



## Other Issues, Plans and Potential Actions Related to Downtown

There are many important issues related to downtown, but we cannot decide everything within the process of developing a Downtown Strategy (DTS). Issues addressed through a separate planning or program effort will not be at the center of discussion and decision-making for the DTS. However, how these issues relate to Downtown Strategy topics may be considered.

TOPIC	NOTES
1 to 2 way couplets	An idea to change 4th and State Aves from 1-way to 2-way streets has been brought up. Initial steps would be to scope and then complete a transportation analysis to identify impacts on downtown & the regional transportation network - not budgeted at this time. Study could potentially be an initiative for 2017-2020, although best done in conjunction with next Comprehensive Plan update.
Artist Housing	The Olympia ArtSpace Alliance has moved into the second phase of steps to build affordable apartments designed for artists and their families to live and work downtown. In the future, project could be considered for an Action Plan Partnership.
Colleges – establishing a presence downtown	As encouraged by the Comp Plan, this could potentially be the subject of an out-year initiative.
State Capitol Master Plan Update (through 2015)	City has no decision authority here. City's role is prescribed by the State and includes staff involvement in workgroup discussions to occur outside of this process. We will communicate our downtown goals.
Community Renewal Area (CRA) Opportunities	A CRA is being addressed by City Council & CERC Committee as part of a parallel, complimentary process. CRA and DTS will inform each other. (i.e., a CRA development pro forma may inform what we know about development potential in DT, and strategic priorities identified in the DTS may inform a CRA development agreement.)
Downtown Project	During 2015, resources of the City's Downtown Project will be mainly devoted to developing the Downtown Strategy and a few other items, with staff support continuing for the ODA Main Street Program and PBI. The DTS will inform future Downtown Project Work Plans.
Earthquakes/Liquefaction	Downtown's susceptibility to liquefaction is well documented and new building within this area must be designed to address the potential impacts of liquefaction during earthquakes. Unreinforced masonry buildings built before the advent of building codes are very susceptible to damage from earthquakes and are required to be seismically upgraded as they undergo change of use or substantial renovations. This will be described in the existing conditions report.
Homelessness/ Street Dependency	Since this issue cannot be solved by the Downtown Strategy, it is not a focus, but the effects of street dependency on DT will be considered when discussing topics of focus in the DTS. A regional response to homelessness is addressed in the Regional Consolidated Plan.
Isthmus Visioning	Some councilmembers have expressed interest in engaging the public in further discussion about a vision for the isthmus. Since the DTS contains elements that could inform possibilities for the isthmus (i.e., view protection standards) it would be logical for this visioning to occur after the DTS is complete, possibly as an out year initiative.

Landscaped Gateways	Specially landscaped entry/exit corridors to downtown are described in the Comprehensive Plan, and may be considered when prioritizing public space enhancements during strategy development.
Main Street Program, Olympia Downtown Assoc.	Program will be described, and later initiatives may guide how the Downtown Project will continue to support Main Street.
Parking Management Strategy	The City completed most objectives of its previous downtown parking strategy, and an update is being scoped in 2015-2016. Priorities set by the DTS will inform the Parking Strategy update.
Parking & Business Improvement Area (PBIA)	PBIA efforts will be described, and later initiatives may guide how the Downtown Project will continue to support these.
Parks, Downtown	Being addressed through Parks Master Plan update in 2015-16. The DTS will not involve parks.
Percival Landing	Being addressed through Parks Master Plan update in 2015-16, with funding options also being discussed by Council.
Port of Olympia Real Estate Development Plan (occurring 2015-16)	The Port's development activities must be consistent with City zoning and Shoreline regulations, but City has no decision-making authority over their plan. Port and City staff have ID possible opportunities to share in collection and analysis of data as it relates to both the Port's Real Estate Development Plan and the DTS. Staff will continue to seek avenues for shared communication and info – to be considered by City Council and Port Commission.
Safety	Issue will be considered throughout, including crime prevention thru design. The walking patrol and other safety issues will be described.
Sea Level Rise	Being addressed through a separate, ongoing program and strategic planning effort - will be described.
Shoreline/ Waterfront	Policies and regulations for land within 200' of ordinary high watermark are in the Shoreline Master Program. Waterfront parks and trails will be addressed through Parks Plan update. The value of the waterfront to downtown will be considered throughout process.
Soil Contamination	Comp Plan directs City to identify potential tools, partnerships and resources that can be used to create more economic certainty for developments by better characterizing contamination where doing so fulfills a public purpose. The Community Renewal Area (CRA) is one such tool. Other tools/actions may arise during strategy development.
Stormwater/ Sewer Infrastructure	Being addressed through Stormwater Master Plan in 2016.
Sustainable Thurston	Implementing our Comp Plan goals to create a compact, transit-oriented downtown is vital to this regional sustainability plan.
Thurston Co. Courthouse	One of the areas being looked at for a new courthouse is downtown. We will follow this decision-making process, but it is separate from the DTS process.
Thurston Thrives	This County-wide health collaboration initiative is a separate process, and includes goals common to our downtown goals.
Transit	Addressed through regional transportation planning and Intercity Transit Strategic Plan – how transit needs factor into redevelopment in downtown will be considered as part of DTS topics.