

not a good idea to take away parking and functionality from employees and business owners

13 days ago

This design is far superior to the design proposed for Commerce street. It does a great job of improving the space for people, while also allowing for automobile parking. I think the one way loop is excessive, and using that space for people would be a better use of resources.

If the town wants to attract breweries and restaurants, they need to prioritize outdoor seating and dining, not additional parking spaces and loading/unloading zones. Cutting out the one way loop would help accomplish this goal.

13 days ago

Beautiful!!! The more color, the better. Love the higher spaces and taking advantage of the beautiful potential over there!

13 days ago

Removal of the low hanging wires looks great! I think it would be nice to have games in this space such as ping pong, giant jenga, or cornhole. The Town of Cary is planning to install fire pits for s'mores in their downtown park. This would be a great amenity for downtown Apex on Seaboard Street or Commerce Street. Large swings would be awesome as well!

13 days ago

The space right up against the building should be prioritized for commercial usage - seating for adjacent restaurants/bottle shops, additional display space for businesses, etc. There appears to be plans to add a lot of parking the surrounding areas. The loss of 10-12 spots here shouldn't be an issue. Having a nice commercial outdoor space would be ideal. I would suggest removing the entire offshoot lane of commerce street that swings up against the building, turning that all into community/commercial space, and making commerce street a straight shot with perpendicular parking all the way down. I think the traffic pattern would also be more clean that way.

14 days ago

It shoves out business functions

14 days ago

Again, great improvements in visual appeal, function.

14 days ago

What about underground Electric? I know expensive, who would pay for rework of businesses? Also, where is garbage disposal points?

14 days ago

Limit the drop zones access to AM hours only and make entire zone pedestrian / outdoor seating in the PM. Traffic pulling through when space is occupied and kids at play is a safety hazard and limits the use of the area.

14 days ago

I love everything about it

14 days ago

It's unclear to me why we are trying to attract people to an alleyway. Are there businesses facing this side that people would like to see? Is there a way to access this space from the street without having to go around the corner? Perhaps the space that is now the loop would better be used as a green space or perhaps a larger shared space for people to collect to eat. Also, from a safety stand point will this place be well lit at night?

14 days ago

Hands down functionality! It has some features from all three and is a simple plan. I don't know to many people that want to spend a lot of time in a parking area unless you are waiting for the game to start

14 days ago

Plan looks really great but have thought about the public restrooms and water fountain?

14 days ago

I would personally love to see fruit trees added throughout both commerce and seaboard street designs.

14 days ago

Should be pedestrian only with more green space.

14 days ago

Looks like a fun space to stop and spend time, meet friends, or make new ones.

14 days ago

Who is going to pay to bury the lines going to the business and who is going to pay to move the customers meter base if necessary. I do not feel that the Town should be paying for this but also do not feel that it should be left up to the building owner either. Putting power underground would be wonderful but I am sure it is a huge expense.

14 days ago

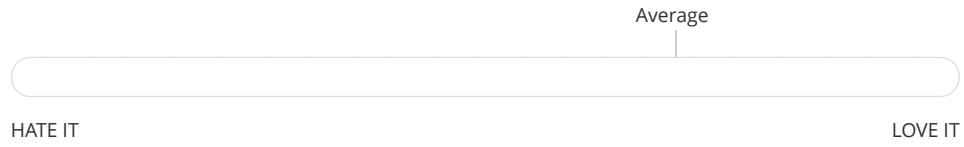
How do you feel about the Vertical Curb with Drop Zones Option for Salem Street?



How do you feel about the Curbless with Parking Option for Salem Street?



How do you feel about the Curbless with Drop Zones Option for Salem Street?



Feel free to tell us how you feel about the Salem Streetscape Design Options. Were there design elements you loved or design elements you wish you had seen but didn't? We want to hear all of your feedback!

I really think we are trying to implement too many changes. The shops have just survived a terrible year for retail businesses. Right now I think we should just focus on beautification- string some lights up and add some murals. Re-pave and add a cross walk mid-block. The work involved in any of these plans will take months, and I don't know how the stores can survive that. Look at Greer SC- they have an adorable downtown much like ours with parking. Do we really need to make all these changes or can we just string up some lights and make minor changes to make our downtown even cuter without disturbing business?

19 minutes ago

Maybe change the traffic lights to decorative posts like Greenville, SC, where you no longer have lights hanging from lines but black posts with fixed arms overhead. Not like Spartanburg, SC, where it is hard to discern intersections and where you can cross.

I'm sympathetic to business owners needing parking nearby, but I think temporary loading zones make more sense. A lot of the cars that parallel park, now, are for a specific business and purely out of opportunity and the tight parking seems dangerous.

an hour ago

To get this sort of pedestrian experience locally, I had to travel to The Streets at Southpoint in the past, which has a generic feel to it. I am so excited about this plan to create a welcoming and pedestrian friendly area full of authentic small town charm. I think it will be crucial to help sell this concept to residents of our town that may be skeptical about such a pedestrian centric concept to create scenarios around how time in the area can be spent and how it can enhance day to day life while supporting our businesses. Thank you for bringing this vision to life. I think it is also important for town's people to imagine how they can live the opportunities potentially being made possible here.

14 hours ago

Curbs more clearly define the separation between areas for pedestrians and those for cars.

17 hours ago

Curbless and parking do not go together in my view. Seems less safe. Curbs do not go together with pedestrian use especially during events. So I go with curbless and drop zones. However, the two drop zones should be at opposite ends of the street not opposite each other. For those with accessibility issues being able to access both ends of the street would be a plus.

20 hours ago

Parking should be removed from Salem street. If drop zones are provided, they should be long enough and enforced so that it does not become a bottleneck in the flow of traffic which would downgrade the pedestrian experience and outdoor dining due to horns honking and traffic snags. Retaining curbs could enhance pedestrian safety. Going curbless even with bollards could result in cars encroaching into non-travel space.

3 days ago

I really like the trees-with-underground-soil-cells idea. And I'm glad you're not considering willow oaks! :) I think the retractable bollards are a waste of money since the police are probably going to always want to block the street with vehicles during special events, for safety reasons.

4 days ago

I would not feel safe with traffic going through without a curb.

4 days ago

Needs more parking.

4 days ago

I like the option that provides the least traffic and maximizes the pedestrian an outdoor dining and gathering space. There is a lot of traffic in downtown and anything that minimizes that is my choice.

4 days ago

As most of the old buildings have 1st floors at or close to grade a curbless option is a poor choice when it comes to drainage. Plan on a thorough stormwater review as most conveyances out of downtown are at capacity.

4 days ago

Best option by far

4 days ago

Not a fan of the parking option. With the increased sidewalks and beautification being done, the parked cars block a lot of it and cut off the open community feel for the downtown. The curbless option is nice, but not a huge fan of all of the bollards used to protect pedestrians from the traveling public. While this is necessary, it kind of breaks up the seamless feel anyway. The curbed option without parking seems to allow for the most open design...being able to see all that downtown has to offer.

4 days ago

I did not have a strong opinion about the curb or curbless. What I like is not so many cars and eliminating the parking. I like the many spaces for gathering and the flexibility of the space.

5 days ago

I think it would be best to eliminate the parking on Salem street, but keep the drop-off zones. Parallel parking is difficult for many people and tends to stop the flow of traffic. It would be great to have more trees along the street.

5 days ago

Everything looks great! More greenery and less cars on Salem Street. So pretty! Yay!!

5 days ago

I love what all three options are doing for downtown! It will definitely be a nice enhancement for the Town. A few thoughts on the designs.

In all options is there only a clear walking space on the right (green shade in typical section)? Would outdoor amenities be required to keep open walkway?

I really like the ability of adding space for outside dining. Would restaurants only be allowed to use the space in front of their store? If so I think it maybe helpful to keep some quick on street parking for the shop style tenants. Based on sketches it appears the parking shown in option 2 aligns in front of shops. One other thought does that limit the opportunity for future restaurants to come and have outdoor dining space? But if restaurants could expand outdoor space along street frontage that maybe nice to plan for future interest. I would be interested to know how tenants would want to use that space to enhance their customers visits.

The curbless options create more of a market feel verses a roadway. Assuming the amenities lining the street section could provide pedestrian safety from a errant vehicle that would be a nice feel to implement and does allow for more flexibility in the space when the street is closed down.

The visualizations show bar style tables lining the streets. It is hard to see spacing between tables and vehicle travel. Having bar tables right up on traffic may not feel very appealing to pedestrians. Similar concept of sidewalk right adjacent to roadway not being used as much by pedestrians.

But again all in all the designs look great!

5 days ago

I am a believer that parking is necessary for a thriving area. I also believe that the perception of "busy" and "occupied" makes an area seem more lively and vibrant. Some street parking adds to this.

Removing the parking, tucking it away, can make this walkable area seem more desolate, especially during the midday and weekday nights, when occupancy is not near its limit.

5 days ago

Not a good idea.

6 days ago

I think it may be more useful to have the drop zones in alternate locations, rather than across from each other. I'm thinking about older people who may need to get to the other end of the street. Could one drop zone be farther up and the opposite drop zone farther down? Love the ability to still drive, but with the option to block off the street-best of both worlds. I prefer no parking in that corridor, especially since other parking can be provided. PLEASE plant the trees and improve the ambient lighting as shown. That would be beautiful and lend to the small town Apex charm, cited by many residents. I'm not sold on the rectangular tables on the sidewalks. I like the concept, but the straight lines of the table don't lend to much conversation unless the road is blocked off from driving. It's kind of hard to see someone if you are standing next to them and everyone is looking out on the street. Love the water capture and tree watering functions. I love using the alleys and the space at the corner of Saunders St/ The mural depicted is spectacular. What a great entry into Apex!

6 days ago

Neither of these show enough parking in front of the stores! There is a parking problem, meaning there are not enough spaces nearby.

6 days ago

I think parking on Salem st. is necessary for the businesses.

6 days ago

I feel that we can eliminate extra traffic through the DT zone on Salem by eliminating parallel parking all together. From my analysis I think something like 3/4 of crashes on Salem through DT are from parallel parking maneuvers, so I love the drop zone designs. I don't see any aesthetic advantage to the curbless street. In fact I foresee more pedestrian-vehicular conflicts with this type of design as folks will feel more liberty to jay walk and cross in undesignated locations. There will be less driver distractions with the parking removed so that's a good thing. The curbless + parking is def a bad call from a safety perspective. ADT on Salem is about 9,000 vpd, so I think it's a good idea to have curb since curb acts as an effective barrier for redirecting vehicles back on to the road at 25 mph speeds.

6 days ago

Retaining parking makes Salem St. less dynamic and inviting. Right now, it is a main thoroughfare and trying to parallel park and/or deal with parallel parkers is frustrating. Parked cars also create conflict with bikers and pedestrians, and makes accidents more likely. Parked cars also interfere with sight lines to businesses, public art, and crossing pedestrians. Drop zones seem to be a good compromise for the disabled and for quick pickups.

7 days ago

If priority is to maximize parking off of salem, it makes the few spots on Salem that we would lose, much more palatable.

7 days ago

I really appreciate the thought going into whether or not to have curbless or vertical curb downtown. The curbless option may provide more accessibility for different modes of mobility. The main concern I thought of without the curb is that many children with sensory differences use the vertical curb as a clear boundary of where to stay in the sidewalk area and not go into the road. Without the curb differentiating that space, it may be a safety issues for those with sensory differences. However, the tactile textures of the space where a vertical curb was in the curbless option may help provide a new, clear boundary. I think it would be worth consulting with families with disabilities and differing needs for input on both safety and accessibility.

7 days ago

Also might suggest to cut back on the number trees. So many ppl enjoy seeing the buildings, maybe to many will restrict the view. Also concerns about who will keep streets and sidewalks clear as general upkeep will be a year round job

7 days ago

All 3 options are beautiful. Like the curbless, offers most drop off areas. Regardless of options, please add to 1 or 3 more dropoff areas. With a growing town, new buildings going up, and lack of direct access to businesses these drop off areas will be vital.

7 days ago

I prefer the drop zone concept. However, I like the curbed option over the curbless option because I don't like the look and feel of the stantions in place of the curbs AND I feel like without a curb, cars will be more likely to try and squeeze over outside of or near the drop zones to let riders in and out. It seems like the curbs will keep drivers moving and not having to have the stantions on both sides makes for a more open feeling when walking around under the planned tree canopy. I'm assuming that the drop off zones will allow for ADA compliance for persons unable to navigate the curbs.

7 days ago

Love the trees, the space to gather with games and standing along the street outside of restaurants, pubs and shops. Feel option 2 would cause the same problems we have now with people trying to parallel park and jamming up traffic. I know the businesses like this better but it is not as people friendly. The trees, lighting, games and environmentally friendly atmosphere makes Apex seem modern and compassionate

7 days ago

It seems odd to have a high table and no chairs. Maybe at a bar, but that's not what is downtown. A bench or stools would be good. I wouldn't want to stand the whole time, kids would also have a hard time and how about wheelchair height? There are fixed seat options too.

7 days ago

None of the options show Parklets. I really think we need to add them.

7 days ago

If you're changing the street design to look like it does, you're going to have to get the parked cars out of there. They severely cluttered up the space. Either that or move all parking to one side of the street, lessening the walking room on that side, but changing it to diagonal parking. I believe Pittsboro has something like that and somehow it doesn't look so cluttered. It will fit more cars, plus people just hate parallel parking anyways. So either no parking at all or diagonal.

7 days ago

What happens to the rest of Salem Street in front of the Mule Exchange building and Halle Center building?

7 days ago

Opt. B with limited one hour parking may create an enforcement nightmare. Would have liked to see angled parking instead of parallel on Salem; it is faster, easier, and more spots.

8 days ago

1) In all of the options, I would like to see more space for bicycle parking/ locking. 2) The street pavers need to be bicycle-friendly. 3) Recommend additional cross-walks for the curbless options. 4) Recommend that the curbless w/ parking option include dedicated handicap spaces 5) I really like the option to close the street to traffic for events.

8 days ago

Not sure if 2 drop zones are enough? But maybe with more parking available elsewhere it would be. Proposed pedestrian areas look so inviting! Much improved! So excited for changes!

8 days ago

I do like the flow of the curbless, but feel safer with a slight elevation of the curb.

10 days ago

No comment

10 days ago

Lack of parking in close proximity for those with mobility issues is an extreme concern.

10 days ago

Crosswalks should be raised to really slow cars and one should be located down by Center st. intersection to slow traffic from there. String lights should be eliminated - strings are ugly during the day, will be ongoing maintenance issue with tree growth - put them along the tops of the buildings instead. Landlords will agree if Town pays. Treatment of the road/sidewalks inc. pavers... should continue to Center street to make the whole downtown area feel cohesive. Don't want people to stop at corner of Saunders & Salem - need to move people further north thru design. If you charge & fine for the few on street parking spaces it will help keep those spots moving.

10 days ago

I am confused by the curbless design and why Apex thinks this is warranted. People have stated this should be pursued due to success of this design in Europe. Downtown Apex does not compare to cities in Europe that utilize this design. Places I have traveled, which have curb less designs, are higher density commercial/mixed use areas which include morning deliveries with very active pedestrian areas. Some of these neighborhoods were also planned this way over 500 years ago. In addition, these designs usually are closed off to car traffic from 8am to 12am. I do not believe Salem Street should ever be closed down (beyond annual events) to car traffic.

10 days ago

This is the best people focused option, in my opinion.

11 days ago

I feel people would try and stay in their cars in the dropzones while their passenger goes inside to transact business. I prefer having about 8 parking spaces along Salem.

11 days ago

How about some Sharrows for bicycles since there are no bike lanes shown in any option.

11 days ago

Expanding the pedestrian zone would be terrific, and more outdoor spaces for restaurants and shops, especially post-COVID, are very welcome. I was surprised to realize that there are no trees on Salem currently, so those are a terrific addition too.

12 days ago

Prefer no cars at all allowed from Chatham Street to Peak Alley

12 days ago

All plans look beautiful, concerned for the store-owners if there is no parking along Salem Street, that convenience for their customers seems to, understandably, be a big deal to them.

12 days ago

I think option A is the safest option. Then C and B.

12 days ago

Love the curbless option as it would allow for the street to be used without hazards for pedestrian events. The trees and overhead lights are a great touch!

12 days ago

Even though it's not shown, I think an option with the additional parking and vertical curb would work also if too many people don't like curbless design but still want to have more on-street parking.

12 days ago

Was there an option to make street totally walkable and traffic go around?

13 days ago

better lighting makes sense. more parking> pedestrian access is crucial.

13 days ago

Great proposed improvements. I'd be thrilled with either "dropoff" option (with or without curbs) but very disappointed if the "with parking" option was chosen, as that would be a missed opportunity.

I'm for any active or passive traffic calming measures (that have evidence of working, unlike speed bumps). Trees and curbless will help. I suggest adding one or two mid-block crosswalks to further slow traffic and improve walkability. Another suggestion is raising the bollards and closing Salem to traffic not just for occasional events but on a regular basis, such as during Farmer's Market mornings or peak dining hours.

13 days ago

Drop zones > parking

Option 1 or 3 would be so exciting with the public gathering space. Option 3 is my favorite.

13 days ago

I think either A or C are the best choices. However, I think there should be a crosswalk in the center of the street. With flashing lights, this could be useful instead of walking around the entire block. Since there will be reduced traffic, this should be easy to implement compared to current designs.

13 days ago

Not obvious from the pictures, but I hope all options replace the street lights at Commerce and Center. Decorative poles and light frames would be much better than the standard lights on overhead wires that exist now.

13 days ago

I'm surprised A is my favorite, I thought I would like curbless the most. But I don't care for the bollards all down the street with the curbless. I'm hesitant about losing the parking on Salem as I use it all the time, but I think to achieve the full vision of what is trying to be accomplished that the parking needs to move off Salem.

13 days ago

I think all three plans have pros and cons. A curbless option is great for people in wheelchairs, who have a hard time seeing, etc when the curb can be a hazard. However, with young children of my own, a curb helps my kids distinguish sidewalk from roadway.

13 days ago

public art throughout is critical, thank you for including in all options.

13 days ago

sustainability elements speak to the town's values

13 days ago

lighting features are critical

13 days ago

permeable pavers a must on the street

13 days ago

prefer the curbless options

13 days ago

I think adding trees will take away from people space.

13 days ago

We don't need to park on Salem street. More walking and seating is needed.

13 days ago

I would like Salem St to be completely closed to vehicular traffic. I like the curbless design but fear that with some of today's crazy driving it may prove to be unsafe for pedestrians.

13 days ago

How is the Town planning to guarantee proposed streetscape changes actually enhances the economic vitality of the Downtown area to building and business owners as is stated in this information? The Downtown Plan document includes 4 variations of streetscape changes. How did we get to only three modified choices with two of those removing all parking? It is absolutely necessary that some parking remains on Salem Street. I'm not sure leaving 8 parking spaces will be sufficient.

13 days ago

It looks fantastic and charming but is extremely misleading and does not represent reality. Nobody is going to be biking down Salem Street with more narrow streets than at present. Show all the trucks, thru traffic and emergency vehicles so people can base their decision on reality. I would live to see this but the designer is making Salem Street look more like a pedestrian walkway rather than a heavily traveled street. On top of not being practical it also looks very dangerous. Am I missing something....are you rerouting traffic?

13 days ago

Even though the video shows both cars and bikes I find it hard to imagine two cars and two bikes all pass in one spot I'm sure there will be, but did not see bike parking

13 days ago

Please save the main tree with the light balls in the Ambassador's Garden.

13 days ago

I prefer Option A. I like the idea of the least amount of parking on Salem Street. I would actually prefer closing the street permanently to traffic and re-routing to Seaboard, Commerce and Elm. I like the definition of the curbs separating the street from the sidewalk. This design also calls for fewer bollards, which are not very attractive.

13 days ago

I think option c is the best. Getting rid of curbs will make it easier for everyone, reduce trips and falls and no parking on the street will make it safer and much more pedestrian friendly. I think no curbs will be especially helpful during festivals and events. People with limited mobility and / or with strollers and small children will appreciate no curbs.

13 days ago

I do not like parking at all on Salem Street. The drop zones should handle those that need to get close and there will be enough other parking. Maximize the space for pedestrians and outdoor dining. Prefer native trees.

13 days ago

I actually prefer the curb rather than curbless. But if there were enough retractable bollards, the curbless could work - I didn't like vertical designs to separate the street from sidewalk - want to see as much outdoor dining as possible. Tables much better than benches. Please keep rock garden and lending library to keep the charm of downtown Apex - shouldn't be too new and shiny!

13 days ago

Loved pavers. Like drop zones.

13 days ago

I like the idea of drop zones more than none at all. I love the street trees, expanded sidewalks, and pavers. The idea of providing more congregating and seating space is perfect. Places for activities of all ages is great.

13 days ago

I love the idea of limiting vehicle traffic and maximizing walking/outdoor eating space.

13 days ago

I'd prefer to see parking eliminated from the main street area to allow wider sidewalks and public tables, chairs, standing tables, etc.

13 days ago

Please use native plants for trees and planters! Again, a concern for light pollution with string lights. Lighting is of particular concern during spring and fall migration times for birds. Like the trees and plans for permeable surfaces. Again, a concern for planter gardens and who will maintain them. Intersection of Salem and Saunders is tough when you're coming out of Saunders. Any design should maximize visibility on that corner.

13 days ago

Really dislike the option with continued street parking - if we're going to optimize for pedestrians, we should go all-in.

Both option A and option C are quite nice. It seems that the main difference between the two is that option C improves the overall walkability of the area, and the ability for businesses to more seamlessly spill into the street area when it's closed off? Given the two options, let's not compromise on the goal for optimizing for pedestrians — I would choose option C.

13 days ago

The two curbless designs seem to be "one foot in, one foot out." Either make the streetscape pedestrian focused or car focused, not both at the same time which is what the curbless designs are trying to do. Not to mention -- and I'm being brutally honest here -- many drivers will struggle with the curbless designs when navigating Salem Street, potentially resulting in an increase of car accidents involving pedestrians.

13 days ago

I do not like the curbless options. I think this creates no separation between pedestrian and car areas.

13 days ago

Love the tree lined curbless look, drop zones will create dangerous traffic turbulence and should be somehow limited to those with disabilities and limited in number as well.

13 days ago

My favorite is plan A. I would love to see more benches. What are the plans for bike racks?

13 days ago

I like the visual appeal/ architectural design of all three spaces but will not frequent any curbless option. I do not trust the other drivers not to cross into pedestrian space. My preference would be to remove all vehicle traffic and parking from Salem St making it a 100% pedestrian space - creating additional seating capacity for restaurants and open air space for events. Barring that, I would recommend you remove all parking. The area is too dangerous and I already AVOID it for fear of someone walking out from behind a parked car into traffic. Barring that, make it one way with a single lane of traffic down the center, again creating additional space for business and (more importantly) additional safety for drivers and pedestrians.

13 days ago

One thing: Should the street have lanes painted for cars and bikes so they know what part of the street to stay on?

13 days ago

Not really huge on the large amount of grey everywhere. I miss the brick sidewalks as they add a more historical/warm vibe.

13 days ago

LOVE THIS!! CURBLESS would be best and safest for people. Parking spots here are silly and excessive.

13 days ago

need to keep current parallel parking options or businesses may move away from downtown. Raleigh Fayetteville street pedestrian mall has already failed

13 days ago

Honestly I wish we'd just block off Salem street to vehicle traffic altogether and just make it 100% pedestrian and outdoor seating

13 days ago

I don't think the differences between the three designs matter at all. A curb and a few parking spaces will not change the experience for the vast majority of users. What ever design is chosen, it will be a major improvement over the current setup.

13 days ago

I like that this option minimizes pedestrian choke points and is the most flexible.

13 days ago

You need to maintain street parking for handicapped and for people who can't walk very far or who need to pop into a store. These options are pretty but not practical and will hurt the businesses along Salem Street!!

13 days ago

Oh goodness. No curbs-- much more accessible. Love the idea. No parking on the street-- good! However, I wish we were not considering allowing vehicles to continue to drive down Salem.

13 days ago

This might look pretty, and some people will be fooled by this, but removing all that convenient parking in front of businesses is not a good move. This will ruin business in downtown!

14 days ago

No need to prioritize parking here with the other parking adds. This is prime area for additional commercial space and should be used as such.

14 days ago

The sidewalks are crowded at peak times. The "C" option provides the most space and best feel for people. Those few parking spot losses can be overcome by other parking improvements, including the a

14 days ago

Missing a real opportunity to close Salem off to traffic completely and make it a walking area with bars and restaurants with tables chairs and lighting hanging across. Many locations are going to this.

14 days ago

I would look at diverting all downtown traffic down Seaboard and shutting down Salem to traffic. Potentially would lose parking in front of Chamber and use as a gentle curve for traffic down Seaboard.

14 days ago

Minimize vehicle traffic and congestion by eliminating all parking along Salem St.

14 days ago

Love these! I think if we are cutting parking on Salem Street down, then we should just eliminate it, especially since there will be so much parking nearby. If just a few spots are available on Salem, I worry that cars will be pacing and competing for those spots.

14 days ago

Really like the idea of increasing the sidewalk capacity of the street, the tree coverage and the removal of parking on the street. I would hope that outdoor dining could continue with this new design as it adds a lot of animation to the street.

14 days ago

For goodness sake. Just close the entire area from Saunders to Chatham for vehicular traffic. That way you maximize the community space where everyone wants to spend there time. You can make up the lost parking in front and make it up behind where it belongs. Besides most people cant parallel park anyway with all the traffic doen Salem. You will also help prevent vehicular and pedestrian accidents in that area.

14 days ago

I am attaching two example pics, which will gives you idea of having a fountain somewhere, which kinds can enjoy during summer time or something similar to town of cary



14 days ago

I feel , we should have paved road because it gives more like a downtown feeling. Permeable road pavers give more like a street mall feeling

14 days ago

Trees that offer shade are a wonderful addition, but I'm curious as to who and how often they will be maintained/pruned.

14 days ago

Salem Street should be car-free/ pedestrain only with bistro and beanch seating. Dining and care fumes don't go together.

14 days ago

I wish we could close off the street to pedestrians only from Anna's to PeakCity grill or even to the Fire station (if it was moved). If the street was closed it would make a public square for people to gather and enjoy the restaurants and shops. The public square is a missing piece of community life that Apex could try to tackle with this project. Having a square/pedestrian area only is an all in type idea..really can't do it and get the same effect with cars.

14 days ago

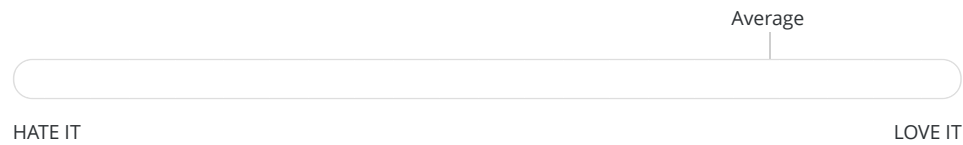
Drop zones for loading/unloading only. Curbs feel like a necessity for safety.

14 days ago

I like the first one the best. But the pavers seem to be a pedestrian hazard when they rise up causing pedestrians to trip. Who is going to be responsible for ticketing the 1 hour parking zones? I like the 1 hour parking zones but that would put an added stress on the police staff. As for the string lighting who will be responsible for changing the bulbs when they go out not to mention how would you get power to them? The buildings are individually owned. I think this would be a waste of town resources and tax payer money.

14 days ago

How do you feel about the Saunders Street Gathering Space schematic design?



Feel free to share detailed comments about the Saunders Street Gathering Space schematic design. Are there design elements that you love or wish were included?

I absolutely LOVE this mural... hope we can have the same one regardless of what plan is chosen!

11 minutes ago

If I'm using community space downtown, it is because I bought food at a local restaurant or I'm meeting people. Really wish there was more live music downtown. Not so much street performers asking for money, but planned performances, or voluntary performances from the community.

I'm not opposed to a new building. Would like it to have an open feel rather than a brick wall.

an hour ago

I don't like getting rid of the tree and rock garden. My kids love the rock garden and it's always a highlight of coming downtown. It turns it into too much pavement. I would rather have the tree & garden without the pergola. I do like filling in those parking spaces. I would rather see a condensed version keeping the tree & rock garden.

10 hours ago

To get this sort of pedestrian experience locally, I had to travel to The Streets at Southpoint in the past, which has a generic feel to it. I am so excited about this plan to create a welcoming and pedestrian friendly area full of authentic small town charm. I think it will be crucial to help sell this concept to residents of our town that my be skeptical about such a pedestrian centric concept to create scenarios around how time in the area can be spent and how it can enhance day to day life while supporting our businesses. Thank you for bringing this vision to life. I think it is also important for town's people to imagine how they can live the opportunities potentially being made possible here.

14 hours ago

The space right at the corner is underutilized and is often filled with tacky items. However, the tree in that space is one of the few trees of any size remaining downtown. The trees shown in the images won't reach that size for a long time and it's unlikely that Apex will leave them alone long enough to get there.

17 hours ago

I applaud the attempt to use this space for people. However, this would be an opportune spot to put in a greenspace rather than a concrete setting. With all the changes I've gone through so far I find myself asking where is the downtown park that I want to go to and sit in, like the town square in years past, a gathering spot for the town folk. Putting trees in pots is not the same thing. This could connect up with the greener version of the Saunders parking lot and an art/sculpture walk along Seaboard Street. The whole plan still feels very concretey to me. I'd still only go to town to visit a business like I do now. I would not go to hang out.

20 hours ago

This would be a great space for a local brewery.

3 days ago

What about adding a water feature for this space?

4 days ago

Seems this design would brighten up the area.

4 days ago

I like it too and prefer it to another building.

4 days ago

I like the covered area for shade.

5 days ago

YES! MORE OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACES!

5 days ago

Love it!!

5 days ago

I think the concept of the design is great and love updating the artwork. I only wonder how long the amenities would last since they are not fixed items and not in a space having consistent oversight. I think the use of this space would be based on programming events the Town would have for this enhancement.

5 days ago

I like the thought, but too many loose pieces. a play area for kids (playground structure), street/sculpture art that can be functionally played on might be cool.

5 days ago

I love that mural-it's great and would allow us all to feel proud when entering that area. I think an area for games would be terrific. We are missing "things to do" downtown besides eat and drink. I would love to see all those open spaces used for these kinds of activities/changeable programming. This past weekend was fantastic with the proms downtown. Reminded me of family dances we used to attend on Beech Mountain at the town gazebo. It could be an excellent way to bring people and their guests downtown. I think it could be a draw for people to come visit Apex (and spend their money here). This update seems like a no brainer-I think it would enhance and enliven the town!

6 days ago

It's going to be a waste of space when the weather isn't good.

6 days ago

Wasted space most of the time.

6 days ago

Love the chess board idea.

6 days ago

I like the concept, thought I don't see how we could get people to linger there - maybe a food/drink cart? I'm not sure how much should be invested if the Master Plan calls for a building.

7 days ago

Love it! Could there be more green space or plants/greenery included?

7 days ago

Shade will be absolutely necessary for this corner as it faces south and will have a lot of sun

7 days ago

I like the games and shaded areas. It would be cool if that space could also have some kind of water element. I guess I'm just so drawn to the fountain in downtown Cary that I'm hoping something similar might take shape here, whether it's in this space or another.

7 days ago

Many places have a place to take pictures such as a statue you can climb and sit on for photographs or in front of a mural that shows you are in Apex:). Also will we have a water feature like in Cary? There is always so much activity around the fountain with people eating, bands playing, people gathering to play shuffleboard, etc. They made that an excellent gathering place! Plus their benches and artwork are interactive and beautiful with charming sayings.

7 days ago

Or make parking on Salem street the handicap accessible spots

7 days ago

We definitely need to remove that "Ambassador's Garden". Looks trashy.

7 days ago

I like the message on the graffiti art but not the art itself. As stated before, it's not tasteful or classy. I would search for other designs to get the message still up there though, whether it be having the words spelled out with lighting of some sort which would look good day or night, or painted on the building in white like the old warehouses which would fit with the historical use of that area. I would strongly urge you to seek other options for all of your graffiti art locations, maybe even asking the public to vote on their favorite designs.

7 days ago

Maybe this space could be used for pop-up events or bands on event nights.

7 days ago

undecided about the gathering space.

8 days ago

1) I really like the propose sunburst mural 2) Include areas for both lounging and for dining tables

8 days ago

That pathetic rock garden needs to go! Please keep the Little Library - even if it has to relocate!

8 days ago

No longer an ugly dead zone! Yes please!

10 days ago

I love the concept, but losing the trees there is abhorrent, no matter how many other trees are going up along the street. We've lived in Apex for 21 years; My kids grew up getting their pictures taken by those trees. Countless memories have been made there, many of which I've witnessed out my office window. First dates, first proms, first kisses. We've shed tears under those trees when honoring 9/11, met up with friends for sacred conversations. That corner should be preserved and added to, NOT completely redone. There needs to be an option to keep them and build the gathering space around them instead. KEEP THE TREES and integrate their honor into the Apex nostalgia; that would be amazing and so meaningful, instead of taking away anything left of our original Apex where memories were made.

10 days ago

The mural on the wall is a little much.

10 days ago

While the idea to bring more art and trees/garden to the space, the removal of parking in close proximity to the shops/restaurants is an extreme concern.

10 days ago

I would prefer this design inhabit the Depot lot. Need incentive for people to travel the whole street.

10 days ago

All of these ideas are current trends. The town has current issues with upkeep and maintenance in parks. Who is going to upkeep string lights and painted pavement within 6 months when the lights break or pavement fads from the sun. It just seems like all these components are trends and will not add any actual value in the future. If not maintained, this could end up looking extremely cheap. Currently, some businesses downtown do not even maintain things as is including landscaping, signage, etc. Maybe focus on the basics and getting them to replant dead potted plants, disposing of waste properly, and cleaning off their sitting areas.

10 days ago

Not a fan of all the games.

12 days ago

Love it as long as it won't be used for live or amplified music or loud gatherings (not of course including town festivals, those are happily to be expected), too close to houses in that area.

12 days ago

Love the wall mural and games

12 days ago

Love the idea of this space being more useful and looking better.

12 days ago

I think this should remain active open space long term and not plan for a building there. That also helps to alleviate concern with losing other gathering space if the Saunders maximize parking option is selected.

12 days ago

I'd consider instead of chess board, a small flat green space for small kids to play, roll/run around a little. Or something that will get more use than giant chess (even though it looks cool) - or maybe climable art work for kids.

13 days ago

This should be a private decision. If someone wishes to purchase the block and turn it into, say, a foodtruck/eating area, that's their decision.

13 days ago

That area can be a bottleneck with pedestrian parking. Natural to stop there to gather when strolling the street. Very exciting overall.

13 days ago

I like it. I like that it adds more open space. Allowing the coffee shop to set up a cart in the mornings and the ice cream shop to set up a cart in the evenings there would be nice.

13 days ago

Ambassador's garden is an eyesore and replacement is a must. This design is terrific

13 days ago

As this space is owned by the Town, creation of a public space is an appropriate use.

13 days ago

It looks like a good use of space but it also appears as though the graphic overestimates the amount of space that it will create. Either way, it will be more practical than what is currently there.

13 days ago

This proposal is a huge improvement. The current garden at that area is cluttered and wasted space

13 days ago

Please include and save the one and only tree with the light balls in the Ambassador's Garden and find a new location or add the Apex Community Rock Garden.

13 days ago

Like any new gathering spaces.

13 days ago

Gathering spaces are important and this space looks vibrant and inviting

.

13 days ago

Keep some of the current elements - like the rock garden and lending library - they are both part of the charm of downtown. I also like the wall to sit on by the rock garden. Don't like the chess AT ALL. I see this at resorts all the time and no one uses it. Maybe incorporate a mini playground for children in the space.

13 days ago

I love the mural

13 days ago

The more gathering spaces, the more inviting.

13 days ago

This area has been underutilized and using as a gathering and activity space is perfect.

13 days ago

I love the idea of making this space more , usable, and open

13 days ago

Not crazy about the giant chess set, but like the small stage and would prefer to see picnic tables and such there.

13 days ago

Concern about the games and whether this space would look cluttered. Again, visibility at this intersection is currently poor because of large vehicles that park near the intersection of Salem and Saunders. Any design in this area should enhance the ability of cars to exit Saunders, particularly if parking is enhanced and greater traffic on this corner makes exiting more difficult.

13 days ago

Hate to lose the large tree currently there, but this is a better use of the space.

13 days ago

Opportunity to create additional parking in this space if you were to remove all parking along Salem St itself.

13 days ago

Something just feels "off" with the organization of it. I love the overall concept but something just is missing.

13 days ago

This is OUTSTANDING! And that big fresh mural, the saying and colors, is perfection. Obsessed with this gathering corner.

13 days ago

need as much downtown parking as possible

13 days ago

This mural is awesome! I really like the lighting, covered space, and games. This may be a good space for outdoor movies until the Depot lot and Fire Station are redesigned.

13 days ago

The parking spaces are more valuable than "game space". Nobody will be gathering and playing outside during the rain, but businesses will be open and wishing customers could park closely and come inside. That won't be possible.

13 days ago

Great space that appears to be underutilized.

14 days ago

Space is limited on salem street, let's maximize the amount of high-value public space by removing parking adjacent to the gathering space. Also, shade is likely an important consideration.

14 days ago

Wasted space.

14 days ago

I love that area on Saunders would be utilized. It has always seemed like wasted space.

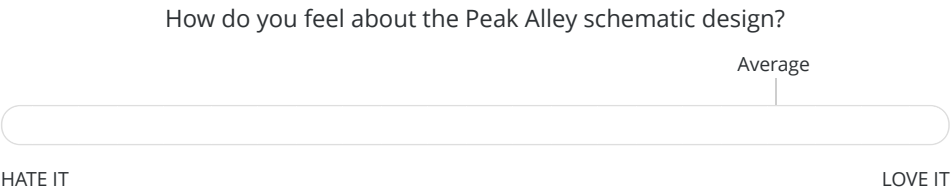
14 days ago

More places to sit, with shade, are welcome!

14 days ago

I do not like the string light idea b/c when one light goes out it will not look pleasing.

14 days ago



Feel free to share detailed comments about the Peak on Salem Alley schematic design.
Are there design elements that you love or wish were included?

I love this IF you don't take away the alley in the back. As I keep saying my first concern is the businesses being able to actually conduct business. This would make a nice gathering space because it is visible from the sidewalk- not back behind stores.

8 minutes ago

It appears to be designed more for businesses than for the people of Apex. The lights shown here and in other areas will contribute to the light pollution in town. Lights could be focused on the area rather than projecting outward.

17 hours ago

This is one area where I think the more concrete approach works between a restaurant and the fire house and Salem and Commerce Streets.

20 hours ago

This would be a great space for a local brewery.

3 days ago

This area needs a stage. It is underused. It needs more than just tables for the Peak Apex restaurant.

4 days ago

This area needs something like the stage. It is underused now.

4 days ago

Again, more gathering and outdoor space is wonderful.

4 days ago

Love that this gives an option for outdoor eating and possible entertainment with the stage. It would be amazing to have the ability to have a live performance while walking around downtown or just sitting for a few to take it in...even dining with some light music.

4 days ago

I like the additional space provided and the option for a small stage is fun.

5 days ago

I like the covered area to provide shade. Could we fit some trees in there for more shade?

5 days ago

LOVE the gathering spaces! Covid proved that we NEED more outdoor options!

5 days ago

Yes please!

5 days ago

I like the paver improvements a lot and how it ties in with the other improvements. I have a harder time envisioning how a stage would be beneficial to this area.

5 days ago

I like the idea of using it, but it seems like it lacks purpose right now. Maybe a kids specific area would be cool. This might bring traffic down during the daytime and not just in the evenings. Splash pad, playground, outdoor art, maybe a musical sculpture space...something cool. I feel like each of these outdoor spaces should have purpose and not become redundant

5 days ago

Love the lighting, flowers/greenspace, and gathering spots. Anything to allow activities for all ages there would be great. I'm a huge fan of these plans!

6 days ago

Brilliant idea. Can't wait to see the changes.

6 days ago

Love the concept but would work on the type of amenities in the gathering space. A stage in the middle like that is kind of an eye sore. I would like to see something like fountain in this area. Maybe like a big granite fountain ball that's spun by water in the middle, and some pavement art in form of a game like hopscotch where kids can play while their parents enjoy dining. And on the sides, next to the prairie grass gardens benches under canopies for people to sit enjoy the afternoon. Also a few environmentally friendly trash receptacles would go along way.

6 days ago

I don't see much use for this space, unless the fire station is moved/changed.

7 days ago

This would be great if owners had gathering spaces so it encourages community. We need community gathering places like the skate park (but for adults).

7 days ago

Also really like the general concept of posts along the street to prevent drive through accidents along Salem

7 days ago

I love this design more. I'm not sure about the red on the top portion of the building though or what purpose that has. If possible, adding black accent pieces or black metal rain covers to the windows would look nicer I think than leaving them bare. The color of the building looks nice but does need that accent to make it more appealing and add some culture. Not sure if red should be that color.

7 days ago

This is a great space for our farmers market and vendor events.

7 days ago

1) I like the outdoor stage. Great idea. 2) More areas for bicycle parking/ locking.

8 days ago

Some kind of water element? Like a fountain?

8 days ago

I think the town should put more in the alley ways vs relying on the businesses to put them in. This way it will be open to all to use and businesses won't have to directly fund it.

9 days ago

None

10 days ago

Would rather the improvements extend further north along the street than so significantly benefit one business. If that business is paying that is a different story.

10 days ago

Peak Alley is private property

11 days ago

Again, beautiful use of the space but please not for loud things, there are houses right on the other side of the railroad tracks.

12 days ago

Love the stage!

12 days ago

Much better use of space!

12 days ago

I like the concept but the location of the stage seems awkward in the middle of everything. I think it would be better pushed back toward the building leaving a larger area to walk through and gather apart from the stage. Maybe add a couple trees too?

12 days ago

If we want to create a stage, it should be that we purchase a section OFF of downtown and create a local park for the purpose.

13 days ago

A stage, here or elsewhere, is a great idea!

13 days ago

.

13 days ago

How about a fountain in this area?

13 days ago

I like the design of this doesn't negatively affect the owner/s and employees of The Peak on Salem.

13 days ago

overhead lighting elements will be very effective in this space

13 days ago

Good hang out spaces

13 days ago

No opinion on this space. Future use should be determined by the property owner.

13 days ago

Looks great!

13 days ago

How will the other side of the alley look? The back half of the fire station is in need of repair and doesn't for the clean and modern look in the schematic above

13 days ago

Add more the the ally and behind the buildings. Also, I have t seen where you all are including the historic caboose!

13 days ago

Allows for more out door dining and/ or entertainment.

13 days ago

It's fun and inviting.

13 days ago

Really like the outdoor seating for the restaurant. Be sure the sidewalk/walkway goes all the way around the back and to Chatham Street. A stage is an interesting idea, but would consider other options, too.

13 days ago

I'd prefer the space to have more public space vs privately owned.

13 days ago

Offering owners the opportunity to expand and better utilize this space is a great idea!

13 days ago

I really like the idea of providing additional seating for eating carry out or perhaps meals provided via food trucks parked around downtown.

13 days ago

Again, like the small stage area as well as lunch seating, etc for people to sit and enjoy. Elements to provide shade and coolness during the hot summer would be nice (mister's?)

13 days ago

The stage is an interesting addition, in a good way!

13 days ago

Love the activation of space, not really sure what the wooden structure's intent is though.

13 days ago

Concerned about safety at this busy crossing point. Hope to have clearly marked walkways.

13 days ago

The more string lights, the better!

13 days ago

The owner of the property should be the one to decide how to use the space.

13 days ago

Maybe some taller greenery would liven up the space a bit more.

14 days ago

Outdoor dining

14 days ago

If you closed Salem from Saunders to Chatham you could have both front and rear spaces and have even mor room for parking

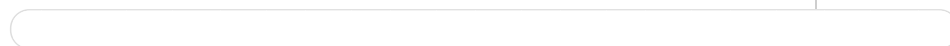
14 days ago

My kids would love the stage, great addition.

14 days ago

What did you think about this on-demand public workshop?

Average



HATE IT

LOVE IT

What questions do you have for the project team? Check back on the FAQs section below
- we'll be posting answers to frequently asked questions there through May 31st!

I'm thankful for this opportunity because I was out of town for the in person meeting!

7 minutes ago

What measures will be taken to facilitate traffic flow to and from downtown Apex and direct main traffic away from main Salem street and encourage travel to parking areas via alternate streets?

3 days ago

Very easy and much more likely to get feedback from a broad community base. I hope we are also reaching out to some of the communities that may have less access to a remote connection.

4 days ago

When would this project take place and when is the expected completion date?

4 days ago

Are you going to retain the architectural feel of downtown apex? The new building replacing the cigar shop does not seem to fit in. ☹️

4 days ago

A big question for citizens will be the cost and the potential impact on property taxes. If funds are limited, how would you prioritize the changes? Perhaps the parking changes should have a high priority as there is an existing need even before any enhancements. I think the automated on-demand parking system is nice, but could be cut if cost is an issue.

5 days ago

Please consider a parking deck. Every town around Apex is doing it. We need it and don't want to be behind! We need it now and will definitely need it more in the future!

5 days ago

Thank you for all you do for our Town! :)

5 days ago

I had some miscellaneous questions throughout the responses. Thank you for your time in putting this together.

5 days ago

Absolutely love the revitalization project that is being proposed, and I am so excited to see it come together!!!

7 days ago

Will there be affordable housing for young professionals and seniors? These two age groups seem to be getting left behind in Apex and both (especially the young professionals) are needed!

7 days ago

What is the cost impact on business owners/property owners?

7 days ago

Was angled parking on Salem considered?

8 days ago

1) Will there be public transportation for outlying areas of Apex to downtown? It would be great to have a "circulator" bus someday.

8 days ago

Excellent job presenting options to residents - from the 1st workshop I attend at Halle through this virtual option to provide input.

8 days ago

none

10 days ago

Why spend 4.2 million on downtown Apex and 1 million on a Greenway that you can't finish because of lack of state funding? We have flooding in neighborhoods and infrastructure that can't meet our suburban sprawl and you are devoting millions of dollars into ego projects. I can't help but think the funds could be better used to help communities or at risk populations vs making Salem St pretty for local tourists.

10 days ago

Overall, I am confused why so many resources (time and money) is being spent on beautifying alleys, while we have traffic issues (which have safety and environmental impacts) which need to be addressed and are not given this amount of attention. Furthermore, I am not sure what the thought is with removing parking. Beyond the weekends and very few days throughout the year, I do not see a demand for sidewalks. Are wider sidewalks needed for the investment, insurance, and real estate offices? These uses seem to make up the majority of the downtown businesses and are not very active requiring outdoor space. I am familiar with the Town of Hillsborough removing parking and widening sidewalks a couple years ago. From my perspective, this did not address traffic issues and unless you are outside one of the few restaurants which have seating, the widened sidewalks are unnecessary. Areas outside offices, galleries, and stores are like dead zones with no activity. In that case, they should have just allowed for parking to remain instead of widening a sidewalk, which is not being utilized. As someone who lives downtown and walks this area seven days a week, I have had concerns with the idea to close Salem Street. The logic that some Council members use in thinking if you don't allow or plan for cars, traffic will never occur or magically disappear is not realistic. Development, people, cars, and traffic will continue to come, so be responsible and plan for it. If Salem is closed they will find a way and cause other traffic and safety issues throughout the downtown. Has anyone ever been downtown at night when the train sits on the tracks and blocks access at Chatham and Central and seen the disaster it causes from impatient drivers scrambling and speeding around to find another way? The logic to not pursue the widening of Salem north of the Peakway, which experiences daily congestion, safety issues with the train tracks, and impacts/overflow to other streets is maddening and shows how little Council members visit this area or are familiar with the traffic patterns in this area. It was nice of Apex to approve two poorly planned school campuses in this area and not sufficiently plan for traffic regarding these uses. I remember Council members being so concerned regarding traffic with the Ford dealership being built, but now they don't care. I rather have another dealership than the schools if Apex doesn't bother to take responsibility and properly plan for future growth.

10 days ago

What are your plans to improve bike and pedestrian access to downtown Apex? Building or improving existing sidewalks could promote people walking to Salem st.

12 days ago

other than parking (a logical public need), I'm extremely disappointed that the approach is being taken at all. The old saw is true: "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Apex is a highly desirable space BECAUSE of its quirky character; changing that to a hyperplanned, overmanaged environs detracts, not enhances, our lovely town. PLEASE don't do this.

13 days ago

Exceeded expectations! Very responsive UI and info was clearly presented. One thing that would be nice was a bit more side-by-side comparisons when multiple options are presented.

13 days ago

Why do we think the best small town in America needs so much more housing, traffic and congestion...don't ruin Mayberry by turning it into every other small town in the North East...do we really need a hotel? I don't know a single resident that thinks we do

13 days ago

Thank you for asking for input but it is time to move forward as the public has had plenty of opportunities to chime in.

13 days ago

The designs are coming along very well.

13 days ago

Thanks

13 days ago

Some of the questions seem designed to generate a predetermined result to show support for decisions that have already been made by Town Council or Town Administration. Sort of a CYA if things go south and the enhanced economic vitality doesn't pan out. Survey is not completely transparent and does not allow for comments on certain issues. For example, I marked that I was unlikely to use a mobile app to find parking and that I would visit Downtown regardless of the parking situation. My answers may skew your results. I live adjacent to Downtown so I don't need to find a parking spot to visit.

13 days ago

I did not see anything in the plans for the future of the Depot area parking lot. I thought at one time, it was suggested to be turned into a green space/ park. Is that still on the table? I think that would be a positive addition to downtown.

13 days ago

1. Please keep the large tree in the Ambassador's Garden.
2. What are the plans for the Ambassador's Garden, Apex Community Rock Garden, and the historic caboose?
3. Can you incorporate the caboose, rock garden and ambassador garden in your plans?

13 days ago

We're all beyond excited for the needed updates. Transparency has been great!

13 days ago

Do you need donations to expedite the timeline?

13 days ago

Do you need volunteers to expedite this process?

13 days ago

When would be the first noticeable change? Would that happen in 2021?

13 days ago

Crosswalk paint is fading on Salem currently. (Becoming unsafe when crossing, even dangerous.) Wondering when those will be addressed- if before new road plan?

13 days ago

I think it's great that you're giving Apex residents a chance to provide feedback on designs. Preserving the home town feel of main street is important and unlike some other towns, we have a wonderful main street gathering space for the community.

13 days ago

I think it is nice the town wants to improve downtown and I support most of the ideas. However, building owners need to also step up and make changes. Too many buildings are in need of repairs or still have facade coverings from the 1980s covering the original building design. I also think there needs to be some idea editing. Every image has string lights, banners, artwork, murals, painted pavements, etc. I think these are nice touches but it does not need to be done everywhere. It's trendy and will quickly become gaudy if overdone. It is also not unique - its the same thing you see everywhere these days. What is going to make Apex special and separate us from other places? How are these plans adaptable to changes once these things fall out of fashion?

13 days ago

Please so not change the quaint downtown fire station, this is the best part of downtown and gives such a wonderful small town feel that any other structure can in no way compete with, having school trips walk to the station is one of the sweetest parts of living in Apex and I would hate to take that from future families.

13 days ago

This may not be within the scope of this project, however, I would love to bike trails from the other side of Hwy 55 and Salem (west side?) to downtown. It is not safe for bikers and walkers to crossover Hwy 55 to get to downtown. Having safe bike trails leading into downtown from that side of Hwy 55 would also reduce traffic.

13 days ago

hard to view or understand the schematics

13 days ago

There is no way most people can look at this fully--the charts are too small and hard to read, even when you hit the magnifier. Most people won't look at this critically and think about how this will impact people in various weather conditions. Bad situations are being forced upon everybody. If people want to walk now, they are able to. With this plan, if people want to park in front of the businesses, they will not be able to.

13 days ago

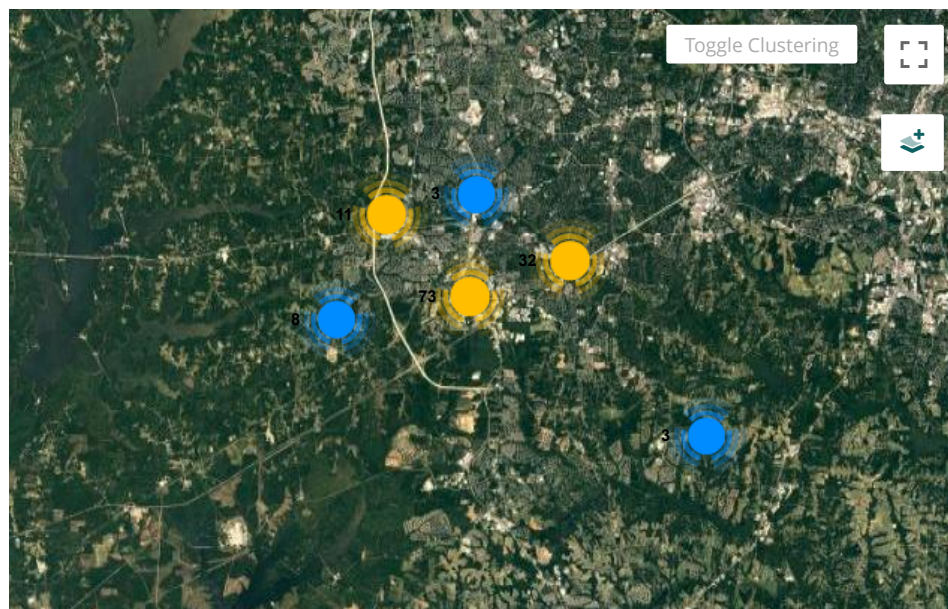
How are improvements to businesses going to be funded? It is all Apex money??

14 days ago

Thanks for all your hard work. Its hard to meet everyones wish list so just stick with functionality because the way Apex is growing it makes the most sense with the little we have to work with.

14 days ago

We would like to ensure that a broad cross-section of the Apex community has been given the opportunity to see this information. Please tell us the closest two cross-streets to your Apex home or business so that we can understand any unreached geographic areas. If you are a visitor of Apex, feel free to share your location information as well.



What is your race/ethnicity?

