

Fairbanks Downtown Plan - Public Review Draft Comments, Winter 2023-2024					General	Econ Dev	Land Use	Public Safety	Transpo	Parking	Housing	Pg #	Status	Response/Proposed Action
Date	Organization	First name	Last name	Comment										
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Pages 65 and 66. We recommend the complete deletion of "2. BICYCLES" and substitute the following: "2. BICYCLES: Develop a seasonal bicycle network throughout Downtown to incorporate cycling with other transportation options."					X			65-66	Incorporated	Make this change in the transportation section.
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Delete - 'c. Install signage and enforce cycling prohibition use of sidewalks in the urban core.'"					X			66	Incorporated	Replace with "Continue to resolve conflict of bicyclists on sidewalks and prohibition in Alaska administrative code."
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Additionally, we propose the removal of "a. Implement the proposed bicycle ..." and suggest the following: "Provide bicycle parking and storage in appropriate and safe locations. Use of on-street signs, marked lanes, or other markings will be determined and developed by and with City of Fairbanks approval."					X			65	Incorporated	Make edit; adjust end of proposed new statement with, "by and with the maintenance authority of the roadway."
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Page 61. We suggest the removal of bicycle routes from Figure 30, "Existing transportation network, all modes in Downtown Fairbanks."					X			61	Incorporated	Replace with updated map that removes all routes on City streets.
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Page 48. We propose the removal of Figure 24, "Downtown Fairbanks land use map, Alternative 2," from the plan.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Page 32. We recommend that the plan incorporate a City of Fairbanks code change to allow for the issuing of citations for problem properties. This change will help address and manage issues related to property maintenance and adherence to regulations, contributing to a cleaner and safer environment in Downtown Fairbanks.			X					32	Incorporated	Make this change in the land use section.
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Dear Kellan, I am writing on behalf of the City of Fairbanks in response to the FNSB Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan. We have reviewed the plan thoroughly, and we appreciate the comprehensive effort put forth to envision and plan for the future development of Downtown Fairbanks. In line with our commitment to the growth and sustainability of our city, we would like to provide feedback on certain aspects of the plan (split into separate rows)... We would like to express our commitment to collaboration and the ongoing development of the Downtown Fairbanks area. Our aim is to work together to ensure that this plan best serves the interests and aspirations of our city and its residents. Thank you for considering our feedback. We look forward to further discussions and a continued partnership in shaping the future of Downtown Fairbanks.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Page 17. Under City of Fairbanks Responsibilities, we propose adding the following statement: "street markings, signage, signals, street lighting, drainage, and sidewalk ADA compliance." We believe that by including these responsibilities explicitly, we can better align the plan with the city's capacity to improve infrastructure and accessibility.	X							17	Incorporated	Make this edit to the introduction section.
10/12/23	City of Fairbanks	David	Pruhs	Page 15. We propose adding to the first paragraph: "The plan will be revisited every six months, organized by the City of Fairbanks Mayor." This adjustment will ensure regular updates and alignment with the city's evolving needs and priorities.			X					15	Incorporated	Modify paragraph to reflect that key partners will come together every six months to review progress on implementation ("progress check".) Could be facilitated by the City or other partners.
11/7/23	City of Fairbanks			Replace photo in Figure 46 with newer development.							X	82	Incorporated	Melissa to send updated assessing photo for Gillam property.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	The list of City of Fairbanks responsibilities on page 17 is quite long and we struggle now fulfilling them consistently, let alone at a level that would be needed to reach any of the goals on page 3.	X							17	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners, not just the City of Fairbanks. Identifying the leads and resources needed (equipment, staff, etc.) will be determined as part of implementation.

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9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	I cannot support the concept to "develop and implement an adequate year-round bicycle network throughout Downtown to incorporate cycling with other transportation options". Public Works does not have the funding, staffing nor resources to make that happen. Spaces needed for bike lanes compete with snow storage berms along curbs. On street parking throughout the Expanded Downtown Land Use map will create conflicts between businesses, residents, bicyclists and street maintenance operations.					X			65	Incorporated	Modify the Transportation section to reflect this is a seasonal network and eliminate bike routes from city-managed streets in the proposed bike routes map.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Sean	Rice	A section of the document I find hard to have especially in the wintertime is the year-round bike lanes. Bike lanes will help local bikers to travel the local downtown, but in the wintertime, it will take away the space that is needed for snow placement it can get collected by the blower and trucks. There are also business owners who know our schedule and place their sidewalk snow onto the street curb where the bike lanes will be. This will be an obstruction for any of the winter bike riders who are trying to bike through the city and cause a hazard for the bikers.					X			65	Incorporated	Modify the Transportation section to reflect this is a seasonal network and eliminate bike routes from city-managed streets in the proposed bike routes map.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	Fairbanks has the perfect winter climate for elevated enclosed walkways connecting the larger building downtown; Golden Towers, Northward Building, Lavery Transportation Center, the new Polaris redevelopment project, the Courthouse, Mt. McKinley Bank, the School District Offices, the old Courthouse, Key Bank, Marriot Hotel, the Co-Op, Lathrop and Chena Buildings. Just think of the new businesses small and large that would want to be part of this warm connected ecosystem.		X			X			n/a	No action	Broadly captured within winter city recommendations in the plan.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	If more downtown business owners and their employees utilized the parking garage or even parked several streets away from their businesses, there would be more parking available for customers and visitors. Parking enforcement is consistent with city code and parking violations can be negotiated or appealed if there are mitigating circumstances. Without parking enforcement, parking spaces, commercial loading areas, drop off/pick up spaces would be occupied by the same vehicle all day long. Driveways would be blocked, handicap access parking would disappear. Fire hydrants would be blocked. Site distance at intersections would be blocked.						X		n/a	No action	The chapter is not suggesting eliminating enforcement altogether, but acknowledges some of the negative perceptions about parking enforcement. The parking chapter already recommends encouraging employees/residents to use surface lots and garages.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	It is important to have a plan for the future growth and development of Downtown Fairbanks. Cities across the state and country struggle with urban sprawl and dying city centers. This plan is creative in proposing ways and reasons for people to go downtown, work downtown, live downtown and visit downtown. I applaud this tremendous effort! I love thinking out of the box, but I am also practical when it comes to long term viability of enhancements that require increasing resources to maintain, improve or replace with our climate and generally lack of code enforcement resources and law enforcement presence. It is sad to see how much of Cushman Street Complete Street and Golden Heart Plaza has been vandalized... I love the strategies and actions. I just worry who will foot the bill to keep the momentum going and sustainable.	X							n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners, not just the City of Fairbanks. Identifying the leads and resources needed (equipment, staff, etc.) will be determined as part of implementation.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	Funds and staff are needed now to enforce sidewalk snow removal by businesses and residents. Let alone a litter patrol to clean up the downtown core to make it attractive. There are many places and parking lots full of weeds, deteriorated buildings and fences. How will that be enforced or funded?		X	X		X			n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners. The concerns and questions raised in this comment will be addressed during implementation.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	I love the decorative light poles both tall and short downtown. But maintaining them and replacing them costs the City tens of thousands of dollars each year and the delivery time is very long. Added more lighting and public art, seating, vegetation and visual improvements all will require additional sustained funding and committed staff. The Community Service Patrol was started as a partnership between businesses, the Downtown Association of Fairbanks and the City. The burden of maintaining that program has shifted to the City. I fear that future collaborations on beautification projects will fall by the wayside unless a sustainable funding source is put in place.		X	X					n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners. The concerns and questions raised in this comment will be addressed during implementation.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	The City struggles financially now annually to paint a fraction of transverse striping for crosswalks and turning lanes and Inlaid MMA. Adding bike lane striping or inlaid even for seasonal use will be a low priority creating greater conflicts when expectations are not met.					X			n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners. The concerns and questions raised in this comment will be addressed during implementation.

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9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jeff	Jacobson	I fully support cleaning up deteriorating properties and nuisance properties in Fairbanks. More resources are needed to do so. With tax caps in place, generating the needed revenue to do so is daunting and vigilance is needed so that cleaned up properties don't return to their sad state again.		X	X		X	X		n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners. The concerns and questions raised in this comment will be addressed during implementation.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Sean	Rice	Downtown Fairbanks 2040 plan is a very in-depth plan of action to expand the downtown boundaries. Looking at what that would take to make sure the maintenance discussed in the document. It is going to be more labor intensive, with the description that is placed in the document it is talking of almost immediate landscaping, litter patrol, garbage removal, walking paths cleared of obstructions, and brushing.	X							n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners. The concerns and questions raised in this comment will be addressed during implementation.
9/14/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Sean	Rice	For the labor department they are already busy keeping up with the brushing in residential areas, for walkways for the residents, and site visibility around corners for vehicles. Placing priority on downtown landscaping and brushing will require extra laborers to ensure that there is adequate walkability for the foot traffic. Is there a plan for the extra equipment that would be needed for the downtown, for sidewalk cleaning, going to each garbage can with in the downtown area for continuance collection. With seasonal weather will have to ensure that there are measures taken to keep the walkways and handicap ramps open for foot traffic. Need extra sidewalk snow removal equipment that is just dedicated to downtown and its expanded boundaries. If there are local personal restrooms placed downtown who would be charged with maintaining the cleanliness of the facilities? Will the restrooms be closed in the wintertime, or how are they going to be heated? In years past there use to be a Downtown Clean Team that took care of the needs that is spelled out in the document. They had their own equipment for cleaning the sidewalks, they did keep the handicap ramps open for safe walking areas, when the businesses were behind on snow removal, they were there to help for safe foot traffic in the winter. They had a cart for changing the garbage cans in Golden Heart Plaza, and litter patrol around the downtown area. The new Downtown footprint will be expanded, so it may take a little extra labor to handle the extra maintenance. It might be a good idea to bring that thought back. This could be a new section that is added to the City departments to concentrate on the downtown area itself. As its own entity they can have their own schedule to maintain the downtown core area, as its own entity for the city it wouldn't have to rely on grants, and fees paid from business owners as it was in the past. Having the Downtown Clean Team brough back this crew will be able to take care of all the downtown maintenance is taken care of in a responsive manor. While the Public Works crews will be there for support but also take care of the residents of Fairbanks.	X							n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners. The concerns and questions raised in this comment will be addressed during implementation.
10/13/23	City of Fairbanks Public Works	Jen	Doiron	Downtown plan The green spaces in downtown need to remain as green spaces! Replacing these areas with additional commercial and residential is not an upgrade for the community that utilizes these areas. The green space around Noel Wein Library is used by schools, families, and community residents and is the only true green space in downtown for these activities. Taking this away or reducing this space will significantly impact these groups in a negative way. Additionally, adding more businesses that close to so many schools is a security risk for all the students in that area as it will inevitably increase the homeless population mulling about in close proximity to the schools. Improve the walking capabilities in downtown for what already exists before creating more issues for the surrounding community. Refurbish existing dilapidated buildings and businesses and help those thrive before throwing money away on new and improved" area that will not actually improve quality of life for area residents and community members.			X				X	48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Identified in the plan in several places as a revitalization actor, the Downtown Association of Fairbanks should divulge that it sees itself possessing no "levers" of revitalization. We are just advocates, and we are just one actor, and as such, we want to give a sense of where we would contribute to this plan's implementation. Our efforts will focus on two goals found on page 3: Plan Goal #2 (Redevelop Downtown by encouraging new construction and reuse of vacant properties, infilling and updating aging buildings); and Plan Goal #1 (revitalize downtown with a thriving mix of businesses, housing choices, public amenities, and activities that bring people downtown).	X							3	No action	No response needed.

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10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	The plan would benefit from a plan goal that states the need to "attract investment downtown." Such a broad goal could turn all existing goals into strategies.	X							14	No action	Sentiment already captured in current goals; strategies have more specific recommendations around attracting investment.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Economic Development Per the above discussion, we would concentrate our efforts in this chapter under strategies #2, 5, and 7. Under Strategy #2, in addition to development incentives, add "sticks"/penalties to compel blighted properties to improve such as SB 77.		X						32	No action	This was discussed by the Working Group in the past, and the group ultimately decided to include positive incentives instead of penalties.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Land Use In the key issues, the 5th issue of "prioritizing specific types of development", please add "Brownfield" and discourage "Greenfield" until the downtown plan area has been infilled.			X					38	No action	This sentiment is already captured in the first bullet point, regarding infill development.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Strategy 1d. would be strengthened with a statement that all sidewalks in the downtown core should become ADA and be designed and built to be machine-clear-able of snow			X					43	No action	Sidewalks will become ADA accessible as they are redesigned/upgraded over time; this is a requirement of federal funds.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Under existing #2, we need to acknowledge and encourage work with FAST Planning to make downtown bike friendly. Please also consider a 2e. code revision to allow bikes on sidewalks, adding bike racks to city property.					X			65	No action	FAST Planning will be a partner in implementation of the transportation policies in the plan. The Downtown Fairbanks Working Group recommended not including assignments in the plan itself out of concern for being overly prescriptive. Alaska regulations prohibit bicycles on sidewalks in business districts. In the transportation chapter there is a recommendation to provide bicycle parking/storage.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Transportation Please add #1e- consider converting downtown's streets to 2-way. This possibility of revitalizing downtown by improving circulation should never be abandoned. As nice as 5th Avenue turned out, it was a missed opportunity circulation-wise. Tout 5th Avenue if you want, but downtown continues to have the only 1-way streets in the whole city, and not a network of them, either.					X			65	No action	The recommendation to convert one way streets into two way streets was discussed by the Working Group but ultimately not included in the draft plan.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Land Use Which takes us to the feature of the Land Use Map. The Borough's property on Smythe...This "greenfield" should not be a leading offering when there are sizable properties for sale downtown, and many, many smaller properties or dilapidated properties. Also the Borough has not to our knowledge demonstrated its ability to partner in development or incentivize the "right" development to completion. A good number of potential action items in the Econ Dev chapter center on figuring out how to incentivize projects. It is nice to know that the borough could shape downtown's development with such a large parcel in the future. Hold it for a public purpose and concentrate on other properties first. Also, the Working Group agreed to doing something with Smythe on the condition that compensatory green/space/public spaces were identified in the plan as offsets.			X					47	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	To the Potential Future Redevelopment Tools, please add Community Development Block Grant. We also want to applaud the inclusion of a Downtown Improvement District, which attempt at formation in 2013 was defeated by then-Mayor Jerry Cleworth. Maybe its day will come again seeing as Fairbanks employs so few development tools. We note approvingly that the Polaris section is not overly specific and leaves a good deal of trust in the city's effort to redevelop that parcel.		X						35	Incorporated	Add Community Development Block Grants to the list of tools on page 35.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	The "SWOT"-like graphic on p.25 could fit a section on "Threats"; realism would require the plan to consider barriers to downtown's revitalization.	X							25	Incorporated	Rename "Challenges" to "Challenges/Threats"

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10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	On page 17, it should be noted on the first line in the table of government powers that the City and Borough each have the <i>shared power</i> of Economic Development.	X							17	Incorporated	Make this change in the introduction section.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	The Downtown Association of Fairbanks Community Services supports eventual adoption of Downtown 2040. For one thing, the plan is lagging events on the ground downtown - the city's improved snow removal, the Polaris hotel demolition and renewal, the city's broader approach to nuisance properties - and plan elements will further progress in the making.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Much of the plan centers on city powers - to which we have always said, the city's services are the basis of revitalization. Steady snow removal, adequate policing and maintenance upkeep from Public Works aren't something we will take for granted, but you can't revitalize downtown or attract investment if these services are in doubt, or lacking. Because implementation is a matter for those willing to engage, 2040 ought to clearly state the advisability of a steering committee to continue after adoption. We have specific comments in each of the plan's sections.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	We also want to applaud the inclusion of a Downtown Improvement District, which attempt at formation in 2013 was defeated by then-Mayor Jerry Cleworth. Maybe its day will come again seeing as Fairbanks employs so few development tools. We note approvingly that the Polaris section is not overly specific and leaves a good deal of trust in the city's effort to redevelop that parcel.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Public Safety We support the thrust of this chapter - to make downtown more welcoming. We would add that the summertime lunch hour is critical for downtown retailers, and this time period should be made welcoming to our visitors using city resources, as they did this summer with a downtown cop, Officer David Elzey.			X					n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Parking We would ask for a #3d - encourage the city council to review the delegations of authority for parking, and the parking fines fee schedule. We applaud the authors for not reducing the issues with parking to merely an oversupply in the wrong places. There is plainly an enduring parking management issue that this plan can and should include, as it does.						X		n/a	No action	Outside scope of plan.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Finally, comparing Fairbanks to Anchorage, Boise and Salt Lake City needs more justification, and probably more points of comparison. Why not compare Fairbanks to Grand Junction, CO or Casper, WY or Whitehorse, YT?	X							n/a	No action	The analysis has already been completed; criteria for selecting comparison communities included other downtowns with a cold winter climate that have recently adopted downtown plans. Future analysis could consider other communities such as the ones recommended here.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	General Comments - The Plan is not a prescriptive plan on purpose - it does not mandate anything - to avoid the fate of the Vision Fairbanks plan, as if its prescriptive nature is what caused its implementation to fail. Instead, "2040" is a collection of unprioritized ideas that leaves implementation to a coalition of the willing sometime in the future without priorities, a schedule or accountability. To address this weakness, the plan needs three things: - In keeping with the non-binding nature of the plan, 2040 needs a non-binding sense of priority projects/initiatives that should move first to catalyze downtown's continuing improvement - the plan needs an honest assessment of Fairbanks' capacity to implement a plan compared with the "similar cities" of Boise, Salt Lake and Anchorage. What can we learn about these cities' initial or evolved capacity to take-on a Plan and successfully implement key elements? What capacity, experience or know-how does Fairbanks possess with Plan implementation?	X							n/a	No action	The Downtown Fairbanks Working Group recommended not including assignments in the plan itself out of concern for being overly prescriptive. The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners. Identifying the leads and resources needed (equipment, staff, etc.) will be determined as part of implementation.
10/11/23	Downtown Association	David	van den Berg	Housing General comments are that housing should seek to bring new residents downtown. Efforts should include affordable market and premium housing. The governments are in the driver's seat for adopting carrots and sticks to influence the invisible hand of the market.							X	n/a	No action	The housing chapter of the plan identifies recommendations on increasing the number of people living downtown (strategy 2).

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10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M)and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	That being said, our support of the plan is not without some concerns, the primary one being that it is unclear who are the responsible entities for the numerous strategies and actions that are being proposed. Having that identification would better assure that those strategies and actions are indeed being pursued and implemented; without it, you run the risk of people/organizations assuming that someone else is doing it, when in fact no one might be. That identification of roles and responsibilities is what we feel is one of the strengths of the most recent FNSB CEDS.	X							n/a	Incorporated	The Downtown Fairbanks Working Group recommended not including assignments in the plan itself out of concern for being overly prescriptive. Add to the introduction section how implementation will occur, and re-introduce that intent at the front of each set of strategies & actions.
10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M)and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	Secondary to that is the concern over a lack of prioritization; identifying areas that are in need of the most immediate attention would help give some momentum to the overall plan.	X							n/a	Incorporated	The Downtown Fairbanks Working Group recommended not including assignments in the plan itself out of concern for being overly prescriptive. Add to the introduction section how implementation will occur, and re-introduce that intent at the front of each set of strategies & actions.
10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M)and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	Economic Development We fully support reimagining the Polaris Building site as an economic anchor site in the core downtown area. Our organization has been actively involved with the Polaris Working Group since its inception, and while we had in the past advocated for a convention and arts center as the future home for the site, we do support other ideas, projects, and initiatives that could reposition the site in a positive and meaningful way, whether it be for economic development or quality of life.	X							34	No action	No response needed.
10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M)and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	Dear Fairbanks North Star Borough Leaders: On behalf of the Explore Fairbanks board of directors, we are writing today to express our support for the Downtown Working Plan 2040. We appreciate the opportunities this organization has had to contribute to the development of the plan as part of the working group, and, on a larger holistic level, that the process tried to incorporate as many stakeholders as possible. The vision outlined within the plan is aligned with the vision that we in the industry would like to see, not just for our visitors, but also and equally for our residents and for those who live, work, and play here year-round. From the perspective of the visitor industry, we would like to focus our specific comments on the four below sections of the plan, while noting also that we support the recommended strategies and actions for the Parking and Housing sections as well. (specific comments separated into rows) ...Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to offer our comments and feedback, as one of the identified stakeholders, we look forward to doing our part to work with other organizations and community leaders to see this plan come to fruition.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M)and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	We applaud the reference under this section and others to expand the number of culturally and historically relevant activities in downtown that celebrates the rich cultural heritage and diversity of our community.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M)and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	Land Use There are a number of aspects of this section that we are in favor of; the two primary ones being on improving year-round accessibility downtown and the establishment/activation of greenspaces that can be utilized for year-round programming. We also appreciate the recognition of the importance of the Chena River; as the only "river city" in Alaska opportunities are abound to connect people and community to the river.		X						n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M)and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	Public Safety We support the concept of incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles as those principles have other benefits, primarily pertaining to overall aesthetics, that go beyond public safety.			X					n/a	No action	No response needed.

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10/22/23	Explore Fairbanks	Scott (M) and Kathy (H)	McCrea and Hedges	Transportation This section too has a lot of areas we find favorable. We encourage implementation of the sections of this category to speak to the need to improve accessibility for bicycles and encourage initiatives similar to those that FAST Planning has incorporated into the area. The plan rightfully identifies the limited operations of MACS which can be especially challenging on Sundays and late evenings, especially when one takes into consideration how 40% of residents in downtown Fairbanks do not own a vehicle. From the visitor industry perspective, this lack of public transportation is also especially challenging given that many of our independent travelers choose to not rent their own vehicle while here.					X			n/a	No action	No response needed.
11/8/2023	Fairbanks North Star Borough			Add QR code to the front that links with the website.	X							1	Incorporated	Incorporate this edit.
11/21/24	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Helen		Clarify why there are some proposed land use classifications outside the project boundaries, and that they will get applied in the updated FNSB Comp Plan future land use map. These were included because they have adjacent connections/relevant ties to the downtown area. For example (although don't need this level of detail in the plan): the land use designations are included because the neighborhood is accessed through the downtown/consistency of the street/etc.			X					9, 47	Incorporated	Make this edit to the land use section.
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Validated parking (long term and event) has been and currently is being offered to local businesses, state, and borough offices at the parking garage. (6a)						X		80	Incorporated	Remove action 6a, "Develop and implement a program for local businesses to provide parking validation."
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	The parking garage currently offers 30-minute free parking year-round. (6b)						X		80	Incorporated	Remove action 6b, "Reduce or eliminate fees for parking garage use for short-term, high-turnover parking."
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	The ability to continuously monitor occupancy within the garage is already present.						X		80	Incorporated	Remove action 6f, "Track occupancy data for the parking garage."
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Enforcement Officers do not write citations for Occupying More than One space when snow covers the parking lines. I have been told this did occur years ago though. (pg.78)						X		78	Incorporated	Remove the reference to ticketing during winter months.
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	The parking garage @ Lavery Transportation Center does offer automated 24/7 access and easy payment at the 3rd Avenue Exit Kiosk, and the employee's ability to remote into the parking system at any time to assist parkers. (pg. 78)						X		78	Incorporated	Remove the sentence, "Automation makes it feasible to offer customers 24/7 access to and easy payment for garage parking."
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Foremost, I would like extend my deep appreciation to the Downtown Plan 2040 Working Group (former and present) members for their commitment to addressing the various key issues involving revitalizing the Downtown area. As the manager of Golden Heart Parking Service (aka Fairbanks Parking Authority), I would like to take a moment to address many of the parking aspects of the Downtown Plan 2040. Golden Heart Parking Service was created in 1988. Of the many reasons for its establishment, parking issues and later parking enforcement have been significant. It was created separate from local government and organizations to be neutral in parking enforcement. That is not to say there is no association or affiliation with local government, organizations, or businesses but that it is as unbiased as possible in citation writing and no group benefits unequally. The current management of on-street parking keeps people moving through the Downtown core in 2-hour increments, hopefully opening spaces for newcomers to have convenient parking for a lunch date or shopping trip. Local businesses benefit greatly from this unless their owners/employees are parking on street and participating in the "2-hour shuffle". Not only is the valuable parking not available for potential customers, but they also risk being cited for overtime. Many say that the enforcement is strict, perhaps continuous and equitable would be better descriptions. In the Parking section of the Downtown Plan 2040, starting on page 75, I found discrepancies with the information presented in the plan and what is currently utilized. Below is a list (split out into separate lines in the tracker). Overall, the information contained in the plan is somewhat outdated. As this is the final comment period, releasing the appendices to the Downtown Plan 2040 would have been favorable. I think more collaboration with entities directly involved in the Downtown Plan 2040 key issues would have also been helpful. Thank you for your time and consideration.						X		75	Incorporated	Release parking study as an appendix (done).

Fairbanks Downtown Plan - Public Review Draft Comments, Winter 2023-2024					General	Econ Dev	Land Use	Public Safety	Transpo	Parking	Housing	Pg #	Status	Response/Proposed Action
Date	Organization	First name	Last name	Comment										
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	I'm unsure why there is confusion about available public parking but the lots that are private and being enforced have multiple signs going into and throughout them. I have been told on more than one occasion that people parked there because there was no available on-street parking, and they were only going to be a few minutes. (pg.78)						X		78	No action	No response needed; this comment indicates this action is in progress.
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Yearly walk arounds with City of Fairbanks Engineering and Public Works to make changes to signage already occur. For example, this summer signage was added on 3rd Avenue so that there are more 2-hour parking spots. Other signage was added to the existing signage to ensure visibility.						X		78	No action	No response needed; this comment indicates this action is in progress.
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Marketing for the parking garage is currently being worked on and will be available when it is complete. The new digital display hit a few manufacturer problems but will be fully installed as soon as possible. (6d)						X		80	No action	No response needed; this comment indicates this action is in progress.
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Signage improvements to the outside of the parking garage have already occurred and more is being done. We applied and were awarded grant funding through Fast Planning. (6c)						X		80	No action	No response needed; this comment indicates this action is in progress.
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Current hourly, annual contract and monthly contract rates are reasonable, and we listen to all cases.						X		80	No action	Rate recommendations were listed as example projects for encouraging business owners and employees to increase garage usage; the plan does not imply current rates are unreasonable.
10/13/23	Golden Heart Parking Service	Jamie	Rice	Golden Heart Parking Service does not manage any surface lot in the Downtown core, we do enforce private lot compliance for a few. I do not feel that there is a lack of parking per se, but a lack of convenient public parking lots especially on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Avenue area from 300 to 500 block. One surveyed individual described people's willingness to drive around in their vehicle looking for parking at their destination for 30 minutes versus parking a block or two away and ultimately leaving if they were unable to find parking at their destination. Convenience is the factor.						X		n/a	No action	No response needed; the parking chapter recognizes there is likely sufficient parking downtown, but there are challenges with access or use.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	In keeping with mutually identified interests and priorities we offer the following comments: (Note suggested added language appears in italics): Section 2. Economic Development · Please add: 2. e. <i>Encourage the demolition of aged and dilapidated housing and commercial building stock in conjunction with the development of new more suitable housing and commercial development.</i>	X	X						33	No action	The FNSB seeks to encourage redevelopment and adaptive reuse, when possible, instead of demolition. See also land use strategy 5 action d.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Snow removal is a critical part of maintaining safe access to businesses downtown during the winter. To 5. Safety & Accessibility a. Upgrade and maintain sidewalks to be ADA compliant, please ADD: <i>to be able to be machine snow-cleared easily</i> and increase mobility for all users.					X			67	Incorporated	Add this to Transportation Strategy 5 action a.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Consider adding 2e. code revision, as necessary to permit bicycle navigability on sidewalks wherever possible, and adding bike racks to city property.					X			66	No action	Alaska regulations prohibit bicycles on sidewalks in business districts. In the transportation chapter there is a recommendation to provide bicycle parking/storage.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Section 5. Transportation In keeping with the MAPS long term plan we acknowledge and encourage alignment with the MAPS long term plan and working with FAST Planning to make downtown bike-friendly. RE: 2. d. Revitalize the bike share program: We support revitalization of the bike share program to service downtown, with signage to encourage a paved bicycle-safe transportation corridor facilitating increased bicycle flow from Downtown to the University business area, and through to the Steese (in alignment with the GARS to Salcha path, as outlined in the MAPS long term plan.)					X			66	No action	The recommendations for this bike corridor are largely outside the physical boundaries of the plan. In the Transportation chapter, strategy 2 action a supports a connection to the Steese Highway.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Potential Future Redevelopment Tools: Add: <i>Community Development Block Grants</i> . In general, housing development should include affordable, market and premium housing in an effort to attract residents downtown.	X							35	Incorporated	Add Community Development Block Grants to the list of tools on page 35.

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10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Dear Fairbanks North Star Borough leaders, Business prosperity is part of the vision for the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan, and we write today to say that we share that vision. We want to acknowledge the value of creating a comprehensive city plan as an integral part of a vital mapped network of interconnected local, regional, and statewide plans across the state. This kind of coordination is necessary to best focus and leverage economic development activity, in alignment with opportunity, preparedness, and impetus, to successfully revitalize Downtown Fairbanks as a functional and thriving center for business, residents, guests, and overall economic activity and growth. We laud this Plan's efforts, and encourage prioritization in this regard. As the largest business member organization in Alaska's Interior, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports development plans aimed at establishing a healthy business and economic climate. Downtown Fairbanks is underutilized, and we support efforts to develop and maintain it as a thriving mix of businesses, housing and public amenities aimed at drawing people from all walks of life... (specific comments added as separate lines) Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for including our members in the planning process. Sincerely, Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	A good plan for downtown should stimulate development and re-development to foster growth and revitalization. We think this plan accomplishes that in multiple ways: · The plan identifies Downtown as a central multi-modal transportation destination for the region, integrally connected to a network of planning efforts. · The plan aims to encourage development of underutilized parcels and buildings by identifying potential areas for growth, such as the Polaris Building site and land near the Noel Wien Public Library, and proposes policies to incentivize growth, such as public purpose designations, opportunity zones or a downtown improvement district to incentivize public-private partnerships. · The plan aims to support entrepreneurs and small business creation by providing demographic information, survey results and strategies for attracting business downtown, such as compiling a property database highlighting development opportunity. · The plan aims to increase the availability of services that support downtown workers. It calls for incentives for new childcare facilities and for recruiting more businesses that sell staple items, such as grocery stores, and public restrooms designed for safety. · The plan calls for a downtown brand identity, which would help put a new emphasis on downtown Fairbanks as a place to work, shop and recreate. · The plan calls for drawing people downtown by offering a convention center, cultural activities, UAF-sponsored events, outdoor dining and weekend bazaars. · The plan aims to draw a diverse array of people downtown by accommodating drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists by enhancing infrastructure. In addition, it identifies improvements to the public transit system. · The plan calls for investment incentives to increase and improve housing to include mid- to high-density residential development near and adjacent to commercial areas.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Finally, as the central air, road and rail transportation hub for Interior and Northern Alaska, we agree that transportation resources, including roads, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, parking and public transit, must improve functional and safe access to economic points of interest, and appreciate the Downtown Plan in its effort to provide necessary guidance to reach success in these common goals.					X			n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	We find there is merit in referencing plans from other cold-climate cities with comparable geographic, climate, and economic characteristics and constraints that more closely align with those of Fairbanks, such as Grand Junction, CO, or our northern neighbors in Whitehorse, YT, and encourage this in long term planning efforts in the Interior.	X							n/a	No action	The benchmarking summary examined other northern cities. These recommendations regarding other cities will be considered for possible future analysis.
10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Please also: Consider incorporating 2-way traffic vs. one-way systems where it improves access to, and navigability through, the business district and to parking.					X			n/a	No action	The recommendation to convert one way streets into two way streets was discussed by the Working Group but ultimately not included in the draft plan.

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10/13/23	Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy	Johnson	Add language to encourage the city council to review the delegations of authority for parking, and the parking fines fee schedule.					X			n/a	No action	This recommendation is outside the scope of the plan.
11/8/2023	Working Group			Add a land acknowledgement and description of the area's history and indigenous peoples to the introduction.	X							n/a	Incorporated	Incorporate this edit.
4/13/22		Theresa	Helmerts	Parking and roads in downtown core area For future planning in the core area I would like you to address several issues I see when driving downtown and for the need to find a place to park. Driving the crossroads from Barnette over to Noble St the lanes veer wildly when you have parking on one side of the street and then the next block parking is on opposite sides leads to lanes bouncing from side to side. The city needs to do a better job of deciding which side of the street parking will be on and have it that way for the full length of the block so that the lanes can then be consistent from block to block.					X			n/a	No action	The FNSB's Parking Study provides additional information on parking use trends and needs; it is included as an appendix to the Fairbanks Downtown Plan.
4/13/22		Theresa	Helmerts	City also needs to be more proactive in immediately removing snow from sidewalks and get that snow out of the core area so parking isn't limited because the businesses and homeowners are pushing the snow out onto the curb which creates a huge berm that reduces lanes of traffic, makes it impossible for handicapped to travel and makes it an unwelcome place to try and shop or visit restaurants downtown.		X			X	X		n/a	No action	The land use chapter already recommends improved wintertime maintenance of downtown sidewalks.
4/13/22		Theresa	Helmerts	Certain businesses downtown need loading and those should be accommodating so we keep those businesses downtown but they shouldn't be personal parking spots for the owners of those businesses so that should be monitored and possibly set up loading zones for specific hours and then allow regular parking if outside those hours.					X			n/a	No action	The parking chapter already includes a related action: "Encourage employees/residents to use surface lots and parking garages and leave street parking for customers."
4/13/22		Theresa	Helmerts	The city should have dedicated parking lots for visitors to downtown and they should be well marked. Businesses need to find and allocate parking for employees that are not in city lots dedicated for visitors. Basically people are not willing to park several blocks away from their intended destination to walk at -30 on sidewalks that are not cleared of snow, crossing over berms or walking in the street to avoid those berms and other obstructions. Downtown area should be made for walking from business to business but in our dark and cold climate it is definitely not a welcoming thing to do and this city hasn't figured out a way to make it a welcoming thing to do....					X			n/a	No action	The parking chapter already includes a related action: "Encourage employees/residents to use surface lots and parking garages and leave street parking for customers." The City of Fairbanks already has Downtown Snow Removal Standards, and Transportation Strategy 3 includes recommendations to address walkability.
4/13/22		Dot	Keith	Until the issue of the foul mouthed drunks is addressed in the core area downtown all the rest of this is a waste of time and money. I used to drive for Princess Tours and we had a local route that brought people downtown. On more than one occasion I had to radio dispatch to let them know in coded language that the downtown drop off did not look particularly friendly on a given night. I have personally been accosted when trying to take an afternoon walk down the river walk behind the Morris Thompson Center. Millions have already been spent on trying to improve and upgrade our river front city. If an individual cannot walk around and enjoy themselves and feel safe it is all a waste of time and money.				X				n/a	No action	The plan includes recommendations in the public safety chapter to improve safety for residents and visitors downtown.
4/13/22		Patricia	Carlson	public toilets What downtown needs is public toilets. I am a partner of Two Street Gallery who constantly has to hand out a restroom key to people who are not customers. We are a private business paying rent in a privately owned building. We should not have to spend our time handing out bathroom keys, determining if someone is drunk and will actually return the key, or fall asleep or something worse while in the restroom. I am supposed to be helping my customers! Public restrooms are a definite must for everyone downtown. Thank you, Patricia		X						33	No action	The Economic Development chapter already includes a recommendation to install public restrooms (strategy 4 action f).

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6/16/22		Kate	Lundell	Developing Fairbanks For Growth Hello, I'm Kate Lundell, a lifelong resident of Fairbanks. I'm contacting you because I'm interested in developing Fairbanks into a thriving interior Alaska city. I have lots of ideas for making Fairbanks more beautiful and interesting for everyone who comes here. I believe one thing unique about Fairbanks is that despite its relatively large size, it still has a strong community feeling. This is important because I believe it could help Fairbanks relate and collaborate with communities in rural Alaska, notably, interior communities. I would like to see our citizens take pride in living here, keep the city clean, and authentic. I would like to see us connect with Alaska Native Communities and bridge the culture gap between rural and urban Alaska. Please let me know what your thoughts are. I will be looking into working with you as a volunteer. As I said, I have lots of big ideas for Fairbanks, and I would like to share them with you. Sincerely, Kate		X						n/a	No action	No response needed.
9/1/22		Jo	Kuykendall	Part 3 of 3 6. Also if we want people to reside downtown we need to update the sound ordinance. The community needs to be quiet after 10 pm on weekdays and 11 pm on weekends. We are aware of another town w/ a heavy tourist population and lots of beer and wine establishments. Lots of street music occurs in the evenings but at 10 pm the town is quiet. It's lovely. You might want to consider providing free building permits for upgrading downtown residential and business building improvements to bring them up to higher standards you discussed in your paper. Lastly how can the established train tracks to UAF be utilized for transit to and from the University. We used to take the train to Happy with large groups of children who were not charged. It was thrilling for them and we got off at the railroad tracks and walked up to Ann's Greenhouses for tours. The tracks go right by UAF. Could a shuttle be run to help decrease vehicle traffic and permit more students and UAF employees to reside downtown or reside somewhere else and work downtown? Seems like an EZ option as the tracks are already there and being used. Really like your bus downtown suggestion in the paper. Tourists often need to go to a drugstore or grocery store! As a downtown resident I can't tell you how many times we have been stopped by tourists asking for directions to Safeway and setting out to walk there. A downtown circulating bus would be a tremendous help.				X	X			n/a	No action	The need for a downtown grocery store is recognized in the plan. The sound recommendation is outside the purview of the plan; the City of Fairbanks already has noise ordinance policies. Connectivity between downtown and the rest of the community is a top value and recognized goal (see " Goal 3: Reconnect Downtown as a central destination in the region, with roads, trails, and clear wayfinding to guide people to and within the district" as well as Transportation Strategy 6: DESTINATION: Define Downtown as a central transportation destination for the region, connected by multiple modes, in all transportation plans."
9/1/22		Jo	Kuykendall	Part 2 of 3 5. Burn barrels are still being used in the downtown area which is difficult to understand. The law states it can be reported and stopped if fumes and smoke from the barrel contents come onto your property. But that is impossible to do -- they are neighbors plus if it occurs in the evening nothing can be done. At least 1 property owner sold their home and moved because of this problem. Why are they still permitted? Outlaw burn barrels downtown.								n/a	No action	This comment is overly specific and not within the purview of the plan.

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9/1/22		Jo	Kuykendall	Part 1 of 3: comments on draft: Do you WANT comments on this draft, or only after it goes out to the public??? Can't seem to get an answer to this. Hello Melissa, Sorry we missed you yesterday evening. Stuck around till 5:30, but decided something must have come up. First, looks like a lot of work went into this document, and not sure if you want comments at this stage, and wanted to chat w/ you to clarify that and the few points suggested below: 1. Where are families in this document? After reading through about half, I was struck by the fact families were not mentioned as part of the group in our culture. Should they be included somewhere? It seems that when a point is made of building downtowns with families in mind, a lot of problems go away. This might include 3 bedroom dwellings, play equipment in parks downtown near Golden Heart Park, porta potties available in the parks, etc. The presence of families helps offset the potential negatives of bars and night life images. Bringing young families downtown helps everyone. 2. Throughout downtown, there is a dire need for more garbage cans, ashtrays, and outdoor toilets. This is especially apparent at the Golden Heart Park. Our community is represented by this park where tourists come all summer, and the outtake isn't good. It's often dirty, needs cleaning every few days, needs more garbage cans, as well as ashtrays. Keeping it cleaned up would help encourage anyone tempted to toss stuff. The inebriated population is also a problem, as has been discussed repeatedly, and I have personally walked tourists across the bridge, as they were frightened. We really need to get on top of this. 3. Winter Chena River option: can river ice skating be resumed? 4. Seriously need to fix Illinois back to what it was before the upgrades" to Illinois. This would help everyone to restore that left turn egress from the area back onto Illinois and stop the cut through traffic.			X	X			n/a	No action	This comment was received prior to the public review draft going out and families have been added throughout the draft. The land use chapter in the draft includes an action focused on trash removal.	
9/1/22		Jo	Kuykendall	Hello again, Kevin returned my call and said they didn't want feedback till it was done, or words to the effect. When I read in your outline of when you wanted testimony, I thought that as residents of downtown, we were certainly stakeholders. So you can just trash my comments. Kind of wasted my time on this one. Hope you have a lovely time wherever you are going.	X							n/a	No action	This is an older comment, submitted prior to the public review period. Since then, additional comments have been submitted by this individual.
9/7/23		Randy	Kinney	And I hate the housing picture on page 27. Please remove. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.						X	27	No action		There is no housing picture on page 27.
9/7/23		Randy	Kinney	Hello Shelly, I've reviewed the plan and have a few observations. First, we've been invested in FAI CBD for a long time. Kinney Engineering was responsible for Cushman Complete Streets concepts, converting three lanes and narrow sidewalks to two lanes with wide sidewalks and enhancements. We had an extensive modeling process that proved that Cushman demand could be redistributed to other parallel streets, thus making the two lanes possible. KE then provided traffic signal, illumination design and landscape architectural design (thru Earthscape, our sub). KE also was the prime for the recent Cushman bridge upgrades and subbed to PDC for traffic signal and illumination design on Noble Street. Although not quite downtown, we designed the improvements on Gillam Way and are currently designing Cushman/Airport intersection. My personal feeling from the transportation element viewpoint is that Barnette should be the next priority and in the Complete Street configuration, with a potential bikeway (2-way), then Lacey. Both of those corridors have way more vehicle capacity than needed for demand and thus could convert vehicle capacity to pedestrian / bike capacity.				X				n/a	No action	There are already processes in place to identify and prioritize road improvements.
9/14/23		Jeremiah	Cotter	2. The second point of apprehension pertains to snow removal, particularly in areas with year-round bike paths on our widest roads. We already face spatial constraints when it comes to stacking snow, so the question arises: how do we intend to address this issue effectively? Additionally, where will the funding be sourced to double the snow crew size to meet the heightened demand for snow removal? Furthermore, have we considered acquiring additional property to widen our roads for accommodating both equipment and vehicles concurrently? As our town expands and new structures are added downtown, we must prioritize what truly matters. Either Year round bike paths or adequate roads for travel and snow storage.				X				65	Incorporated	Modify the Transportation section to reflect this is a seasonal network and eliminate bike routes from city-managed streets in the proposed bike routes map.

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Date	Organization	First name	Last name	Comment										
9/14/23		Alyssa	Quintyne	Part 6 of 7 My sixth comment is about housing. I will restate from my first comment - It is imperative that if group is not representative of the populations it's trying to serve and that representation cannot be changed that the group directly consult those populations on any statements representing mentioning them. I remember that many of the people on the working group and who attended the workshops are not renters - they own their homes and some are landlords. The FNSB data might be outdated or maybe misinterpreted because people are not taking into consideration dry cabins (but even those are becoming more expensive) but the majority of us who are living in wet cabins and apartments are paying \$12-1500 per mo. not including utilities. Dry cabins are not really prevalent in downtown so while it seems that a lot of housing is under \$1000 you have to consider the location and kind of housing it is and is that "representative" of the housing found in the downtown area. Fairbanks in general has very high cost units - ask anyone who's been renting here for more than 3 years; and it's getting worse. I would also like to add that downtown does have grocery stores - Ebony and Ivory Convenience store and the Co-Op Market. I would encourage this plan to prioritize local homegrown food security solutions and businesses and find ways to prioritize and directly invest in the businesses we already have here!		X					X	85	Incorporated	The descriptions regarding the characteristics of who lives downtown and the cost of housing downtown come from Census data. Modify the bullet on page 85 to reflect that there are convenience stores located Downtown.
9/14/23		Alyssa	Quintyne	Part 3 of 6 My third comment is on the public safety section. While I am happy to see the plan addressing some of the reasons behind the issues that happen downtown I'm disappointed that many of the solutions to the issues of trespass public intoxication houselessness and theft with surface solutions that focus of removing the people and improving the aesthetics instead of providing more of the services we all need. Regardless people in crises are part of our community too. The more we focus on 'aesthetics' and 'street amenities' and push them out of Downtown instead of providing more of the services that people in crises and we as residents need as well the more the problem persists and move elsewhere. We are all one missed paycheck medical emergency default payment or failing stock away from being on the streets. We are all one more ice storm and power outage away to be without heat in a region without a warming or emergency shelter. It is abundantly clear; the reason that downtown has more incidents of disturbances theft and trespassing is because we have no community or mutual aid services for residents. No secular accessible community centers or spaces especially for teens and young adults (13-20yo) no secular warming shelters and no secular long term housing shelters with medical behavioral health addiction or crisis inversion staff will no entry barriers. This is a natural consequence to our municipal leadership's refusal to take this community safety gap seriously. This plan should include how the city government along with other organizations and stakeholders plan to provide or support efforts to provide those services. Addressing the problems at the root is the only way to resolve and repair the harm caused. Additionally with strategy 1e. - In both incident graphs and context of police activity above those this can show that regardless of time entrance location lighting nor constancy increase of police presence does anything to curb the incidents. In fact the incidents are higher during the day then at night. Furthermore strategy 1c states: "Support ongoing operations of human services organizations in Downtown such as food distribution centers the needle exchange program crisis stabilization programs and other services to meet basic needs." and it is those same human service organizations who both testify to the City Council and State Legislature that our local police department exacerbate and often harass and brutalize their clients and community members even after working with the departments to change that dynamic. So it is a little ironic that this working group would take the FPD's suggestion to increase police presence when they exacerbate the incidents rather than prevent and or resolve them. Increasing police presence as a means to deter these kinds of incidents is a false solution. I think it would behoove this working group and other stakeholders to support and invest in the human service organizations who address the root causes of these incidents instead.	X			X				58	No action	To address the concerns in this comment, the plan recommends the following: "Work with social service providers, police, and local businesses operating Downtown to effectively serve clients," along with the associated action, "Create a public safety task force."
9/14/23		Alyssa	Quintyne	Part 4 of 6 My fourth comment is on that transportation section. I want to uplift that the ADA is outdated and currently does not provide current guidance on what people with limited mobility vision and access to both public and private transport actually need. And this is because our federal state and municipal governments have failed to update those regulations. So I would encourage that the working group specifically and directly consult with Disabled people and their circles and ask what their needs and solutions ideas are. The ADA will not tell you everything but the community will.					X			65	No action	The plan prioritizes accessibility downtown.

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Date	Organization	First name	Last name	Comment										
9/14/23		Alyssa	Quintyne	Part 5 or 6 My fifth comment is on the parking issue specifically on the 6th bullet. I would disagree with the statement that 'There is a disconnect between perception and supply of available parking Downtown' and state that this misunderstands what residents' stated in the workshops - it's not that people don't know where available parking is; it's that the places where people need and want to park are limited. I encourage the working group to maybe survey not just city but borough residents about the locations where they need to park and the specific areas where they have confusion or incidents. That might give insight into which lots streets need improvement and how businesses can still secure they have places to park close for them and their employees. Additionally these problems get worse especially in the summer that is exacerbated by tourists season. The residents should have first priority to on-street and lot parking not hotels not tourist. Perhaps tourists and tour buses should utilize the garages more and parking there should be free for all. We all invest in other ways anyways. I do agree that more shared and public transportation will also help curb these issues.						X		76	No action	The FNSB's Parking Study provides additional information on parking use trends and needs; it is included as an appendix to the Fairbanks Downtown Plan.
9/14/23		Alyssa	Quintyne	Part 7 of 7 And in addition I would love to reiterate and amplify - we not only lack a day shelter. We have no secular accessible community centers or spaces no secular warming shelters and no secular long term housing shelters with medical behavioral health addiction or crisis inversion staff will no entry barriers. The Door and The Rescue Mission are both high barrier Christian based organizations ran by volunteers. They alone have not and cannot address houselessness and other crises in our region. Understanding that this working group and the city council can only do so much our municipal governments and elected leaders need to get serious apply for federal funding and provide *secular community owned no entry barrier long term housing shelters warming shelters centers for mental behavioral health and expand the CRISIS NOW initiative. AND these places need to be staffed and managed by medical professionals who specialize in decriminalization addiction and crisis intervention. Not church volunteers or for-profit executives. There is a reason why the Rescue Mission has been under investigation for human trafficking and discrimination. There's a reason why people experiencing houselessness tell others not to go there is they can help it. I would strongly encourage this working group to talk with houseless people DIRECTLY not coalitions or collectives - they do not have the experience nor expertise. Again thank you for the ability to comment and I hope you take this into consideration to improve the impact of the plan.							X	82	No action	Many of the concerns within this comment are addressed under Housing Strategy 5, "Coordinate with organizations to connect people experiencing homelessness with available housing in Downtown" and the associated actions that follow. The new Crisis Stabilization Shelter is also helping address some of these needs.
9/14/23		Alyssa	Quintyne	Part 2 of 6 My second comment is around the 'Who lives in downtown Fairbanks?' figures. The second figure states that the majority of renters in the city pay less than \$1000 per mo. - this is not true. Many downtown residents who rent especially younger residents are actually paying more to tune of \$1200 per mo. for rent around \$12 - 1500 per mo. thru the borough. I would also be curious if the working groups and consulting teams are counting utilities and maintenance in that statement at well.	X							22	Incorporated	This data comes from the Census; we will add some additional information clarifying what it does and does not consider (e.g., utilities).

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9/14/23		Alyssa	Quintyne	Part 1 of 6 Thank you for the ability to comment on this plan, and for the hard work. I've been a resident of Fairbanks for 22 years, and of the city for over 15 years, moved out of city limits in 2020. So while I am no longer a city resident, I appreciate the public being able to comment since many of us still work and spent a lot of time and money downtown. My first comment is on the DEI statement. While I appreciate the statement, I can tell the majority of people in the working group are not representative of downtown's population - this is not how we speak, nor how we refer to ourselves. It is imperative that if group is not representative of the populations it's trying to serve and that representation cannot be changed, that the group directly consult those populations on any statements representing/mentioning them. Remember- for us, by us. While good intentioned, 'Person's of Color' is incredibly tone deaf and outdated; we say People of Color, BIPOC, or Black Brown and Indigenous people. Coming from a young Black Caribbean woman, marginalized people are not 'historically' marginalized - we are still marginalized and discriminated against under our systems of governance, and it is harmful to state otherwise. This statement neglects to mention our military families, that are majorly People of Color and how many of us come and stay in Fairbanks especially when the personnel are retired. This statement also neglects to include the LGBTQ community who both experience housing and public service discrimination, as well as generate a HUGE portion of the events and funding coming to the downtown area. I would offer changing the statement to: Downtown Fairbanks is a diverse economic and cultural hub for the FNSB region. It is has also home to many detriments and oppression that impacts our seniors and elders Black Brown Indigenous communities LGBTQ residents people with Disabilities Immigrant and Military families and households with incomes below the poverty line. The City of Downtown Fairbanks both acknowledges the harm caused to our residents and is committed ensuring our residents' and visitor's safety dignity access and livelihood. This plan offers recommendations to help create a downtown that is inviting and accessible to everyone. Examples of recommendations included in this plan that support marginalized groups include improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities; increasing the availability of quality and affordable housing; incorporating Indigenous place names that celebrate the Alaska Native heritage of the area; improving transportation and mobility options for households without vehicles. The plan offers recommendations for activating and creating safe spaces for everyone while also amplifying the needs of marginalized community.	X								19	Incorporated	Replace current DEI statement with proposed language.
9/14/23		Jeremiah	Cotter	Good Day! 1. My foremost concern revolves around the issue of maintenance. This naturally leads me to the following crucial inquiry: how can we ensure the necessary funding for increased Public Works responsibilities, particularly in terms of maintenance? Our current workload downtown is already challenging to sustain, and any expansion would necessitate either a significant permanent staff increase or a substantial increase to our temporary budget.		X						n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners, not just the City of Fairbanks. Identifying the leads and resources needed (equipment, staff, etc.) will be determined as part of implementation.	
9/14/23		Jeremiah	Cotter	3. While I am enthusiastic about the prospect of our town becoming more vibrant, it is crucial to acknowledge that some ideas may not be feasible given Fairbanks' current circumstances. To bring these proposals to fruition, we must first address the challenge of obtaining the necessary crew size for the maintenance we are already requested to accomplish. This is made even more challenging by the rising wages and the shortage of skilled labor in our area. If we can secure the workforce we need, we are more than willing to undertake the task, but it remains a formidable challenge given our present situation.	X							n/a	No action	The recommendations in the plan will be collectively implemented by a variety of partners, not just the City of Fairbanks. Identifying the leads and resources needed (equipment, staff, etc.) will be determined as part of implementation.	
9/28/23		KJ		Buildings generate pollutants, especially with winter air quality hazards from heating and exhaust. Increased population density in this small area can increase parking difficulties, traffic and pollution.			X		X	X		n/a	No action	In the land use chapter of the draft, there is a recommendation to implement the FNSB Air Quality Comprehensive Plan.	
9/28/23		KJ		Utilization of Shoppers' Forum, with its adjacent property and parking would be advantageous to the public, economic development and possibly provide additional space for services to support community growth and wellness.		X					X	n/a	No action	Shoppers' Forum is not within the project area.	
9/28/23		KJ		Thank you for presenting a proposed plan. Safety in this small area is most important. Pedestrian safety and access is important and maybe compromised by designated bicycle corridors. Bicycle access may impede traffic of vehicles and pedestrians and bicycle lanes doesn't seem like a necessary expenditure for minimal bike usage.				X	X			n/a	No action	The bike corridors along City-managed streets have been removed from the plan.	

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9/28/23		KJ		Utilization of the attractive riverfront is important. I'm not sure increasing downtown housing is realistic. Some of our buildings are historic, but some are just old and dilapidated, which gives the area a rundown, shabby appearance. Improvements are needed long before 2040. Thank you. - Community member for 30 years.		X					X	n/a	No action	The riverfront is already featured in the recommendations. The plan also includes recommendations to address old and dilapidated structures.	
9/29/23		Thelma	Gower	The ability to use farmer's markets to assist in revitalizing downtown is not addressed. This is a major mistake. One of the most bustling and commercially lucrative sights in Fairbanks is the Wednesday and Saturday openings of the Farmer's Market on College Road. On these days, the place is packed and the parking lot is stuffed with vehicles. All kinds of people attend and buy all kinds of stuff, including non-edibles like photographs, soaps, and jewelry. It does not take much imagination to figure out that expansion of this concept to other parts of the city on other days might do all of us a lot of good. Indeed, many cities around the world are taking this urban renewal concept much further than what I am proposing: https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2014/jul/02/next-gen-urban-farms-10-innovative-projects-from-around-the-world		X						34	Incorporated	Add "farmer's market" as example event to Economic Development strategy 7, action b. This is also already referenced in the land use discussion on page 38.	
9/29/23		Patricia	Carlson	Public Safety/Care I am a partner in Two Street Gallery on Second Avenue. Our client's quality of life and vocation depends on providing services to the street people who populate our sidewalks. Every visitor to the city needs amenities such as restrooms and warming facilities available. By not providing these, the private businesses bear the brunt of requests for help in the form of restrooms and loitering in order to warm up. Some of those loiterers have sticky fingers when they enter our gallery. So it's not just a matter of providing restrooms, but keeping the flow of pedestrian traffic moving so they stay safe and warm. We don't pay rent to house people or meet their personal needs. This is a city/borough job.		X		X					33	No action	The Economic Development chapter already includes a recommendation to install public restrooms (strategy 4 action f) as well as Land Use (strategy 4 action g) and Housing (strategy 5).
9/30/23		Sara	Redhead	Congratulations on the work you do for Fairbanks and it's community From our first visit from Australia to what is now like a second home since 2000 my husband and I have made nine visits each of ten weeks staying at Billie's Backpackers. You put us on your mailing list so we have been able to keep abreast of the wonderful work you have done and are doing. Now today on my 90th birthday here again but sadly alone I consider myself so fortunate to spend yet more time here using your excellent bus service with its so friendly drivers. I experienced last Sunday probably one of the best concerts given by the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra with world renowned visit8ng pianist. Keep up your good work and my congratulations Sara Redhead.	X	X			X				n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/2/23		Drew/Kate	Christensen	5) Provide incentives or support to enable murals downtown on buildings. Recommendation: Partner with local universities to provide (at material cost) large murals on buildings willing to sponsor the space. This would allow the labor to be done by local students and teachers while the materials, and non labor costs can be carried by the business. We would LOVE this, or tax incentives enabling this, as we would like to support massive murals on our two buildings.		X	X						n/a	Incorporated	Add as an example project.
10/2/23		Drew/Kate	Christensen	4) TAXES are such that we have been forced to delay significant investment in beautifying the buildings. This is critical to ensure further capital can and is invested downtown. Recommendation: Enable tax credits based on investments into the buildings in these areas starting 2023. This could be in a manner such as "for every Dollar of capital investment with a licensed contractor, 50cents will be credited to local property taxes, and be able to be applied to future years tax revenue."		X	X						35	No action	The economic development chapter already features a list of potential future redevelopment tools, including tax exemptions.
10/2/23		Drew/Kate	Christensen	3) Despite being across the street from the police department, local enforcement requires a significant threshold for correction. This has created situations that reduce the likelihood of finding quality tenants due to life safety concerns of the neighbors and residences. Recommendation: Increase downtown police patrols and reduce catch and release behaviors.				X			X		58	No action	The public safety chapter of the plan already recommends increased presence of police and security downtown (strategy 1 action e).
10/2/23		Drew/Kate	Christensen	1) Existing owners within the downtown area are not being held to safe housing standards. These are basic standards of health and safety for the building tenancies. We recently inspected acquiring a downtown housing unit behind our 1010 Cushman building and found that it was in disrepair to the point that we reported it to the city with the recommendation for it to be condemned. Recommendation: Remove laws and regulations that allow local/onsight owners from doing unlicensed work on residential buildings over 4 units. Then enforce with 5 year city inspections. Further provide incentives for apartment renovations and repairs to address the significant deficit caused by neglect.				X			X		86	No action	The "Redevelop" goal recognizes this need. It is also addressed in Land Use strategy 4 action a . These recommendations could be pursued through the implementation phase of the plan.

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10/2/23		Drew/Kate	Christensen	2) Local ownership rules and enforcement of building codes is lacking, allowing family owned buildings to skirt safety and building codes, reducing the long term health of those buildings and viability. This type of predatory housing behavior prevents quality tenants. Recommendation: Remove laws and regulations that allow local/onsight owners from doing unlicensed work on residential buildings over 4 units. Then enforce with 5 year city inspections.			X			X	86	No action	The "Redevelop" goal recognizes this need. It is also addressed in Land Use strategy 4 action a . These recommendations could be pursued through the implementation phase of the plan.	
10/2/23		Drew/Kate	Christensen	About us: we are the new Owners of the 1010/1002 Cushman building (formerly the Caribou cottages, and formerly Townhouse Motel) as well as the building at 400 Cushman (the apartment building next to the children's museum) First, we fully support the goals and efforts being done to revitalize downtown. We may be one of the larger investors to support this future, and have been actively attempting to expand our footprint - [including reaching out and attempting to purchase and renovate the Alaskan Motor Inn into downtown studio apartments! - If you can assist us in acquiring this, we are prepared to take this over with substantive investments. We have already committed over \$800,000 in capital improvements in 2022 and 2023 for our current buildings, and would be able and willing to commit more in the realm of residential housing] We have some comments and feedback that is critical to ensure it is considered and implemented to support development in downtown Fairbanks. We understand that not all of these may be within this team's charter and control. (additional comments added as separate rows)	X	X	X				n/a	No action	No response needed.	
10/2/23		Drew/Kate	Christensen	6) We fully support the land use goal in 2040 Recommendation: Can owners be sent requests to change zoning to enable this, rather than have the land owners submit these zoning changes? - we would like to authorize these changes for our properties as it aligns perfectly with our intentions.		X	X				n/a	No action	Rezones are generally owner-initiated but may be initiated by Assembly members or the Borough Mayor in certain circumstances.	
10/2/23		Lisa	Rogers-Peter	Morris Thompson Who would I contact to become a vendor at the Thompson Center for the winter solstice festival? The large salmon egg painting hanging up in the Center is one of mine. Inside the Smokehouse. thank you	X						n/a	No action	Not relevant to plan.	
10/4/23		Naomi	Clayton	"Fill in the gaps" As a longtime downtown residential homeowner the term "fill in the gaps" sounds dangerously close to re zoning. That had not passed before and I and many others would not like to see that ever go through. (David Vandenberg, Sue Sprinkle, David Hayden I'm certain feel differently.) It's a matter of property ownership- I have witnessed first hand greedy homeowners inch there way onto others property lines, put up new structures downtown that clearly are Not within there boundaries. I was born and raised in our lovely city of Fairbanks Alaska and I have witnessed many changes. I am all for good change and growth of our city, however when there is sneaky clever behavior taking place strictly to benefit a few rather than all, it becomes a problem.. and where dose it stop. I just ask that everyone take a good look at the fine print. Alaskans need to be aware and have a say in what goes on in our city. I simply am commenting for the purpose that all should be protected . Please make certain you are doing that. Thank you for your time .			X				n/a	No action	The future land use map in the plan recommends improvements to zoning codes and makes recommendations for how an area should develop. However, it does not make changes to existing zoning codes. Rezoning is a separate public process.	
10/13/23		Vadim		(affiliation - Barnette Magnet School) Do not cut parks!!!! Commercial interest are always well hidden under so called Noble intentions". Leave the park alone. Encourage multi-level buildings set severe codes for buildings aspect and design and people will love to live in downtown Fairbanks.			X				n/a	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.	
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	Housing and development - The city should create a local business incubator service, to help build up local business and to allow them to hone skills and services, ultimately placing them in existing available commercial spaces in the core. - The city should work to actively draw businesses from the periphery, into downtown.		X					33	No action	The economic development chapter already includes a recommendation to establish cooperative businesses spaces/start up spaces, and to encourage businesses to locate downtown.	

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10/13/23		Alyson	Rigby	Feedback on Downtown 2040 Plan As a person that is connected daily to Weeks Field through my work at the library, as well as someone who raised their family in Fairbanks, I strongly request that you choose Alternative 2 for that area. If you take that full green space away, you lose the only true field in the walkable Downtown area. People use that specific zone to throw balls to their dogs, fly kites, let their kids run around. It's an open, visible space that helps kids walk from Barnette to the library after school safely. I work in the children's department and we use that space for programming outdoors such as the petting zoo, outdoor day, agility dogs and more. I would suggest revitalizing it with interactive public art, maybe a sculpture garden on the outskirts. Since the children's library moved to Joy, parents have been hugely vocal about how they love having a playground next to the library so it's an easy enticement for the kids and more of a day out, so perhaps consider that before commerce. To conclude, I would identify Alternative 2 as fulfilling these points: Promote enjoyment of parks trails public facilities and other amenities in Downtown Intended to protect and provide for parks plazas green space open space corridors reuse of vacant properties filling in gaps and updating aging buildings Refresh Downtown with improved lighting public art visual improvements and design strategies to make the district feel safe welcoming and vibrant. We need a field. We need the old and unused buildings to be replaced before we build new ones; that would be a better use of land. Thank you for your time Alyson Rigby.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Brandi	Wehner	Alternative 2 because it preserves Weeks Field		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Casey	Wehmeier	(Elementary teacher at Barnette) The Borough has a new land use proposal regarding the green space near the library being turned into mixed use preferred commercial". The area between the library and Barnette School would become a commercial area. This is a terrible idea for the community. It is used by library patrons and by families in the area as it is the only grassy area there. I know that as a school community that green space is an asset for families for classes for running and skiing clubs and for the community as a whole. Especially with the recent upgrades to the library leaving weeks field as a park will provide a safer place for the students from Lathrop. Ryan and Barnette that congregate to play after school. We need community areas to build up Fairbanks not more stores		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Charella	Fullinck	Hello, I support Alternative 2, of the FNSB Downtown Plan, because it preserves Weeks Field. Sincerely,		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Charles	Woodward	Good evening, I'm writing to ask that you please keep Weeks Field (next to the library) as is. Several children use that space for recreation, but it would also feel bad to let the former Weeks airstrip (Fairbanks history) be sold to commercial interests. Thank you	X	X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Deseree	Baker	The area designated With two alternatives the green space that is by the public library should remain a park. It should not have any commercial implementations. That area is used by children to walk to the library safely. It's open and easy to see. It's used by others for picnics and other uses. I vote against remodeling this area. Having green space down town is important too.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.

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10/13/23		Gavyn	Shepard	The Borough has a new land use proposal coming out that was released in September. There are two alternative land use plans, one of which has a lot of the green space near the library being turned into "mixed use preferred commercial". Meaning the area between the library and Barnette School would become a commercial area. As a lifelong Fairbanks resident, I feel that this is not a good use of that land and actively inhibits library programming. We use weeks field for Youth Service programming, both the Berry Room and Young Adult branches use that space. Our patrons enjoy being able to play in the field with their families there, and as a place for peaceful time in nature. We have held our Literary Farmer's market there and it has really exploded in popularity. Losing the green space by our library would be a great loss to downtown, the library, and most importantly to our community members. We have multiple schools around the Noel Wien Library where children and families come on over right from school before going out to play in what they know is right next to a safe and free facility for them to go to. Noel Wien is already losing much of our story garden space to the renovation. On top of that, the gardens and trees are dedicated to people. I have an uncle who was murdered and now has a rose bush dedicated to him in weeks field. I do not want my uncle's memory to be pushed to the side, along with everyone else memorialized there. So based on my understandings of the proposal, I am supporting Alternative 2, to preserve weeks field for our community to enjoy. There does not need to be a commercial area between the library and a school. There are other places more fit for that. I want what is best for our patrons and our community, and our services would be hindered by this change. I feel we can keep weeks field a green space and create a park within, maybe even a community garden. We can utilize that space as more than just commercial use. There is more to the city than businesses. There are so many places that are not free to go to anymore, they expect payment to exist in most spaces nowadays. Libraries are one of the only places you can go where you know you do not have to pay to be there and use most anything there for free. As servants of the public we must think about what is for the good of the community, and a public park, maybe even with a facelift, is what would best fit in that space. I speak for myself, not for the library at large, but this is important to me both as a library worker and a patron of the library who has been coming to Noel Wien for as long as I can remember. I have sat and read on the benches there many times, played with friends, gone on walks, and many more things with just what we have. Parents have wanted some more playground sorts of things around the library. I think this is something to look into. And I urge you to save our field.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Hope	Rumpca	I wanted to express my dismay at the thought that the green area, Weeks Field/Wien Park, between the Noel Wien Public Library and Barnette School may become commercial property! The library, as well as the school, use that area for programs. It is also a busy walking, play, and picnic area during spring, summer, and fall.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Jeana	Apling	Greenspace between Cowles, Barnette, Smythe Please keep the Greenspace between Cowles, Barnette, Smythe as a Parks and Open Space designation. This area is used by the community for walking with pets children's games and by Barnette School Noel Wien Library as well as Alaska International Senior Games for events that the whole community can watch and or participate in. I believe the community would rather see a park with a playground as well as an AARP FitLot Outdoor Fitness Park then to turn this space into any sort of commercial property. Please consider keeping this greenspace green and alternately please consider adding a playground and outdoor fitness park.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.

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10/13/23		Jennifer	Matz	Good afternoon, I am the President of the Barnette Magnet PTA, and the parent of a student at the school. It has just come to my attention that there is a proposed commercial space intended for the current green space between Barnette and the Noel Wien Library. This is very concerning to me as we have teachers who walk their classes over to the library (when it is open) several times a year. The primary grades (Kindergarten through second grade) also use that area in the fall for nature scavenger hunts. In addition to this, a commercial space would greatly impact the parking at Barnette and the traffic flow for drop off and pick up times. We have 425 students and about 60 staff that are present in the school most of the year. Because we do not have bussing, parents drop of their children and pick them up, which means a lot of vehicles twice a day. Lastly, there are a lot of vacant buildings in town. It would make more sense to make these usable rather than tear up trees and grass.			X		X			48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Jill	Mullen	I support Alternative 2 because it preserves Weeks Field. We have enough commercial space with empty buildings and empty land that should to be utilized before any more land is taken and turned into commercial lots.	X	X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Karen	Jensen	Green Spaces With only a brief glance at the plan, I prefer more green space around the library area. We have so much developed land in the downtown area. A lot of those old concrete monstrous buildings from the 50s and 60 just need to get razed. We could more mini parks and beautiful trees in everywhere. I notice that in the vision" - beauty is not a consideration. The most beautiful cities in the world have pedestrian shopping streets and loads of parks and trees. It's as if aesthetics never fit in to urban planning in Alaska; we just don't get it. As they say about Anchorage - the world's ugliest city in the world's most beautiful setting. Fairbanks could be so much more. Look at Northfield Minnesota to see what the riverside area could be if only we cared about beauty.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Katarzyna Anna	Johnson	I would like to express my preference for maintaining as much of the greenspace as possible near Barnette Magnet School and going with the Alternative 2 option. The field near Barnette Magnet School provides wonderful opportunities for kids that go to the school and in the neighborhood. It allows for Barnette to have extra curricular activities such as ski club and running club. It would truly be a shame to lose most of that green space so close to the school to residential development. I feel a lot of other Barnette families feel the same, most just weren't aware of this plan or the quick suspense on the comment period. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Kelly	Allen	Down town 2040 comment - Green space between library and Barnett Magnet School I would prefer Alternative 2, keep a big portion of the green space parks! I would also like to keep my son's school separate from more commercial development. The school regularly uses that field for class picnics, nature walks, and large group activities. It would be a big loss to have that field become businesses.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		KIMBERLY	IMBERT	Downtown Plan Comments I love that there is a plan to encompass all the needs and create a welcoming downtown! I was born and raised in downtown Fairbanks, my favorite part being the cute old homes. My family owns several small lots, and we love the revitalization that has been happening. I support the 2nd alternate, which has more green space.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		MICHELLE T	LAMMERS	Week's Field To whom it may concern, I have been a teacher at Barnette Magnet School for 15 years. I can't tell you how many time during the beginning (and some warmer years the end)of the school year that I have taken my class over there to have class on the grass." It's a beautiful piece of untouched nature in the middle of all the hustle and bustle of town. Specifically at our school we have a nature writing class where students need places like this. I am completely against any commercial development or messing with this beautiful space. Sincerely Michelle Lammers			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.

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10/13/23		Sarah Swift	Masterman	FBX 2040 - Weeks Field I work at the public library and previously worked at Barnette Magnet School. My father resides at Raven Landing. I know first-hand how important Weeks Field Park is to the community of people who live and work in downtown Fairbanks. There are people in that park almost constantly. The children's services staff at the library uses the park for programming, and Barnette School children use the park for skiing and running clubs. Students from Ryan and Lathrop come over to play frisbee in nice weather. Families gather in the park for picnics. The park is also a pleasant green or sunny white corridor for walkers traveling between residential areas, bus stops, the Tanana Valley Clinic and the Co-op Grocery Store. The proposed Alternative 1" land use plan would close that walking corridor and block the sunlight that is so important to all of us in the winter. The plan itself mentions that there are many empty store fronts in Fairbanks. Let's revitalize those rather than eliminating the green space that we all prize so highly. Adding playground equipment to the park in close proximity to the library would increase use of the park and also encourage more use of the public library. That would be a much higher purpose than commercial development. More commercial development might bring in tax dollars but if Fairbanks isn't a pleasant place to live there won't be any customers for those businesses.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Susan Hood	Sisson	Weeks Field is an important green space in downtown Fairbanks. It is lovely to have an outdoor space connected to our library. I frequently walk my dog there and see many others using as a walking corridor. I think it would negatively impact the community to develop this historic area in Fairbanks.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Teresa	Wilson	Hi, I was just made aware of this possibility occurring on the land between the Noel Wien library and Barnette school. I am opposed to this happening for several reasons. The students use this land for exploring in their classes, running and ski club. Taking this land away makes it more unsafe for the kids walking as the "traffic" will increase. I hope that this gets brought to the public attention a lot sooner than I was aware so that other parents and people in the community can voice their concerns. This should NOT occur!		X	X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	Housing and development Prioritize Missing Middle housing typologies, and disallow detached single family homes in the core area.		X					X	49	No action	The housing chapter recommends developing more housing options, including those considered "missing middle." The urban core proposed future land use category encourages higher density residential.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- Remove all parking requirements for city parcels, regardless of building or zoning type.						X		79	No action	Already recommended in the parking chapter.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	Housing and development - The city should streamline permitting, code review, and subsidize all utility hookups. Grease all the wheels!!		X						43-46	No action	Permitting and code recommendations are already captured in the land use chapter.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	Housing and development - The city should purposefully plan minimum density of developments (minimum FAR, with build to lines) and housing and develop incentive programs to ensure it's creation (lower mill rate for higher density)		X					X	49, 35	No action	The proposed land use categories do include proposed minimum density for housing. The economic development chapter already offers redevelopment incentive ideas.
10/13/23		Hope	Rumpca	Rather thread turn Weeks Field into a commercial area, why not install a playground? That is something that would garner a lot of use from the public! Families could visit the library and then spend time using the playground.		X						33	Incorporated	Add broad playground recommendation as an example project under Land Use strategy 3 action A and add "facilities" to list under action A.

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10/13/23		KIMBERLY	IMBERT	I hope that someone would want to add another community garden and just have more of nature's beauty. Keep as many trees as possible! One thing I dislike about downtown is all of the parking that is reserved for various people. Especially because they are almost always vacant. My other observation is that it is so expensive and inconvenient to renovate or rebuild a home downtown due to all of the costs and red tape which are different outside of city limits. What also discourages rebuilding are the rules for pushing the home footprint so far back that you lose your backyard. My family tends to value more historical things than modern and when we are taking care of old properties that have belonged in the family for decades we want to preserve their characteristics. Not being able to do that strongly discourages our desire to invest in those properties as codes related to rebuilding wouldn't allow us to preserve the essence of what we love. I understand the need for updated codes but they don't all make sense or seem necessary and they greatly change the unique character of our adorable downtown. Increasing mental health programs would also help the downtown. I'm sure that is not within your scope but is worth mentioning to bring attention to by those who could influence attention to the issue. The population experiencing homelessness are usually struggling with both mental health and substance abuse which are truly difficult to find and receive support for overcoming in this town. Thank you for your work on downtown Fairbanks!		X	X				X	n/a	No action	Most of the recommendations here are already captured in the plan. The land use chapter includes strategies and actions to help preserve historic properties. The parking chapter includes strategies and actions to increase use of existing parking. The housing chapter includes strategies and actions to help property owners upgrade and rehabilitate properties. Both the public safety and housing chapters include strategies and actions to support vulnerable residents and increase access to housing and supportive services.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	Those are my broad and specific ideas compiled. I think that a successful plan needs to have more teeth if it's going to truly be able to encourage or drive change.	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- Parking lot owners should be responsible for snow clearing on all adjacent sidewalks.		X				X		n/a	No action	The City of Fairbanks already has Snow Removal Standards that identify who is responsible for clearing snow.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	Melissa, thank you for taking the time to meet today. I'm including my comments, submitted on behalf of myself, related to the downtown plan (I received an error when attempting to submit these via the website). It's taken me a while to compile these given outages and work travel so please excuse my 11th hour submission :) High level: there should be actionable items and definitive progress check ins for all steps of the plan.	X							n/a	No action	The Downtown Fairbanks Working Group recommended not including action items in the plan itself out of concern for being overly prescriptive. Action items and progress check-ins will occur as part of implementation.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	Housing and development - Senior housing demands are going to exacerbate the housing crisis and efficiency options for seniors downtown would help mitigate this bottleneck.							X	n/a	No action	The housing chapter already recommends developing more housing options for seniors downtown.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- This housing should be at a variety of price points.							X	n/a	No action	The housing chapter already recommends promoting diverse new housing options.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- On street parking should be charged (via an app like passport) and the parking garage should be free.		X				X		n/a	No action	The parking chapter of the plan already recommends a phone app in the parking section. Free parking already exists for short term parking.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- Surface parking lots should be taxed at higher rates to incentivize development into buildings.		X						n/a	No action	The parking chapter of the plan includes a broad strategy regarding development of surface parking lots and encourages establishing incentives to redevelop underutilized lots, as opposed to penalties.

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10/13/23		BJ		Part 1 of 2: It is an undisputable fact of life that Fairbanks and the Borough over the years, especially since urban renewal, has a dismal almost non-existent record when it comes to preserving Fairbanks unique history and the historic flavor of the town, which is why most tourists are disappointed in what little they see of "the old mining camp" when they visit. People can see generic modern day architecture and empty parking lots and everyday commercial businesses up and down flower lined streets in just about every ho hum city or town they visit, except in those cities and towns that are proud of their unique histories to the point they have worked hard to use their abandoned downtown core as an area where they can cash in by highlighting some of their past history where visitors and locals alike can go and get a small taste of the city or towns past history that people are interested in experiencing. The history of the Fairbanks area is unique, interesting, and world-renowned. Yet after people travel thousands of miles to see and experience some of the area's interesting history they don't get to see or experience much of it, other than the small amount of visible history at Alaska land that the Pioneers Igloo thankfully managed to save back during urban renewal days. So.... how about helping Fairbanks start filling it's coffers year around with thousands more tourist and local dollars they are currently missing out on each year while at the same time giving locals something they can enjoy and something they can be proud of by reserving maybe 1st street to 4th street between Cushman and Lacy exclusively for old Fairbanks themed businesses and activities and fill it with year around festivals and fun activities, and even a few well regulated gold rush themed saloons. Even crank back up the old traditional downtown winter activities like the old winter carnivals and winter parades. Build it and they will come! Fairbanks could be soooo much more than what City and Borough Fathers has allowed it to become. The money will come, but first you got to love Fairbanks and it's unique interesting history and have the will and the talent to instill that same will in the people.	X							n/a	No action	The plan already features recommendations to preserve and promote the historic elements of downtown Fairbanks.
10/13/23		BJ		Part 2 of 2: It will be next to impossible to successfully revitalize the abandoned downtown core area until you come up with something unique that will highlight Fairbanks unique history and draw locals and visitors, who traveled thousands of miles expecting to be able to get a feel of old Fairbanks as they envision it, to the downtown area exactly where Fairbanks' world-renowned unique early history was made. I personally consider it to be criminal what was done to "clean up" the historical core area after the pipeline. Being uneducated I'm unable to put into words in such a short space what I firmly believe can be done for Fairbanks monetarily and pride wise if this opportunity is not squandered by modernizing the historic downtown area with no thought of trying to highlight and profit from Fairbanks unique world-renowned history, of which too much of it's profitable visible history now lies buried in the city dump and not contributing a dime to City or Borough coffers. But a sizeable chunk of the core area themed and focused on bringing Fairbanks interesting and unique past back alive as near as possible will not only bring in substantial year around local and visitor dollars, if this 2040 plan is to be successful this one themed area would be a big reason why. But without it I firmly believe most any plan for the core area will have a hard time ever bearing any meaningful fruit. Thanks for reading. BJ	X							n/a	No action	The plan already features recommendations to preserve and promote the historic elements of downtown Fairbanks.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- Surface lots held by city or state entities should be made available to the general public, without exception, between the hours of 5pm and 5am	X				X			n/a	No action	The plan already recommends sharing parking for off-street lots.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- The city should convert streets in the core into two way roads, to limit out of direction travel, lower speeds and make a safer environment for all users.	X			X				n/a	No action	The recommendation to convert one way streets into two way streets was discussed by the Working Group but ultimately not included in the draft plan.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- Two way roads are more egalitarian for seasonal food options, and allow businesses on both sides of the road to host food trucks :)	X			X				n/a	No action	The recommendation to convert one way streets into two way streets was discussed by the Working Group but ultimately not included in the draft plan.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- Bicycle and pedestrian amenities and infrastructure should be given increased priority over on- and off-street parking.				X				n/a	No action	The transportation chapter seeks improvements for all modes of transportation.

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10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- Surface parking should be granted a maximum of 1 driveway per frontage, and all vehicle aisle circulation should take place within parcel boundaries.		X				X		n/a	No action	This is more detailed than other recommendations in the plan.
10/13/23		Corey	DiRutigliano	- no city lots should be used for snow storage.			X					n/a	No action	This recommendation is too prescriptive for the scope of the plan.
10/13/23		NITA	DESMOND-LAYRAL	Proposed alternates for area adjacent to Noel Wien Library As a downtown resident (Denali Way, outside of the downtown core but still within downtown area), I have to voice my opposition to Alternate 2 as proposed in the FBX2040 plan. While the green space adjacent to Noel Wien is currently underutilized, it has a ton of potential and provides a much needed safe, open green space for the surrounding residents. Weeks Park could be a community gathering space, if allowed to be better utilized by the community. There is parking along Smythe that could be used by food trucks catering to festivities or events. There is ample parking and pedestrian access. Truly, it is a space with a ton of potential to host community events. I've been working up a proposal to utilize the space for a free community concert series that I would be happy to hand off to anyone willing to make it happen if it meant not developing this park into housing. I'm happy to get involved as a resident and local contractor, if it will make a difference. But truly, I cannot express enough, my adamant opposition to Alternative 2.		X	X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Lori	MERTES	Downtown Fairbanks 2040 The only comment I have is to make sure lights are kept on Cushman as it beautifies downtown and with our darkness keeps people safe.				X				n/a	No action	The safety and accessibility strategy in the transportation chapter recommends improved lighting and light placement downtown.
10/13/23		Violet	Hollowell	I prefer alternative 2 - preserve more park space! Hello. I love the park areas around the library and I don't want to see them developed for commercial purposes or fenced off for exclusive use by the Barnette School. I work at the library and live nearby and that park is a great feature as it is. Thanks for being open to feedback.		X	X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Heather	Welshans	Keep it green around Noel Wien Library I would just like to argue for keeping the space around Noel Wien Library green - and not 'preferred commercial'. I think we need what few green spaces we have in this area for residents to enjoy and this particular location is well utilized as is (i.e., green). Thank you!			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Sabrina	Kiele	Green areas around Noel Wien Library Hi, I just became aware of the downtown Fairbanks proposal, and I'm concerned that one of the things proposed is cutting out a lot of the green space around the Noel Wien Library. I think it's very important to keep that area a green space, because a lot of people use it the way it is. From spring through fall, I usually eat lunch in my car, facing Wien Park/Weeks Field. I see so much activity in that area! The library has programs there, and smaller groups have events such as the annual Senior Games or yoga. I often see school groups doing some sort of activity there, and one summer I saw some sort of summer daycare group there for playtime once a week. Lots of people walk their dogs there, often on a daily basis, and people fly kites there. Lots of people, including library employees and patrons, walk in that space. Based on all the activity I've seen in Wien Park/Weeks Field, I think it should remain an open, green space for the community to enjoy. I think it would be great to have a playground there, near the library, but otherwise, I think the area should stay exactly as it is, because it's serving a great purpose in the community.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Michelle	Proper	2040 Comment Preservation of Weeks Field! Alternative #2 is preferred.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Moki	Rigby-Ronningen	Greenspace As a library worker, i would prefer that Alternative 2 be implemented. As the field adjacent to the library is an important space, both for our patrons, and my fellow employees & I.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.

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10/13/23		Elena	Cleveland	Weeks Field Please keep the Green Zone green. We really need the park space at the library.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Kaz	Storm	Advocating for Maintaining the Green Space of Weeks Field Hello, I am writing to advocate for maintaining the field around the Noel Wien Library as a green space open to the public. As a teacher at Barnette Magnet school, the field offers a safe place for my class to get out of the building, into nature, and a safe path to the library (when it is open). At Weeks Field I can be within walkie talkie distance of my school, maintaining additional safety and access to support. During green-up, our school contributes to the community by picking up trash in and around Weeks Field. Many of our students commute to Barnette through the paths that cross Weeks Field and many parents use that area as an alternate pick-up location. This area is a vital part to our school community and the residential community around the Noel Wien Library. As you look for areas to improve, please consider leaving Weeks Field as it is. Thank you!		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Rae	Trainor	The green space between the Noel Wien Library and Barnette Magnet School Hello, I am a teacher at Barnette Magnet School and our school uses that green space for so many activities throughout the school year. Our Ski Club has collaborated with the Borough to groom trails in the field for our Ski Club to use, our Running Club uses the field for practices, we use that space for field trips, and students clean up trash there for a service learning activity. Downtown Fairbanks does not have enough green spaces and it would be a huge loss to the community to lose that field for public use.		X						48	To incorporate	Develop another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Catherine	Berner	Downtown Plan Please keep the space surrounding the Noel Wien Public Library along Airport Way and between the library and Barnette school as a park and green space. The plan designates it as mixed use commercial space. Airport way is already a long ugly strip mall of a road. Please preserve the green space that exists therefor the people of Fairbanks and our library as a lovely oasis of calm in a far too commercialized world. Thank you.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Hope	Winch	Land use proposal Hi! I believe that alternative 2 is a much better option as the green spaces near the library are used frequently by students of the 3 schools near the library as well as children who visit the library itself. Thank you!!!		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Christina	Ried	Weeks Field Public Comment: A commercial business next to the beautiful new library facilities would likely detract from that new design with access to lovely grounds to enjoy for the public. Many students from Barnette Magnet, Lathrop and Ryan use the library and the field after school and to do activities. Barnette does walking field trips to the library, volunteers to police the area for trash, uses it in the fall for running club, in the winter for ski club and many classes go out for nature walks, art classes, outdoor PE classes and the like multiple times a day. Keeping this a green space in our community is paramount.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Vanessa	Dallaire	Weeks Field My comments are regarding the proposed commercial development in Weeks Field. As a long time Barnette Magnet School parent, it greatly saddens me that this area will be used for commercial building. Students use this area for numerous activities that benefit them in many ways. Running club, ski club, general play, exploration, field trips, picnics, etc. I am also a teacher at Barnette and so I have first hand knowledge of how beneficial Weeks Field is to the students, my own children included, and to the greater community at large. Please consider this when making decisions about the fate of Weeks Field. Please consider repurposing the many vacant buildings in our town that already exist. Thank you!		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Haanah	McFadden	Green space development As a Barnette Magnet School parent, I urge you to reconsider eliminating Weeks Field that lies between the school and Noel Wien Library. This open green space is utilized heavily by students and families of Barnette Magnet School. It is used for ski club, Physical Education classes, and nature adventures. The walking paths are often used by families while waiting for students. Please keep this safe green space available to your Community!		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Charlie	Kvapil	Support for Alternative 2 I support Alternative 2 because it preserves Weeks Field as a local, free park that is enjoyed by all members of the borough, and helps keep our downtown beautiful.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.

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10/13/23		Claudia	Markham	Downtown Development Plan, Weeks Field As a borough resident and regular library user, I appreciate the open and green space between and around the library and Barnette Elementary. It provides an aesthetic counterbalance to the ugliness of the Lathrop/Hering complex and Shoppers Forum mall and the crowdedness of Raven Landing and the housing buildings to the west. Please preserve this open breathing space that brings such tremendous value to this part of town.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Kati	Armbruster	Preserve Weeks Field in Fbx 2040 Particularly in light of a warming global climate, and the already low level of walkable green zones in downtown Fairbanks, PLEASE preserve Weeks field! I work at Noel Wien Library and not only do many of our patrons (and thus, local residents) make much use of the park throughout the year, for running space for their children, walking dogs, picnics with friends, yoga in the park, and numerous other activities, we also get a large number of tourists in the summer that note the beauty of the park surrounding the library, with the trees and bushes, the lilacs in bloom, and even the corner planter of tea roses. This would be a HUGE loss for our community to tear out Weeks Field!		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		David	Matz	Fairbanks 2040 Plan Comments Option 2 is significantly better, as it does not reduce the green space nearly as much, so it maintains the ability to continue to enjoy the green space, does not reduce the character of the neighborhood as much, and wouldn't increase developed areas as much. My ideal alternative for that area would be to maintain the green space, adding features to it that would make it more useful. For instance, adding a small picnic area, not say as large as a pavilion at Pioneer park, but more on the line of the small pavilion at the Gorgeson Botanical gardens, along with a couple things for kids to play on or around -- not necessarily full playground equipment -- but things to encourage families to come out and use the space. In fact, in line with this use, this could be a perfect location for installation of a splash pad. We don't have one in Fairbanks that I'm aware of -- there are a couple in Anchorage, I believe. On some of our very hot 70 - 90 degree summer days, that would be an excellent place for parents to take kids, let the kids play in the splash pad, while parents sit and converse with other parents as they watch their kids. Or, in evenings for families to have a family picnic.	X	X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		David	Matz	Fairbanks 2040 Plan Comments Hello, I am writing because I have reviewed both of your plan options for Fairbanks 2040. In doing so, although I do not agree with either alternative entirely in the options for the Weeks Field area. Both options reduce the green space in the downtown area, while offering very little benefit to the core downtown area as it is very much on the edge of downtown. Of the options, option 2 is definitely significantly better than option 1. Option 1 with mixed commercial space definitely conflicts with land use focus items 3 - 5. It reduces the ability to enjoy the green space. Reduction of the green space and adding commercial space decreases the environmental health of downtown by replacing natural green space with developed areas. And, it also reduces the character of the neighborhood along Smythe Street, as the small green space won't provide much of a buffer between the residential area and the new development. The island of mixed used commercial space in the Weeks Field area wouldn't be walkable to other parts of downtown, at least in the winter, and would likely be an island served by cars, requiring additional parking. Option 2 is significantly better, as it does not reduce the green space nearly as much, so it maintains the ability to continue to enjoy the green space, does not reduce the character of the neighborhood as much, and wouldn't increase developed areas as much.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Maggie	Samson	DO NOT USE LAND INTO BETWEEN BARNETTE AND THE LIBRARY That area is used as a park area by schools, library, walkers, bikers, etc. It would be a beautiful community garden or park, but please don't put a building in one of the last beautiful natural areas left in the area.		X						48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Dara	Brann	Comments and feedback for 2040 plan Fairbanks could greatly benefit from increased accessibility for wheelchair users and pedestrian friendly, walkable areas for all types of mobility. I would like increased inclusion of places for children and families to safely interact and walk/ bike downtown with unbroken connections to all commuter trails. There is ample research which shows that purposeful community design leads to increased longevity with improved activity, and increased social connectedness through stronger communities. Please consider integrating this research into the plan to prioritize people rather than automobiles. Thank you so much!			X	X				65	No action	The transportation chapter includes recommendations that focus on both mobility and connectivity.

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10/13/23		Jaime	Witte	Weeks Field Re-Purpose I am commenting to strongly oppose the green space between the Noel Wein Library and Barnette Magnet school being repurposed for commercial space. The field is such an asset to the entire Fairbanks community and even more so for K-8th grade students at Barnette Magnet School. Our running club and ski club both use the space for our afterschool programs in the fall and spring respectively. I as a PE teacher use the space for organized games and for walking/jogging to get students moving. Many of our classes use the space for photography projects, nature journaling and scientific exploration. Barnette has dozens of students who use the library after school and it's incredible that it is a safe path that is away from traffic to walk there each day. It would be an absolute shame to lose such a beautiful downtown park.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Jamia Alexander	Ball	While I know housing is a concern in the downtown area, there are many streets that have vacant lots or obviously abandoned structures that could be utilized for this purpose. Not only would it provide needed housing but would also improve the property values of current residents and the overall appearance of the downtown area.		X					X	32	No action	The economic development chapter includes strategies and actions that encourage development of vacant/underutilized parcels and buildings.
10/13/23		Jamia Alexander	Ball	Maintain Week's Field and Support Revitalization and Clean-up of Downtown Please maintain the area around the Noel Wien Library and Week's Field as it is currently. There are many community members that walk their dogs, have picnics, play sports, and just generally enjoy the only open green space in the southwest portion of the downtown area. The Noel Wien Library regularly uses Week's Field in the summer for programming and many of the staff walk along its paths during their breaks and lunch and observe the wildlife that can be found there. Additionally, school groups from Barnett Elementary easily and safely walk across Week's Field for their regular library visits.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Sarah	Wright	Please keep our green space I am a Fairbanks resident, teacher intern, and a parent of three kids that attend Barnette school. Residents, students, and Fairbanks families need green, community spaces for activities such as classes, picnics, and outdoor clubs. I ask that the lot by the Borough library remain a green space and not be used for "mixed use preferred commercial."		X	X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Alyssa	Rittel	Part 1 of 2: However, it is a missed opportunity in many ways. The coal power plant does not represent a clean, updated downtown. I understand it is vital to keeping the city warm but there are better, safer, and more efficient ways to heat the city. I appreciate the efforts of creating a river walk area and downtown plaza but they do not feel like a safe place to take my family. There is a sign on the bike path behind the dog park by Carlson Center that advises one should ride with a friend for safety. That does not bring comfort to a mom recreating in the city with young children. I worked in the tourism industry and have heard repeatedly heard tourists comment on how run down downtown Fairbanks is and how it has a strange vibe. It is embarrassing to see tourists walking around downtown. Tourism revenue would increase if our downtown was a nicer destination. Compliments to the organizations who operate the Morris Thompson Cultural Center. That is my favorite place to take visitors. The aesthetic of the building and cultural appreciation are on point. What a great example for the potential our downtown has. Downtown Fairbanks is a confused mix of early 1900s growth and 1970s pipeline growth. However, since those booms, the buildings have not been cared for appropriately. The number of abandoned buildings and overgrown properties is an embarrassment to our city and should be remedied. There are a few homes on Cowles that have been updated and they look outstanding. They have preserved the appearance of a historic home without looking run down. I hope more buildings in the residential downtown areas can follow their lead. Many downtown businesses look so run down, it does not make me want to walk through their door.		X					X	n/a	No action	Most of the sentiments expressed here - safety, more housing, rehabilitating dilapidated properties, surveying area residents - have already been captured in the plan.

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10/13/23		Alyssa	Rittel	Part 2 of 2: There are certainly some great exceptions (Franks, Aubrey's, Lichen to name a few). How do we challenge business owners to invest in improving their space? I have also thought a lot about what types of businesses would best serve the downtown community. Many people that come into Fairbanks during the day do not live in the downtown area. What businesses would best serve the day time population? Perhaps the borough could survey people directly who do not live in the downtown area and ask what it would take for them to want to live downtown. Personally, it would be convenient to live downtown and significantly reduce the time I spend in the car (so many positives including less fuel burned, less emissions, and fewer miles on the car) but, at the moment, there is no draw to live downtown. It just doesn't feel right. What is the answer is to the housing issue in Fairbanks? How does a community help the homeless population? Are we going to create green spaces in our city and have them occupied by people living in tents? The borough and city can pour all the money they want into updating the city and adding art but there are base issues that must be addressed to be successful. Instead of adding a bandage to a problem, let's fix our city! Let's work together as a community to make our city a beautiful, safe place we can spend time with our families and be proud to show visitors. I'm excited to see the progress of this project. Thank you for the opportunity to have input on this project.		X					X	n/a	No action	Most of the sentiments expressed here - safety, more housing, rehabilitating dilapidated properties, surveying area residents - have already been captured in the plan.
10/13/23		Alyssa	Rittel	I am so excited to see efforts being made to improve downtown Fairbanks! As a long time Fairbanksan who grew up here and has called this area home for 26 years, I will admit that the downtown area is not a place I enjoy spending time. It is outdated and unsightly. Furthermore, it does not feel like a safe place I can take my family. One of the greatest features of our city is the Chena River running right through the middle of it. What an opportunity to base our city amongst nature!	X							n/a	No action	No response needed.
10/13/23		Christina	Shaw	Please Keep Weeks Field a Green Space The proposed draft suggests that Weeks Field be turned from a green space to commercial. I am asking the borough to keep Weeks Field a peaceful, natural space. I am a teacher, and parent of students at Barnette Magnet School The students of Barnette Magnet School frequently utilize the park for walking field trips, gym classes, ski club, and running club. Outside of school, I take my own children to Weeks Field to enjoy the variety of trees, flowers, walking paths, and monuments, such as the unique sun dial. Please keep this treasured space as a park. The entire community benefits from it staying the way it is.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Jennifer/Michael	Luke	Library community space Please keep as much of the open space around the library. There is no substantial open field areas in the downtown area other than this space. Currently, Barnette Magnet School utilizes this area during school hours for activities and allows the students space to explore the green space. They are the exact demographic of people we want utilizing this space. It gives them connection to downtown, the library and their education. It helps them to create fond memories of this corridor in their youth which in turn will have them be passionate about this space in their adult years. Please keep the area available for the youth in our community.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Amy K	Cooper	Proposed Commercial land space Hello, My name is Amy Cooper. My family is an avid user of the Noel Wien library and it's green space in the summer. I am also the parent of two children who currently and have attended Barnette Magnet School. I very much oppose turning the green space between the library and Barnette into a commercial zone. This space is used both by the Fairbanks community and Barnette. We have very, very few green spaces in the city limits. We have plenty of unused commercial property. Please leave the space as is. Amy Cooper			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Kelly	Allen	Comment on use of green space between the library and Barnett Magnet School I would prefer Alternative 2, keep a big portion of the green space parks! I would also like to keep my son's school separate from more commercial development. The school regularly uses that field for class picnics, nature walks, and large group activities. It would be a big loss to have that field become businesses.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Michelle	Heminger	Smythe is another issue. Smythe is wide enough for two cars during the summer but not in the winter when lined with cars from the current residences. When the plow trucks are going to clear the road, cones clearly mark that people should attempt to park elsewhere so that snow removal can be accomplished. Additional residences will only increase the need for street parking. The other option is a parking lot which is the last thing that we need to replace a green space with. Watching every bit of green space be covered by asphalt makes it worth questioning where will all of the melt water go? Neither option (alternative 1 or 2) is able to maintain the integrity of a green space that is well-utilized and appreciated in town. Please email me if you have any questions and thank you for reading this comment.			X					n/a	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.

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10/13/23		Michelle	Heminger	Another question to ask will be where will the library hold summer programs if Weeks Field is transformed? One of the most imperative jobs for a parent is to facilitate a love of reading or at minimum to help their child to learn to read. The Noel Wien Library holds engaging programs in the summer that utilize the green space of Weeks Field to offer these weekly engaging programs for families and their children. The literary farmer's market has hundreds of children and their families come together to learn about programs in the community and supports for everyone. Weekly there are teen and youth programs in the field to encourage a love of the outdoors that is imbedded in all Fairbanksians. Weeks Field should also remain a green space to preserve the integrity of different educational programs, including many at Barnette Magnet School. Nature writing classes, ski club, running club, geocaching, ultimate frisbee, dog walking, general studying, bird watching, and eating lunch on the benches are a few of the various tasks able to be observed in the park on a regular basis. These activities include Barnette students, homeschool students, Ryan students, Lathrop students, UAF students, and community members. Another consideration if Weeks Field is turned into commercial space will be what types of businesses that will be allowed to be within 1000 feet of Barnette Magnet School. Guns and controlled substances such as alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana products have no business in such close proximity to a school (and there are federal laws as such) and people in possession of those substances can face even steeper penalties in Alaska even if not trying to sell these substances to children. What will the plan be moving forward? Who will be responsible for evaluating which types of business are appropriate immediately adjacent to a school building and library? I hope that you consider keeping Weeks Field a complete green zone. Neither option (alternative 1 or 2) is able to maintain the integrity of a green space that is well-utilized and appreciated in town.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Michelle	Heminger	Weeks Field Portion of Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Draft Good Afternoon, My name is Michelle Heminger. I am a parent of Barnette students as well as an educator at Barnette Magnet School. I am vehemently against the idea to turn Weeks Field into a commercial or residential space. Fairbanks has vacant commercial buildings all over downtown. Properties that cannot be sold due to lack of structural integrity and/or cannot be renovated due to historical significance. If renovating and updating these structures was more simple, more property owners would consider renovating so that the commercial spaces could be rented or merely used which in turn would increase suitable commercial property options. I absolutely also agree that housing options are also abysmal, but somewhat due to the same constraints. Empty lots that serve as parking or structures or near-condemned structures (including houses) that are not capable of being renovated lead to people that are unable to sell and must therefore rent under legal rental agreements that are two feet thick to protect the landlords if the structure falls down on top of the renters. I would hope that before erecting additional housing, the committee in charge of evaluating what should happen to the green space that is currently Weeks Field begins to ask the question: Is it better to build something new or to repair what is already present in town and not being fully utilized?		X					X	48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Charles	Woodward	Please Keep Weeks Field! Good evening, I'm writing to ask that you please keep Weeks Field (next to the library) as is. Several children use that space for recreation, but it would also feel bad to let the former Weeks airstrip (Fairbanks history) be sold to commercial interests. Thank you, Charles			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Julie	Fry	Noel wien space The green space needs to be preserved as is. The school next door uses it for running club and ski club. It provides outdoor movement these kids desperately need. Please don't take this away from them.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Kim	Bezdek	Please do not get rid of or overtake the field by library.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Deseree	Baker	Fairbanks 2040 The area designated With two alternatives the green space that is by the public library should remain a park. It should not have any commercial implementations. That area is used by children to walk to the library safely. It's open and easy to see. It's used by others for picnics and other uses. I vote against remodeling this area. Having green space down town is important too. Best Deseree Baker			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.

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10/13/23		Katarzyna Anna	Johnson	Please preserve green space near Barnette Magnet School and go with Alternative 2. I would like to express my preference for maintaining as much of the greenspace as possible near Barnette Magnet School and going with the Alternative 2 option. The field near Barnette Magnet School provides wonderful opportunities for kids that go to the school and in the neighborhood. It allows for Barnette to have extra curricular activities such as ski club and running club. It would truly be a shame to lose most of that green space so close to the school to residential development. I feel a lot of other Barnette families feel the same, most just weren't aware of this plan or the quick suspense on the comment period. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.
10/13/23		Tanya	Soileau	Opposition for development on field between Barnette Magnet School and the Library First and foremost I am stunned to be JUST finding out about the proposed changes to the field. It seems a bit “convenient” that so MANY community members who will be directly impacted by proposed development of the land between the school and the library knew nothing about these plans until just hours ago, right before the deadline to object or comment. If you did your due diligence to inform the community, that information never made it to a majority of families these decisions will effect. Please do not develop on the field, please leave the trails, trees and land as it is. This area is regularly utilized by school children and families. I feel that congesting the area with housing or commercial buildings will remove the natural beauty and usefulness of the area for community recreation. Thank you for your time to read my concerns, I do apologize for being so fired up, I'm upset that I just found out about this and hopeful that enough community members become aware in the next 50 minutes and have enough time to send in their comments before it is too late. Please, as a mother of 5 and a community member for over 35 years i plead with you to reconsider your potential plans to build on that land, please leave the area alone.			X					48	Incorporated	Developed another option of the future land use map, Alternative 3, to maximize green space within the southwest corner of Downtown.