

Neighborhoods Surrounding Downtown  
May 23, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Twin Falls Public Library

- Want to preserve Old Town, which is the area with the old grid. It should be a centerpiece of the city. Preserve the residential in the area.
- Need roundabouts at the five point intersections.
- Reroute Highway 30 off of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Trucks will be relegated to other roads; they need to go to the beet processing plant and the potato processing facility.
- Make it easier to get around downtown.
- Need transit (bus/shuttle) system to connect downtown town to Rim area along Blue Lakes. Will help with congestion.
- There are several avoidance routes established where traffic is shifting to alternative routes because of congestion. These routes have few stop signs and sometimes its hard to see. The county needs to participate with this, and add turn lanes to these roadways and widen the intersections now.
- Blake has heavy traffic caused by the existing hospital and the school.
- A new road has been proposed through the parking lot at the existing hospital.
- Development proposals are the only way to get stop lights; need more and four way stop signs. The City waits for development so they can pay the cost.
- Water issues: encourage development in City limits and in redevelopment areas. Compact development. Current demand is for suburban lots, but that needs to change.
- City requires a dual water system in subdivisions, but many do not have the secondary pressurized irrigation (PI) available, so they are running on culinary water. Pressurized systems to be activated and switched to non-culinary water. City should require that PI be in place before giving occupancy permits. The City is looking at having developer install PI prior to approval. City-owned irrigation water rights should be allocated to PI.
- Downtown apartment and living opportunities for all incomes and ages. Need a grocery downtown; there were three at one time, but they are not gone. Also need a hotel.
- Downtown won't come back – it just won't happen. Won't be restored to what is was, but it can be reinvented to a new downtown. Boise reinvented downtown; can happen in Twin Falls too.
- Housing is needed. Preserve the old buildings for new uses, i.e. hotel with conference facilities, grocery. The County owns a block next to the post office (2<sup>nd</sup> and Gooding). There could be a hotel between the post office and the canal company building.
- When the north end is completed, the focus will return to downtown. Possibility for collaboration between Magic Valley Arts Council and downtown. CSI is also interested in downtown.
- Condition of sidewalks in downtown and the lower presidential streets needs repair and in some cases have never been there. Many areas are without sidewalk and gutter.

- Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) can be used for roads and sidewalks. The most needed areas should be done first (downtown, president streets). This will allow more Walkability. Curb, gutter and sidewalks will keep people parking on the street and not on the front yards. Many of these areas are rental property.
- 1965 – 1973 – Main Avenue was redeveloped. It was a good start, but not carried through. Political will was not there and the business community was not willing to commit. It was a great concept, but after 34 years it is still dormant. Now is the time.
- North rim is for big box development, downtown should be eclectic, niche market, small business. B&Bs, local and a good contrast. The two areas could play off of each other.
- Farmer's Market is now at CSI (used to use the Kmart parking lot) on Breckenridge property. Would be better to have it downtown. Could be part of the Wednesday at downtown and encourage downtown activity. Farmer's Market was offered a place in downtown, but CSI wanted to help local farmers and agriculture, and needed new space. Downtown interests never gave a clear voice about wanting it to be there. Who do people talk to? The Board of Directors of the BID need to stand up and be the one to talk to. Downtown BID needs to step up and offer space.
- Festival of Trees is downtown but merchants would not stay open during the evening festivities. Even on the Wednesdays in downtown, they don't stay open.
- Blue Lakes – locals avoid it and use Locust and Washington. Visitors are confused by the 5-point intersections and usually don't go past Falls St. The Visitor Center is a key player and could catch visitors there and direct them to downtown to architecture, band concerts, market.
- Need better signing to help people find downtown.
- Blue Lakes needs an upgrade.
- Shuttle from downtown to visitor center.
- Public transit is needed. The electric train to the falls is an example; a train-like vehicle or trolley to get around town.
- Locust, Washington, and Filmer could carry more traffic. Hard to support transit in Twin Falls – its too small, agricultural community.
- Landscaping – need to encourage desert landscaping. 85% of water use goes to yards – there are many beautiful options. New huge projects (hospital, Wal-Mart, should be required to be desert landscapes. Need public education program. City gives 70% credit for PI cost if a xeric landscape is installed. Need public education and incentives.
- Teton park is trying a new lawn type – buffalo grass, fescue, blue gramma. City leadership needs to facilitate, not just let it happen. Only 11 percent of city park land is using culinary water, the rest is all PI.
- Park strips need to be addressed too. Builders need to be encouraged or required to do appropriate landscape.
- Connect bike paths, especially continual loops through the city and downtown. On road and separated trails for all levels of users are needed. Need public education programs here too – about bike lanes, etc. and the laws in place are not enforced.

- Trying to connect Rock Creek park with the County owned park. There is lots of private land, but it is a goal.
- There is a pond on Rock Creek that is owned by the city, it would make a good urban fishery.
- What is allowable for eminent domain – would roundabouts and trails be appropriate times to use the power.
- 100 years a major engineering feat was completed – a dam to get water to Twin Falls. Now the focus needs to be on making the city better for its residents.
- Retrofit older neighborhoods for PI.
- Trees are dying because of the lack of water.