

APPENDIX

Port Wentworth Downtown Strategy

June 2024

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Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder Meeting Dates

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Dates of events and meetings conducted:

Stakeholder Interviews	February 12-14, 2024
Stakeholder Meeting #1	February 27, 2024
Stakeholder Meeting #2	April 23, 2024
Stakeholder Meeting #3	May 23, 2024

Stakeholder Interviews

Meeting Date(s): February 12 - 14, 2024

Summary

Upon the formation of a Downtown Strategy Stakeholder Committee, brief stakeholder interview/conversations were held via Zoom on several dates between February 12 and February 14, 2024.

Over the course of several conversations, small groups of stakeholders discussed the Downtown Strategy planning process and preliminary findings on the potential for Downtown from an existing conditions assessment and market study. The objectives of the meetings were to gather feedback and perspective on Downtown Port Wentworth and the strengths and challenges facing the area. A two-page overview (shown at right) elaborated on the purpose of the project and how input collected throughout the process would be utilized to support this planning effort.

Port Wentworth Downtown Strategy

Project Overview



Project Goals

The goals of this downtown strategy plan are to:

- Renew the identity and experience of Downtown as a thriving and walkable part of the city
- Attract new retail, restaurants, and services
- Foster community livability and quality of life
- Identify catalytic strategies to spur Downtown vision

The master plan process will include a review of current development, housing, retail, and transportation conditions. Preliminary findings of the review and analysis of these will be presented to stakeholders and community in the early phases of the process.

Below are some key figures from the demographic and housing demand report related to the Downtown Port Wentworth area.



Downtown Port Wentworth at a glance...



Topics to begin thinking about are...

- What do you think of Downtown Port Wentworth?**
- How often do you visit Downtown Port Wentworth and why?**
- What are the biggest challenges facing Downtown Port Wentworth?**
- What are the biggest opportunities moving forward?**

Upcoming dates to be aware of are...

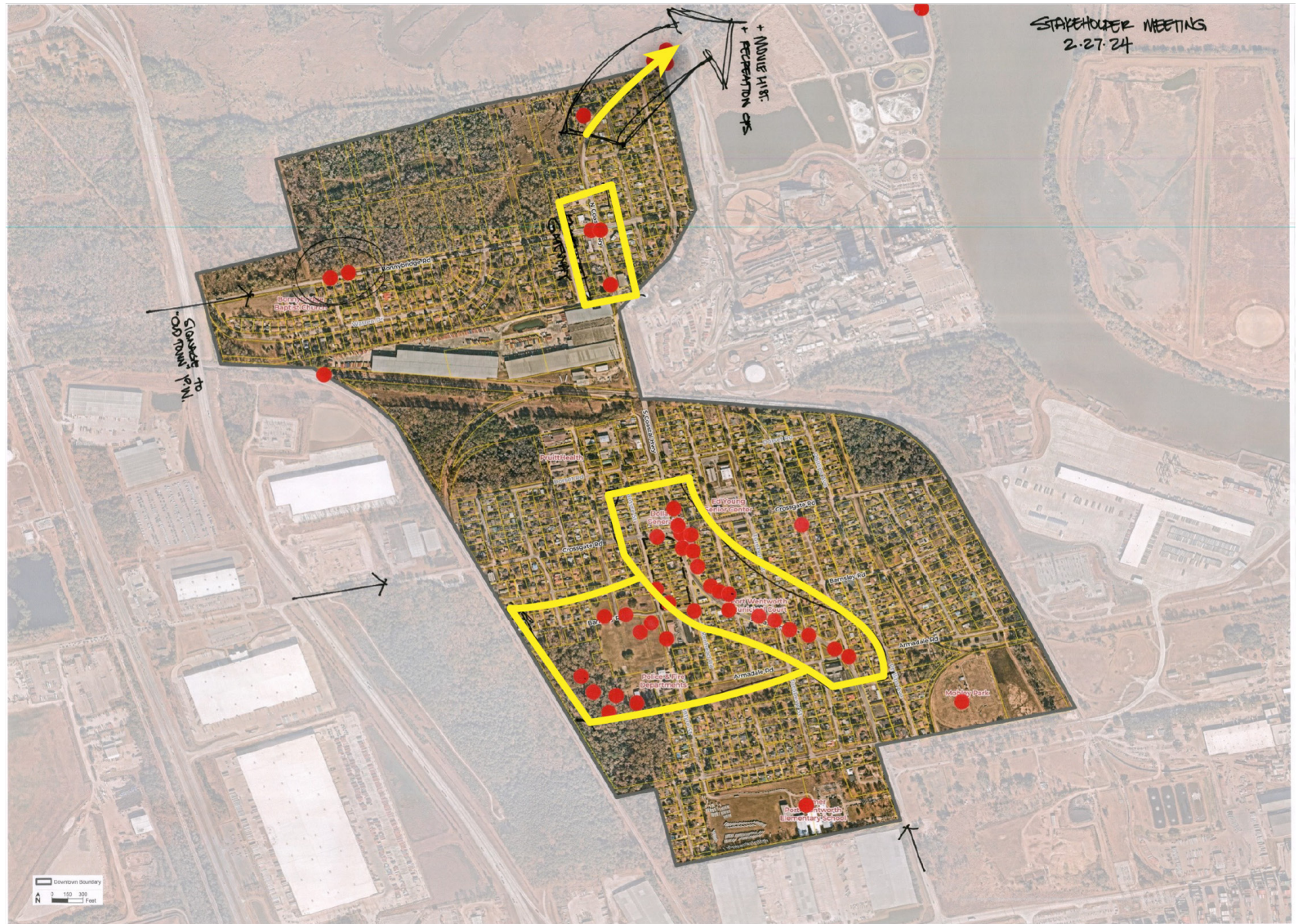
-  **February 12th - 14th Stakeholder Committee Interviews**
-  **February 27th Stakeholder Meeting 1**
-  **February 27th Town Hall**
-  **March 20th (tentative) Stakeholder Meeting 2**

Stakeholder Meeting #1

Meeting Date: February 27, 2024

Summary

Stakeholder Meeting #1 was held at the CLIC Center as an in-person lunch meeting. The Stakeholder Committee reviewed development trends as well as potential public or private investment in Downtown. Stakeholders participated in interactive activities wherein a summary of opportunities for downtown were documented.



Stakeholder Meeting #1

Interactive Meeting Material



Stakeholder Meeting #2

(Virtual) Meeting Date: April 23, 2024

Summary

Since the Stakeholder Meeting #1 and Community Meeting #1, the planning team utilized the stakeholder and community feedback to explore initial concepts and outline strategic focus areas for downtown development. Stakeholders attended a 60-minute virtual update meeting to listen to a summary of the community feedback from February meetings, review the preliminary development concepts and provide feedback to gauge if the team was headed in the right direction.

Stakeholder Meeting #3

Meeting Date: May 23, 2024

Summary

The Stakeholder Committee convened again at the CLIC Center for an in-person meeting. The purpose of the final Stakeholder meeting was to review the planning team's draft recommendations for the downtown strategy.

Community Engagement

Community Meeting Dates

Community Meeting Summary

Dates of events and meetings conducted:

Community Meeting #1

February 27, 2024

Community Meeting #2

May 23, 2024

Community Meeting #1

Meeting Date: February 27, 2024

Summary

The public community meeting following Stakeholder Meeting 1 included a visual preference survey, mapping discussion, and one-word activities. The mapping discussion highlighted key themes such as focusing redevelopment on South Coastal Highway, Barnsley Park, and North Coastal Highway and Bonnybridge Road. Orange outlines on the map used in the meeting represented areas where participants want no changes, while yellow outlines indicated mixed opinions on development. The meeting also emphasized community gathering spaces, park beautification, rerouting trucks, code enforcement, and updating public buildings. Feedback from the one-word activities is organized below.

Flyer

Port Wentworth Downtown Strategy



You are cordially invited!

Community Meeting on the Downtown Strategy



Tuesday, February 27th, 2024
6:00 - 7:30 pm



Old City Hall
305 South Coastal Highway
Port Wentworth, GA 31407

The City of Port Wentworth invites you to join us for an opportunity to learn about the planning process and share your ideas about the future of downtown. Our planning team will provide a brief overview of the planning process, discuss the next steps and provide ample opportunities for the community to support the effort.

Project Goals

The goals of this downtown strategy are to:

- Renew the identity and experience of Downtown as a thriving and walkable part of the city
- Attract new retail, restaurants, and services
- Foster community livability and quality of lives
- Identify catalytic strategies to spur Downtown vision



For more information about the Community Meeting and/or the Port Wentworth Downtown Strategy, please contact


Laura Ballock at laura.ballock@kimley-horn.com / (919) 328-4447
or **James Touchton** at jtouchton@portwentworthga.gov / (912) 724-9202

Kimley »Horn

Community Meeting #1

Sign-In Sheet

Port Wentworth Downtown Strategy



Town Hall
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

Name	Email
DANA JOHNSON	[REDACTED]
Rose Cook	[REDACTED]
Clayton Lee	[REDACTED]
FRANK HENDRIX	[REDACTED]
AURIB ROY-SMITH	[REDACTED]
MANDA-FAYE DUNIGAN	[REDACTED]

Community Meeting #1

Meeting Materials



Community Meeting #1

Meeting Materials

Welcome! Where do you live in Downtown?

Please place a dot on the map in the general area that you are from. Additional space is provided below if you are from an area not on the map:

Lake Shore Subdivision
Ballast Creek
Rose Creek Subdivision



Port Wentworth **Downtown Strategy**

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Community Meeting #1

Meeting Materials

*One word to describe
Downtown Port Wentworth
today...*



*One word to describe your
vision for Downtown Port
Wentworth...*



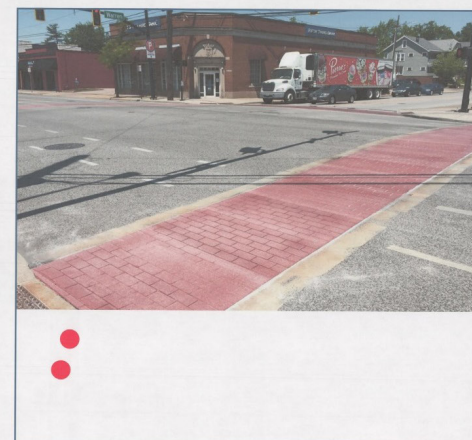
Community Meeting 1

Visual Preference Survey

The visual preference survey was organized into six categories of pictures: Beautifying Downtown, Downtown Identity, Gathering Places in Downtown, Getting Around Downtown, Everyday Downtown Destinations, and Ways to Live in Downtown. Participants were given six sticker dots and asked to place them on pictures that resonated with them, across all six of the boards. Images of each of the boards are shown below. Some have clear clustering around certain images, whereas others reflect widespread preferences.

Beautifying Downtown

Please place a dot in the space provided below each image to indicate if it fits your vision for Downtown Port Wentworth.



Community Meeting 1

Visual Preference Survey

Downtown Identity aka what says "you are in Downtown"

Please place a dot in the space provided below each image to indicate if it fits your vision for Downtown Port Wentworth.

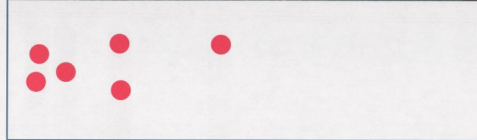


Community Meeting 1

Visual Preference Survey

Gathering Places in Downtown

Please place a dot in the space provided below each image to indicate if it fits your vision for Downtown Port Wentworth.

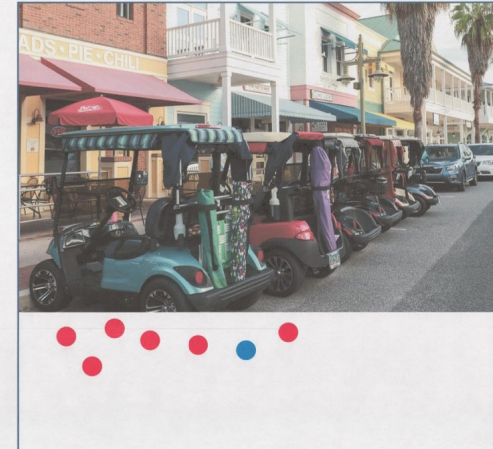


Community Meeting 1

Visual Preference Survey

Getting Around Downtown

Please place a dot in the space provided below each image to indicate if it fits your vision for Downtown Port Wentworth.



Community Meeting 1

Visual Preference Survey

Everyday Downtown Destinations

Please place a dot in the space provided below each image to indicate if it fits your vision for Downtown Port Wentworth.



Port Wentworth Downtown Strategy

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Community Meeting 1

Visual Preference Survey

Ways to Live in Downtown

Please place a dot in the space provided below each image to indicate if it fits your vision for Downtown Port Wentworth.



Community Meeting 2

Meeting Date: May 23, 2024

Summary

A public community meeting following Stakeholder Meeting 3 included additional dot-voting and mapping discussions. The voting, maps and diagrams highlighted the three recommended focus areas for the Downtown Strategy: Beautification & Civic Pride, Transportation & Connectivity, and Development/Redevelopment Areas.. This meeting was held to review draft recommendations and build on early conversations at the initial public meeting on February 2024. The planning team provided an overview of the downtown strategy, discussed the next steps and provide ample opportunities for community voices to be heard before and after the meeting.
















Community Meeting 2

Interactive Dot-voting for Preferred Initiatives and Projects

Beautification & Civic Pride

Which initiatives are you most excited about?

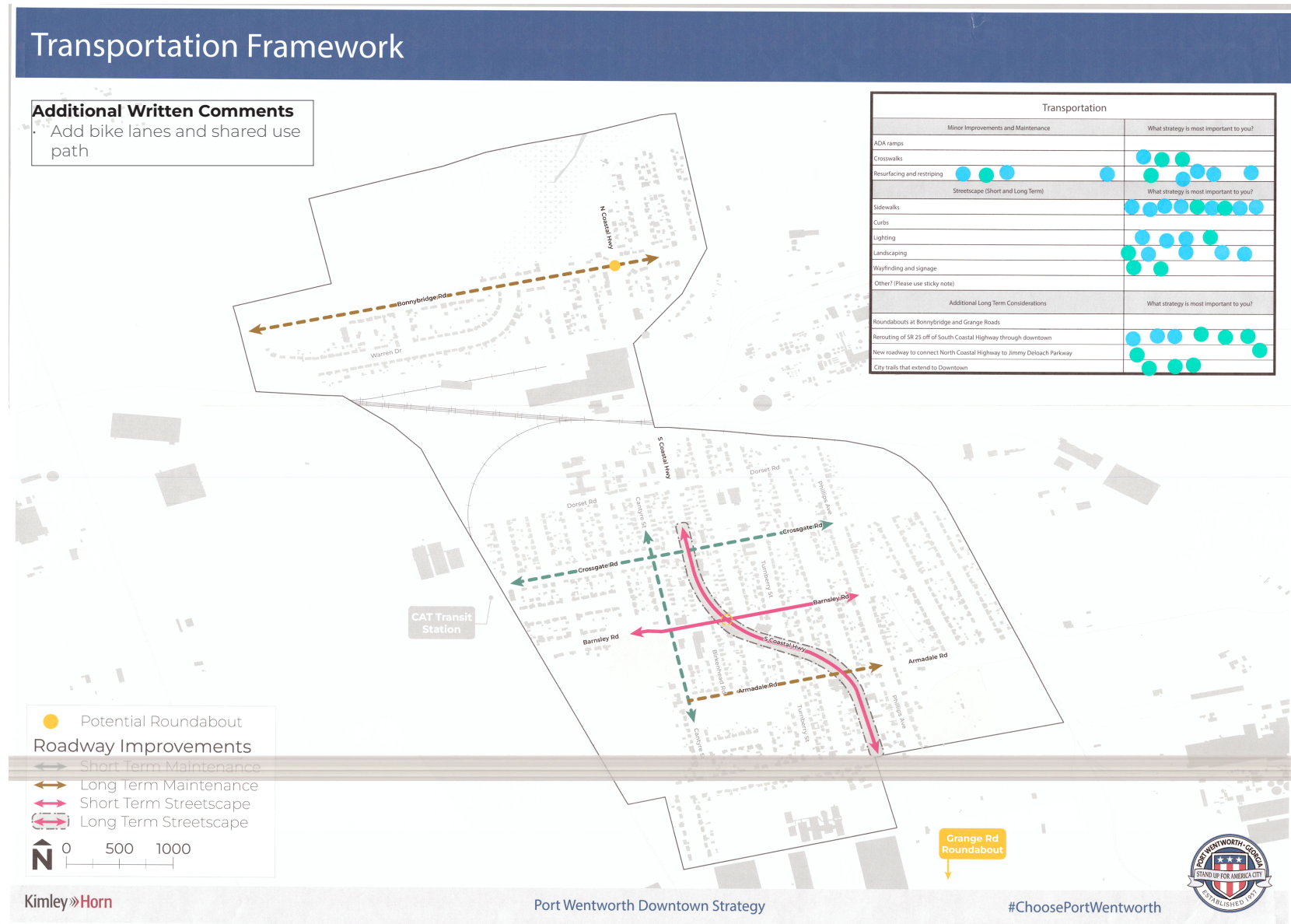
Place a dot next to one initiative within each time frame that most excites you. If something is missing, please write it on a sticky note.

IMMEDIATE	NEAR-TERM
Downtown public space and city building cleanup (Pressure wash and paint gym, senior center) 	Scheduled downtown community cleanup events 
Mobley Park Improvements (Paint buildings, add picnic tables, benches, and repair fencing) 	Continuing Free Bulk Pick Up Day on a consistent basis 
Festival Site Improvements (Add restrooms and concessions) 	Additional Festival Site Improvements (Basketball court rehabilitation, additional basketball court, and pickleball courts) 
Holiday Parade 	City Mobile Application (for contacting city to request information or report a problem such as street parking, water/wastewater, trash, recycling) 
	Additional Festival Site Improvements (pickleball, basketball, etc.) 
FUTURE	What else?
Community Partnership Program that supports and/or fund citizen initiatives to promote the cultural and historic richness of Downtown (Neighborhood association formation, special interest community groups, etc) 	Additional Written Comments
Downtown landscaping maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMMEDIATE: Create a Veterans Memorial • IMMEDIATE: Address and demolish dilapidated houses • IMMEDIATE: Enforce zoning code • IMMEDIATE: Solar lighting for parks and fountains, etc. • IMMEDIATE: Tear down China House • IMMEDIATE: Address drainage in front of Deli Mart on Hwy 25
Water and sewer infrastructure improvements 	
Public art initiative 	
Wayfinding signage 	
Home repair program (to support facade improvement, aging in place) 	



Community Meeting 2

Interactive Dot-voting for Preferred Initiatives and Projects



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