



AGENCY: Planning Commission
MEETING DATE: December 13, 2023
DEPARTMENT: Community Development
PRESENTED BY: S. Peters
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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

Receive Update and Conduct Study Session on Draft Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy Framework

BACKGROUND AND GOALS OVERVIEW:

On March 27, 2023, City Council authorized a contract with Walker Consultants for the preparation of a Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy to consider updates to existing parking codes, and to identify current parking challenges and solutions in the Central Business District (CBD). The City Council agenda is here (item 8B):

<https://cityfortbragg.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=1083363&GUID=E7720728-5EB8-418C-9F9F-03BABDD8C88B>.

In addition to the parking analysis, the Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy includes evaluation of other opportunities in the CBD, such as promoting pedestrian activity; improvements to parking wayfinding; access to transit stops; electric vehicle (EV) charging stations; and solar canopy lots. This contract consists of a kick off meeting; regular meetings with City staff; and review of previous studies, land use codes, City policies and other relevant information. Contracted work also includes site visits and outreach, hosting public meetings and seeking input from business owners, residents, and the public on parking and pedestrian needs in the CBD, and ultimately developing a guiding document that addresses the needs and is pragmatic, implementable, and outlines costs and funding opportunities.

To date the staff/consultant team has sought public input in the form of a digital community survey, outreach at a Farmers' Market booth, and a public workshop at Town Hall. The team has met regularly to review materials and discuss observations, opportunities and obstacles and to refine draft strategy direction. This evening's study session with Planning Commissioners is the second of a series of public meetings designed to provide the team with information and input to assemble a final Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy.

At tonight's meeting, Walker Consultants will give a presentation with goals, background and outreach findings; parking management practices; parking requirements for development projects; future of the in-lieu fee; parking supply needs and other curb uses for Planning Commission discussion and guidance.

TIMELINE

Following this meeting, the Consultant and Staff team will refine strategy recommendations and work to bring a draft Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy back to Planning Commission with suggested code amendments. Following that meeting, the team will bring Planning Commission's recommendations and the draft Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy to City Council for their review and action.