

Interim Castro Street Pedestrian Mall – Downtown Outreach

April 19, 2023: In-person staff hours

Staff: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Aruna Bodduna, Transportation Planner; Krisha Penollar, Associate Planner

Attendees: Olympus, Doppio Zero, Ramen Izakaya, 3 Kingdoms, St. Stephens Green, Ava's, Cascal

Meeting notices were sent to businesses along Castro Street between Evelyn Avenue and El Camino Real and to the businesses along the side streets (one block from Castro)

Staff provided update on the following topics:

- Information for businesses located in the Pedestrian Malls and the Downtown Precise Plan was provided
- Update on March City Council Ad Hoc Committee for Pedestrian Mall
- Recommended Outdoor Patio Guidelines/Standards
- Patio barrier panels (for Pedestrian Mall) being demonstrated in the 200 block
- Power washing in the Downtown and Pedestrian Mall
- Live entertainment being piloted
- Use of outdoor heaters (mushroom caps are now allowed)
- City Council considering approving Guidelines and Standard for the whole downtown precise plan area, May 9, 2023
- Update on summer sewer pipeline work in Downtown 900-400 block and Cherry Lane
- On May 9, Council consideration of small business grant program applicable for furnishings upgrade, façade improvements (3 tiers) and Rethink Disposable program
- Summer plan for Pedestrian Malls: Music in Downtown @ 200 block May through Sep, Wednesday evenings; city implementation of furnishings
- Castro Street paving project: Updated businesses that based on the feedback received, paving project will not be scheduled during the busy summer months (June through August)
- Intersection improvements
- Reminded businesses about City's assistance for removing broken fixtures and planters

Business feedback:

- Ensure the direction of power washing is away from the building, so that it does not splatter into the businesses (walls and window, in particular)
- Question about permitting other large tents? Business to send photos to Staff for consideration.
- Questions about Shoreline/Villa left turn signal?
 - Staff reported to Traffic team; issue has been addressed
- Question about pedestrian audible sound, can it be a different tone?
 - Staff reported to Traffic team; Pedestrian audible sound is the locator beep for ADA compliance, to help visually impaired locate the push button; other audible tones are not programmed for the push button

- Consideration for additional lighting on the street, especially near breezeways
- Consideration for including TV screens in the outdoor patios?
- Issues with propane tank storage (limited locations)
- Will the proposed ADA ramp locations conflict with the outdoor patios?
- Can the City live music be moved to 300 block?
- What other activation can occur in the 300 block