



City of Littleton

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Monday, May 11, 2020

6:30 PM

Virtual Study Session (Joint w/Historical Preservation Board)

Viewing Options for Virtual Meetings:

Due to COVID-19, the City of Littleton is providing virtual coverage of city council meetings to protect the health of citizens, council members and staff. Meetings will not be held in the community room until further notice.

Options for viewing city council study sessions are as follows: watch the live telecast on Comcast or Century Link Channel 8, live on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/CityofLittleton), or visit www.littletongov.org/channel8 to watch the live stream on the city's website.

Contact the City Clerk's Office at 303-795-3780 with any questions.

1. Study Session Topics

- a) [ID# 20-131](#) Downtown Streetscape Design Capstone Project - CU Denver Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- b) [ID# 20-130](#) Staff Briefing - Unified Land Use Code
- c) [ID# 20-134](#) Discussion on the historic character of downtown Littleton

2. Adjournment

The public is invited to attend all regular meetings or study sessions of the City Council or any city Authority, Board or Commission. **Currently, all city buildings are closed to the public and meetings are being conducted virtually.**



Staff Communication

File #: ID# 20-131, Version: 1

Agenda Date: 05/11/2020

Subject:

Downtown Streetscape Design Capstone Project - CU Denver Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Prepared By: Elizabeth Kay Marchetti, Senior Planner
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PURPOSE:

A presentation of the research, analysis, design process, and streetscape recommendations for Alamo Avenue and Main Street as conducted by Ms. Gabrielle Masucci and Mr. Jonathan Brachna, candidates for the Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Colorado Denver School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy (UCDSAPEP).

PRESENTATIONS:

Staff Presenter(s): Elizabeth Kay Marchetti, Senior Planner
Shane Roberts, Transportation Planner

Additional Presenter(s): Gabrielle Masucci and Jonathan Brachna, candidates for
Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning at
UCDSAPEP

SUMMARY:

The Downtown Streetscape Capstone study evaluated the existing conditions of the current sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, lighting, street trees, street furnishings, and travel lanes found along Alamo Avenue and Main Street. The recommendations will be based upon the goal of bringing the public realm into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and creating a beautiful, welcoming, pedestrian-friendly space that supports and enhances the vibrancy of Downtown Littleton.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019 the City of Littleton was contacted by UCDSAPEP to ask if there were any potential capstone project research studies that their students might conduct. The city proposed two possible projects and waited to hear if one or more students selected one or both projects. Two graduate students chose to study, and make recommendations for, one of the projects-a new streetscape design for Main Street and Alamo Avenue in Downtown Littleton. The students have not been paid and the final recommendation, which isn't binding, will be delivered to the City in May 2020.



Staff Communication

File #: ID# 20-130, **Version:** 2

Agenda Date: 05/11/2020

Subject:
Staff Briefing - Unified Land Use Code

Presented By: Kathleen Osher, Manager of Innovation and Performance Excellence

PURPOSE:

Provide a brief update from city staff on the status of the Unified Land Use Code Project.

PRESENTATIONS:

Staff Presenter(s): Kathleen Osher, Manager of Innovation and Performance Excellence
Additional Presenter(s): N/A

SUMMARY:

Staff will provide a brief update on the progress of the Envision Littleton ULUC project. The update will include:

- The new project website launched on April 16, 2020
- A recap of Envision Studio #1 held on March 23
- What to expect for Envision Studio #2 scheduled for May 18
- The timeline for next steps and briefings for Council

PRIOR ACTIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

Envision Littleton was developed to be a multi-year and multi-milestone commitment to planning for the next 20 years of the city. The top priority identified in the Comprehensive Plan is to update the city's regulatory framework and transition to a Unified Land Use Code. The Unified Land Use Code kicked off during the February 10, 2020 community event hosted at Town Hall Arts Center and the February 11 Joint Leadership Session of City Council and Planning Commission on February 11, 2020. The first Envision Studio focused on Downtown was held as a webinar on March 23, 2020.

ANALYSIS:

Staff Analysis

The transition to the Unified Land Use Code is on schedule and on budget.

Council Goal, Objective, and/or Guiding Principle

Council Goal 1 - Envision Littleton

Fiscal Impacts

N/A

Alternatives

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in Boulder, Colorado, showing a wide road with multiple lanes, trees lining the sidewalks, and buildings in the distance. In the far background, a range of mountains is visible under a cloudy sky. A teal banner is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Unified Land Use Code

Staff Briefing

Kathleen Osher
Manager of Innovation and
Performance Excellence

Staff Update & Briefing

On Schedule:

- ULUC schedule is on track for October 2021 adoption consideration

What has Changed:

- Studios #1 and #2 will be virtual, future studios are still TBD
- Council amended KKC scope make additional amendments to the City Code and Downtown Design Standards and consider adoption in October 2020 (one year in advance of the ULUC)
- Phase II of amending the city's existing code is underway to address open space requirements, building height requirements, Downtown massing/step-backs, Downtown transition zones, front set-backs, sub-division of lots, and parking relative to Downtown development.

New Project Website

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the website for the Unified Land Use Code project in Littleton, Colorado. The browser's address bar shows the URL `online.encodeplus.com/regs/littleton-co/index.aspx`. The website's navigation menu includes links for ABOUT, ULUC, PARTICIPATE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, and RESOURCES. The main heading is "UNIFIED LAND USE CODE". The central content area features the "Envision LITTLETON" logo with the tagline "Our Community. Our Future." Below the logo, a text block reads: "Welcome to Envision Littleton Unified Land Use Code and our work together with you to plan for the next 20 years! Over the last two years we have worked with you to create a unifying vision, an updated Comprehensive Plan, and a Transportation Master Plan. We are now working on the details of how we make community character come to life with much-needed updates to the city's regulatory framework by launching conversations with the community to update land use codes/zoning and transition to a Unified Land Use Code." To the right of this text is a call-to-action button that says "EMAIL US". The background of the central content area is a blurred image of a street scene with trees and a building. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 5:36 PM on 4/27/2020.

Littleton
Colorado

ABOUT ▾ ULUC ▾ PARTICIPATE ▾ ACCOMPLISHMENTS ▾ RESOURCES ▾

UNIFIED LAND USE CODE



Envision
LITTLETON
Our Community. Our Future.

Welcome to Envision Littleton Unified Land Use Code and our work together with you to plan for the next 20 years! Over the last two years we have worked with you to create a unifying vision, an updated Comprehensive Plan, and a Transportation Master Plan. We are now working on the details of how we make community character come to life with much-needed updates to the city's regulatory framework by launching conversations with the community to update land use codes/zoning and transition to a Unified Land Use Code.

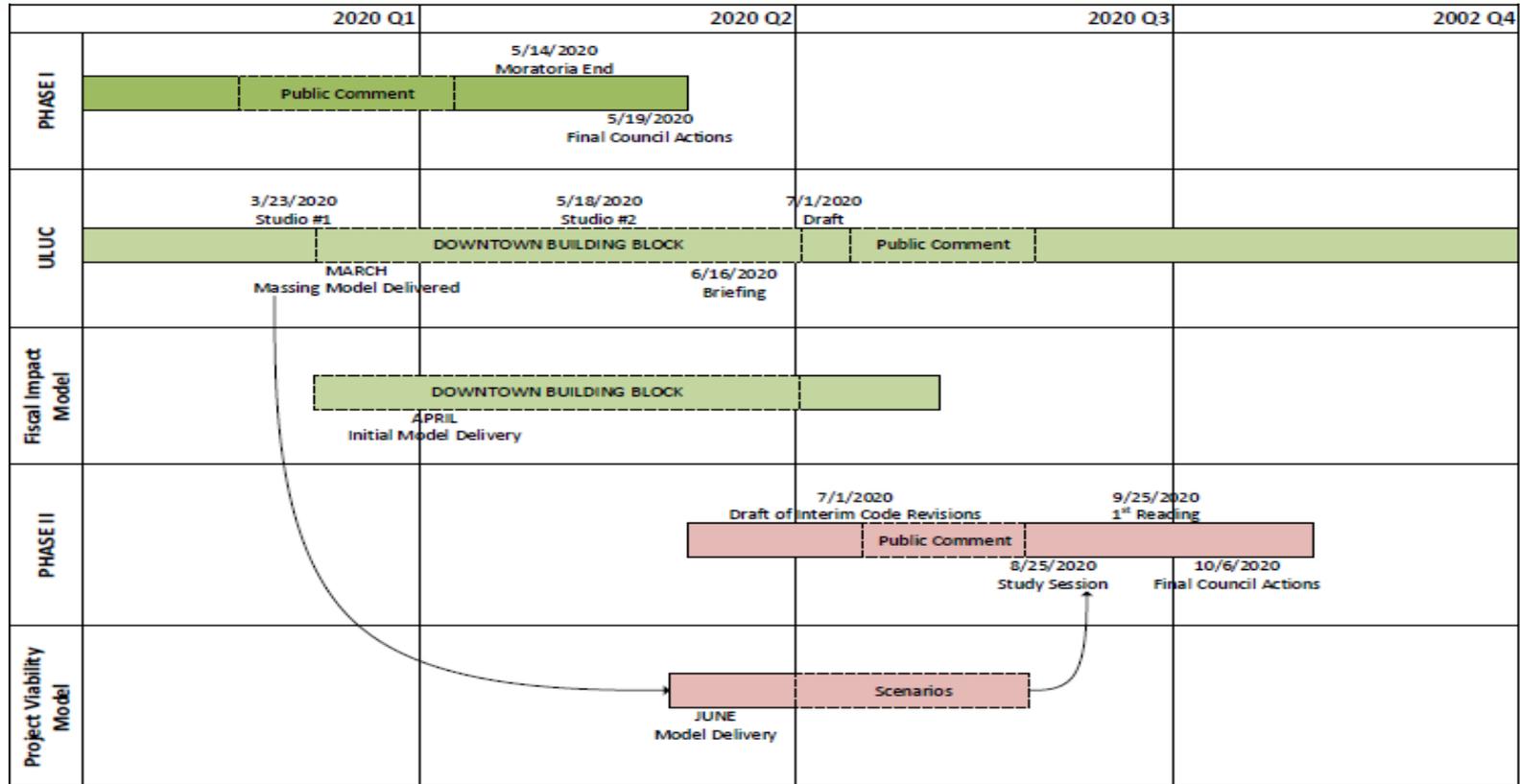
QUESTIONS?
[EMAIL US](#)

<https://www.littletonco.gov>

Type here to search

5:36 PM
4/27/2020

Timeline to Amend Existing City Code



March 23, 2020 Envision Studio #1 Recap

What we learned:

- Considering context is important.
 - Lower intensity development is preferred. A pedestrian-oriented street edge is important.
 - Lower scale buildings are preferred.
 - Mixing old with new is preferred.
 - Design standards can be developed to address many of the factors that participants found to be important in determining compatibility.
-

What to Expect on May 18 Envision Studio #2

Polling:

- Included again
- Add “none of the above”

Q & A through Chat:

- Participants will send questions through the chat feature

Visuals and Graphics:

- 3-D visuals, but see those in context
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Next Steps

KKC Briefing on May 19

- Brief recap of May 18 Envision Studio #2
- Policy Questions for Discussion
- 3D Model of Downtown for Context

KKC Briefing on June 16

- Analysis of Combined Studios and Other Input
 - Scenarios and Project Viability Economic Model
 - Additional Policy Questions to Prepare Draft Code Amendments (release 7/1)
-

An aerial, black and white photograph of a city street. The street runs vertically through the center, with several cars visible. On either side of the street are trees and buildings. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a cloudy sky. A large teal rectangular box is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing the word 'QUESTIONS?' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

QUESTIONS?

A teal rectangular box with the text 'Thank you!' in white, sans-serif font. The box is positioned on the right side of the image, overlapping the street and buildings.

Thank you!



Staff Communication

File #: ID# 20-134, **Version:** 1

Agenda Date: 05/11/2020

Subject:
Discussion on the historic character of downtown Littleton

Prepared By: Andrea Mimnaugh, Senior Planner

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Littleton's downtown historic character is often mentioned as one of the city's greatest cultural assets. The elements that make up that character are often debated at Planning Commission, Historical Preservation Board, and in community conversations throughout the Envision Littleton process. The joint study session on May 11, 2020 is an opportunity to focus on discussion of historic buildings, streetscapes, public places and their arrangement that collectively form downtown. Discussion will also focus on what contributes to historic character, what detracts from it, and what non-historic elements can co-exist with it. The intent of the exercise is to deepen our understanding of downtown Littleton and bring forth more informed input from HPB and PC into the Unified Land Use Code (ULUC) project.

HPB and PC members were each sent a questionnaire to complete and return prior to the meeting for Board Member Rick Cronenberger and staff to incorporate into the presentation. A copy of the survey is attached.

PRESENTATIONS:

Staff Presenter: Andrea Mimnaugh, Senior Planner
Additional Presenter: Rick Cronenberger, HPB Board Member

PRIOR ACTIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

Tonight's discussion is the first formal discussion focused on downtown's historic character during the Envision Littleton process.

Exercise on Evaluation of the Historical Character of Downtown Littleton - HPB & PC

Briefly complete each question. Bullets, sentences and notes are all ok.
Answers will be compiled without reference to the author, so have fun with it!

This section pertains to Main Street only

1. How would you describe the time period that the buildings on Main Street represent?

Enter your answer

2. What is the impact of parking on and off the street?

Enter your answer

3. How do you feel about the width of the street?

Enter your answer

4. List the predominant building and landscape materials that are used on the street.

Enter your answer

5. What is your perception of the pedestrian access and what elements impact that access?

Enter your answer

6. What in your mind best describes the historic character of Main Street?

Enter your answer

7. What is the biggest building on Main Street?

Enter your answer

8. What is your impression of the streetscape character?

STREETSCAPE DEFINITION: The visual elements of a street, including the road, adjoining buildings, sidewalks, street furniture, signs, lighting, trees and open spaces, etc, that combine to form the street's character.

Enter your answer

9. What are the visual and physical elements that distract from the streetscape?

Enter your answer

10. How many new buildings have been constructed and how many buildings have been rehabilitated in the past 30 years on Main Street?

Enter your answer

11. What do you like the most and the least about Main Street?

Enter your answer

12. What is your biggest concern about preserving Downtown?

Enter your answer

This section pertains to Alamo Street only.

13. How would you describe the time period that the buildings on Alamo Street represent?

Enter your answer

14. What is the impact of parking on and off the street?

Enter your answer

15. How do you feel about the width of the street?

Enter your answer

16. List the predominant building and landscape materials that are used on the street?

Enter your answer

17. What is your perception of the pedestrian access and what elements impact that access?

Enter your answer

18. What in your mind best describes the historic character of Alamo Street?

Enter your answer

19. What is the biggest building on Alamo Street?

Enter your answer

20. What is your impression of the streetscape character?

STREETSCAPE DEFINITION: The visual elements of a street, including the road, adjoining buildings, sidewalks, street furniture, signs, lighting, trees and open spaces, etc, that combine to form the street's character

Enter your answer

21. What are the visual and physical elements that distract from the streetscape?

Enter your answer

22. How many new buildings have been constructed and how many buildings have been rehabilitated in the past 30 years on Alamo Street?

Enter your answer

23. What do you like the most and the least about Alamo Street?

Enter your answer

24. What is the character of Alamo Avenue that differentiates it from Main Street's character?

Enter your answer

25. What is your biggest concern about preserving the character of Alamo street south to Church Street?

Enter your answer