

## Downtown URD Priorities FY25/26 – Board Meeting Review, March 19, 2024

### Downtown URD Mission Statement – *DURD board to read*

The Downtown Bozeman Urban Renewal District board (URD) will foster an economically thriving district that: 1) attracts investment; 2) stabilizes and strengthens the tax base; and 3) supports the vitality and diversity of the Gallatin Valley as its social and cultural center.

### Consolidated Board Member Priority List:

- **Improve/Upgrade Infrastructure** – focus on safety, sustainability and placemaking
  - o Ex. streetscape standard, utility improvements, improvement agreements, Bozeman creek, SILD, park improvements, fiber grant
- **Parking Supply/Data** -
  - o Ex. Increase long-term supply (\$\$), support data collection, site analysis and plan development, support policy changes for current supply improvements/maintenance, support employee parking program
  - o Surface lot improvements – City of Bozeman (help coordinate/fund)
- **Transportation Improvements** – accessibility upgrades, safety and alternative transportation options
  - o Ex. Wayfinding plan and infrastructure, pedestrian safety improvements, life-safety grant
- **Support Residential Incentives or Housing Assistance Fund (through non-profit support?)**
  - o Current projects – 1.6 million allocated for 50 units at FS1, 100K in Residential Incentive Grants
- **Community Engagement/Involvement**
  - o Ex. Management support to DBP/CoB, parklet program, Policy involvement (MT TIF, Bozeman Code amendments, local option sales tax)
- **Beautification (separate category or combined with Infrastructure Improvements?)**
  - o Ex: Alley project, streetscape improvements (trees, benches, bike racks etc.), Soroptimist Park Improvements

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### Downtown URD Guiding Verbiage:

In 1995, the City Commission adopted the Urban Renewal Plan for downtown Bozeman which was subsequently amended in 2015. **The intent and purpose of the Urban Renewal Plan emphasizes:**

1. Bozeman’s historical character as a “working” downtown shall be maintained.
2. Traffic movement and access shall be designed with the emphasis on the downtown as a designation rather than improving the flow of through traffic.
3. The facilitation of private/public partnerships is encouraged in the implementation of the Plan.
4. Objectives shall be accomplished by incentives whenever possible.
5. Private property rights will be respected.
6. Administrative practices shall be conducted in a constructive manner which fosters cooperation.
7. This Plan is further detailed, refined, prioritized and implemented by the “Downtown Improvement Plan” which outlines specific programs and projects consistent with the Urban Renewal Plan.

**The Urban Renewal Plan established nine “Guiding Principles”** to provide direction for improving Bozeman’s historic downtown. The Urban Renewal Study Committee considered the first three principles more important than the next three with the last three the least important. However, the Committee deemed all nine principles to

be vital to achieving the vision for downtown. Key implementation actions were identified for each principle (may apply to multiple principles but are only listed once below).

1. Strengthen downtown's economic vitality
  - Provide more, better managed parking; retain public offices and anchor businesses; facilitate commercial development; eliminate unnecessary regulatory barriers to reinvestment; enable high density housing; eliminate through truck traffic and restore Main Street as pedestrian-friendly
2. Improve the safety, security and health of the district
  - Improve traffic flow emphasizing downtown as a destination; improve public works; improve night-time lighting; improve sidewalks; increase police presence; improve alley and parking lot appearance and safety
3. The image of downtown shall be continuously improved
  - Improve streetscape aesthetics and amenities; enhance appearance of and accessibility to Bozeman Creek; improve trash removal
4. Downtown's accessibility shall be improved
  - Provide effective public transportation; better accommodate bicycles; reduce reliance on private automobiles
5. "Community Partnership" is fundamental to downtown's success
  - Encourage growth of cultural activities; preserve historic character
6. Downtown's diversity shall be facilitated
7. The cost of projects and programs shall be weighed against their benefits
8. Downtown shall become more user friendly
9. Cultural activities shall be nurtured and expanded downtown