

**To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer**

**From: Harold de Haan, City Engineer**  
**Colleen Collins, Marketing & Communications Manager**

**Re: Downtown Woodstock Streetscape Master Plan Implementation Options**

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## **AIM**

To obtain City Council direction regarding the implementation of the Downtown Woodstock Streetscape Master Plan.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2021 City Council provided budget approval for \$144,000 to be used to create a Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. In the late summer of that same year, the contract to undertake community consultation and prepare the plan was awarded to MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, with work beginning immediately.

One of the top priorities identified in the Downtown Development Plan was the creation of this Streetscape Master Plan. The rationale for developing a comprehensive streetscape master plan was to identify a long-term vision for streetscape improvements that can be implemented in a coordinated fashion. As such, the objective of the plan is to provide a framework for attaining the goals of the City in the downtown and includes a preferred concept layout/schematic, and recommended materials. The plan also includes a detailed concept that articulates the redevelopment of the City's Museum Square and City Hall Block. The concept for a new Museum Square proposes a larger, more programable public space which may be enjoyed by Woodstonians year-round. The Downtown Woodstock Streetscape Master Plan (DWSMP) was adopted by City Council in October 2022.

As part of the 2023 Capital budget, Council approved funds to complete the detailed design to implement redevelopment of Dundas St between Light St./Brock St. and Wellington St. Since obtaining budget approval, City staff put out an RFP for a multidisciplinary team to complete the detailed design of the functional plan that was presented in the Downtown Woodstock Streetscape Master Plan. City staff began work in June with the consultants to plan out details of the streetscape. Streetscape includes removal of all of the existing features from the north building faces to the south building faces to install new sidewalk, street lighting, street furniture and landscaping. Although detailed drawings are not yet completed, based on preliminary design, a construction cost estimate of \$6,500,000 was presented to Council to complete the work between Light St./Brock St. and Wellington as part of the 2024 Capital Budget.

At the December 14, 2023 City Council meeting, City Council passed the following motion:

"That Project INF00138 Downtown Revitalization be removed from the 2024 Capital Budget and the 2025-2028 Capital Forecast and considered at the regular meeting of Council held on March 21, 2024 when Council will have a better understanding of the overall tax levy increase in 2024;

And further that staff be directed to prepare a report for the March 21, 2024 Council meeting outlining options to reduce the scope and the cost of the project;

And further that staff be directed to undertake community consultation, including a survey, outlining the specifics of the project and associated costs, and seeking feedback from the public on advancing the project.”

## **COMMENTS**

Options for going forward can be divided into two categories: scope (what work is completed) and timing (when the work is completed).

Recognizing that Dundas St was resurfaced from Vansittart Ave to Huron St in 2018/2019, and the existing pavement has a number of years of life left in it, restricting the work to the areas between the existing curb and building face to preserve the existing pavement was considered as an option. However, this option does not allow for the full improvements such as bump outs for transit stops or pedestrian crossings that are integral in the current design. Staff is not confident that cuts into the existing pavement could fully be avoided due to placement of street light wire, placement of soil cells or repair of existing curb. Pavement cuts allow water through the pavement resulting in accelerated deterioration. Limiting the work area would result in a diminished streetscape plan. A reduced plan would not have the impact or effectiveness that a full streetscape plan would have. In addition, revising the work scope to limit the work to behind the curb does not conform with the DWSMP that was adopted by Council. Revision of the DWSMP should be approved by Council following further study. For these reasons, this option was not investigated any farther and is not recommended by staff.

In addition to scope of work options, the City also has options for staging or timing of the work. The options for this are:

- A. Delay the project.
- B. Reduce the project area.
- C. Continue with the current direction of full streetscape between Light and Wellington. See description of Option 3 below.

### **Option 1 – Replace sidewalk paving stones with concrete sidewalks**

Option 1 involves only removing paving stones and replacing them with a concrete sidewalk. This would be a bare minimum option of not improving the aesthetics of the downtown area (i.e. not following the adopted DWSMP). The existing paving stones are failing, creating tripping hazards and an increased amount of maintenance work to address them. The cost estimate to do this in the area from Light to Wellington is approximately \$475,000. This work could be completed in 2024, however this option does nothing to address the objectives of the DWSMP. To replace the paving stones outside of the current area to Vansittart to Beale/Bay (with some minor small sections east to Huron) would cost another \$625,000. Delaying or not completing the streetscape portion of the DWSMP would not impact the proposed Museum Square improvements. This work is independent (in large part) from the Dundas streetscape work and could occur at any time Council wishes.

### **Option 2 – Complete the full streetscape master plan work in 2024 and 2025**

Option 2 would implement the recommendations of the DWSMP between Light/Brock and Wellington in line with current direction. This option creates a more inclusive and inviting

atmosphere in Downtown Woodstock. It implements and improves accessibility and flexibility by introducing rolled curbs which will allow for more seamless integration of downtown patios and other sidewalk activities. This option also improves lighting, seating, landscape and waste/recycling opportunities. Although the DWSMP showed this reconstruction happening in three separate phases, this option would have the whole project done as one large phase. The original estimate for the work between Light/Brock and Wellington was approximately \$4M. The construction cost estimate at the time of capital budget submission was estimated to be \$6.5M. However, based on recent information received from the consultant, this estimate is now \$7.4M. Staff has been working on proceeding with this option since budget approval was provided in March of 2023. The anticipated schedule for this work is to complete the design and tender the work in early summer 2024. Construction could then start in late summer with a completion date in summer 2025. Due to bridging the project over two construction seasons, there may be the risk of some work being unfinished over the winter season as well as larger impact to business access. A multi-year project will also impact the feasibility of holding Streetfest.

### **Option 3 – Delay the project until it is more economically feasible**

Council could decide to delay the streetscape project until it feels that the project is more economically feasible. One option to consider would be to create a reserve account to start putting money aside each year until enough is saved to fund the project. This reduces the burden on the tax payers in the short term. The downside is that although there may be interest savings on debt, inflation may reduce these savings due to higher costs when the work is performed. Each year the provincial and federal governments announce a variety of funding programs for municipalities. If the design and tender packages are completed, if this project were to qualify for such a funding program and be successful in obtaining approval, this might be another option for funding. Delaying the streetscape portion of the DWSMP would not impact the proposed Museum Square improvements. This work is independent (in large part) from the Dundas streetscape work and could occur at any time Council wishes.

### **Option 4 – Divide the work into smaller phases that can each be completed within a single construction season**

The current plan is full streetscape between Light/Brock and Wellington as one project starting in 2024 and finishing in 2025. This project area could be broken down into separate sections or contracts to be completed over a few years. This approach matches what is shown and recommended in the DWSMP. The DWSMP shows this work being done in 3 stages: Brock to Graham, Graham to Riddell and Riddell to Wellington. Scaling back on the project area to reduce it to Riddell to Wellington more accurately matches the DWSMP and would be less costly initially. Reducing the project area provides a full and complete streetscape and will give residents and the business owners a feel of what the fully completed project will look and feel like. The accessibility concerns and improvements to street lighting, street furniture, etc. would still be met. Staging the full streetscape also provides the opportunity to adjust future sections as desired and to learn from any issues during the first phase so that they can be addressed in subsequent phases. After phase one is completed, subsequent phases could be scheduled so as to not interfere with Streetfest. The design work currently being performed would continue and would not be wasted effort. If Council wishes to proceed with Riddell to Wellington in 2024, they can proceed with another section in 2025 or any subsequent year or years. Considering that the current schedule anticipates construction to extend into 2025, this means that other sections would not actually be delayed. Construction cost to complete a full streetscape between Riddell and Wellington was estimated to be approximately \$2.6M +/- . Staff recently

received a construction cost estimate based on 30% complete drawings of \$2.7M for this phase of the work.

Please note that none of the costs discussed above include cost for work outside of the Dundas St. streetscape project area of Light Street to Wellington Street. The DWMSPP also recommended that Dundas streetscape improvements be completed between Vansittart and Light and between Wellington and Bay as well as the redevelopment of Museum Square. The DWMSPP originally estimated these other costs in the neighbourhood of \$11M. There is a large uncertainty with this number considering that the developable area of Museum Square has grown and a new study needs to be completed to relook at this portion of the DWMSPP. Inflationary cost increases will also impact the price. In Staff’s opinion, final costs to implement all of the DWMSPP recommendations could be upwards of \$20M.

## Survey

At the direction of Council, staff prepared a survey to gather input from the public into how they would like to see the implementation of the streetscape project proceed. The survey was available online from February 12 to March 3. Hard (paper) copies of the survey were available upon request. A total of 859 responses were received.

The survey asked respondents how often they visited downtown and why and how much they agreed or disagreed with several statements related to the downtown and streetscape project. An overview of the 4 options, including costing, was provided and respondents were asked which option they supported for implementing the downtown streetscape. Respondents could also choose the response “I do not support moving forward with the Streetscape Master Plan”. The responses are outlined in the following table:

Option	Percent	Number of responses	Ranked
1 – Replace sidewalk paving stones with concrete sidewalks	13.44%	104	4
2 – Complete the full streetscape master plan work in 2024 and 2025	27.13%	210	2
3 - Delay the project until it is more economically feasible	5.17%	40	5
4 - Divide the work into smaller phase that can each be completed within a single construction season	32.30%	250	1
5 – I do not support moving forward with the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan	21.96%	170	3

Respondents were also asked if there was anything else they wanted to share with Council. Of the 386 comments received, at least half mentioned concerns with safety, homelessness, drug use and other social issues. Other notable themes included:

- Parking (more parking, increase parking fees, decrease parking fees)
- Addressing vacant buildings and maintenance issues
- Improving the variety / type of stores
- Housing (need to increase residential densities and bring more people downtown)

The complete survey results can be found in Appendix A of this report.

## **Museum Square**

In addition to the options for proceeding with the advancement of the streetscape portion of the DWSMP, the Museum Square portion of this plan should also be addressed. Since the completion of the DWSMP, there have been a number of changes that impact the Museum Square recommendations. The City has recently purchased 478/484 Dundas. This, along with acknowledgment that City Hall needs an addition to provide a more accessible and secure building and larger council chamber and staff space, has made the current plan for this area shown in the DWSMP obsolete. As a result, staff recommends that Council consider using 2024 to restudy this area to include these factors. The revised plan would include a comprehensive plan and preliminary drawings for a City Hall addition and revised outdoor improvements that would include the space currently used by 478/484 Dundas St. The possible City Hall addition work will study the existing layout and space usage to develop possible floor plans and renderings to address current and future needs. This additional space may provide more opportunities for programming and entertainment to make downtown a destination point. It is estimated that a revised report will cost approximately \$60,000.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

*(Council to choose one of the following 4 options)*

That Woodstock City Council direct staff to proceed with Option 1 and approve a revision to the 2024 Capital Budget to include \$475,000 for Project INF00138 to be financed by the Capital Reserve and \$625,000 be included in the 2025 Capital Budget Forecast.

OR

That Woodstock City Council direct staff to proceed with Option 2 and approve a revision to the 2024 Capital Budget to include \$7,400,000 for Project INF00138 to be financed by debenture;

OR

That Woodstock City Council direct staff to proceed with Option 3 and refer a request for an annual contribution to the Downtown Redevelopment Reserve Fund as part of the Revenue Fund Budget approval report;

OR

That Woodstock City Council direct staff to proceed with Option 4 and approve a revision to the 2024 Capital Budget to include \$2,700,000 for Project INF00138 to be financed by debenture;

AND

And further that City Council direct staff to proceed revising the Museum Square portion of the Downtown Woodstock Streetscape Master Plan to incorporate the demolition of 478/484 Dundas and a City Hall expansion and approve an additional \$60,000 for Project INF00138 to be funded from the Capital Reserve.



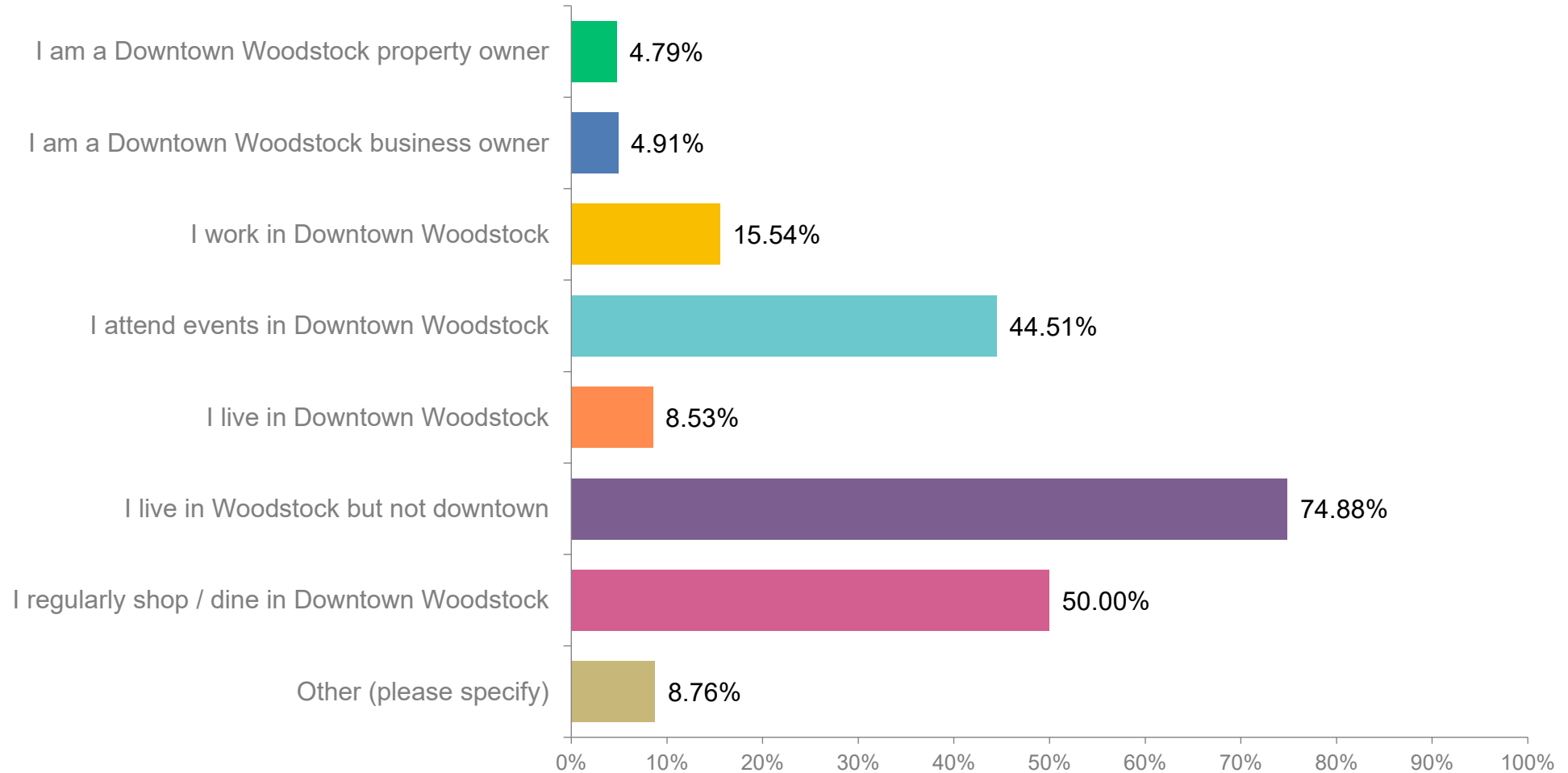
City of  
**Woodstock**

# **Downtown Streetscape Master Plan Implementation**

Public Consultation Results

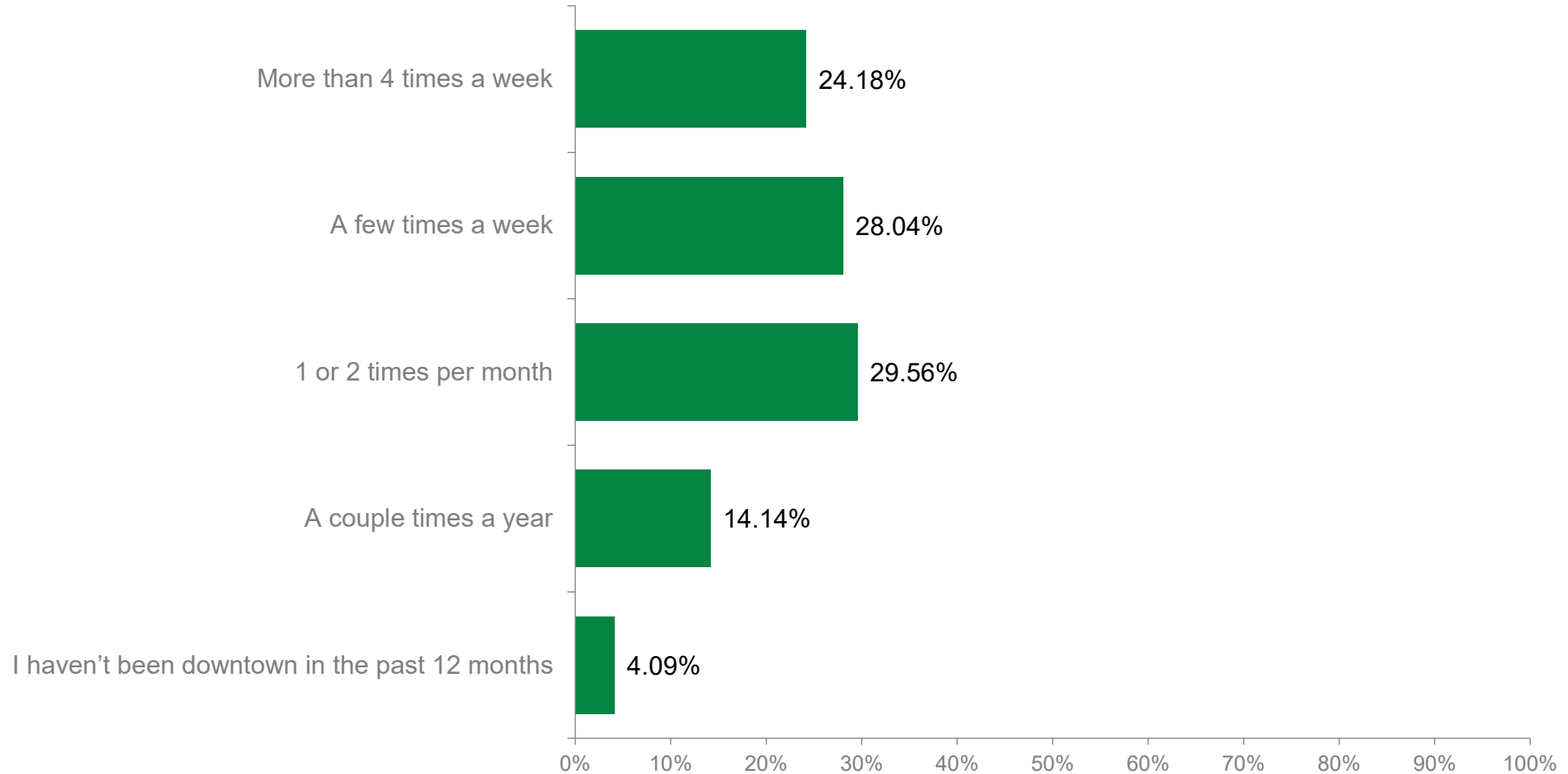
# Q1: What is your connection to Downtown Woodstock?

Answered: 856 Skipped: 3



# Q2: In the past 12 months, how often have you come to Downtown Woodstock?

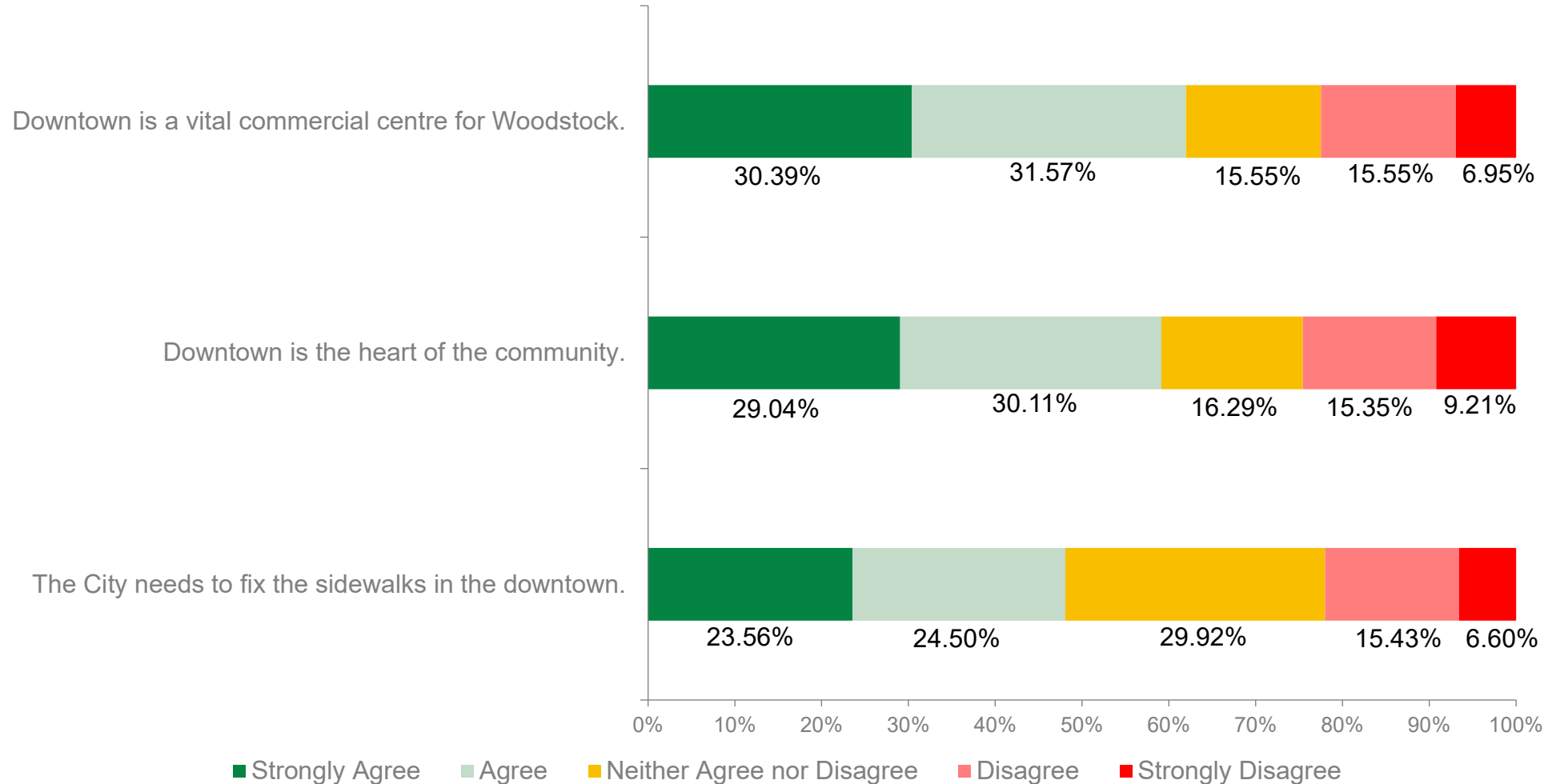
Answered: 856 Skipped: 3





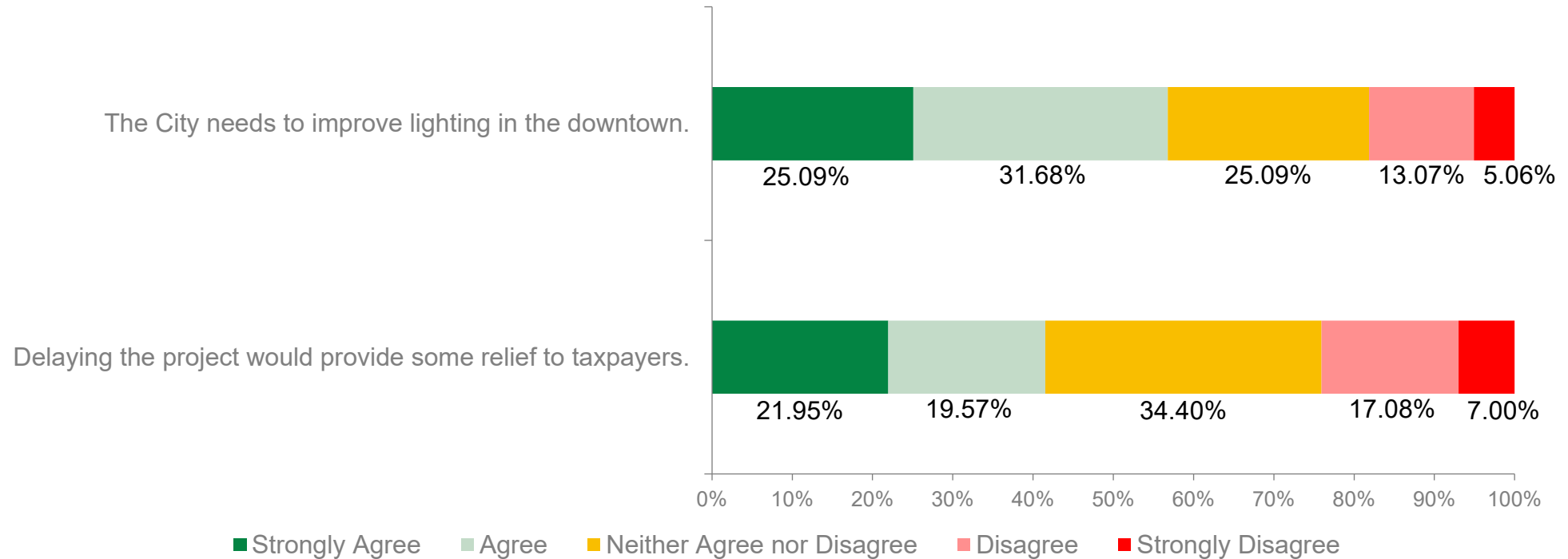
# Q3: Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Answered: 855 Skipped: 4



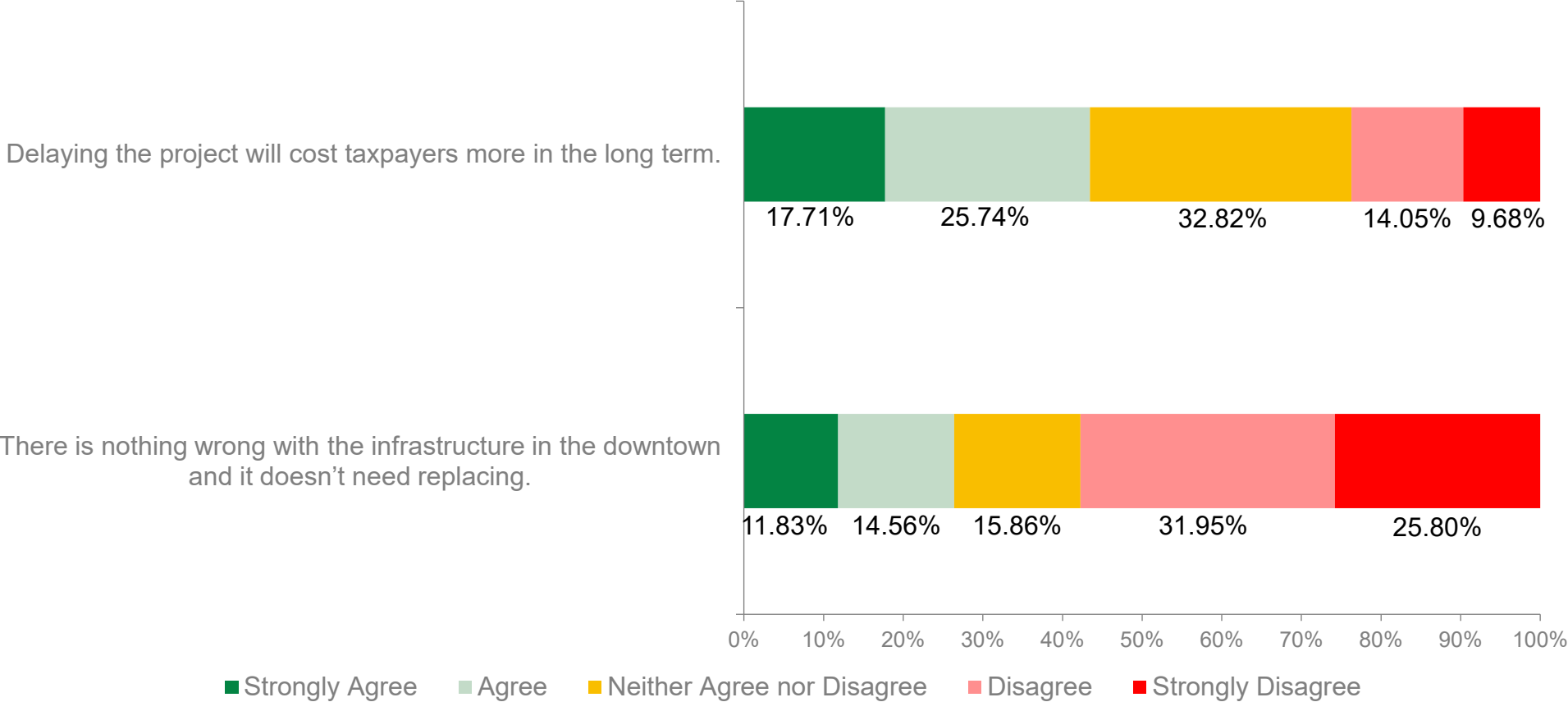
# Q3: Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Answered: 855 Skipped: 4



# Q3: Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

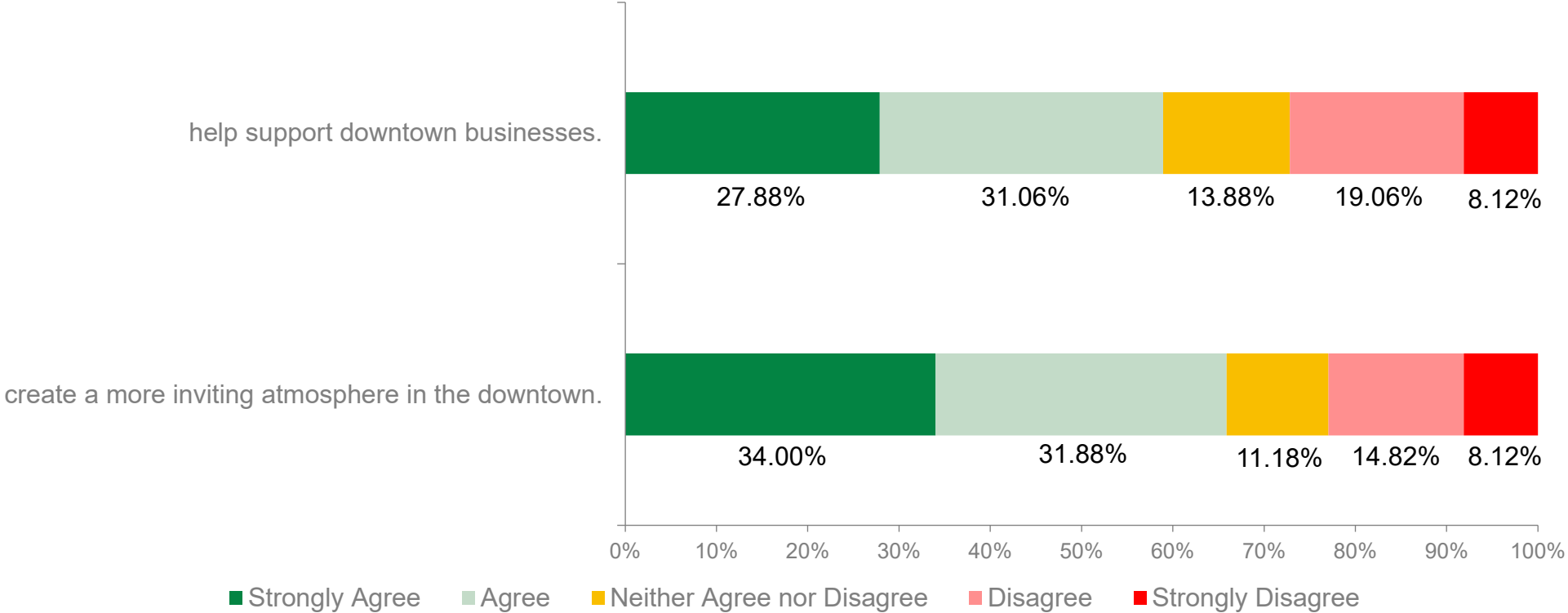
Answered: 855 Skipped: 4



# Q4: Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Completing the work proposed in the streetscape master plan (improving the sidewalks, lighting and street furniture) will:

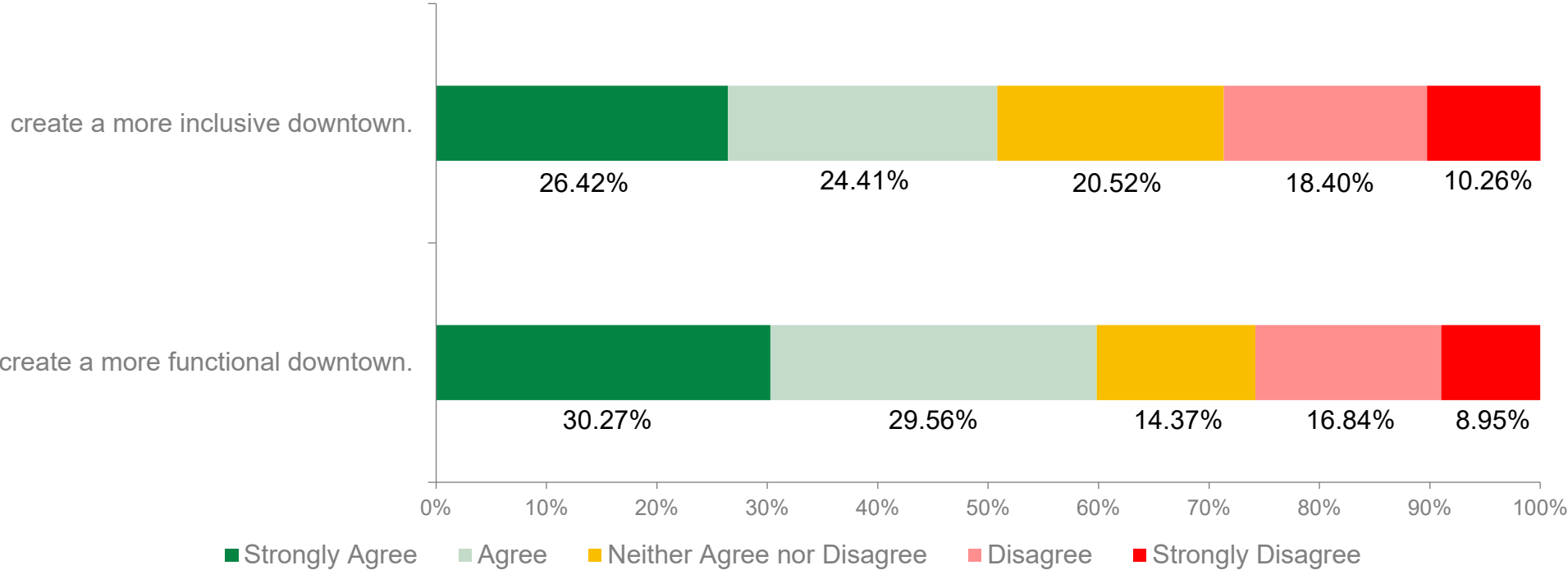
Answered: 852 Skipped: 7



# Q4: Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

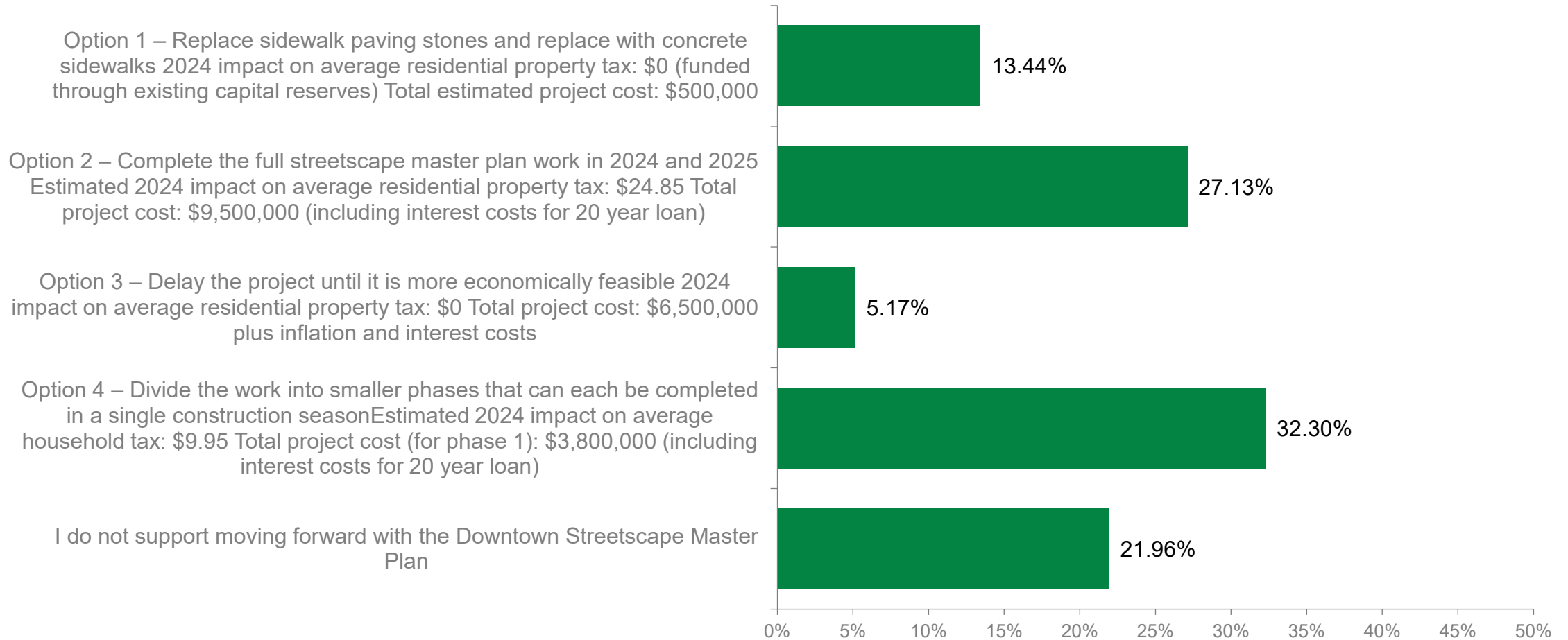
Completing the work proposed in the streetscape master plan (improving the sidewalks, lighting and street furniture) will:

Answered: 852 Skipped: 7



# Q5: Which option do you support for implementing the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan?

Answered: 774 Skipped: 85



# Q6. Is there anything else you'd like to share with Council on this topic?

Answered: 389 Skipped: 470

This project should absolutely be a priority for Council. Feels like we have already been asked to give feedback multiple times over last 5 years and still waiting to see more action taken to improve the downtown.

To create a vibrant core, you need people. Sidewalks & lighting make an area more accessible to everyone. Redoing the sidewalks is also an opportunity to address accessibility to businesses with a raised entrance threshold. By grouping needs, cost sharing and grants barriers can be removed for all abilities.

Clearly this survey addresses the structural components of downtown improvement. I feel improvements of sidewalks, lighting, etc. are fine, but it's the homeless/ addicts/ prostitutes that deter me from coming downtown. At times I fear for my safety.

The investment in Downtown Woodstock has been put off and delayed for too long. I used to have an office in Downtown Woodstock. As a young entrepreneur, I found it discouraging to see the neglect that previous councils had not invested or taken action in our historic city centre. An aggressive approach is necessary as the decades of doing small projects have left our Downtown in its current state. The cost is the price as if the past councils' constant inaction to address the problem. We cannot afford to have the money spent on the consultants and master plans wasted again. We have done this before, and if we continue to put this off - the cost to do this in the future will be even higher. There is still momentum with the excitement of the Downtown masterplan, and we can again be proud of Downtown like so many smaller cities/towns across Ontario. Please make this one of the legacies of this council, as the impact on the future of Downtown Woodstock will be measurable.

Fulfil your campaign promises and proceed with with the full plan. Other municipalities have competed Streetscape and Beautification and their downtowns are so much more vibrant, safe/accessible, and thriving!

Add significant bike parking and you've sold me.

Work on addiction and mental health support. 6.5 million could more in the service people need more than a new downtown people won't visit now. Serving the human needs of our community exceeds any sort of streetscape the city plans to do.

I regularly drive and walk downtown. The issue isn't the sidewalk condition or lighting, it is the mental health/homelessness issue. Please direct the funding towards helping the most needy in our community before spending millions on a streetscaping bandaid

Downtowns are vital to the town feel. Need to balance commercial growth away from the core so as to not create a gap and end up with a rundown core.

THERE IS ABSOUTELY NO POINT IN REDOING ANYTHING DOWNTOWN UNTIL YOU GET THE DRUG ADDICTS OUT. NO ONE I TALK TO HAS ANY INTEREST IN BEING IN AN AREA WHERE THEY ARE. I DONT EVEN LIKE PARKING MY CAR AROUND THEM. REDOING BENCHES LIGHTS AND SIDEWALKS IS A WASTE OF EVERYONES MONEY UNTIL YOU CLEAN UP THE ACTUAL REASON NO ONE GOES DOWN. STOP PUTTING EFFORT INTO DOWNTOWN AND START PUTTING EFFORT INTO ENTERTAINMENT (AKA A THEATRE THATS NOT DOWNTOWN) AND FURTHER NEW STORES OUT NEAR WALMART AND HOME DEPOT. NO ONE UNDER 65 CARES ABOUT DOWNTOWN AT ALL.

If possible more police presents on a regulate basis would help everyone realize the tide is changing and we want a downtown for all.

Please don't waste \$\$ on streetscaping. If a vibrant downtown is what is wanted, make it a safer place for people to want to come too, get better stores that will attract people to buy. There are numerous communities throughout Ontario that can be used as an example for making woodstock downtown safer and more attractive. Don't waste \$\$ on making it pretty. Everyone knows what the problem is!!

Ingersoll has Fusion Centre for youth. It's an amazing all most free space for youth only (\$5 a year membership) Woodstock kids desperately need a similar space. Let's learn from our neighbours.  
<https://www.instagram.com/fusionyouthcentre/>

Please ensure making the downtown much much safer is included in any plans that are chosen. The downtown core isn't safe as it is right now and so I sometimes hesitate to visit businesses there

The sooner the better, things are not going to be getting less expensive and will allow more development to take place downtown raising the tax base and making the total per household cheaper in subsequent years of pay the bond off faster.

Downtown work needs to get done overtime but taxes are already so high anyway to help offset some costs are welcomed. Grants, fundraising, donations, sponsorship etc?

The reality is people aren't going downtown because of the less fortunate and the perception I believe the sidewalks and accessibility needs updating but it won't draw a crowd. Plus parking is a nightmare still

Clean up some of the abandoned building on Dundas Streets north side between Light St and Vansittart Ave. Also the site of the old Capital Theatre.

Interest rates are too high right now and scheduled to come down. You already hiked the taxes in this horrible city. Downtown does not see any real benefit or value to spend such money and burden desperate cash strapped tax payers. Put off this horrible decision till interest rates drop, then re draw the numbers with a proper accountant who has SAVINGS not spending in mind. And actually stick TO THE BUDGET and get it done with a competent company that doesn't drag on work like the incompetent road crews. Efficiency , time management, money savings !! Do your job and do it right the first time. And no more expensive consulting from out of town that pull bus stops and reroute buses away from old age homes that need them the most. Use your damn brains for once. Start using people that actually have money sense not endless wasteful spending .

Get rid of the free meth clinic. Ir take the money you earn from the free meth clinic and create more space for the addicts to go- instead of my front lawn.

The longer you wait to get the job done, the more it will cost. The cost of materials will only increase.

Delaying it will cost us way more in the future. Stop repeating history and fulfil your campaign promises to revitalize Downtown!

Council knows full well that delaying construction projects only increases cost overtime which means it would cost more money to the taxpayers if we do not proceed as planned... They also campaigned verbalising publicly that they support downtown revitalisation / streetscape. In 2026 Woodstock will turn 125 years old, and the BIA will turn 50 years old... Let's get this completed in the next two years so that we can have a Grande reopening!

Have more merchant events, seniors shopping day, food events for restaurants to participate in. This brings people downtown. More apartments for people to live downtown. Do something about empty buildings downtown. If you bring people downtown, that will help the businesses. You are a two major highway city, easier to drive elsewhere to shop. A vibrant downtown will be very challenging because of the proximity of the highways. Walmart is another big deterrent.



Until the downtown is safe for my senior parents to do their banking without fear, new projects are pointless. Wasted money until the homeless issue is addressed which this council promised to do.

Although I agree our downtown needs improving there are more serious problems in our city that should be a priority over making the downtown look pretty

There needs to be better parking for me to come downtown more often. As it is, aggressive drivers and general business on Dundas make it intimidating to park. Please consider making Dundas St one way traffic from Wellington to Vansittart and create angle parking and a bicycle lane.

Rolled sidewalks would be a waste of taxpayers money. The existing pavement would need to be removed and I have heard from one on the council member that the pavement has many years left.

None of these options are beneficial to City, since it requires an additional tax burden to citizens, which are already at the breaking point. There are other creative solutions for improving the Downtown Business climate other than cosmetic touch-ups. Let's use the tools already well proven by our southern neighbours in US, like a Business Tax-Relief, or even moratorium on taxes during the distressing economical down turns, like we are in one now. Their tactics proved extremely effective where implemented. The City (Governing Body) should be the mirror of the City's status at any time.... The Tax burden should reflect the economic situation "on-the-ground", instead demanding the "one-way" (constant /general) tax increases, without any significant roll backs. In Business, the rule is when your Tax-base (Larger tax paying population) is increasing, the tax per unit (payer) is lower accordingly. Otherwise, it leads to self-collapsing "pyramid" in due time, which we already experienced a few times in the last half century. These were just some general lighthearted observations or/and suggestions.

Put the money into helping the homeless and those with mental health issues. Find ways to help small businesses succeed in the downtown.

Address the real issues of downtown first: homeless, open drug use, vacant, and ugly storefronts. ONLY THEN consider some upgrades.

Downtown will never be more inviting with the homelessness crisis and drug abuse in broad daylight. I'd rather use these funds to help support these issues and that will have a more dramatic effect on improving the downtown.

There is no proof that the suggested plan will breathe new life into downtown.

No where in the plan do I see the city cleaning up the vacant lots, addressing the homeless problem or attempting to make the downtown a go to place. A grand makeover of the museum square is a waste of money. Do something with all the city owned vacant lots and take a good look at why the main street is failing as related to store fronts, buildings, traffic etc. Downtown is not a field of dreams, they won't come just because you threw money at it. Finally pay attention to what the little guy is saying and you may get some great ideas.

I want to support the incredible business owners downtown, but I didn't make these promises to them, and squeezing more from the 40-50k residents who are (mostly) struggling already isn't necessarily going to encourage people to go shopping and spend more. It isn't like the percentage will be taken off our taxes once the project is complete. Many people cannot even afford shelter or food in our city and the rest of us are doing our best not to get to that point. The price tag on this project sickens me, especially considering all the services and amenities we are lacking already. Can new garbage cans be installed without replacing the lights? Can additional forms of lighting be used without changing what is already there (string lights, art installations, etc)? I would be supportive of small upgrades, not tearing up the streets and rebuilding everything entirely (think a new coat of paint and hardware vs a whole kitchen reno) with the HOPE that new business owners and patrons show up. I've lived in many cities, big and small, and the thing that brings people downtown are apartments, restaurants, stores and essential services, not the sidewalks, banners or flower pots.

The homeless situation needs to be addressed in the downtown area first and foremost before spending any money otherwise the current problem will destroy any future improvements

Bike lanes should be completely separate from the road. An actual divider. Also, we need to work on snow removal so sidewalks are accessible by everyone during all seasons. The downtown should cater to pedestrians NOT vehicles.

Delaying this project will cost more in the end and will do nothing but drive businesses out of downtown Woodstock.

These are difficult financial times for a lot of us. Cost avoidance should be a top priority for Woodstock council.

get the transients out so more people CAN shop/dine and visit the downtown. I do not feel safe and will not walk there alone. Spending all this money only to have it taken over by drug users and homeless would be a real waste

We need to move forward with improving downtown

We must concurrently address the number of unhoused folks in our community. Firstly, the lack of education around housing and homelessness in this community contributes to a viewpoint that keeps people from engaging with and interacting with the unhoused, which in turn causes people to avoid places where the unhoused congregate like the downtown core. I know the county is working on a supportive housing plan, but I think both the revitalization and the work on supportive housing need to take place at the same time to be the most effective. This is why I chose the fourth option, dividing the work into multiple phases so essential work to allow for function and accessibility can take place sooner and the more cosmetic parts of the plan can take place later.

Downtown is a scary place, get rid of the meth clinic.....

Downtown has way to many drug addicts and homeless. I hate going down there. Just get rid of them first!

I am a life long resident of Woodstock for over 70 years, love my city. People/residents/home owners/business owners are suffering from this present global economy. Our tax base is one of the highest in the province and has been for years. We need to hold off on this Downtown Streetscape Master Plan until we are in a better financial climate. Fixing the downtown is not the answer at this time.

Downtown needs this investment asap, it's the heart of the City.

Option 2 is the ONLY option. Now now now now!!!!!!

Yes open your eyes and build for the homeless guess everyone there is blind to see or just want to present that there no homeless sad sad town I love in nothing gets done yes that's politics for you

Need to fix homeless problem. Need to make owners to repair property or. Expropriate and resell to people who will

Don't spend \$\$ on something that isn't broken, fix what is. Make derelict landlords cleanup or charge them to do so, don't give them tax breaks. Start thinking about the seniors, the retirees who have moved here. Woodstock taxes are beyond too high, we can't afford to stay here. Looking for a small town who recognizes their retirees, doesn't allow unsightly make shift encampments & then taxes it's citizens to cleanup someone else's mess, and has a tax structure that we can afford.

Put more best cops in downtown core to move out the undesirables who are bad for business. The homeless problem is a DRUG problem exacerbated by the police force administering naxolone instead of doing real police work. If the city wants to help itself lobby the other levels of government to bring back treatment centres and/or more jails. Until people feel safe no city in this country will have a safe downtown. When in downtown Edmonton one summer day we saw 3 takedowns by city police.

Council needs to identify improvement needs & budget into a reserve fund - Rome wasn't built in a day - divide projects as they are affordable & funds are in the Reserve Fund. Personal household projects are done that way...time the council took note. Address the derelict building landlord issue - don't give them tax breaks, make them accountable, if a personal residence was left in this deplorable state - the City would be all over it. Stop making the taxpayer pay for others mistakes. Clean up the storefronts, get some continuity in signage etc (take a look at Orillia as a good example), attract some business' that would actually draw people & more business' in - enough with tattoo parlours, Vaping & Cannabis stores, quickie loan establishments. Get some business downtown to help pay the taxes & the improvements. Woodstock taxes are beyond too high. If people could afford the taxes or the rents needed to be charged to pay taxes, maybe they wouldn't be forced out onto the streets. It is bad enough that Oxford County budget is so high - when are they going to start cleaning up encampments & the mess left behind....again, taxpayers didn't create the problem, but boy are we paying for it.

Completion of the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan is useless in attracting more people to visit the area. Investing in police presence (zero tolerance on drugs) and enhancing the feeling of security will be a better use of time and money.

I love the idea, especially if it deals with some of the mess downtown. I frequently see tons of garbage in front of closed/non leased buildings, glass ect. I hope this helps in refacing and cleaning up the area more than anything. Please keep some of the historic things as I believe there is value in it with the character of the town. I like downtown Woodstock and just want the best for the city.

You already got the benches back at market square, what else is SO important? Get rid of the homeless people downtown first then get a game plan into place.

I would really love to see the old pieces of the downtown remain (the walkways being old paving stone rather than sidewalks, the lampposts remaining the same) One thing I would love to see go is the bus stop that is blocking the view of museum square. It really took away from the charm of the downtown core, perhaps it could be moved in part of this project. I would much rather look at the beautiful old building and fountain instead of looking at a modern bus stop with different advertisements. Keeping the old charm of our beautiful town is important to me as a born and raised woodstonian who happens to live only a couple of blocks away. Modern doesn't always mean better! (I believe this especially about the sidewalks, paved sidewalks always have cracks and issues where as those stones have fewer issues, from my standpoint anyway!) I do also have a few suggestions about implementing a standard for the businesses in the downtown as far as physical appearance. Downtown Stratford has many rules and regulations when it comes to the businesses signs, building colours etc. which is how they keep the charm. I truly hope through this project you as the city council can look at towns similar to ours and follow their lead (Stratford, Galt, Paris) these are all downtowns that are always busy, where the businesses thrive and where everyone feels warm and welcome. Replacing the stones with paved sidewalk doesn't create that environment, building the charm does. Thanks so much for reading and taking these points into consideration! If you have any questions, Kate knows who I am :)

We need a safe injection/use sight before we do anything to the downtown core. Nobody want to go downtown and witness people shooting up in the streets.

If your looking into fixing up downtown. Please start with the homeless and the massive drug issue. We used to be able to walk safely downtown and take our children down there. But now even in the middle of the day we can't take our kids to the fountain due to people shooting up in broad daylight and the police or you do absolutely nothing about it. Make this right

The existing "stores"/ shops do not invite people to explore our "downtown"

You've been running on this for 3 or more elections. Let us know if it was true or not.

Why are we ignoring the homelessness problem? That is by FAR the biggest problem with downtown, and downtown will continue to be horrible until that is addressed. Throwing money at the small issues, while ignoring the big ones is just pathetic.

In order to attract any new businesses we need to push forward with this project. This will also help with current businesses in sustainability as the public perception of downtown is not great. Perhaps looking at overall essential services need to be addressed as well as this draws a large amount of the homeless to the downtown. Maybe relocating services so a place like the old TA truck stop so it's all in one location and away from most tax payers but still close to enough to retail/grocery/walmart

I do support new lighting, sidewalks and the roads being repaired in the downtown core. The streets around Victoria Park are embarrassing.

Move the methadone clinic away from downtown and away from places you want families to go. The junkies shouldn't be part of the damn streetscape. I don't take my kids downtown anymore because I don't need them to see human waste on the sidewalks or people shooting up in broad daylight.

Find a way to keep the downtown cleaner. Sad seeing garbage all over the place. People who live on Dundas need to be more considerate. Smokers need to smoke at the back of the bars especially the one across from City Hall. Always a mess out there.

There should be more options! How are we to choose between \$500,000 and \$6.5 million!

Downtown needs investment and option 2 is the best for that. What it also needs is support for the restaurants and businesses that exist there to entice people downtown (Stratford has downtown dollars, would love a project like that)

Somehow, (maybe a liaison with Central and WCI schools) there needs to be a clean up program with the city core- (community members etc) the garbage is terrible.

There simultaneously needs to be plans in place to address the homelessness and drug use issues in downtown, so people will feel comfortable using the upgraded spaces. I have small children, and I like to bring them to events, but am always wary of the potential for needles, fentanyl residue, excrement, unpredictable people, and unsafe items downtown. I've lived in Woodstock most of my life, but the recent years have seen a big shift in the perceived safety and cleanliness in the downtown.

Allot money to recreational facilities ie indoor swimming /arena complex especially in northern Woodstock. City is sadly lacking

I agree with moving forward with the plan but as someone who doesn't live close to the downtown I don't foresee the improvements as a reason to head downtown. I think people either enjoy being part of the downtown atmosphere or not. I don't feel a huge dumping of money into these projects will increase people visiting the downtown long term. Perhaps at the beginning to check it out. I do believe it could use some sprucing up so I'm all in favour of moving forward - any kind of improvement anywhere is important.

I believe option 2 serves our local business owners, however something must be done to help with rents. Many of these buildings remain vacant because the rents asked are well above what is sustainable for a local business in Woodstock. The city ends up buying derelict buildings in the end, only to tear them down. This project (option 2 or 4) must be done in conjunction with preservation of existing properties. I know your hands are tied to some degree, but the plan may be more effective if we incentivize landlords to lower rents or subsidize rents. Maybe not a great solution, but without businesses downtown there is no tax benefit to this project. Love the idea though, and the time feels right as we are starting to see positive change downtown.

Other than improved lighting it is still too scary to go downtown.

There are lot enough businesses or restraints in the downtown to draw people there. Homeless people keep me from ever wanting to come there. All this work will just increase the homeless population in downtown. I am completely against spending any tax dollars downtown. We need tax relief long before this work should be accomplished.

I believe that this is an important project. The downtown seems to be gaining popularity, as a community of small businesses is beginning to populate the downtown area. It is exciting to see, and I think a project like this would do a lot to create a community and identity in Woodstock. Construction costs continue to increase, and while debt is not as inexpensive as it used to be (if the project had started in 2019 as planned, for example), interest rates are unlikely to drop. Delaying further will only make the project more expensive, and less likely to be realized. I personally would be happy to pay an extra \$25 in taxes to make this happen. Taxes are regularly increased by more than this, with a lot less payoff.

Above all else downtown feels unsafe and unclean. While improvements have been made and noticed by the public, Downtown Woodstock needs a facelift and a better perceived overall image.

We pay too high of taxes as is. Our community is not happy with our downtown, but there are other priorities. You seem to want to grow Woodstock. Deal with what comes with that growth first. Housing for the homeless should come before \$6,500,000 is spent on aesthetics. We want full transparency on costs. How many businesses do our city council own? How many rental properties? You can't honestly raise our taxes when interests rates and cost of living is where it's at. We also want to see the stats on this questionnaire. How many people gave feedback and how many were for or against. Downtown is important, but our quality of life in our homes is more important. Thanks for your time.

The landlords of those building which are in dire need of refurbishing must be compelled to renovate. It doesn't matter if the street is improved if the stores are not improved - first things first

In addition to the improvements we need to deal with the homeless situation. No amount of visual improvements is going to help with people being intimidated and not attending businesses.

You need more shopping stores , like department stores where you can buy shoes , Beding , houseware , Boutiques. something other Bars and Resturants .There is no Durgstores in that area . Not enough clothing stores for Kids and women and men , Bring more stores before you worry about the streetscape that all ages can shop..

Look at how Stratford has developed. Woodstock downtown is so run down. You can also do paid parking and other things to raise funds to better improve the city.

Creating a walkable (and bicycle friendly) downtown is important to our community. It brings our community together and provides a scene for culture to develop. Creating a more vibrant downtown will be a point of pride for the town of Woodstock and help local businesses thrive. Importance should be placed on developing the unused space next to Habitual Chocolate and the vacant lot next to Prime Barber shop. Well planned mixed use residential and retail developments would bring more business opportunities and provide much needed housing close to the downtown core. Thank you for engaging the people of Woodstock in the decision making process and providing this platform for citizens to speak up.

Suggestions only. Remove or reduce on-street parking and increase conveniently located parking lots. Maintain free parking for Woodstock/Oxford Co residents. If downtown charging stations are being considered, they do not have to be in prime locations.

Feeling safe and not harassed could still be an issue regardless of what is done to the appearance of the downtown unless other issues are being addressed as well.

Paving stone sidewalks are not safe for handicapped individuals- wheelchairs, walkers, sight impaired. Recommend that sidewalk design be referred to a committee of citizens with appropriate expertise to review.



I agree that we need better sidewalks and lighting however as long as the loitering goes in downtown I personally don't feel safe walking down alone in the daylight

The plan needs to include more Ontario Native trees and Ontario Native perennial plantings (easy to maintain, drought-resistant, adapted to difficult growing environments) as well as a community food garden/food forest maintained by volunteers that would provide food for the community in partnership with the library's seed collection, Woodstock Horticultural Society & neighbourhood schools. Regreening the downtown increases enjoyment of the space, provides food for insects/birds, provides a sense of belonging for the community, and provides food for the residents that may not have access to green space at their dwellings for gardens.

Something needs to be done to make people feel safe to go downtown again. The number of homeless people is a deterrent. The money could be spent on other more inclusive activities for all Woodstonians. Maybe council should consider building a new police station with that amount of money or getting help for the officers off on PTSD rehabilitated and back to work which would save taxpayers money!!

What is the City's plan to tackle the homeless crisis? Beautifying the Downtown is great, but if it becomes overrun with vulnerable people with nowhere to go then it will not achieve the goal of bringing everyone together to use the space and boost Downtown businesses. In the end, people need affordable homes more than a nice place to gather...

When I lived near Victoria Park for 46 years, I walked to the Library and also downtown several days each week. Since moving to the northeast just south of Pittock Lake, I have to drive so do not go there as often as I used to.

It's important to improve the streetscape of downtown but it is also important to update zoning bylaws to ensure more density within the city centre. This along with increased events designed to bring people to the downtown would help create a livable, vibrant and commercially productive downtown.

In this economic climate downtown businesses can not afford disruption. This unnecessary work will see detours away from the core, side walk and street closures which will affect businesses. Woodstock tax payers can not afford another tax increase in this economic climate

The time is now. If we build it - they will come. And likely the street people will leave. Have we checked with other municipalities how these large scale downtown projects impacted the homeless situation? Kitchener and Cambridge have done significant work in the past 10yrs. Can we reach out and see the outcomes ???

We really should be focused on creating mental health, primary care and outreach/ homeless services before trying beautification. We need a homeless shelter. Most complaints about downtown and Woodstock in general is not lighting or sidewalks, it's transient populations roaming streets without enough supports.- William Homerston

Festivals in the downtown are a horrible idea. Nothing like getting scorched by hot asphalt and sun. Victoria park needs ball diamonds removed and bandshell and washrooms installed. Trees make for a nice atmosphere for a festival and provide shade.

I like the idea of making room for patios I believe some consistency on how they are displayed would be nice A plan for a Xmas market in the town square at the museum would be wonderful during the holiday season Refer to almost any small German or Dutch town during the month of December

We do not support as we feel it will invite more homeless people to our downtown area and make it even more inaccessible for actual taxpayers- however we would like to see more parking- the removal of or changing of the bus stops because valuable parking spaces are being occupied by these bus stops and parking greatly reduced- also the empty lot next to Delights Bakery needs to be addressed- perhaps a parking lot?

The reason I don't support moving forward with the Streetscape plan is because underlining issues don't involve infrastructures or sidewalks. Us as the community don't like to go downtown unless needed due to the overwhelming homeless and drug users. My number one concern would be to direct funding into getting them help and relocating the Methadone clinic or remove it completely. I can't go to the bank without worry that I will be confronted by someone. My second concern is the costs of new business coming into downtown with the cost of everything on the rise it's almost unaffordable for new or small business to open up shop. Unless it's a franchise of some sort. Another concern would be the lack of social interaction and safety in downtown. The number of \$300,000 a year to have police patrolling downtown doesn't seem realistic to me. First off they'd need to be there at the right time of any incident and also they don't seem to in force the no Loitering laws. But again this goes inline with my first issue about the homeless and drug users. My thoughts are that the tax payers are going to spend all this money on revamping the "look" of downtown and the outcome will still be the same with vacant buildings and still being unsafe for families to shop downtown.

We probably go to the downtown area involved an average of once a week. If it were a more attractive, welcoming place we would be there more often, as we believe others also would. We think that the planned improvements would attract/encourage more businesses to locate there and this in turn would lead to more use of this area by the Woodstock community. Some thought should also be given to improving the appearance of many of the buildings (at least the facades) in this part of the downtown area.

Increase housing close to the core will bring more people downtown to restaurants and activities.

Spending this money on downtown is not acceptable. We need better merchants and need to deal with the houseless situation. Trying to beautify our downtown without fixing these other problems is not going to make people feel safe in downtown core and will not bring in new business. Especially with our businesses now struggling. Banks can't even allow their customers into abm after hours. This is a terrible idea.

If the methadone clinic was moved closer to the homeless center (east of town) and out of the direct downtown corridor I think it would help an immeasurable amount. Being located directly across from museam square is not the best place for it regardless of how many police officers are employed and mental health outreach programs are created.

The tax payers are going to be hit extremely hard this year between County, City, School Board and probably Police...we can't take much more. My taxes went up \$500 last year and if this is included in the budget it will probably be \$1000. My pension's don't go up that much!!!

I don't think the issue is sidewalks and seating/lighting. I recently moved here and the issue is just creating a better environment for the homeless. They are the major issues here many buisnesses don't want to be here be they spread themselves across the downtown core and cause issues. Some if which many of us fear for break-ins and noise issues.. They leave garbage and pysh large carts around the core which doesn't look too inviting when coming into town..

Work on addressing drug use on our streets and people leaving drug paraphernalia around the downtown, people deficating and urinating on Dundas street. Work on homelessness and theft in town first.

The street scape master plan alone will not generate more traffic to downtown. Currently as it is standing, the downtown has very little to offer Woodstock residents, or anyone visiting from out of town. The homeless situation downtown is enough to make people weary of visiting. The lack of cleanliness amongst other businesses in the area and lack of options is also a deterrent. The downtown core is lacking quality of shopping/food/entertainment for our community.

Better bicycle locking infrastructure. Like bicycle rings at regular intervals, so people can run errands and not worry, as much, about theft.

All you want is for people to shop downtown. There is NOTHING TO SHOP! It's boring! Be like London and put on events. You don't need to fix anything except creating community days. You've got nothing going on, this town sucks!

with all the new growth in the city we need to improve downtown. It is a terrible sight to travel through. Woodstock can be better than what it is right now. Clean it up and get a better reputation.

We pay enough in taxes as it is, that won't fix the homeless issues and will encourage me to move out of town

My issue with downtown is the condition of the closed businesses. There are spots between light street and vansiitart that are covered in shredding chipboard . It's so dingy. Make property owners maintain a minimum standard.

Streetscape is important feature of the built environment we create, if we want to invest in better mental health, better physical health, improved social connections and a better or increased sense of belonging than this project should be in the top 10 projects for your budget. This project shouldn't be viewed as optional but vital to the fast growing communities of Woodstock.

There are way more important issues to spend the existing money on . You need to make downtown a SAFE place to visit , so install cameras , add security to encourage good citizens to visit the downtown... Nothing wrong with museum square now , add more picnic tables and sun shades ( due to NO shade trees ) so people can enjoy eating outside..

Master plan is outdated now that the city owns the liquidation centre property, 478 Dundas. Adding park space to the empty lot between this building and city hall is a bad idea. Open up the entire space, do something substantial and special. Reroute truck traffic so that it doesn't come down Dundas, create a destination, a gathering place where you want to sit outside and embrace the beauty of the community. Prioritize pedestrians over cars. Add green space. Add water features and sculptural elements. Add places for children to play. Add a square where restaurants can open patios. Think bigger. You don't need a consultant to do this. Just do it.

Look at the alley behind coffee culture and spend money to buy some bus tickets. Address this problem it's the main issue with the downtown core.

Downtown Woodstock is a historic place and does not require sidewalk or lightning. It requires taking care of the drug addicts and homeless people who are terrorizing the visitors and local business owners. Cleaning downtown from outside, but not taking care of the core problem is not going to fix Downtown issues

Find ways to make it a less scary place to go. Also make the free parking three hours instead of two so folks can both shop and have lunch in a relaxed manner.

If going ahead please make sure your tendered items are from Canada for your streetscape lighting and bollards or anything else. And If the shop drawings don't already support that please revisit. You want people downtown, support the vendors that are already local.

Part of me feels a better option is to fix the sidewalks which has zero impact on taxpayers. But I'd like too see the downtown improved slowly so the impact financially isn't so bad for taxpayers and then if plans need to be tweaked as you go they can be. No matter how much you beautify the downtown you need to make sure the homeless don't take it over and ruin it as well for the tax paying folks of the City. It's a tough spot and no matter what people are going to complain.

Option number 1 is the only thing that is reasonable and could be argued necessary! The rest of it is a waste of time and money! It won't make an actual difference in either bringing people down there or helping businesses make any money! It is the same as "downtown" in every city.. put the money to better use please! Kind of a waste of taxpayers money to be honest!



I do not fully support the proposed streetscape master plan. I believe we need a plan that increases walkability even more. We need more green space, not just planter boxes. We need permanent areas for native gardens that are not constantly rotated with "seasonal plants." We need less traffic on Dundas in the downtown, and more space for the community to exist without the emissions, noise, and disruption from single passenger vehicles.

I think the whole street scape thing was a way to get the city all hyped and sway votes, taxes, population, etc. it doesn't look good that a city now has to reel back in the line like this. Makes me feel like the city is run by impulsive day dreamers. If you're making decisions this big, with the projected costs, you have to know what is feasible from the start and set realistic expectations. Very disappointed in this. Especially with how much we already pay for taxes, trash, etc. people can barely afford their bills; Sure, let's tell them they'll get something pretty and fun and extravagant, but then use their money to make it happen. It's like inviting someone out to this really expensive fancy restaurant, then after eating, expecting them to pay. It's very cheap behaviour and the actions scream "using people". It's damaging the city - resident relationship. Also, we don't need new lights downtown when everything closes at 6? And besides, this whole thing isn't inclusive at all. Just inclusive of the people who make the city look good. Everyone knows why the refuge closed, or how they couldn't use the front door to keep the homeless off the Main Street... or how the benches got taken away to keep the homeless away. The friendly city? Yeah, no. Maybe take all those funds and put it back into the people. Give them a tax break, or a cheque that will honestly help them and their situation. No one can afford to live anywhere, let alone here anymore. Hopefully you guys do what's right.

Ya don't worry about down town Dundas what about the rest of the new Woodstock the cow can go green take the cow down put in its place an apartment building to go green

Seems like a lot of money has been spent over the last 15 years TALKING about the downtown revitalization plan but nothing of much substance has actually happened. What a waste of taxpayer money.

As I don't own a business downtown, it feels unfair to comment on the plan from my point of view. As a taxpayer, I feel the money could be spent on ways to make it safer for business to stay open later and for people to feel safe to shop downtown. Without that, it's a bit like lipstick on a pig

Way overdue - let's see some progress with our tax dollars.

Firstly, I appreciate the city council reaching out to the residents of Woodstock for input. Secondly, I option 4 will be less impactful on local downtown businesses.

Put your 6.5 million towards a solution to removing the vagrants and garbage from downtown. Be money better spent!

Add more garbage cans and scheduled emptying ASAP The rat problem is terrible in Woodstock. Children deserve homes that are rat free. Being downtown looking at overflowing garbage all over the ground is disgusting especially Saturday and Sunday which should be our best days to attract people but we disgust them instead. A rolled curb is not an accessible curb, the downtown should be accessible. Put in benches behind the museum. Do not install bars on the middle of benches that is not helpful for many disabled people who are large and won't be able to fit, or who need to hold a child. Clean up the empty lots buy them and build something. Make a playground. Build a rentable facility for weddings or parties attach a washroom children can use. Host educational attractions during the day for free to lure families downtown. Stop wasting time. Security and police presence is traumatic. Flower gardens should be naturally reoccur and require less expensive care. Time is money the time wasted here is reflecting incompetence and causing lack of support as a whole.

I have lived in Woodstock most of my life, work for the government, live in Woodstock and am raising children in Woodstock. Woodstock has changed and grown exponentially as we all know. Funneling money into a cute street scape is not what I see as necessary for OUR town. Woodstock has major potential for growth and can hopefully maintain its "small town charm", which includes unique shops, cafes, restaurants and community events. The downtown area of Dundas St is not a great place to hold such events. Residents are scared to attend downtown. We are scared to walk the sidewalks and have a run in with a homeless drug addict who almost always behaves inappropriately and dangerously. These folks have been brought to our city from neighbouring Police Services and dropped off, because we offer assistance to them. Most of these folks are NOT from Woodstock, it's a shuffle the problem kind of problem. Let's not forget the drug paraphernalia and random stolen belongings that are left lying around, of which the City Works and Police are left to clean up. That is a wonderful waste of EMERGENCY resources. Let along the number of drug related, theft, mischief, and assorted disturbances that 90% of the time involve these folks. Tax paying citizens are suffering. I am fully aware that this issue exists in nearly all cities. I feel the folks who are out cleaning the downtown most mornings are some of the cities heroes! They need to make more then whatever they currently earn. If citizens do not feel safe attending downtown for necessities, they surely don't want to go down there to see a local singer sing a song in a sea can. Community events need to be held elsewhere, SS Park, Victoria Park etc. Improvements should be improved lighting, benches (yes, I know that seems contradictory, but citizens may need to sit IF they venture downtown), repair damaged sidewalks, add more well lit parking and add more garbage vessels. I appreciate this city, I grew up here, it was great! It still is great, but the REAL ISSUE in downtown needs to be addressed, not decorated with new pathways and planters. More supports for these folks is not the answer. 90% of them do not want treatment, they want their next hit. And to get it they will fight, steal and beg.

N/A

The downtown must be updated asap to assist businesses who are competing in a very challenging economy, draw in new Woodstonians and grow the city for the prosperity of everyone who lives, works and plays here. It is the frugal choice to spend well now and invest in the vitality and longevity of Woodstock's downtown on a project that will no doubt give the community of Woodstock and the communities that surround us many dividends in the future.

Banning fireworks was dumb.

If feasible, I would divide the project into phases of: 1) concrete sidewalk + lighting, 2) furniture + garbage cans + anything else.

While I recognize the added cost to the taxpayer, I think the pain now is better than an even more inflated cost later.

Not sure anyone noticed but there is a bunch of people downtown waiting to destroy anything nice that this city has to offer. Plan on more police to keep the investment a long term one. Take back the friendly city please.

I believe the city needs to bite the bullet and get on with this revitalization. I know mental health support is part of the plan for downtown improvement but it cannot be stressed enough.

Get the homeless out and no safe injection zones

None of this matters for the downtown economy until you fix the homeless and drug addict situation downtown. Make it safe and people will come back to spend money. It doesn't matter how much lighting is downtown if you can't even walk into a ATM terminal of the bank without seeing used needles on the floor.

Remove the methadone clinic from the downtown core to reduce the number of undesirables lingering outside of businesses and restaurants.

Maybe give the property owners in Woodstock some tax relief and consider contracting out some of the city's work, instead of paying the high wages, benefits and golden pension

I don't support putting any money towards the downtown until it can be made a safer area. The homelessness needs to be addressed above all. I do not go to any stores or banks downtown because it is not safe with all the loitering and drug addicts having no where to go. The methadone clinic isn't something people want to see while attending holiday events/markets at museum square. All the shops needing to add bars and gates to their entrances really takes the downtown charm away. I feel bad for the shop owners as I know many people choose to avoid the downtown because of the homeless that frequent the area. Use the budget from phase one to get more resources available to the residents of Woodstock that need it. Mental health, job training, rehabilitation.

We have the potential for the downtown to be great. Lets do it!

Enforce building owners to maintain and repair their storefronts. There's more than a few in disrepair on Dundas. Having a brand new street scape while allowing buildings to be in a state of neglect is a waste of money

Get to work on things that really matter!!!! Stop wasting time on frivolous items like this.

Business in the downtown core does not invite tourism Buildings themselves are in terrible condition not inviting Residents of Woodstock tax dollars would go farther if they supported Woodstock and Not Oxford County Perhaps the ratio of tax dollars to Woodstock should be MUCH increased instead of supporting Oxford county smaller towns. Our population indicates the necessity of these changes

There are far more important financial issues facing this community than improving the downtown. Until you have the unhoused problem solved, there is no need for this project. A total waste of time, money and human resources!

Leave museum square alone. And designate it a heritage site so it will continue to be left alone.

at night store entrances are littered with shopping carts full of junk and homeless, some are obviously mentally ill & need to be moved but to where? Vacant store are becoming more prevalent. Most people we know go to London or Brantford to shop.

Thank you for allowing input from citizens

The streetscape in our downtown was just done 5 years ago & should be updated in future every 10-20 years

While doing sidewalks - make all businesses accessible for wheelchairs

Option 4 would reduce the impact on business & traffic so I find it preferable my second choice would be option 2

Move methadone clinic to side street for a more anonymous access.

Chose opt 4 as well maybe consider adding more out door pickleball courts at Park Row and add 2 No Parking signs on the residential side of the street

Instead of a masterplan, money would be better spent on new outdoor pickleball courts and bring us up to speed with other cities.

Spend the money on pickleball outdoor courts

avoid paid items that attract homeless to downtown area

Stop wasting money

more pickleball courts - recreation

City of Woodstock taxes are beyond too high. Any improvements must be done with zero-minimal tax implications. We can no longer afford to live here...raise our taxes and we are moving on out.

Work with the store landlords to fix-up the derelict buildings. Loans not tax breaks! Either they fix the buildings or sell them! This would not be allowed to happen to a house.

The actual issues need to be addressed. Council should thoroughly consider the significant long term consequences to the city and the taxpayers of a foolish decision financed over 20 years and how that decision will impact the city's ability to finance its actual needs as a growing community. I encourage you to ask yourself the following question before making a decision on this project - 'Is there a 100% chance this addresses the stigmas associated with the downtown?' If your response is no, don't spend the money. I know my answer is no with certainty.

More community events in the downtown would certainly help. I'm not so sure the focus should be on the infrastructure such as sidewalks, lighting and street furniture. A serious vision should be made for the Museum Square. Establish a sustainable event plan for the downtown (market venues, music venues, art venues, etc.).

The best \$25.00 I will have ever spent! Excited to see what Woodstock will be in the next 5 years. It will make an already incredible community, even better.

Downtown is not inviting. Homeless, drug use & litter are all deterrents to friends and family visiting. While you can throw all the money at infrastructure and beautification, if you don't fix the underlying social problems all your doing is putting lipstick on a pig...

Option 1 is critical and not really optional Option 2 really isn't a high cost for tax payers, but Option 4 may be easier to finance and manage disruptions to traffic/business

It is hard to spend much time downtown as you have to move your car every two hours.

Getting rid of the meth clinic all together and the addicts that roam and harass people would do more for our downtown than anything else.

I would hope that if these improvement take place that the citizens like myself would not feel scared or uncomfortable being in the downtown area because of the homeless situation. I didn't read the whole proposal because of its length but I would like to see more police presence when this is completed. Right now downtown Woodstock is an eyesore compared to other communities.

Whatever you decide to do should not be done with borrowed money, that's a bit ridiculous. Please also keep in mind that property taxes just increased and peoples' budgets are already unsustainable.

Spend the money elsewhere.

Until you improve the atmosphere. le get rid of meth clinic and places the less than desirable clients hang around it will never be a good place to go. More benches for elderly and handicapped. Ensure access to businesses have proper handicapped entrance facility. Make it safer.

Woodstock is in no position to waste taxpayers money on a project the vast majority of people don't want and won't use. Some new businesses have opened up in the last couple years but they are struggling, some closing. CIBC pulling out because of the ongoing vagrant issues. Putting some lipstick on a pig doesn't change the fact it's still a pig. To think all this proposed money being spent is so some councillors and bureaucrats can pat themselves on the back. Our taxes are out of control, inflation is still out of control and we want to renovate a house nobody is living in. The city has been trying to get people downtown with different events this past summer and they have been very poorly attended. The Art festival was a disaster, the music events nobody attends. Why do they think people will flock downtown after spending 8-9 million dollars because that will be the true cost.

With all of the construction of strip malls on the south end, will down town be able to compete? I would have liked to have seen at least 1 of those malls we were supposed to get in the '80's.

The Downtown Streetscape Plan is ridiculous. We will never vote for anyone who supports this plan!

When there is so many issues with downtown such as buildings in disrepair or accent, dirty and just unfriendly looking.... Why are guy willing to pay up to 9 million to look pretty? If you are so willing to spend that amount of tax payer dollar than look at the real issue. You can't keep blaming the county for issues that are downtown or publicly blaming them for not providing more money to Woodstock. The city of Woodstock has their own responsibility to fix the issues too. Clearly there is money when you want it. It doesn't matter how fancy looking you make downtown... it won't bring more people in.

Just doing sidewalks and maybe having to redo some of that work to include the "streetscape Master plan", doesn't make any sense. Just get it done as soon and as fast as possible because it's long overdue. The sooner it's done the quicker we can reap the rewards. Which makes me wonder how the City will Market and promote the "new downtown"? Also, what avenues has the City utilized for outside funding i.e. corporate and individual sponsorship? Cysco fountain or Toyota Walkway? Bench's or gardens dedicated to a loved ones. Has any of these options been looked at?

From people I've spoke to that live here or visit, they all say the same thing. The city is nice and beautiful and the only thing that needs to be addressed is the amount of homeless and drug users wandering the streets. Get them out of town or deal with the issue, than people will start spending money and going downtown again. It's not fair the burns of the town control the banks and nobody will do anything about it. No atm access downtown is unacceptable!!

Addressing stray needles in parks and on sidewalks would do far more to improve the community than giving downtown a makeover.

You want 6.5 million in more tax dollars for homeowners that are already being taxed to death and living paycheck to paycheck, when there is no guarantee that this project will improve anything as has been shown in other downtown beautification projects that have yielded poor results already. We need to see taxes go down, food costs go down, inflation drop before I would even begin to think this was a good idea. If this goes through all faith in council is gone and that our council has only their own interests in mind, as most have investments in downtown real estate.

I do not believe any money should be spent on downtown until the homeless/vagrants/drug addicts have been addressed. People do not want to go downtown when there is visible drug usage taking place. Until this issue is addressed people won't feel safe nor will they want their tax dollars spent on something they won't feel comfortable/safe enjoying.

--+Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Downtowns evolve on viable businesses. The street scape plan drawings I looked at were excessive. Keeping what is there clean and tidy is important, but difficult with the homeless community disruption. No longer can we bank after hours so how will streetscape address this issue. People shopping trends have changed so how will streetscape address this trend. Spend tax payer money on needs, not wants.....

You need to bring in businesses that are affordable and for things that people will want to travel to downtown to go to, there doesn't seem to be much point in doing all that work. Need a plan to bring more events to downtown to attract people there. People are struggling to afford groceries and this seems excessive and expensive and won't necessarily change who come downtown to shop.

Use this money to get the homeless people and drug addicts away from the downtown core. THEY are the only thing that is keeping people from going downtown. Improving the aesthetic of the Downtown will NOT help this city until that is taken care of.

I'd like to see more support for live music. To have a place for winter as well. Not just outdoor summer. A place to practice as well as perform. Not theatre related. Woodstock could use stronger live music support. Musicians to build their craft and creativity.

Get rid of the homeless, you will improve downtown 100%.



I encourage city council to grow density of residents and businesses in the downtown core. Much of the current downtown core should be torn down and rebuilt. Revitalizing is a waste of money when you have very few people living downtown. I would rather see council spend money to lead a project in downtown that would bring much needed housing and serve as an example of what Woodstock's downtown could be like.

"Destigmatize the Methadone Clinic" is this a joke??? LOL

1. Why would you replace perfectly fine sidewalks? 2. Why are you wasting time removing benches, then debating adding them again? Just stick with your decisions. Waste of time and money. 3. This plan is sorely lacking in creativity there is really nothing wrong with the lighting, sidewalks, benches or trash cans. Think outside the box !

Option 3 provided the fund is actually set up and consistently contributed to. Some (if any) budget surplus can be added to reduce total borrowing costs when the project begins.

The town should take an empty building downtown and make it into a homeless shelter.

Why are you spending all this money putting a bandaid on what is a bigger issue? You can try and dress downtown up as much as you want, however noone is going to use it because right now, quite frankly, it's disgusting. I can't even use my bank ATM because they close it until 8am because the homeless sleep in the vestibule and shoot up. Needles lying everywhere. Carts full of stolen items standing every 20 meters down the sidewalk. Drug addicts lying in the alleys. Human feces and urine everywhere. Try closing the homeless shelter and damn Operation Sharing so they stop attracting these people from neighboring areas. Maybe try actually helping the majority of hard working people in the City and stop pandering to these degenerates who are absolutely destroying what used to be a beautiful little town and is now comparable to a 3rd world craphole. On a side note thank you for voting down the safe injection site. Any sane person who has looked at other cities that opened similar sites can see that they absolutely destroyed the area even more that they were in. So thank you for that at least!

The downtown streetscape has not been redone since I was a child. It's old looking and worn, and needs replaced. We cannot expect investment into woodstock from big companies unless we are willing to invest in ourselves.

What would make the downtown a more viable shopping area is reducing the number of vacant store fronts. Dealing with the homeless and drug problem would also make the downtown area a more welcoming place for residents and business owners ... residents will want to visit the downtown core more frequently and business owners will feel safer and more supported. As a young mom of a young toddler, I had hopes of frequenting the downtown area as we are in walking distance but I have held back because I feel unsafe being downtown on my own with my child due to the homelessness and open drug use and paraphernalia littering the paths.

Please remove the bus shelter that is directly in front of the fountain at the Museum - it is unsightly and spoils the street view of the museum. Move it further east. Make Woodstock pedestrian-friendly. Make sure all intersections have a way for people to cross in all directions - specifically at the corner of Van Ave and Hunter Street. It is missing cross walk lines on the north side of Hunter Street. Make it easier to walk to the downtown.

Providing more security options for downtown such as area cameras would be a great asset and add minimal cost.

Too many vagrants & drug dealers downtown. No safe to even drive through let alone walk

In my opinion, the most important issues downtown is facing aren't even asked....drugs, mental health and homelessness. Until the City truly wants to deal with these and give the appropriate resources to do so, I think asking about fixing the sidewalks and lighting downtown is rather ridiculous.... City of Woodstock, Ontario

As a mother in this city, I avoid downtown at all costs. It is riddled with people who are homeless and usually on drugs who intimidate me while I am with my children. It doesn't matter how new the sidewalks are if there are needles and garbage all over them. I am nervous to be downtown with my family and refuse to go, even though there are many businesses I'd like to support. Something needs to be done about these issues before people with families will go downtown to shop.

The sidewalk repairs should be taken care of as necessary for safety. I honestly doubt spending the money on Streetscape plan is not going to bring people to the downtown. We need more police foot patrols to curb homeless from hanging around firmer consequences for ruining public property.

At this point where we have so many homeless people in Woodstock, renovating the downtown area seems the least of our concerns. I do love what the City did to improve the flow of traffic. However, we now need to focus on solutions for affordable housing and making our city less appealing to drug addicts.

With the always rising costs I think it is best to have the project completed as soon as possible. The downtown is an investment to this City. The sooner we are able to bring business investment to the City's downtown that can create jobs, additional business taxes and economic prosperity for all I think is an investment worth going forward with before it becomes too expensive.

There are better places to spend that amount of money.

Replacing the sidewalks and other improvements to downtown will not solve the people issues, namely, homelessness and drug issues. You can make it as beautiful as you want, but if it's full of homeless and drug addicts people will not go there.

Rip the bandaid off and just get the whole project completed. Delaying the project will save pennies today but cost the taxpayers dollars tomorrow. Let's fulfill the promise and get the downtown done so we can live on to other capital projects.

Homeless is a major problem - banks closing at night. Need security. Not safe place to live. everyone talking about Woodstock going DOWNHILL. Get rid of homeless - make it a fun atmosphere

Washrooms are needed

I don't think replacing the sidewalks with paving stones and extra lighting will provide the downtown with more storefront properties. Woodstock needs a draw. London has Western and Fanshawe with a student population that supports the downtown core as well as a junior A hockey team. Stratford has the festival and support arts that support the city. Woodstock has nothing. Fanshawe has requested to come to Woodstock multiple times, university of Ottawa has asked and has been turned down. Having students to spend money at bars, restaurants would help bring business and income into the city and downtown core. It's great we want to focus on issues such as homelessness, drug use and other things but let's bring some positive things to this city.

Im sceptical it will help the businesses considering the homeless problem is still a major issue and doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon and doesn't seem to have any viable solutions in the short term. Spending this money just to see drug addicts and/or the homeless ruin the work that's done. People are hesitant to venture downtown because of the unsightly junk collections constantly occupying vacant properties.

How about cleaning up the homeless situation downtown to make it more comfortable for shoppers to shop downtown? I don't care about sidewalks and lights and benches. Clean up the drugs and garbage and homeless.

A complete waste of taxpayers dollars. Is this not a conflict of interest for those councillors who own/operate businesses downtown?

Must have new incentives to attract new boutique type stores and restaurants. Need more than just new landscaping to bring people into the area.

I feel as though this project is only being pushed to happen to benefit specific counsel members that are also small business owners. Sidewalks and roads were completed 5 years ago downtown. There are other projects needing attention and this doesn't benefit the overall community of Woodstock

Safety is an issue in downtown core. another issue is businesses are not open consistently

Remove the homeless from setting up camp in the streets.

Safety

I feel that with the growing population in Woodstock, this is the last thing we need to be spending this money. Fixing the sidewalks and lighting needs to be done but there are many other problems in Woodstock that need fixing before making downtown "pretty".

I'm interested in being on a citizens committee to help if appropriate, and feel that my previous experience as municipal government staff as well as a property owner and resident of Woodstock would be helpful. Thanks for making this opportunity for feedback available - my family is proud to call Woodstock home!

I feel that we should be spending money on fixing the homeless problem which is reducing visitors to the downtown before we spend further city funds

Puts some funds and thought around helping the homeless situation and opioid crisis in Woodstock, particularly downtown. No amount of money invested in infrastructure will attract people downtown, until the real issues are dealt with.

Spending money on downtown when no one wants to go there because it's all weed shops and drug addicts hanging around makes little sense.

I would love if there could be bike lanes for each direction and either have there be a one way street on Dundas st and have princess at be a one lane in the other direction (and bike lanes there) or have a two block strip that is bike lanes and side walks NO cars that can have street vendors and have heavy advertising on some parking lots nearby so it still attaches that demographic.

The #1 reason people avoid the downtown core are the homeless, the drug addicts and those with mental health issues. Sometimes all three apply to an individual. I understand they are people too but nobody wants to be screamed at while they're walking down the sidewalk or fear they may be poked by a needle. The amount of homeless that defecate on sidewalks and ally ways or are found dead due to over dose is appalling. Not very family friendly. If we can get that sorted out and make the core look more inviting with businesses that people want to visit, it could be a bustling hub. I believe it can be done and personally would love to see the downtown become a family friendly place to be whether one wishes to shop or just take a stroll with friends/family.

Changing the streetscape will not address the homelessness situation and the drug use that happens in the downtown. People will still feel unsafe and complain about the downtown. Spend the money on a Consumption Treatment Site which provides wrap around services instead of concrete.

Until something is done with our homeless population hanging out in the center of town and sleeping in storefronts the only thing that should be done is sidewalks and lighting. City council needs to take a look again at funding and supplying cubicles they can be housed in. They get some money from the system as it is. With those units they could have housing added to their cheque and pay a monthly fee for them. They need to be housed somewhere. Possibly the city already owns a building that could be retrofitted for this. I don't that either of these ideas could be worked on with the county? The homeless population is growing and will continue to grow as more and more people can't pay the increased bills/food and I don't see any relief coming any time soon

This project is not going to get any cheaper if we kick the can down the road another 15 years. I understand the talking point around the pavement being replaced only 5 years ago but lack of action taken then is not a good reason to not take action today.



The buildings that suffered a fire and burned down should be replaced with new buildings. Seeing empty, old, non-existent buildings in the downtown core make it unappealing. As someone who moved to Woodstock 2 years ago, I rarely go downtown. It's ugly, it's old and run down, it's not somewhere I want to be. Bring in entertainment, bring in cool restaurants, bring in sense of community.

I really hope council will finally move forward with this. Promises have been made for years, they should finally be kept. I want to see a thriving downtown for my business and my family.

We have other things the city needs to put \$ towards as well so putting all that at once will put other things on hold

get rid of the meth clinic in the heart of our downtown core! If the problems aren't fixed with the drug users and homeless all you're doing is putting lipstick on a pig! Who wants to come downtown when your bugged for \$ , you can't freely walk into the bank anytime you like , shopping carts and overflowing garbage cans, these aren't things that attract people. The west end of town looks terrible.

This work will not help our downtown thrive..... I think wasting money is shameful. The city needs to improve the downtown but not with camouflage

I did not notice anything wrong with our sidewalks or lighting . creating an inviting atmosphere is fine ,depending on who your inviting. The downtown should not become a playground or a place to bring children to play . we have parks for that . You need to attract shoppers .Improved lighting, seating, landscaping and waste containers are going to cost 2,600.000 that's ridiculous . Who are you hiring to do this . Why do i suspect its not someone local .You probably already spent a fortune on some consulting company from some big city. We need to keep small town charm . Stop trying to cater to all the New comers to our city from the GTA . They moved here for a reason (Small Town ) Our small town is getting too big ,stop building and developing more housing , your only accommodating more people moving here from bigger cities . When do we close our doors , when is enough enough . Its all about \$\$\$

I believe that some form of revitalization needs to occur in the downtown. It has a lot of 'good bones' but needs to be updated to bring in new business, outdoor activities and a crowd that wants to congregate in this space.

Unless the city addresses the vacant lots, abandoned buildings, and slums that are a key facet of downtown, all of this is lipstick on a pig. Demand better standards from owners, or use the powers of the state to make it better.

No major infrastructure required. Complete some cosmetic projects with existing city staff.

Perhaps some cosmetic improvements done by existing city workers with no additional cost to taxpayers. No infrastructure work necessary as will not alter the fate of downtown.

Fix up some the building's plus make the building's look better

This whole idea is a complete and total waste of taxpayers dollars. This is a select number of councillors trying to use taxpayer funds to back their business interests downtown.

Dividing up although would seem the best option as you spread the cost out, it does not account for inflation impacting the overall cost. Nor does it account for future councils changing some of the plans, thus altering costs again.

The greatest negative impact to business and the community wanting to shop and eat downtown is the homeless people sleeping in store front doorways , open drug use and the mess created by carts and garbage left strewn all over the downtown side walks. It does not feel safe for families to spend time downtown even in daylight. Spend money on social service workers to help find places for the homeless to live and stay during non sleeping hours. Spend money on people to clean up downtown on a weekly basis so people will want to come downtown. No benches needed until it is safe and enjoyable to be downtown.

We need to solve the homeless issue downtown before it's worth investing in the down town.

Try NOT to re-invent the wheel. Too many government projects are driven by 'we know best' where other municipalities have copied European models. More pedestrian space, less (preferably NO cars) downtown. More parking around pedestrian areas, make downtown liveable.

Why not create a fundraising campaign for this as well as access grant money. I do not agree with going into debt

There is no commercial downtown any longer - it has relocated to Norwich Ave.

Woodstock is close to Stratford. We need to capitalize on that fact. Tours go to Stratford for drama productions. We need to employ a full-time director to manage theatre productions at Theatre Woodstock, WCI auditorium, outdoor theatre at Southside Park along with musical concerts. Plays which compliment what Stratford is putting on would draw 100's of bus tours to our city. Bread & Breakfasts would be full. Downtown restaurants overflowing, hotels and motels full. Main street shut down for the summer with sidewalk cafe's all along that strip. With the right advertising we could easily compete with summer theatre around us! Port Stanley Festival Theatre. Bluewater Summer Playhouse. Blyth Festival. Century Church Theatre. Drayton Festival Theatre. Fergus Grand Theatre. This project would bring money into the city which would benefit everyone!

Just do it.

Money should be put into homelessness. They are the reason people aren't coming downtown

Downtown needs to be SAFE. That's the biggest concern (and we all know this). Maybe put some funding towards more on-foot officers 24/7. I'm a 30 year old woman and I would never walk downtown now, even during the day.

More mid-rise residential units to fill in gaps where buildings once stood, bringing more people to Woodstock's downtown, an already built up area. We should be doing everything possible to build more residential units within Woodstock instead of continuing to sprawl on prime agricultural land. If we want people to spend time in Downtown Woodstock, we need more People living within it and around it. If you have to drive 10 minutes from the suburbs to get there, chances are those residents might just drive somewhere else.

Not just this but trying to find a better solution for the business owners and parking. I park every day in coles walkway because it's close and a safe walk to work. We have brought it up to the mayor, city bylaw and nothing is done. Let alone even emailed back. Can we not make an option for the business owners in that part be able to buy a parking pass so we are not having to walk blocks and blocks at 11pm when we are trying to leave work. Getting tickets regularly is getting old and very off-putting for us business owners.

Quite honestly, until more work is done to help the homeless population, there is no sense in spending any money on upgrades. Money would be better spent supporting food banks and homeless initiatives. The budget should already reflect improved lighting, and cleaning up areas of concern.

Those flower "bunkers" have GOT TO GO! But first things first. The homeless/drug problem must be dealt with first. There is no point in doing anything when people are afraid to go "down town" with all the drug usage going on right under everyone's noses!

When we respond to surveys and then results of surveys do not line with majority responses. Why are you asking or wasting time with surveys. Example- Devonshire ave. Asked about losing street parking and majority did want to lose Devonshire street parking and now.. what is plan for Devonshire? Losing street parking.. frustratingly political response to surveys .. it's why people do not vote or bother with surveys

Why not try some town fundraising instead of increasing our taxes and apply for grant funding. Or perhaps invite a university or college to come into the downtown area, example Laurier Brantford.

Get rid of the liquidation store and the methadone clinic should be top priority. What does "inclusive atmosphere" mean?? Downtown will be improved by getting rid of things that don't add value. How does the clinic add value? How does empty trash filled store fronts add value? Smooth sidewalks would be good, but if the liquidation store building was gone, think of how beautiful that area would look, and of the outdoor events that could take place there. It would also make the museum and former market building more prominent, bringing more awareness to them and helping them be more successful. Stop catering to low lives and bring some quality vendors to downtown.

Unfortunately I don't think our downtown is desirable. It feels unsafe with the homeless problem. It seems like that's a situation that needs to get controlled prior to spending any money. Art in the park was moved from Victoria park to museum square and it made an impact on the event. Many wouldn't go. I went and the area was covered with homeless people all day.

Have the same type of window covering for the empty store fronts, i.e. "future home of ... ". They really look awful.

I strongly support efforts to make Woodstock friendlier to pedestrians and cyclists.

Downtown will never be prosperous until something is done about the homeless problem and drug problem, get rid of the methadone clinic and the people it attracts

The plans on addressing homelessness definitely need work. Stronger housing supports and addiction/mental health services make more sense over time. Many people are afraid to go downtown, many businesses have had to make changes. Telus requires id to be shown to enter! I feel like there's such a strong stigma that no matter what changes are made, people will still be afraid to go downtown ESPECIALLY after dark. Until people get proper support this plan will never work. Parking is definitely a nightmare. What good are new sidewalks if you can't get people going? The other initiative that should be looked at is improvement to after hours by way of more clubs/bars/night markets. Many closed during the pandemic. The type of business going in matters. I think the overall plan needs work so that its not a waste of tax dollars.

since the 1970's every few years Woodstock dumps money into the downtown with the argument if it doesn't it will die. I don't know if it's due to poor planning or people really don't care it is no better and than there is a new plan. Spend on new parks and walkways throughout the city and let the downtown die. Put that as an option to the tax payers.

Spend the money on removing the homeless issue. I don't like coming downtown for safety due to drug use and homelessness and the theft. This masterplan is a misuse of funds that should be directed and used in cleaning up the drug problem and street people. Providing shelters and mental health support is a better use of funding. Who cares about sidewalks and at that cost it is an irresponsible use of funds.

Complete Museum Square before Streetscape plans.

This has waited long enough, it's time to move forward with this project.

I'm very frustrated that this is still a topic for discussion. While there is a larger issue at hand with homelessness and drug use in our downtown perhaps this construction will deter them from coming down. It's time to do something. It's time to be an actionable council. Does this council want to be against those with disabilities? Against those that have difficulties navigating the regular world. FYI, they are tax payers too.

Get it all done at once. If the job is spread out over multiple years then people won't want to go downtown. It's best to rip the bandaid off now. No matter what you do people will always complain about spending money.

Feces has been a serious problem downtown with homeless having no facilities. I would like to see some public washrooms being installed.

Yes our infrastructure will need improvements, but trying to turn us into a modern city is not the answer. Keep our small town charm. Stop expanding our city and inviting the GTA to our community. Talk to anyone that was born and raised here, who raised their kids here. Small town culture is why we stay. Small town culture is why people are moving here, but they are ruining it. The city opened our doors to the homeless and people believe someone got paid to do it. The homeless and drug addicts roaming our downtown are not from Woodstock. Most people are polite about this issue and the new comers from the GTA in fear of being labeled. But I know if you talk to anyone over 40 they do not like the new demographics of our town, not because they are racist, there are many reasons and factors involved. We grew up here raised our kids here, we want to keep our town small, growth is not always a good thing. When is enough enough.

If there was regular maintenance and on-going investment then it wouldn't be necessary to spend so much on basic infrastructure fixes, and the concentration could be in the innovative investments that inspire people to visit and support downtown. If you are going to invest in downtown please make a long-term commitment and plan to properly look after it.

Unless you take care of moving the homeless service out of the downtown this plan will fail...people, particularly women do not feel safe and many will not go. I don't like going due to that and my friend has business there

Yes, stop wasting tax payer money. Downtown needs a good repainting of the front stores, good sidewalks and that's all. If the taxes were lower, maybe there will be less stores that are vacant and falling into disrepair.

Our downtown is already beautiful we just need to maintain what we have and keep it clean help local businesses thrive it supports our community when we support small local shops. More events like street fest would be awesome

Your need to encourage a flag ship store or two to come to the downtown

Homelessness. How does this beautification plan address the people who are without homes and nowhere to go? It's time to stop saying it's not a problem for municipal government and just buckle down and help people. Spending money on helping people who are homeless would be a far better use of taxpayers' money than making the street a little more pretty. Find more worthwhile goals. Do better.

More support and encouragement for diverse small business to join the downtown. Not chains. Better property tax rates. We need restaurants, bars (not sports bars!!) and shops. I look at the diverse offerings of Stratford and would love to see more businesses like those but here in Oxford county. There are many ambitious, smart and enthusiastic people in Woodstock but the financial and lack of foot traffic issues are a huge barrier for them to take a chance. How do we make people want to come downtown? If we don't figure that out what's the point in creating a more accessible downtown??

Woodstock is a huge hockey and farming town and we should be marketing it that way. What about putting a city run outdoor rink that is electrically cooled so it is open even in warmer weather downtown. This transformed downtown when I lived in Brantford.

Can adding an outdoor recreation space in the center of downtown be considered? Possibly and outdoor roller rink that turns into an outdoor mini ice rink. Maybe a park next to it and spots that food trucks and vendors can park. Woodstock lacks activities downtown to draw people to restaurants and shops. Similar styles can be found in Hamilton or Brantford.

No matter what you do, or how much money you spend, people and businesses will not come downtown until there is more law enforcement and common sense enforcement of the vagrancy and criminal activity issues. With the people of Woodstock already facing the highest tax increase in long memory, Council needs to be extremely choosy in how they wish to add more debt to our already heavy burdens.

This plan is a waste of money because it is focussing on things that are NOT the real downtown issues. This will not draw people downtown, will not help the business, and will just add tax burden to already overburdened taxpayers. If you want to spend money, spend it on a parcel of land where a homeless encampment can be allocated to. With a destination, you give the police back their power to enforce the relocation of homeless away from downtown, private property, parks and trails, and this city will become safer, people will be more comfortable to come back downtown and start enjoying the city again. We do not, right now. Sidewalks and lights won't change that. On a side note... PLEASE relocate the bus stop in front of museum square, off to the side. We have one decent view uptown, so you put a bus shelter directly blocking it. Seemed like a bad choice.

1. As a city we need to ensure that the side walks are safe and level without interference in local businesses, repair what needs to be fixed. 2. Complete the vacant lot where the theatre used to be! 3. Businesses need to be attracted to the downtown area and a plan needs to be developed and put into place, include all stakeholders. 4. Complete and enhance the empty lot beside city hall. 5. Add seating to Museum Square, and where the theatre was located. 6. Enquire whether the Medical Clinic can on a side street that allows privacy for those needing that support. Addiction is seen across all economic levels in our city 7. Woodstock needs to a plan to reduce homelessness that will reduce problems in the core are and throughout the city. Be strategic in meeting our difficulties.

I choose to skip downtown when possible in order to avoid interactions with the addicts and the homeless. Until there is some resolution in this regard I don't believe spending a lot of money to window dress the downtown makes economic sense.

Stop knocking stores over

I feel that the money should only be spent on sidewalks and necessary lighting to keep it safe and no painting buildings or upgrading the park area at this time

I feel the city should just do the sidewalks and necessary lighting along the streets to keep the streets safe for people to travel on and not spend the money on painting buildings or the park area at this time

How could we not make our downtown core safer and more inclusive for all of our Woodstocktonians

It isn't just about how it looks, but what draws people to Woodstock. Which is currently, nothing. Take a look at how other small towns draw business and find more opportunities to create something worth coming to. Also, we have a safety concern in this town with drug users and violent acts. It isn't safe for our children/teens to be uptown unsupervised. Something needs to be in place. There needs to also be proof that you will bring our taxes back down if you do this, I don't trust that we will ever see a reduction from this project.

From discussions I have had with fellow Woodstonians,. two of their biggest concerns with downtown Woodstock are the Meth Clinic and the drug culture it invites to the city's core and homeless people situation. Sadly, their presence in the area helps keep people away. Until these problems are seriously dealt with any cosmetic changes would be akin to putting "lipstick on a pig"

Concil should also access accessible store fronts. I can not enter a numerous business because of steps to get into them. Additionally council needs to impose city by-laws on buisness so they fix decaying store fronts, there's an entire page of maintenance by-laws that seem to be overlooked.

Complimentary services need to be increased due to Woodstock being where all essential services are for oxford county. Maybe not in the Downtown but in current vacant lots that the city may have access to.

The reasons I do not go downtown has nothing to do with the sidewalks, seating or lighting. I do not feel safe, Woodstock has a drug issue and a large population of those suffering congregate downtown. Move the methadone clinic out of downtown, and don't waste tax dollars on a non issue.



Hopefully if the city does anything in the downtown, they remember and take into consideration that the downtown reaches further than just around museum square. It truly seems if you are not within a block or so of there, you are not considered to be part of the downtown. There is absolutely no support, concern or consideration for businesses that are east or west of the museum square. A two year construction project of the downtown will kill the businesses downtown, unless of course you are located around museum square, I am sure those businesses will receive a lot of support.

I have filled out 10 surveys for this project....either poop or get off the pot

Let the downtown core die! Nobody wants to go there because they're scared of the homeless and drug abusers. I'd love to go downtown more, but I'm not an elderly woman so the stores downtown don't appeal to me. There isn't a good shopping center ANYWHERE in Woodstock. There's a bunch of separate plazas and I don't feel like using my gas to go here there and everywhere else. You want more business and to fix things? Give us more food options and maybe a mall somewhere. Woodstock is looking like a joke and I'd rather drive to a place where they have everything I need instead of ordering online or going to a place downtown worrying about the safety of my family, myself and my car

I agree that some sidewalks need replacing and new and more lighting and waste bins but do not occur debt and raise our taxes. Just as interest rates can go down they could easily skyrocket up. Then what is the plan? As well, who promised all included in a master plan? If the taxpayers are saying no then please respect our wishes. Obviously the downtown is growing despite nothing done with the master plan. Stop wasting money on the downtown. Look to see how many years money has been spent revitalizing our downtown to no avail. There are more important issues than the extras for some council members to take credit and 5-10 years it's ruined and torn down.

I think the money will be better spent improving/creating new recreational facilities for our growing city.

The downtown does not have any every day stores to shop in. The stores that are downtown are pricy and quite honestly it is dirty. There is no parking and no one wants to walk down there with so many who are homeless, addicted or have mental health issues. Tillsonburg, Stratford and Paris are thriving places...why would you not follow their model.

Taxpayers have had enough of council's frivolous spending. Half a million on a football field that is barely used, an art gallery that is not used and an increase in taxes while giving themselves raises....not ok.

Streetfest is so popular. Could we have another event similar to this? It brings hundreds of people downtown, and having the road closed to traffic makes it easy to wander. Also, extend it to 11pm.

The downtown businesses don't attract people because they are special occasion type businesses that you don't shop at daily and they close too early. The downtown business owners are always online complaining people don't support local enough. I'd love to support local if you were open when I'm not at work. Instead of fixing the sidewalks and lighting make it SAFE and get rid of the homeless.

If you really want people to go downtown get rid of the homeless individuals and provide better parking. Parallel parking on the streets is the worst. Parking lots are safer for drivers and pedestrians. I avoid downtown at all costs which is a shame because I'd love to support some of the small local businesses.

Prioritize safety of downtown and surrounding areas.

option 1 would be my second choice, businesses and residents are struggling to make ends meet with high inflation, interest rates and debts. Tax payers also have to deal with a very high Oxford County increase this year. This is an important project but the timing could be better.

Help the business remain downtown, tax and rent breaks. Buildings are being sold, rent is increasing causing businesses to shut down.

Focus on building apartments with commercial on 1st level. Has to become more vibrant with people living down town. Buildings are ugly, empty ugly lots. Needs all major revisioning.

Bylaw from parking fines can help?

Spend the \$ on drug law enforcement . More police involvement . We dont feel safe to shop downtown ! Better lighting does not equal saftety . Focus on crime rates & homeless . Clean the streets of drug users .

We need something like downtown Oakville. The homeless and drugs have to go. We need a safe downtown to walk in. Maybe then stores will come.

I feel it's important to keep the water fountain functioning and even improve the green and wet spaces in the core. We need to encourage small business and support the hospitality sector in every way possible.

Restore street parking spaces which will make businesses more accessible to potential customers. Businesses will not be viable without parking.

An emphasis on community safety is pertinent and there needs to be supports in place for the ever increasing unhoused population. Until the issue is dealt with no one will want to use the downtown core as it does not feel safe to do so.

Get rid of the damn homeless. Until they are gone I will not visit any new infrastructure in the city. They are a menace..... DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

Love the idea of improving the downtown, but please please please focus on 1 main issue in our downtown: homeless! Without fixing the problem, no improvement to downtown will bring people in :(

Any benches must be divided with armests to prevent people from sleeping on the benches. We need BIKERACKS!!!

Do more to address the drugs and homelessness so I actually feel safe walking downtown and surrounding area. This goes for both daytime and night time. I can not walk the streets alone comfortably as a female in her late 20's.

There must be a way to prioritize this without the City funding this project through debt. Maybe a 5-year plan includes \$500,000 per year with capital reserves. We are not doing the residents of this city any favours, incurring a 20-year loan to complete this project and sending the wrong message to residents. Capital reserves are in place to avoid debt. If we want to teach Canadians strong financial literacy skills, the teaching should start with federal and provincial budgets and city planning.

Why the heck did you put in paving stones in the first place? Every homeowner knows they require constant maintenance. Why weren't the curbs poured properly?

Minimal disruption for downtown is key

I would like the option that completes it the quickest with the least amount of interruptions for downtown

Stop approving developments out on Norwich Ave and encourage business downtown

Move the methadone clinic to the hospital where it belongs.

The issue I feel is not the landscape but the fact that people do not feel safe walking down town. This is due to the individuals using drugs in open spaces. I have to lock my doors if I am sitting in my car and will avoid stores that have people using. If we address this problem first downtown could become the heart of the community without a 10 million loan. You could complete this and we still not feel safe if people are high on the sidewalk or in the doorways of businesses. We do not feel safe.

Deal with the homeless people downtown. People are afraid to go to businesses when someone is shooting drugs in the entranceway. The garbage and cigarette butts are an eyesore.

I'm not sure if this is a city council topic or only for store owners but what about actually having accessible entrances into the stores? I don't have a disability but I have a son that is 2 and another son on the way. When I was on maternity leave last time I wanted to support many local businesses downtown but found it very difficult to go with a stroller. No automatic doors, many locations with steps to enter. With small children they want to touch everything too so I would then not want to bring him but that limits my available times to go when my husband isn't working. Just a suggestion to bring forward especially if there are others who do have a disability that want to enter these businesses too.

The city needs to support businesses to move downtown through reduced taxes . The Methadone clinic needs to move away from the center of this project or nothing will change. Greater police presence in the core area is needed.

why wouldn't we start with the redesigning of museum square, that was 1.5 million and would have the most impact to our downtown

Streetscape Master Plan does not clean up the downtown core of crime and homeless. Fix that problem first, or at least have a plan to fix it.

I am supportive of the plan for our community - and also to be honest, I feel that regardless of work done my habits will remain the same. I go downtown generally for specific reasons (appointments, visiting a particular store etc). I avoid downtown if I don't have the time or energy and shop online instead. I never go downtown just to walk, window shop or attend events.

The city staff do not get the recognition they deserve regarding cleaning up the downtown core. The city counsel needs to go to our local parliament and have them bring it to provincial level regarding drug use/abuse in the downtown core. Working for the city, we pick up A TON of needles - we have lives outside our jobs and should not be risked by having to clean up needles. It is so unsafe no matter how much training you give supervisors/temporary staff/students. At the end of the day they would rather go home to their families, healthy, not put at high risk of being stuck with a needle and contracting a life altering disease like HIV. Flowerbeds and garbages are great hiding places for needles. Would you put your hand into one while wearing a "puncture resistant" glove? Probably not. Removing benches in Covid did help - I supported that 100%, it made staff safer. Along with that, every staff member working downtown, especially students, should be wearing a loner device regardless of time of day or number of people in their group. The number of times I've had to call police dispatch is crazy. There was never a moment where I actually felt safe downtown. Counsel needs to take that seriously and provide loners to students, time of day and number of students is irrelevant

If the downtown is the heart of our city, it has needed surgery for years. We can't afford to put this off any longer.

Get it done. The faster we start and the faster we work the faster it'll be done and we can look back and say "wow it looks great and it's complete". No need to draaaaaag this out. We want it done, get it done. Downtown is the the identity and heart of the city and if it's in good health then the rest of the city will benefit. I also believe that property owners who don't rent to their building should be penalized. All the beat up and boarded up shops aren't helping either. A plan should be implemented on holding these property owners accountable to the greater good of the city. If we want to benefit from a beautiful downtown then we have to get the ball rolling now, this year. It'll take time so the sooner we start the better. From what I understand the beautification of the downtown has been a topic of discussion since 1997, I think we've done the waiting/putting it off part and now it's time for action. It's easy to lean on the "it's not a good time financially" leg but even that can't hold up anymore. All of us business owners have put all of our money into our businesses and we've chosen to be downtown, and this is us doing our part. The city needs to step up now and show they care and show us they understand the importance of this project.



I believe downtown woodstock has a variety of larger issues to solve and work out instead of spending money on a "face lift" to the area. Living in woodstock my entire life and now raising a family in woodstock I dont even want my wife or my kids downtown with the amount of problems that there are with homeless, drugs, methadone clinic etc... I along with many other people in woodstock do not believe spending money in making life more comfortable for homeless people downtown is the way we should be going. The benches were taken away at museum square to get rid of the problem that people were setting up home there, the benches got taken away and the problem solved, after enough complaining by people they were put back and were back to square one. not to mention times where business had to be shut down for a extended period of time due to covid and now are barely coming back to life through this problem with inflation that ontario is having and hiking taxes this year and so on it is very hard for business to make ends meet and stay downtown. Spending any money on a facelift is not going to draw any new stores to downtown because in the end it comes to cost. Another note is since redoing the bus routes, the city has taken away ample parking downtown on dundas st which isnt great either. thank you for the oppourtunity to provide a comment I just feel that spending any money on a facelift will not help anyone. another thought that comes to mind is seeing the idea of putting back brick paver crosswalks, its such a horrible idea considering they were just removed a few years back and now the road is much smoother.

Moving the meth clinic out of the downtown core and adding more regular "beat" officers would improve the downtown immensely. Apartment buildings in vacant or unused retail space would help also.

How will businesses not be affected by the construction. Construction is done during summer. Roads will be closed. Businesses will not survive a loss in foot traffic.

We could be like Stratford and Paris in terms of a fun area to visit but the lack business able to afford rent, the drug addicts and rundown abandoned spaces should be more of a focus vs lighting to light all the faults. The bones are there and you are choosing to focus on lipstick on a pig.

I sure hope the homeless don't destroy or scare people away. I don't go down town more than I need to. I don't "just stroll downtown." I've been scared off by a homeless person. I just don't go

Nothing will improve the downtown core until the vagrant population that overwhelms it is dealt with. The core is currently unsafe and filthy for patrons and family's to use

The homeless issue needs to be resolved as they deters people from going there . Also need a safe injection site .

Since any changes would benefit the downtown businesses perhaps they should shoulder the largest portion of the costs.

\$24.85 per taxpayer is well worth the price

It is rare to go downtown and not see garbage all over the streets. If you want to make the downtown more enjoyable start with keeping the garbage picked up and more police presence so people feel safer. Stronger lightbulbs if possible would be welcome.

Priority one should be eliminating the homeless , drug addicted vagrants and beggars from downtown. My wife refuses to go downtown alone any more even during the day because of fears. This plan is only arranging deck chairs on the Titanic until the homeless and drug addicted problems are addressed .

I believe before you spend any money you need to deal with the safety, homeless and drugs in downtown Woodstock.

Conversation about updating the downtown has been going on since the 1990s I believe. If not now then it will never happen. It will just balloon in cost year after year

<p>Completing the Streetscape master plan in full, or in phases is most preferable. The merits of the plan will be self evident once it is complete in full or in part. Please don't stop investing in the downtown like this. Revitalizing downtown cores is important and has many benefits.</p>
<p>Don't bother. As someone in their mid 30s with a small family I never consider "downtown Woodstock" for anything aside from a road to drive through. Spending nearly 10 million on a project which essentially just puts lipstick on a pig doesn't make me want to venture down to the downtown core. It offers essentially nothing.</p>
<p>Didn't we just put millions into downtown? I feel it's like throwing money away at this point.</p>
<p>You can spend all the money you want on sidewalks and construction and it's not gonna improve the downtown one bit. You have to do something about the homeless first! What's your plan on the homeless?</p>
<p>There are more important issues to be dealt with downtown. I'm very leery of going downtown due to the homeless and the drug trade that's going on. Very frightening for families. Theft is rampant in Woodstock due to these two issues</p>
<p>Fix the sidewalks. The road, lighting and on street parking will not bring people downtown and long duration construction will devastate local businesses. Focus on the redevelopment of Museum Square and increasing housing density in the downtown. Redevelopment of 16 Graham Street is an excellent start. More people living in walking distance to the downtown is the key to a successful downtown and will support the local businesses. Look at Brantford's approach with Harmony Square and now the proposal for 50 Market Street South (Freshco plaza across from the Brantford Casino). It is an extremely poor decision to reconstruct the downtown before the plan and investment is in place to provide quality housing units in the downtown. Quality housing units will attract the desirable population to provide the revenue local businesses need to thrive and will attract new businesses to invest in downtown Woodstock.</p>
<p>I feel as if we need to spend more money on housing those most vulnerable before we take on this kind of financial responsibility.</p>
<p>Given the unbelievable increase in housing developments, how do we even see a need to raise property taxes? We need to extricate woodstock from the financial grasp of oxford county and proceed as Woodstock alone. Costs to cover firefighters is ridiculous, for sleeping half the shift and they all have 2nd businesses. And both police and fire have so many off on PTSD, they need to hire more to cover the responsibilities. (Their unions are to blame for allowing ridiculous standards of care and no return to work) they are literally allowed to remain on staff, being paid until retirement. If those areas where tax dollars are corrected, I would happily consider the full repair</p>
<p>Upkeep and updating the downtown core will only do so much for businesses. Unfortunately, thieves, drug addicts, and vagrants plague the downtown core of the city, and many don't feel comfortable in the downtown.</p>
<p>Get rid of the scary drug addicts and homeless folks. Afraid to go downtown</p>
<p>Waste of tax payers money again! We pay the highest taxes in SW Ontario</p>
<p>The downtown needs to be safer!!!!</p>
<p>Get the big trucks off dundas street. When 401 is shut down. We need a truck route to keep them from jamming up the downtown</p>
<p>There needs to be a plan in place for the homeless before a lot of money spent on downtown</p>
<p>The priority and focus must be the creation of a safe and secure environment First. Clean up the visual and appearance of the area. Find a solution to address the homeless and their behaviour thus the need for police and medical constantly on our main street. CREATE A WELCOMING AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FIRST THEN WORK ON THE WINDOW DRESSING.</p>

When we can clean up the downtown area and

Before under taking any downtown improvements our councilors need to resolve the primary concerns regarding the safety and appearance in the downtown area due to the homeless and drugs all being a major detriment to visitors and residents.

It is not safe to be downtown. Area needs to deal with downtown deterrents & vagrants. Strong measures need to be applied for functionality before money is spent for any downtown activities.

Do something about the homeless and mess that's over the downtown core. You can pretend to hide it but it's still there. Why invest in something that will just get destroyed and disrespected. Never go into dept. Silliest thing you could suggest just pushing it off to the younger generation.

Before deciding to replace the roads and sidewalks, you need to repair or replace the existing facades on the buildings in the downtown area. Some look as if they are ready to fall down and others are not maintained by the landlords. Many apartments above the stores are a disgrace to the city of Woodstock. The city must endeavour to do something permanently about the transient issues in the downtown. This should be an absolute priority for the city and county. As it stands now this problem is a very disinsentive for anyone visiting, working or owning a business in downtown Woodstock.

I do not feel safe walking downtown so, I drive from store to store. I think every downtown is dealing with the multi-faceted problem of the unhoused. Until the municipality gets supports from the provincial and federal government I don't think there is much of a point to invest more money when the downtown is littered with garbage.

Do some clean up on museum square making it more inviting. Remove the gravel replace with grass flowers benches and play equipment possibly

I believe at this time if the city is going to spend money this year it should be to repair the sidewalks where required and make the Museum more welcoming adding grassed area where it is now gravel, some additional benches trees ect bring more venues to the area that will give reason for people to come down town

Until you address specific zones of activity which can attract people in a larger scale you are wasting your time. You need development that will attract senior citizens, college students and fitness enthusiasts. Without having core economic drivers to attract people and generate economic activity, you are really wasting time and money.

Your first priority, even before the beautification, should be SAFETY. As a 21 year old female, I NEVER feel safe in downtown Woodstock due to the homeless population. Relocating the methadone clinic should be a number one priority so that you can attract a younger population. That is where the money is, especially with Fanshawe being in Woodstock as well. Other college and university towns have capitalized off of their young population. You need to do the same. It will NOT matter how beautiful you make it if people don't feel safe in the area. I know that it is a sensitive subject, but the safety of your younger population should come first.

The downtown revitalization project is, in my opinion, a waste of money if Woodstock locals cannot enjoy it without seeing people do drugs on the street and be harassed for money by homeless people. Waste receptacles do not get used by the homeless and the homeless people just go through them and create a mess that just litters Woodstock. Until the homeless population is effectively managed and the drug addicts are moved out of the downtown, I don't see the point in renovating the area for it to not be used by local taxpayers. I also believe that the downtown core needs a grocery store so that the locals living in that area are attracted to the area on a regular basis rather than driving to the other side of the city to run errands and concentrating our local economy to the big box stores on Norwich Avenue and spread the traffic more evenly across the city.

No one will use the downtown because of the homeless and addicts. They have created a negative impact. Stop bussing them in from outside cities!

Can the money be used to help the homeless? I am not talking about the junkies. I am thinking more on the line of habitat for humanity. A hand up. Not a hand out. Work with people who truly want to get their life back on track

Finkle street pedestrian bridge needs to be repaired. Thank you.

Shut down the street for large events more often

You need to address the other issues in the downtown before looking to make the cosmetic changes. Address as well the vacant store fronts as well as the vacant lots first.

How about no extreme tax increase to begin with (thank you Mayor for voting against)?! Your survey comes across very biased. Perhaps state all the facts vs. saying 'Streetscape plan now will cost you even MORE as taxpayers, and inflation is already tough on you'. Mention the tens of thousands already spent, mention the years this has been in the works, mention that putting it off will mean a continuing of incurring costs with more consultation, reports, time, manpower, and not to mention the inflation of the cost of services when it does happen. A downtown is the heart of any community, especially one of the size of our City. Let's continue with the Streetscape plan in phases all the while trying to clean up our streets from the sad state of affairs we are in. Not just for the downtown business owners, but for the community as a whole. No more talk, let's get things done.

the above would not allow for a hybrid option - why not proceed on a phased basis focusing on museum square as Phase 1 and branching out later phases (which are not defined above) so that businesses are not impacted - the sidewalks and lighting should NOT be the focus - engineers should not dictate what gets done first - focus on the experience of the Downtown create spaces where residents can come down and enjoy the experinec - no one cares if the sidewalk is made of pressed concrete or pavers or concrete - fix the raised curbs and patch it up for now - the signage is also not important - putting a sign out for wayfinding is useless if no one wants to go DT in the ifrst place - add some street cafes (like Early Bird and Brickhouse) - but remove the awful covid platforms - create a "sense of place" by organizing events - bring back the Thursday market, focus on the museau square first - you have lots of space tehre for outdoor cafes, street vendors (pop up) - move the construction trucks away form the old market they are unnecessarily blocking pedestrian traffic - clean up the garbage, define what the security patrol officers role is to help the businesses and remove the riff raff and loitering around the "clinic" - stop focusing on the money aspect - the County just hiked taxes by 16% claiming they need to provide services yet population growth and tax base has grown by 25% - what was the 16% for an ambulance more staff doing what? climate change (it didn't provide details) and mental health (again for what?) The Warden needs to be replaced he seems out of touch - also the structure is obsolete why do you need the County in the first place - download the responsibility to Woodstock and Tillsonburg - expand the boundaries - change the representation on County Council and introduce Ward boundaries in Woodstock so the councilors are more accountable to the constituents and local issues (DT has different issues than the new areas) - the system is archaic the political structure nebulous. The Mayor loves a photo opp but he does not have any idea of how to execute his promises - he ran on the DT but has shelved the plan? I feel cheated.

Cops need to do more to keep the drug addicts off of Dundas. I used to walk Dundas everyday even just for fun. Now it's scary to do so with all the drug addicts and violent homeless who have stabbed people. Instead of designing a new project for downtown how about you move the methadone clinic OFF of Dundas to start.

Huge cuts need to be in every dept. Trim the fat. Everyone knows it. Make the hard financial decisions. Continuous unabated spending with 0 return is irresponsible.

Unless you get the homeless & drug problems and those people resolved in the downtown area it will not draw more residents downtown.

Anything that is not properly maintained is a waste of money. It looks good for too short a period of time. Maintain what we have now.

The people that are Homeless, and the ones with addictions, and the ones with shifty fingers needs to be addressed first before any improvements would have any effect.

It is a significant cost, but complaints about the downtown have been ongoing for years. Further delay will only compound the problems that exist now. A downtown we can all be proud of offers quality of life for residents now, attracts future residents, supports tourism and the local economy, and helps our youth consider a future in Woodstock.

You need to fix the real problem downtown first. Nobody wants to go downtown. Why would you? It's not safe. It's not nice. It's a scary place Full of sketchy people. Fix that.

Unless the homeless population that has been moving into our downtown core is fixed, there is little chance any downtown improvement will help. People are afraid to go downtown. My daughter and niece had someone chase them with a metal pole trying to hit their car. My daughter worked at one of the downtown stores and she watched a homeless person defecate in the alley across the street. Not exactly family viewing.

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