

Downtown Davis Plan

Downtown Davis

Pop-up Workshop #4

Pop-up Workshop Series

Friday, March 9, 2018



Downtown Davis Pop-up Workshop Compilation of Community Feedback

Introduction

The City of Davis is planning for the future of its downtown (2040 Vision) and looking to the community to participate in the conversation.

Project Overview

Throughout this planning process, community participation will be a key component in shaping Downtown Plan.

The goal of the project is to:

- Create a guide for long term development and infrastructure;
- Evaluate existing development policies, codes and guidelines, and address recurring challenges to the development process; and
- Consider many elements that can enhance the quality of life in Davis.

Through this collaborative effort, the City of Davis will consolidate the Downtown Vision to create the kind of place the community desires.

Workshop Purpose

The Downtown Davis Plan Project Team held a pop-up workshop and a temporary public parklet at the 2nd Friday ArtAbout to introduce the project and obtain input on proposed improvements to Downtown. The team built a temporary parklet with chairs, lighting, and heaters to create a small urban space for community members to enjoy and to encourage participant's' creativity as they input their thoughts at the pop-up workshop.



Workshop Format

The pop-up workshop and public parklet took place on Friday, March 9, at the old Watermelon Music Shop from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the 2nd Friday ArtAbout, which is a monthly self-guided art walk, exploring art galleries, art co-ops, and businesses in Davis. Community members were encouraged to stop by and provide input on nine interactive board displays through post-it notes and dots. The board displays focused on topics including housing, economic development, modes of travel, public space, parking and Downtown identity.

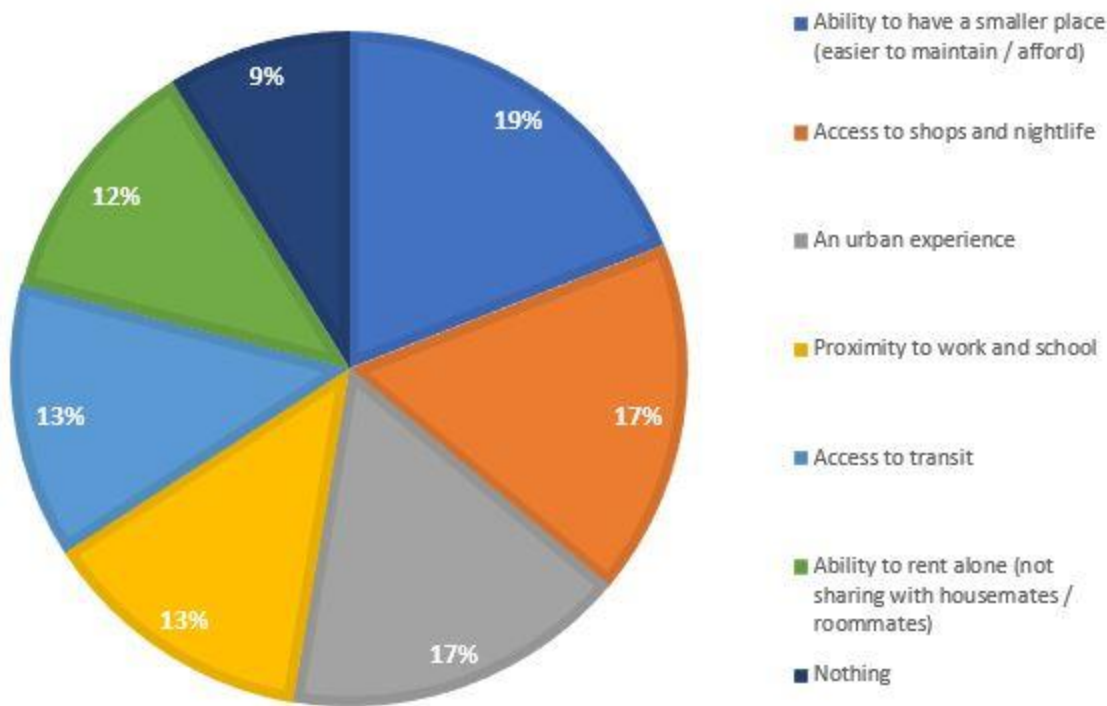
Compilation of Feedback

Community members submitted more than 3,000 responses to the boards during the pop-up workshop. Below is a compilation of their feedback.

A comment followed by a number signifies the number of people that agreed with the comment through dots.

Housing

What would draw you to live Downtown?



Ability to have a smaller space (easier to maintain / afford)

- Affordable housing for mixed income. (4)
- It has to be affordable for \$300 to \$350 square feet. Not Trackside. Not Mission. Ugly and unaffordable. (3)
- Make it affordable and ecologically well-made. (3)
- Affordable housing for first time home buyers.
- Low income housing for the homeless.
- We downsized to live Downtown and it has worked great.

Access to shops and nightlife

- Access to a park. (5)
- Car-free streets and sidewalk beautifications with bioswales for storm water.
- Everybody would like to live downtown. Are you kidding me? Well-priced housing is what would draw me here. Hey, what is up with the AT&T Building at 3rd Street and C Street? What do they do in there? How about housing? And when can we build housing at the PG&E plant? High-density, multi-family buildings. Must have on-site parking as politically incorrect as that is.

An urban experience

- Close to so many great things. (2)
- Great buildings (beautiful, fun, light, airy). (2)
- Make Davis bike, pedestrian, and transit focused. Up the game.

Proximity to work and school

- Senior housing (over 60). (3)
- More office space needed. (1)

Access to transit

- Close street access for cars like Seattle with excellent public transport options.
- Living downtown: Easy access, quick for friends to my house, either from their campus or work.
- More bus service - weekends especially.
- We could close our core streets except for a continuously circulating train line and make it free.

Ability to Rent Alone (Not sharing with housemates or roommates)

- A recent article showed that Davis provides the least square footage per dollar for housing in Yolo and Sacramento County. As a senior on SSI, I will soon be homeless. We need affordable housing, less than \$800 per month. In 1974 I could get a one-bedroom apartment in Berkeley for \$150 per month. The same apartment today is \$2000 per month. I arrived in 1984. A house rented for six to seven hundred per month is now more than \$2000.
- Ability to share housing with others, such as co-ops and rooming housing.
- Affordable housing to buy.
- Affordable housing to buy and or rent.
- Assume "ability to rent alone" means affordability.

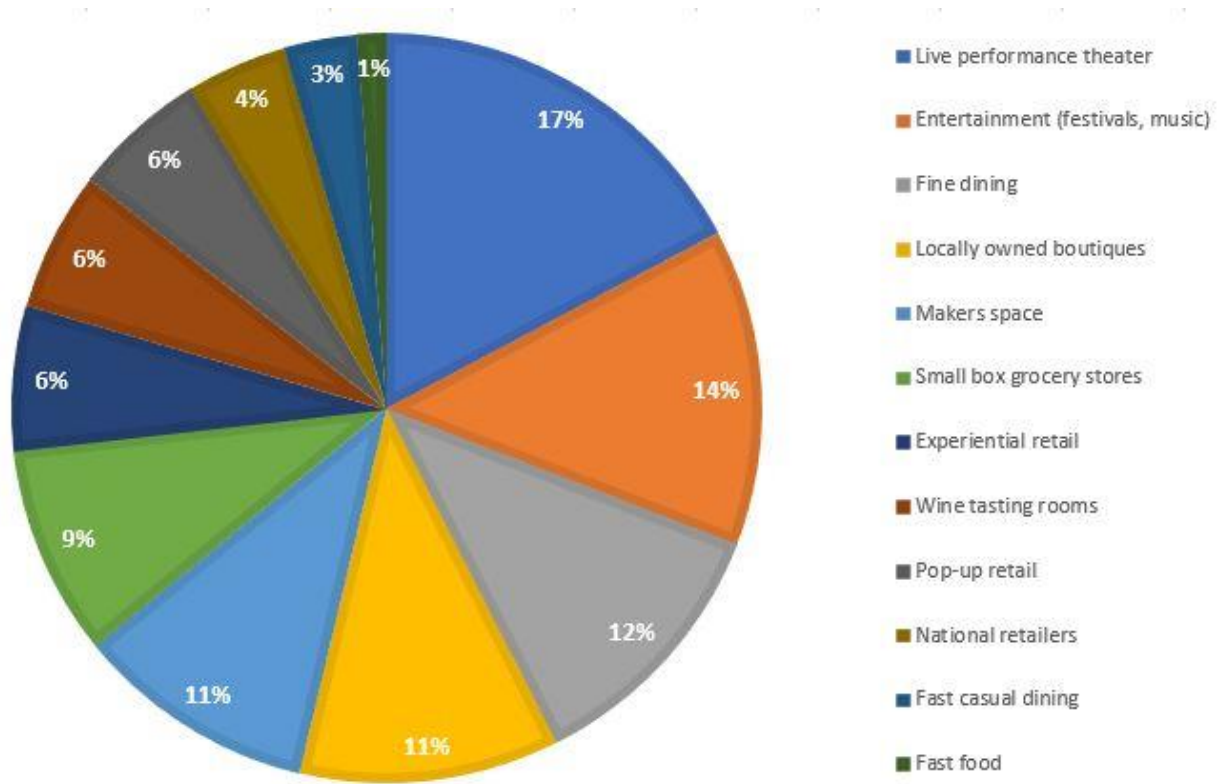


Nothing

- I am in North Davis (not old North Davis) and I feel super close. I have a bike.

Economic Development

What types of retail would you like to see in Downtown?



Live Performance Theater

- Stay Rock. (4)
- If we do not have an official theatre / music venue Downtown within 15 years, I am moving. (2)
- Music, music, definitely music. (2)
- Not retail. (1)

Entertainment (festivals, music)

- More night life. (4)
- Diversity. (2)
- More mid/upscale lounges for young professionals. (1)
- Odd Fellows is great, but we could use a smaller space downtown.
- Open later than 8 p.m.
- Places for adults / young professionals. Jazz music and live music.
- Summer-specific events for adults: art festival (see Ann Arbor), music, food fair (Portland VegFest).

Fine dining

- Davis lacks quality fine dining. (6)

- Need better mix of mid to high dining and cuisine types. (3)
- Bellingham, WA does a good mix. (2)
- Restaurants change summer menus to higher-end dishes, for a contest? (1)
- Restaurants should step up and do specials for adults when students are away - higher-end dishes, live music, advertise to adults. (2)
- Add plant-based restaurants. (1)
- Even Woodland has better. (1)
- Look at dining choices in Ann Arbor, Eugene, Bellingham. (1)
- Restaurants change summer menus to higher-end dishes, for a contest? (1)
- Taste of Davis or Restaurant Week.

Locally owned boutiques

- Thrift shops. (3)
- Locally-owned like the Naturalist, Discoveries and Avid Reader. (2)

Makers space

- Art lofts. (2)
- Davis is FULL of very creative people. We need to see more of what they do. We need a platform Downtown: open mic, exhibits, and more from Davis residents and students. (1)
- One work location.

Small box grocery stores

- Affordable grocery stores. (4)
- I like the international and Asian groceries we have. (3)
- Regular stuff like sundries, drugstore, groceries. (2)
- Small box grocery can be done by our local stores, Food Co-op, etc. Talk to them? (1)
- Toothpaste and sundries if you live downtown. (1)



Experiential retail

- Bring an arcade. Something to do other than shop or window shop.
- Molecular cuisine pop-up.

Wine tasting rooms

- Comfortable place to have wine and small plates. (1)
- Micro distillery.
- No more bars.

Pop-up retail

- Food trucks with different food than restaurants. (11)

Exercise / fitness

- Adult clothing stores. (4)
- Zumba, krav maga, fencing. (1)
- Small anchor store that has variety of items.

Fast-casual dining

- Where is the vegan food? (7)
- Food pairing with cannabis food trucks? (1)
- More vegan food choices, please. (1)
- No more chain restaurants.
- Non-chain neighborhood restaurants with outdoor seating options year-round.

Fast food

- No more. (11)
- One franchise owner should not have a monopoly.

National retailers

- No thank you. Local owners, please. (2)
- Affordable national retailer (chains) to prevent leakage to surrounding cities / online for people who can't afford boutiques.
- Apple store.
- Make downtown more affordable for local, independent retailers. Don't need another mall.
- No big box or national retailers. This is why we go to Sacramento.
- Only if they do not kill small retail. Must fill a niche void.
- Students need access to affordable items/clothing that doesn't require having a car. An option that isn't Forever 21 or Target. Do better, Davis.

Personal services

- Financial planners, and banks are needed.
- Keep the auto repairs near Downtown. I walk home and to them.
- Professional services, such as attorneys and accountants.

Other suggestions:

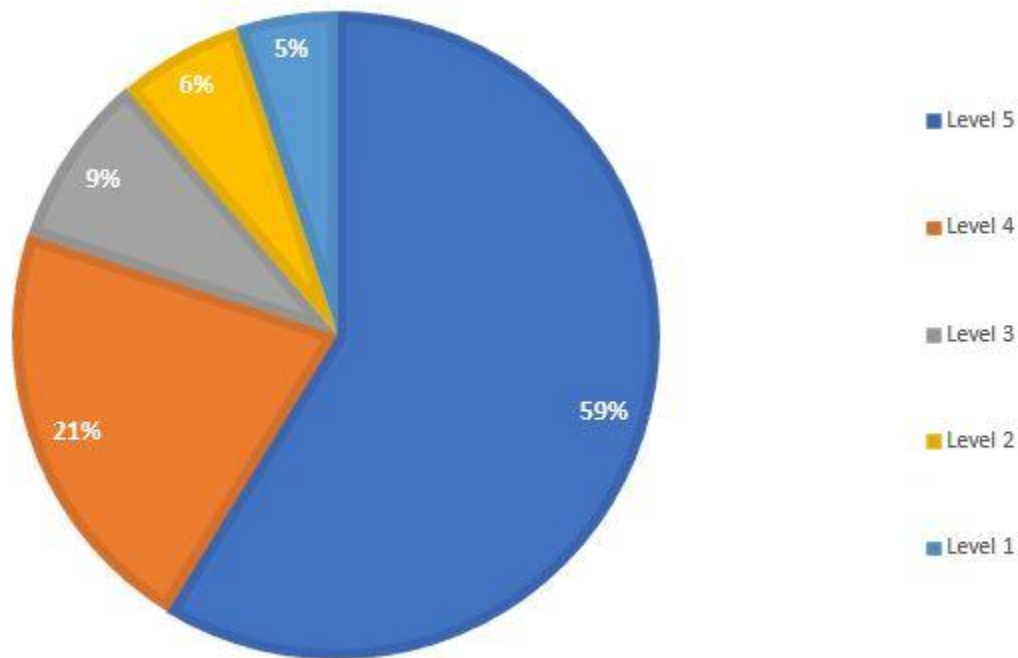
- Locally-owned stores. (9)
- Basic needs stores. (5)
- Cannabis dispensaries. (5)
- Davis is already great, but restaurants, coffee shops, etc. should be open past midnight. (2)
- More mixed-use retail / residential. (2)
- Place to buy underwear. (2)
- Watermelon music. (2)
- Teen centers. (1)
- 24/7 coffee shop, please.



- Amazon lockers.
- Basic needs - traditional stores.
- Child-friendly store or childcare.
- Community meeting space free of charge to groups.
- Create space on the street in front of local businesses that block pedestrian access to the sidewalk.
- I miss Discoveries and Carousel. Niche markets, local, designed for Davis.
- Local outdoor store. I miss Outdoor Davis.
- Please no pot dispensaries.
- Vacant stores.

Modes of Travel

As a pedestrian, what is your comfort level walking in the project area on a scale of 1-5? 1 being very challenging, to 5 being very comfortable.

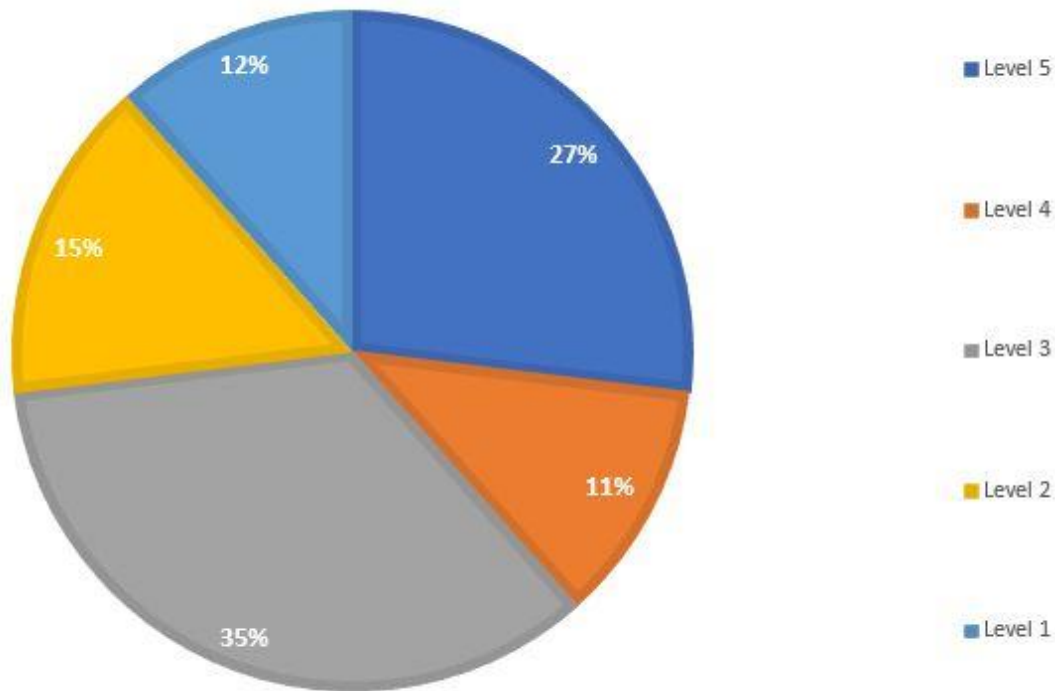


Additional comments:

- Need a pedestrian-only street. (7)
- Drivers are terrible at taking their turn at 4-way stops. Walkers and bikers are bad at 4-way stops also. Education about rules (laws) and courtesy are greatly needed. (2)
- Car-free, bike focus, walk focus, connect to train and bus. (1)
- It is really dangerous to walk, bike or drive downtown. Especially at night. So dark. Dark. (1)

- As a blind person, I have safety needs. Please research this to safely cross intersections with traffic not yielding to me. I only can come in the mornings due to safety.
- Black Bear Diner intersection is awful for bikers / pedestrians.
- Cover a bunch of bicycle racks with solar panels. (Check out the Davis Public Library.)
- Davis does not have a parking problem, we have a public safety problem.
- Feels super safe to walk around alone.
- Learning toward non-car uses (pedestrian, bike) with parking centralized or put on perimeter would be welcomed. An urban village with fewer cars.
- Level 1 when UC Davis starts in the fall with all the people new to town.
- Not comfortable walking downtown at night due to alcohol intoxication by others.
- Pedestrians are terrible at taking their turn at 4-way stops.

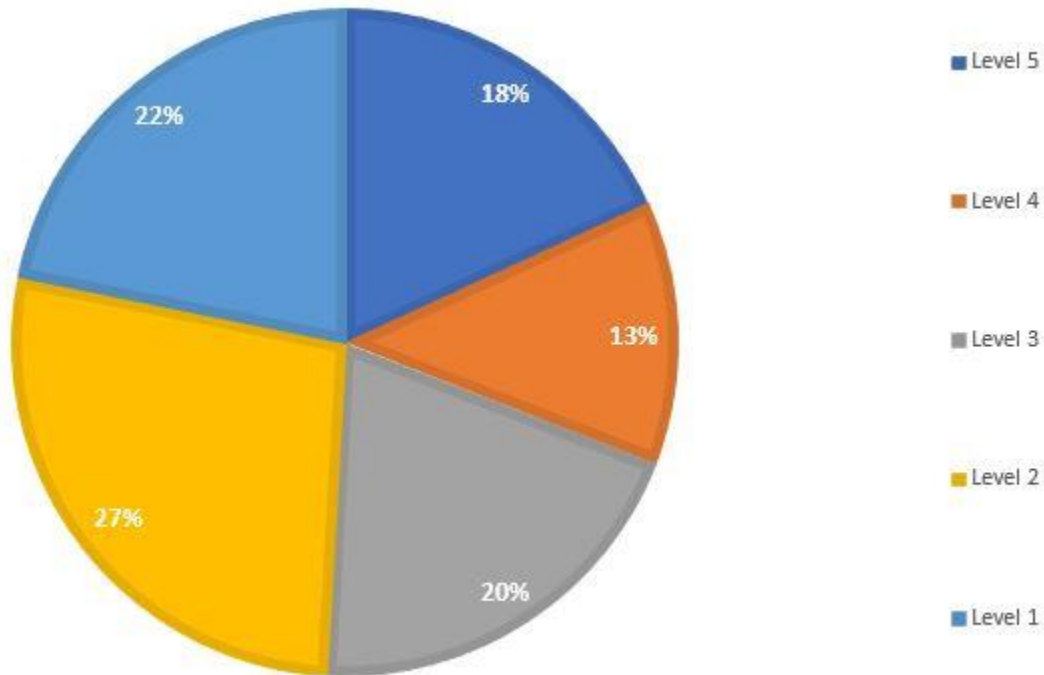
As a cyclist, what is your comfort level cycling in the project area on a scale of 1-5? 1 being very challenging, to 5 being very comfortable.



Additional comments:

- Black Bear Diner intersection is not very safe.
- Cars (or easier public transport) are still needed to be able to come downtown for the elderly and handicapped that wish to visit or shop.
- Covered bike racks.
- Diagonal parking and dooring cyclists.
- Sharing Street is good, but I wish there were no cars.

As a driver, what is your comfort level driving in the project area on a scale of 1-5? 1 being very challenging, to 5 being very comfortable.

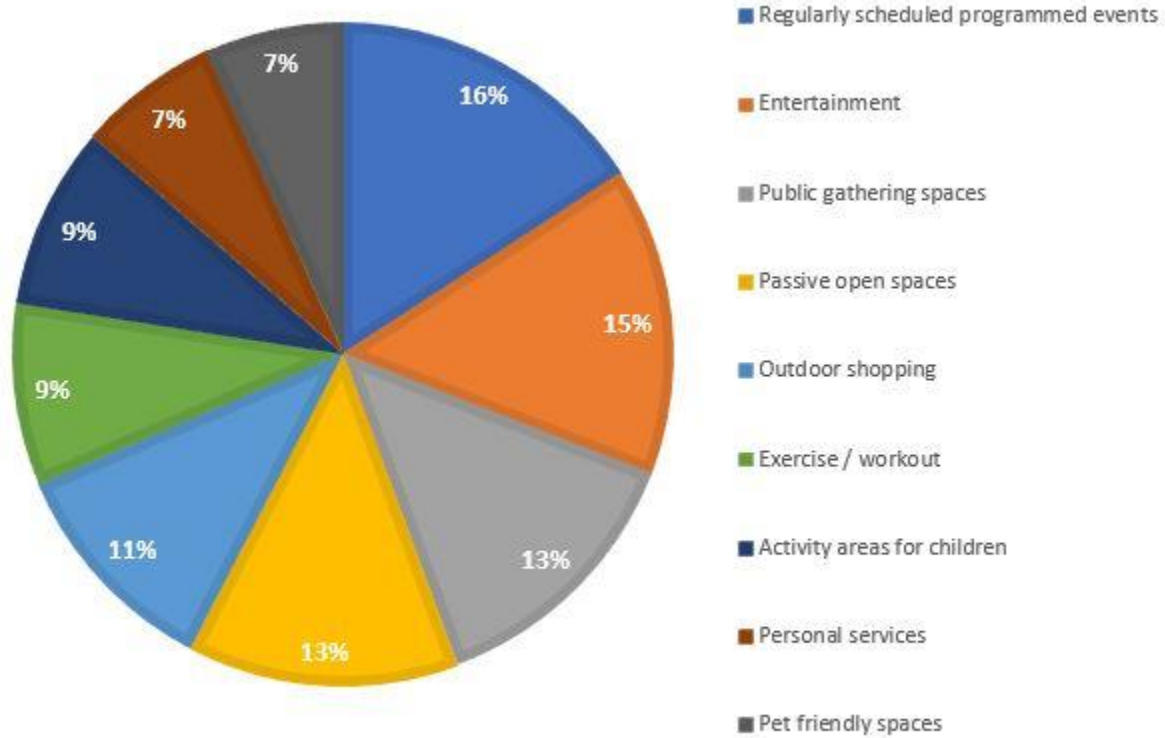


Additional comments:

- Have cyclists obey the laws: lights after dark, stop at stop signs. (5)
- Driving should be discouraged. (3)
- Driving is fine. It is parking that needs to change. (1)
- Cars are too favored. We should improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Let's close some streets for a European promenade.
- There is ample parking at most times. Only challenging at lunch or dinner. Garage is never full.

Public Space

What types of activities would you like to see happen in public outdoor spaces?



Regularly scheduled programmed events

- Teen activity and shaded areas in the summer.

Entertainment

- Cement ping pong tables and other game tables. (4)
- Recruit a comedy or jazz club. (3)
- Downtown is adjacent to the university and compatible or complementary uses should be considered, such as student housing and services, entertainment, etc. This might require a different shopping district to be developed elsewhere. But that is a General Plan activity.

Public gathering spaces

- Close off I Street Downtown to make it pedestrian only.
- Guided mural painting for teens etc.
- More outdoor live music in the summer.

Passive open spaces

- How is this different from public gathering or active spaces?
- If you put denser housing Downtown you need more open spaces to balance less living spaces and canyon effect.

- Make some covered outdoor spaces.
- Open plazas - no cars.
- Open to anyone with two weeks' notice (within reason).

Outdoor shopping

- Bazaars, close the streets to cars.
- Pink-a-dot, ACE, UCD Bookstore, Volley's.
- Too many fancy boutiques.

Exercise / workout

- Art exhibits. (1)
- Concerts and yoga.
- Entertainment and public events
- Indoor swimming pool.
- Long course swimming pool (50 meters).
- Swimming pool for water sports
- Tai Chi / yoga (Chi Kung leads group practices).



Activity areas for children

- I want a rock climbing wall.

Pet friendly spaces

- Please keep dogs on a leash. (3)
- Guide dogs are disrupted by dogs who are off leash. (1)
- Dog parks.
- Dog parks are bad for dogs because of diseases, aggression, and mud.
- Living community challenge for Davis.
- Not everyone is a pet lover. Please keep dogs in dog parks.
- One hundred percent renewable goal for Davis.

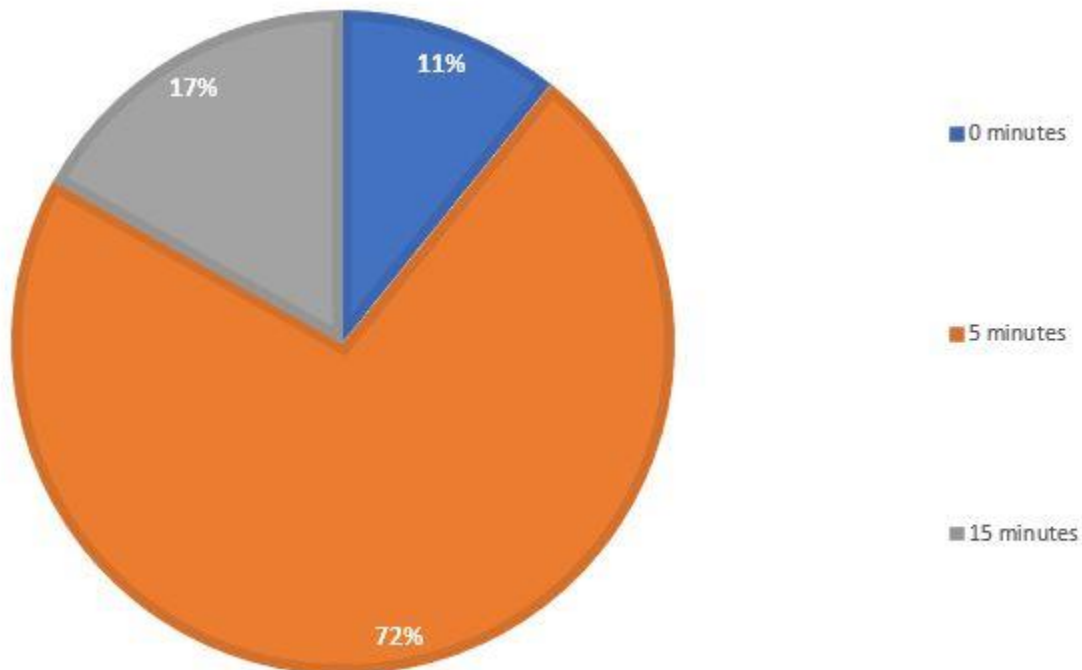
Other suggestions

- Experimental art spaces. (6)
- Entertainment for ages 16 to 21. (4)
- Tai chi, yoga, outdoor classes. (3)
- Indoor entertainment. (2)
- Pop up art. (2)
- Drum circle in Central Park during the summer. Contact Wazobia Arts. And Davis has a good Drum Master. (1)
- Exercise places. (1)
- Get Burgers and Brew to give back the sidewalk to pedestrians. (1)
- Intergenerational activities or community building activities. (1)
- Outdoor eating. (1)
- Ban outdoor heaters. Cool Davis.

- Close off several streets - no cars.
- Flea market.
- Fountains at AMTRAK station at H Street and 2nd Street are turned off. When water runs, it makes it safer.
- Graffiti wall.
- Love the new Escape store (escape room). More ideas like this for stores.
- Move antique and craft fair downtown, not at park.
- Public roundtable. Set up to promote public discussions. Roundtable talks.

Parking

How far would you feel comfortable walking from where you parked if you were visiting for less than an hour (running an errand)?



Additional comments:

0 minutes

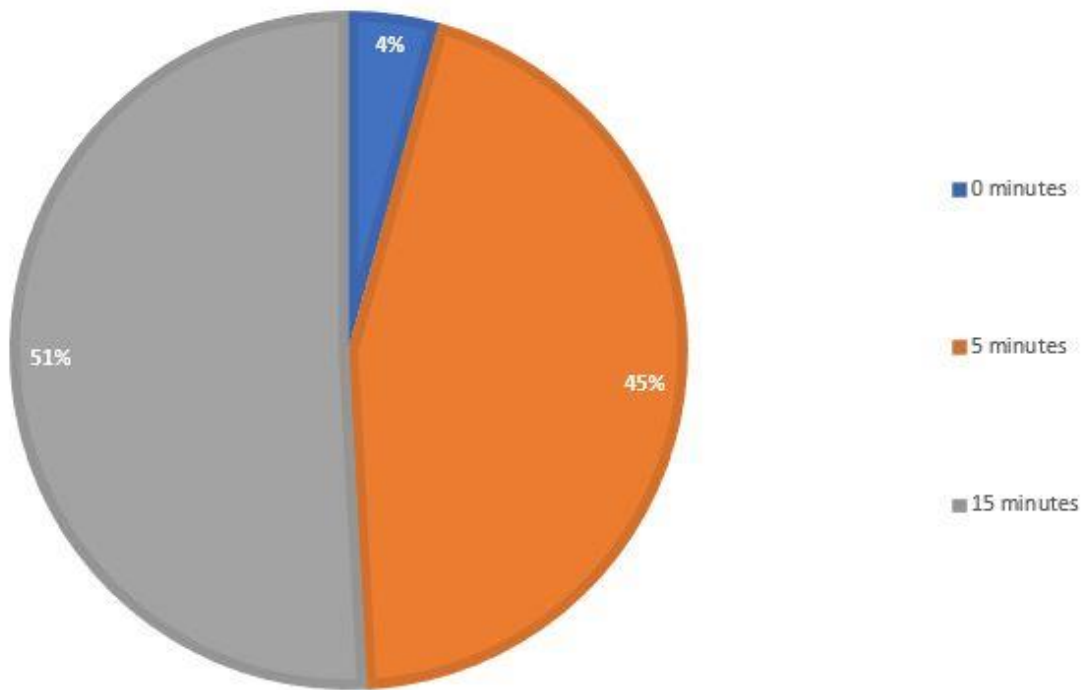
- 0 minutes assuming I'm biking.
- 20-minute green zones, enforced after 6:00 pm? There shouldn't be.
- I don't park downtown - I walk or bike (mostly).
- Need some kind of parking garage Downtown, perhaps along rail line.
- Please don't forget elders who can't walk far.
- Shuttle for peak events.

- There should be a question of how you get downtown. Look at Seattle downtown in pedestrian only areas.
- We have okay public transit and great bike access. We do not need more parking. We need smarter bike and pedestrian planning.

15 minutes

- Build parking garages outside Downtown i.e. where Barefoot Yoga / Design House and build a bridge over train tracks like Emeryville Train Station.
- More car free options in general and no parking lots.
- You'll Lyft / Uber.

How far would you feel comfortable walking from where you parked if you were visiting for more than an hour (having dinner / watching a movie)?



0 minutes

- Bike.
- Close streets to cars, provide pedi-cabs that service perimeter parking lots.
- Green the Grey and beautify alleys.
- Should have shuttles for elder Davis residents to come Downtown.

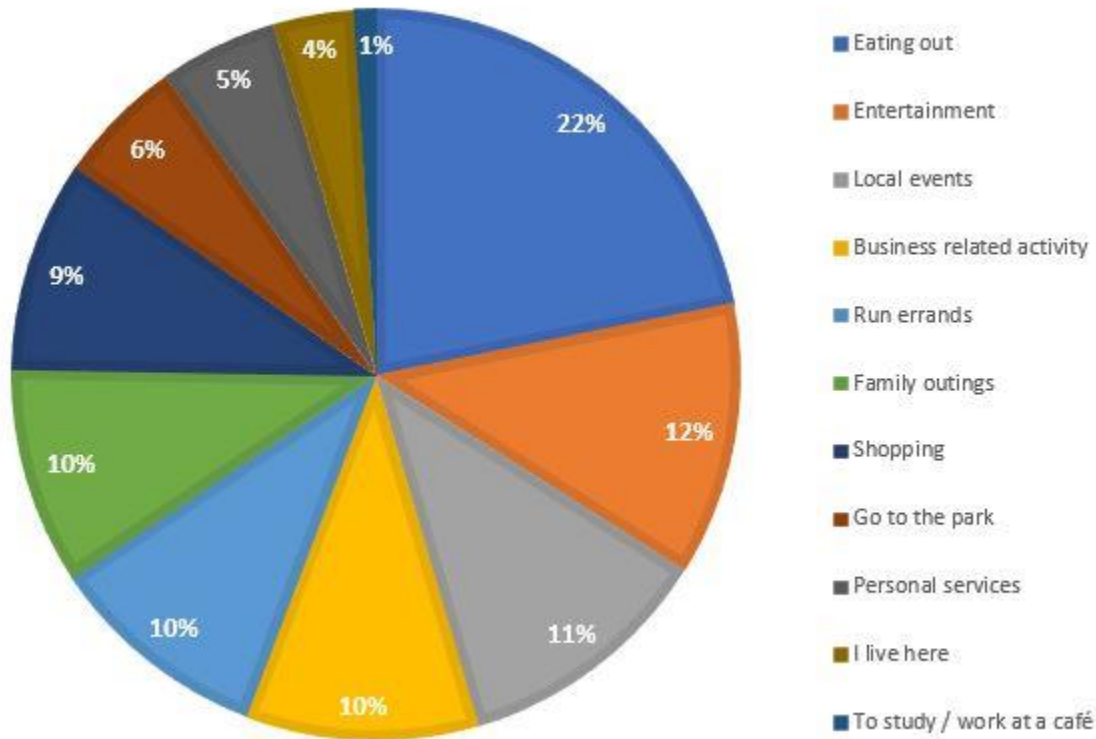
15 minutes

- Depends on the meter situation assuming I drove.
- Have easy ways to get Downtown without a car i.e. public transit.
- I don't mind walking far.

- I love walking to dinner. 45 minutes is fine by me.
- Those in wheelchairs need to be written into the design from the start.

Downtown Identity

Why do you come Downtown?



Eating out

- I work 7 days a week, many service providers, insurance, accountant, bank, broker, medical, all Downtown businesses.
- More bars and restaurants for young professionals (not undergrads).
- More upscale restaurants.

Entertainment

- All of these, Downtown is a fantastic shopping place, fun to just wander and window shop in.

Business related activity

- Business owner that works 7 days a week with 30-year retail store, more than at home which is less than a mile away.
- Local credit unions, not corporation banks.
- Movies and eating.
- Sub committees and task groups, project team, social club.
- To meet new people such as coffee at a café.



Shopping

- Pink-a-dot, ACE, UCD Bookstore, Volley's.
- Too many fancy boutiques.

Go to the park

- More tables at picnic in the park (Wednesdays).

I live here

- Close one or more streets permanently or on art nights for pedestrians / bikers only.
- I live 4 blocks away - love it. Perfect distance.
- My housing is unstable so I don't even know if I live here.
- Too expensive to live Downtown. Mission and 750K? A joke.
- We built a LEED platinum senior community Downtown. It's a great way to live.

Other reasons

- Movies. (21)
- Buy food at Co-Op. (9)
- Meeting friends. (9)
- Small shops, bookstores. (7)
- Davis Farmers Market. (6)
- ArtAbout. (5)
- Ambience, feel. (4)
- After dinner walk, relax. (3)
- Work. (3)
- Stroll, walk. (2)
- Jog. (1)
- Optometrist. (1)
- Thrift Shopping. (1)
- Community meetings and activism.
- Eat, read, pick up mail.
- Get my car fixed at Bernard's.
- I like Downtown so much we moved here to live Downtown.
- Keep smart and educated people in Davis.