#### Neighborhood

Chicken Ridge / Star

Rock Dump

Waterfront

Willoughby

## FINAL PUBLIC MEETING

### VISIONING PHASE, DOWNTOWN AREA PLAN August 2018 - February 2019

**CBJ Community Development; MRV Architects, Lucid Reverie, and Sheinberg Associates** 



Walking Tour pauses in Heritage Square.

Photo by Shannon Crossley

## PROCESS AND MILESTONES

- August 30<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting
- Interviews, On-line Input, Analysis
- October 30th Public Meeting
- Review of Past Plans
- December Gallery Walk Outreach
- January Three Walking Tours
- January 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee
- January 24<sup>th</sup>- Final Public Meeting
- February 15<sup>th</sup> Study Complete



October 30<sup>th</sup> Open House.

### HOW MANY PARTICIPATED?

- Public meetings: 220 attendees
- Online Survey: 425 responses
- On the Street: 430 interviews
- Meeting to Go: 40 participants
- Gallery Walk: 130 participants
- Walking Tours: 105 participants
- Comment Forms: 55 submitted

### 800-900+ individuals!

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Chicken Ridge / Sta Downtown District Flats

Rock Dump

Waterfront

## **EXTRACTING THEMES**

• 9 themes emerge, based on public comment.

- Themes echo focus of past plans. Identify what's been done, where gaps remain.
- From public input, prepare draft vision, goals, and possible actions for each theme.
- Gather public reaction and continue to refine.
- Conversations continue!

### What will the weather be like this summer?

Poll locked. Responses not accepted.

delugeboating snow kooligoos perfectlovely drea LIAS eau nicetairo wear owet rain su pectacular great y tropical amazing 0 sunz wanky steam

### Which flavor of ice cream best represents you?



# 1. What part of Juneau do you live in?

Text JUNEAU to 22333 once to join, then text your message

southdouglas uptown theflats flats westjuneau **downtown** valley highlands northdouglas thane starrhill douglas historic gastave airport highland historicdistrict

### 2. WHY DO YOU COME DOWNTOWN? (text each letter that applies, 1 at a time)



leighborhood

Chicken Ridge / Starr H

Downtown Distric

### **Theme: Business Vitality**



#### VISION

Juneau is a bustling year-round commercial center for all Juneau residents and visitors.

Private and public investment in downtown is thriving.

Businesses are locally focused capturing and building upon Juneau's history, culture, environment, and scale.

Neighborhood

Chicken Ridge / Starr Hi

#### Downtown District

#### Some Emergent Discussions...

- Encourage year-round business through many options
- Ways to encourage "Next Generation" Juneau business-owners
- Solve what's stopping redevelopment of vacant and underused properties
- More housing = more customers

#### **PUBLIC'S MOST FAVORED ACTIONS**

**Theme: Business Vitality** 

1. Identify underutilized properties and promote redevelopment through meaningful tax benefits and/or cash incentives.

2. Create a multi -vendor marketplace for local businesses, including food trucks.

3. Limit number of seasonal jewelry stores downtown.

4. Incentivize mixed-use developments, including zoning flexibility to bring businesses into some neighborhoods.

3. Residents highly value a lively, year-round downtown full or locally owned businesses. Vote for up to 3 actions you favor to support economic vitality downtown.



### BLUEPRINT DOWNTOWN DOWNTOWN JUNEAU'S AREA PLAN DOWNTOWN JUNEAU'S AREA PLAN

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### **Theme: Identity and Culture**

**Downtown District** 



#### VISION

- Juneau's appeal flows from the richness of our diverse cultures, our status as Alaska's Capitol, and the opportunity to showcase our compelling history.
- The real connections between people, cultures, water and land provides an authenticity that differentiates Juneau from other places.
- Our unique story is emphasized in art, planning, buildings, and street details.

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### **Theme: Identity and Culture**

#### Some Emergent Discussions...

- Historic downtown shouldn't just be about mining history. Downtown should reflect Juneau's diverse cultures and histories.
- Building design, infrastructure, lighting, signage, storefronts all tell a story

#### **PUBLIC'S MOST FAVORED ACTIONS**

1. Incentivize year-round activity, with a focus on authenticity.

2. Complete the Seawalk across the full Downtown.

3. Define areas that can be closed to vehicles to emphasize pedestrian activities such as art markets, music, dances, and special events.

4. Create incentive programs for adaptive reuse and modernization of underutilized downtown properties.

4. "Public art, building design, wayfinding signage, & streetscape / infrastructure design should provide greater focus on Juneau's Indigenous Cultures."
What is your level of agreement with this statement?



5. Assuming the Assembly reaches agreement on the appropriate level of city financial contribution, what is your personal level of support for the New Juneau Arts & Culture (JACC) Center?



### **Theme: Housing and Neighborhoods**



VISION

- Increased downtown housing results in more business customers, better ability to attract workers, enhanced public safety, and a boost in overall vitality.
  - Increased housing includes units that are affordable for young people and new families, those for seasonal workers, and those that are attractive for down-sizing adults.
- CBJ incentives help revitalize underutilized inventory.

### **Theme: Housing and Neighborhoods**

#### Flats

#### Some Emergent Discussions...

- More housing = more vitality
- What is preventing housing from being built in vacant lots and 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> floors?
- Capital Avenue is a key link between downtown and residential areas. It needs an inviting and safe sidewalk and roadway.

#### **MOST POPULAR ACTION ITEMS**

 Fund and construct the second phase of Housing First.
 Create more affordable entry level housing for young people
 Find a new location for the Glory Hall where it can still achieve its mission to provide food, shelter, and compassion to those in need.
 Provide incentives for building owners who have underutilized or poorly maintained buildings to provide more housing. ο. These 7 underutilized properties could have new housing (aτ least on floors above ground level). Which 3 are most important for housing/mixed-use development? (See Pictures)



### 7.Downtown Juneau has many underutilized buildings & lots. The 'free market' does not appear to be sync-ing with desired community revitalization.

Vote for all the interventions you favor to incentivize revitalization?



ی. "Conduct a public process to identify & adopt regs to protect downtown's top iconic viewsheds." What is your level of agreement with this statement?



9. Many communities are struggling with the proliferation of downtown short term rentals (STRs), such as Airbnb & VRBO. They provide income for homeowners but also reduce the number of year-round rentals & can increase year-round rents & housing prices.

Which 1 of these 4 statements do you agree with the most?



### Theme: Vehicle Use and Parking, including Bicycles

- VISION
  - Improved vehicle movement through downtown enhances business vitality and growth.
- Innovative ways to provide passage for buses, trucks, and autos address downtown's limited space for roadways and sidewalks.
- A downtown transit "circulator" helps the movement of people and reduce the demand for downtown parking.



#### Neighborhood

- Downtown Distric
- Flat
- Highlands
- Rock Dump
- Waterfront

#### Some Emergent Discussions

### Theme: Vehicle Use and Parking, including Bicycles

- Should we build more parking in downtown, OR make cars less necessary?
- Auto, bus, people, and bike movements are severely constrained by Merchant's Wharf and by the Library. Solving this would reduce congestion of all types.
- Downtown's limited space will require innovative ways to move buses, trucks, autos and pedestrians.
- Should new apartments and condos in downtown require new parking, or can housing counts increase while parking stays the same?
- Why don't more drivers use the parking garages?
- What's missing that could convert drivers to cyclists?

#### Neighborhood

### Theme: Vehicle Use and Parking, including Bicycles

#### **MOST POPULAR ACTION ITEMS**

 Create an electric downtown Circulator to move people between
 Franklin, Transit Center, Willoughby District, and remote parking.
 Use some of Downtown's vacant lots to add more parking in beautifully-designed multi-level parking garages.
 Create Park and Ride lots in the Valley and Douglas for transit and carpools to and from Downtown; incentivize large employers to use.
 Electrify both city buses and tour buses to reduce fumes in Downtown and at the Glacier.

## 10. When you come downtown, about how often do you drive a car?



## 11. HONESTLY, pick up to 5 changes that would impact your willingness to give up your car for travel to/from town.



12. Juneau has a critical summertime bottleneck between Merchants' Wharf & the Tram. Congestion will grow with new bus staging at the Archipelago Lot & increased cruise ships. Costs & complexities of solutions vary. Nonetheless, pick up to 4 actions you favor to reduce the bottleneck?



## BLUEPRINT DOWNTOWN JUNEAU'S AREA PLAN Theme: Pedestrian Access and Experience

Downtown District Flats Highlands

Rock Dump



**Photo from Juneau Empire** 

VISION

Pedestrians can walk easily and safely.

• Paths clearly link the waterfront and downtown destinations.

• Canopies and streetscapes result in comfortable walking in all weather and times of year.

 Pedestrian-only areas for special activities and events create fun, business activity, and reduce congestion.

### **Theme: Pedestrian Access and Experience**

**Some Emergent Discussions:** 

- The community would like all the regions of downtown to be connected and easy to navigate, both for locals and visitors. Where are the opportunities for connection?
- The Alaskan public owns the tidelands. How can we get the public out on the waterfront more?
- Some sidewalks are impassable in the summer due to high use and narrowness.

#### **PUBLIC'S MOST FAVORED ACTIONS**

1. Complete the Seawalk from the AJ Dock to the Whale.

Provide adequate, safe, clean, and well-labeled public restrooms.
 Improve and expand sidewalk canopies and ensure that walking routes are accessible and passable year-round (i.e., clear of snow).

4. Create a pedestrian-only destination area in the Downtown core.

13. Vote for up to 2 options that you favor for a 2 WEEK pedestrian-only TRIAL. Assume all choices include early morning access for deliveries, garbage, benches/carts/activities, etc.



#### 14. Would you go outside & walk to Whale Park on your lunch break if there were food trucks there?



### **Theme: Sustainability**

Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy

Setting the scene and priority actions



CBJ Resolution XXXX XXXXXX 2017



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#### VISION

We continue moving forward to achieve the Year 2045 adopted CBJ goal of 80% energy provided by renewable sources.

- Juneau is a show-case for best practices, including transitioning from fossil fuel to renewable energy powered transportation and heating.
- Cruise industry impacts are mitigated, maintaining the intrinsic beauty and quality of place for both residents and visitors.

Neighborhood

hicken Ridge / Starr Hi

Downtown District

#### Some Emergent Discussions...

- How do we increase Juneau's resilience, including food security?
- What are the qualities of a business that is sustainable year-round? How do we encourage these downtown?

**Theme: Sustainability** 

• How can we adapt to and mitigate climate change as a city, starting now?

#### **PUBLIC'S MOST FAVORED ACTIONS**

1. Use electric vehicles for all public transportation including a Downtown circulator.

2. Incentivize the installation of renewable energy heating systems, such as heat pumps, in residential and commercial buildings.

3. Require cruise ships to utilize onshore power.

4. Work with business owners to develop more practical recycling & packaging practices for tourists & locals.

15. The CBJ goal is by 2045 to have 80% of our energy consumption generated by renewable sources. Currently 23% is renewable. Costs, complexities & funding sources vary for the choices below. Nonetheless, which 3 do you favor most?



### Theme: Carrying Capacity

#### VISION

- Smart growth downtown balances the needs of visitors and Juneau residents alike.
- Juneau remains a top-choice destination because the experience is locally-rooted and comfortable.
- Visitors have a world class experience because infrastructure, especially transportation, works efficiently with the number of visitors.



Neighborhood

Chicken Ridge / Starr H

Downtown District

### **Theme: Carrying Capacity**

#### Some Emergent Discussions...

- Does our current infrastructure sustain our current level of tourism?
- What would it look like to limit tourism by capping ship or visitor numbers?
- Does significant growth projected over the next few years still work?
- Local perception for many is that Juneau has not balanced local needs with visitors.

#### POTENTIAL ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC

 Reduce congestion by developing more infrastructure like Seawalk and street improvements.
 Increase bus staging to locations outside the bottleneck

3. Connect Gastineau Ave to Thane as a bypass

4. Relocate/Rezone Rock Dump industrial area to reduce traffic
Considering the way cruise ship arrivals are currently configured (that is their location, infrastructure, timing, organization, etc.)....



16. How do you think the volume of cruise ship tourism compares to Juneau's capacity to handle cruise visitor volume?



Start the presentation to see live content. Still no live content? Install the app or get help at PollEv.com/app

### **2002 RESULTS - SAME QUESTION**

(CBJ Tourism Management Plan, web poll of 1511 residents)

Juneau has about all the cruise ship passengers it can handle

Juneau has more cruise ship passengers than it can handle

Juneau could handle a few more cruise ship passengers

Juneau could handle substantially more cruise ship passengers



17. To address tourism carrying capacity, the CBJ and the cruise industry will need to work collaboratively. Select your top 2 goals for these efforts.



## **Theme: Natural Environment, Recreation**

Flat



#### Vision

- Juneau's location between the mountains and sea coupled with its history, size, and facilities offer an unrivaled opportunity for those "8 to 80" to explore and enjoy a deeply beautiful place.
- Juneau is a lead city to showcase the quality-of-life benefits that flow from sustainable environmental and business practices.

## **Theme: Natural Environment, Recreation**

#### Some Emergent Discussions...

- We want spaces that are indoor/outdoor for all seasons
- Views of the water, and water access, are important to residents and visitors
- Downtown recreation should be accessible to those age 8 to 80

#### **MOST POPULAR ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Complete the Seawalk across the waterfront
- 2. Require cruise ships to plug in to shore power while in town to reduce air pollution
- 3. Build the proposed Ocean Center to emphasize our connection to the water

4. Electrify the public bus fleet, and incentivize tour groups to use electric vehicles

19. There were many comments about more outdoor spaces/activities for kids & families (residents & visitors) downtown. Vote for up to 4 choices you favor.



Start the presentation to see live content. Still no live content? Install the app or get help at PollEv.com/app

# 20. What is your level of support for more indigenous plants in downtown? (spruce, blueberries, raspberries, devil's club...)



21. Do you support restoring Gold Creek to create a more natural habitat with a true stream bed, salmon habitat, & walking path where possible?



**Theme: Public Safety** 

Neighborhood

#### Chicken Ridge / Starr H

### VISION

- Rock Drowntown is safe and Water vital.
- CBJ emphasis on neighborhood policing
- Improved solutions for the Homeless, together with more housing downtown, foster community pride and year-round economic opportunity.



Photo by Zoe Grueskin/KTOO

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Chicken Ridge / Starr H

Downtown District

## **Theme: Public Safety**

#### Some Emergent Discussions...

- As a community, how can we better support those affected by the opioid epidemic?
- Activating spaces in cities decreases crime because there are more people around. How can we activate downtown Juneau?

#### **PUBLIC'S MOST FAVORED ACTIONS**

1. Create more treatment centers and services for individuals with mental, drug, or alcohol behavioral problems

2. Incentivize building maintenance, and the upgrade of dilapidated buildings and facilities.

3. Increase funding for police and safety personnel.

4. Increase winter activities in Downtown, thereby increasing public street presence, and decreasing vagrancy.

# 22. Over the last 1-2 years, how much has your sense of personal safety changed in downtown Juneau?



Start the presentation to see live content. Still no live content? Install the app or get help at PollEv.com/app

23. In our public meetings we've heard several suggestions that could help increase public safety in downtown. Which are the top 3 you believe could be effective?



### What about the Money?

### 18. Juneau expects less State fiscal support in years to come. The projects identified to benefit our downtown will require revenue to implement.

Which 2 revenue source alternatives do you favor the most?



### **Understanding Fiscal Priorities**

The Public "Paid With Pennies" to Fund Hypothetical Capital Projects

Highlands

Rock Dum

Waterfront

Willoughby



Pay with Pennies station

0	230 Participants	Hypothetical Projects to Fund
3	20%	Increase Services and Housing for the Homeless
1	15%	Fund new Affordable Housing
3	14%	Fund the Seawalk Completion
~	11%	Fund Electric Circulator Buses for Downtown
2	9%	Funds for the New JACC, Arts District
	8%	Funds for Greater Police Presence Downtown
-	8%	Fund a new Marine Park with Green Space
	7%	Funds for Existing Building Rehabilitation
	5%	Fund a new Parking Garage
	4%	Fund Covered Walkways linking to SLAM /JACC

24. Several potential projects are popular with the public. The difficulty is prioritizing the cost & effectiveness of projects. Which 5 projects do you believe are most critical?



Restore Gold Creek to a functional stream with habitat for salmon

> Provide electrical hook-up for all cruise ships (possible cruise tax funding)

Acquire properties & widen bottleneck street between Merchant's Wharf & the Tram to 2 lanes each direction

Run a frequent downtown Circulator/Transit to lessen traffic impacts

> Construct a new parking garage in the greater Willoughby District

CBJ funds &/or tax relief to renovate buildings to add year-round housing

Help fund a new Glory Hall out of downtown

Extend Gastineau Ave to the Rock Dump, creating a vehicle & pedestrian alternative to Franklin St.

Construct pedestrian bridges over S Franklin & Egan near the Library & Merchant's Wharf to ease congestion

Complete full Seawalk (Rock Dump to Whale)

Neighborhood

### What's Next?

- Assembling results of this meeting
- Final Vision Study Submitted
- CDD/Steering Committee Develops Area Plan
- Finished Plan to Planning Commission and Assembly for Review, Adoption



Amalga Distillery co-owner, Brandon Howard, hosting tour on Business Vitality.