

Lyons Downtown Improvement Plan 2008 Implementation Report

The Lyons Downtown Improvement Plan Implementation Committee (DIPICt) was created in 2007 to oversee implementation of the recommendations in the 2006 Lyons Downtown Improvement Plan. In 2008 DIPICt was chaired by Tim Kyer and comprised of John Burke, Kris Hicar, Jerry Kuban, Christine Ralston and Julie Van Domelen. Mayor Hicar served as liaison with the Board of Trustees and Julie Van Domelen serves as liaison with the PCDC. Tina Schooler joined DIPICt in mid-2008 for the BOT and Jacque Watson in early 2009 in her position as economic development coordinator.

DIPICt set as its priorities for 2008:

1. **Implement Technical Recommendation #1 Improvements.** Streetscape improvements to High Street are planned to be executed by the end of April 2008. Striping of parking stalls on Main and 4th to be scheduled with Public Works department.
2. **Begin Execution of TIP2005-2007 Grant (Main Street Project).** Property and business owner consultations and detailed technical and engineering specifications to be completed. Scheduling of physical works will depend on timing of the work planned on the water main in that section.
3. **Identify, with the Board of Trustees, funding strategies and sources for Downtown improvements.** This would include education of stakeholders and development of consensus around priorities, linked to a better understanding of Town fiscal perspectives.
4. **Propose to Town critical maintenance items to be addressed in 2008.**
5. **Start to develop ideas for Broadway.** Are there immediate opportunities? What are longer-term funding perspectives?
6. **Coordinate with PCDC on Comp Plan Update process.** The Downtown Improvement Plan is an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan. As the Comprehensive Plan update will begin in 2008, any updates/adjustments to the DIP should be identified as part of that process.

2008 DIPICt Activities

1. **High Street.** High Street streetscape changes were implemented, including street safety features and walkways, traffic calming, parking and directional striping, landscaping, sidewalks on the south side of the 5th and High intersection, etc. Significant contributions of materials and/or time were made by Blue Mountain Stone, the Lyons Garden Club and the 4-H Club. A total of \$28,809 was spent on High Street. \$9809.00 was for items beyond the scope of the original budget, including the sidewalk on the south side of High and Fifth and additional street lighting. That would bring the amount spent on budgeted items to \$19,003 compared with the \$20,000 budgeted. Some of the amenities, like benches, painting of metal posts and planters remain a high priority to be done in 2009.
2. **Main Street.** DIPICt focused on developing the more detailed design work to implement the Main Street project, which has been timed to complement the Town's rehabilitation of the water and sewer pipes on that section as well as the CDOT repaving. This is now scheduled for Fall 2009.
3. While a proposed grant to CDOT to improve traffic and pedestrian flows and develop more parking on the stretch of Main between 3rd and 2nd was not accepted for funding,

- the design work supported the Town/CDOT putting in a lighted crosswalk and better striping on the **Main and 2nd intersection**. Safety remains a concern as drivers often fail to respect the crosswalk.
4. DIPICt helped **Lyons Ped and Pedal group** write a grant to the Safe Routes to School program, which was awarded \$68,000 and included funding for a blinking crosswalk and curb improvements at 3rd and Broadway to be installed in 2009.
 5. The project on High Street revealed the need for a **landscaping master plan** for the Town rather than a patchwork approach. As a result, DIPICt submitted its technical recommendation #4 to the BOT requesting such a plan be developed. This is consistent with the EDC report recommendations and will be carried out in the 2009 budget.
 6. **DIPICt worked closely with the Colorado Community Revitalization Association** team that did an assessment of Lyon's downtown revitalization potential.

The two priorities for 2008 which were not achieved fully were the development of funding mechanisms and initial ideas for improvements along Broadway. The EDC report reiterates the need to create business incentives and economic development financing.

DIPICt Priorities for 2009

1. ***Implementation of the Main Street Project.*** This major project includes the creation of new sidewalks, repair of existing sidewalks plus expansion of some sidewalk areas to enhance the pedestrian experience and promote sidewalk cafes, additional parking - including diagonal parking where appropriate, safety amenities (crosswalks and other pedestrian features), installation of municipal bike racks, planters and landscaping, revised signage to better control and direct Main Street traffic, new concrete road surfacing, and bringing walkways and crosswalks into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (Federal requirement). It also includes a communication strategy to keep the public informed about the project and its progress.
2. ***Complete the remaining items on High Street.*** Planters, benches, painting the black bollards and perhaps some reconfigurations of the sandstone bollards will be a priority to really make High Street look its best by summer. This includes the BOT-approved technical recommendation to stripe parking stalls on 4th street, which has not yet been done.
3. ***Support implementation of the Ped and Pedal safety improvements to 3rd and Broadway.***
4. ***Support exploration of financing options for Downtown business development.*** Stemming from the recommendations of the EDC and the CCRA team, DIPICt will help promote the development of financing mechanisms to support business development.
5. ***Coordinate with PCDC on Comp Plan Update process.*** The Downtown Improvement Plan is an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan. As the Comprehensive Plan update will be conducted in 2009, any updates/adjustments to the DIP should be identified as part of that process and DIPICt will play an active role in the Comp Plan process.

6. *Explore options for signage and public wayfinding in Lyons.* DIPICt will develop a Technical Recommendations to the BOT on improved signage to orient visitors to the diversity of shopping, recreation and public facilities available in Lyons.

DIPICt will continue to provide support as needed to accomplish the priorities of the BOT.

Lyons Downtown Improvement Plan Implementation Actions

Status as of 1/09

	Activity	Status	Observations
1.	Comprehensive Plan Amendment – to incorporate Downtown Improvement Plan	√	DIP formally part of Comp Plan. Need to update DIP as part of Comp Plan update process?
2.	Zoning Regulation Amendments		
2.A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Title 9 of Zoning Regulations to allow a reduced minimum lot area requirement and zero lot lines for Downtown Lyons 	√	2008 Zoning Regulations approved
2.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a new zone district for Downtown Lyons -Commercial Downtown District. 	√	2008 Zoning Regulations approved
2.C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking study to determine existing parking inventory, short-term and long-term parking needs and how to meet them 	Partial	Done for certain sections (High Street and Main between 5 th and 4 th). Comprehensive Parking Plan is not yet done by BOT
3.	Develop historic preservation guidelines	√	2008 Zoning Regulations approved
4.	Develop architectural design guidelines		
5.	Streetscape Improvements		
5.A	East Entry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified roundabout, traffic calming 	Partial	Funding request rejected by CDOT. Blinking crosswalk at Main and 2nd
5.B	West Entry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconfigure intersection of 5th, High and 36 Enhanced landscaping/signage 	√	Reconfiguration completed.
5.C	Broadway (5 th to 3 rd Ave) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East block: 2 12 foot travel lanes and 2 9-foot parallel parking lanes, one on each side of the street West block: 2 12 foot travel lanes and 1 9-foot parallel parking lane on N side. Bumpouts at crosswalks with bench walls 6'amenity zone and minimum 8 foot sidewalk on N side 	Partial	Funding for blinking crosswalk and curb improvements obtained in 2008 to be executed in 2009.
5.D	Main Street (3 rd to 5 th) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bumpouts, 6'amenity zone, 10' sidewalks, 29' marked parallel parking lanes 	Under way	Design work almost completed, construction scheduled for Fall 2009.

5.E	High Street (4 th to 5 th) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced lane width and creation of pedestrian walkways • Signage, lighting, benches, and other amenities 	√	Implemented Spring-Summer 2008, final amenities to be completed 2009.
5.F	4 th Avenue (between Broadway and High) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bumpouts, crosswalks, marked parallel parking stalls 	Partial	Parking demarcation planned within DIPICt Tech Recommendation #1 – Not yet done
5.G	5 th Avenue/Highway 36 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median islands, plantings. 	Partial	Some landscaping on south side of intersection done by Lyons Garden Group. North side remains to be done (sign plaza?).
6.	Sandstone Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphitheater seating and landscaping added to existing stage • 10' sidewalk on east side of amphitheater seating for pedestrian access to stage/PO 	Not yet	
7.	Other Urban Design Features		
7.A	Street lighting added in Downtown	Partial	
7.B	Wayfinding program to facilitate pedestrian access	Not yet	
7.C	Maintenance program with Town and business owners	Not yet	
7.D	Display of public art	Not yet	
8.	Sidewalk Connections to Parks and Trails	Partial	Lighted crosswalk installed at 3 rd and Main and 2 nd and Main. Funding for 3 rd and Broadway obtained.
9.	Develop funding strategy for downtown improvements	Under way	Joint DIPICt/BOT responsibility. Consistent with EDC recommendations and priorities.