

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

2024 is shaping up to be another record-breaking year for BCD! We won 2 of 18 awarded historic preservation grants across the state by Oregon Heritage. BCD is incredibly proud to partner with local building and business owners to preserve and restore the built heritage of Historic Baker City Downtown. We will highlight all our current grant projects through social media and the fall newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter! Our newsletter is for business and property owners, stakeholders, and community members. Through this newsletter, we will keep you updated with the latest Main Street organization news and happenings in the downtown commercial district - the heart of our community.

85 DAYS UNTIL TASTE OF BAKER!

The countdown is on for Taste of Baker! Our annual Taste of Baker event will be held on October 5, 2024 from 4-8pm throughout downtown Baker City. The Events Committee is hard at work recruiting vendors, seeking sponsors, and planning the best food, fun, and family event in Eastern Oregon! Under BCD's leadership, Taste of Baker has grown by about 500 participants each year - with an anticipated 2,500 participants this fall.

Contact BCD to sign up to be a vendor and sponsor today!

COMMITTEE NEWS

DESIGN

Our Committee and volunteers welcomed this Spring with a full agenda of Projects!

- Spring Flower Baskets, which we received a grant from Festival of Trees to purchase. Plus a donated Water Wagon from Les Schwab and donated water pump service and maintenance from 4Play Performance. Also our team of volunteers to water each day.
- Baker City-Zen's Community Cleanup
- Creating a Mural Code to support additional Murals throughout our District. We are partnering with Baker City Public Arts Commission on this Project.
- 2nd Year managing "Community Views" Window Advertising Project. We now have two new tenants. Best Friends of Baker Inc. and Baker Food Co-op. Window location, 1833 Main St.
- Court Street Plaza involvement during the whole renovation.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers in our Committee that make all these Projects fun and successful. We share many things in common. We love Baker City, we love being a part of BCD and we love every drop of helping to make our town Beautiful! Many thanks to all who have joined us!

Meets every third Tuesday from 530-7p at Hatch/Launchpad Baker, 2019 Main Street. Contact Be Tiedemann, Design Chair, at design@bakercitydowntown.com for more information.



EVENTS

We continue to position downtown Baker City as the hub of activity and commerce in our town by engaging downtown merchants and customers in a variety of events. In the last quarter we have had monthly wine walks that have drawn people downtown to explore business that they may have not known about. At the June wine walk, one customer commented that she is a regular at a shop she never knew about before participating in the wine walk. As a committee, we also partnered with the High School to celebrate this year's graduates by partnering with downtown businesses to feature students in windows. We will continue wine walk through the summer and also celebrate East/West Shriner players, cheerleaders, coaches and referees during their games in Baker City the end of July.

Meets every first Tuesday from 530-7p at Hatch/Launchpad Baker, 2019 Main Street. Contact Lisa Paulson, Events Chair, at events@bakercitydowntown.com for more information.

OUTREACH & RESOURCES

This committee is undergoing a revamp and reorganization. In 2024, this committee is focusing on organizational development, volunteer management, grant writing and research, partnership building, and general outreach and resource sharing.

Meets every second Wednesday from 530-7p at Hatch/Launchpad Baker, 2019 Main Street. Contact Hilary Kohntopp, Outreach & Resources Chair, at outreach.resources@bakercitydowntown.com for more information.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

UNWINED: WINE WALK

- Promotional sponsorship: promote your business or organization at a fun, monthly event!
 - \$50 (logo on promotional materials)
 - \$100 (logo on promotional materials & set up table during event)
- Beverage sponsorship: help ease the beverage cost for new businesses - new to the event or new businesses - or businesses experiencing hardship to participate! (Logo placed at location and on map).
- Matching sponsorship: match the dollars raised during the event to help raise more funds for the partnering charity and BCD! (Name on map, logo on promotional materials, and set up table during event).

TASTE OF BAKER

- Entrance fee sponsorship: help ease the cost for new vendors - new to the event or new businesses - or those experiencing hardship to participate! (Logo placed at location and on map).
- General sponsorship: help cover the expenses of the event to give more dollars back to local vendors and BCD!
 - \$150 (10 tokens, linked on website, logo on poster)
 - \$275 (25 tokens, linked on website, logo on poster, linked on social media posts)
 - \$500 (50 tokens, linked on website, logo on poster, linked on social media posts, opportunity to set booth & location on map, live radio mention)
 - \$750 (75 tokens, linked on website, logo on poster, linked on social media posts, opportunity to set booth & location on map, live radio mention, reserved table on main st.)
 - \$1000 (100 tokens, linked on website, logo on poster, linked on social media posts, opportunity to set booth & location on map, live radio mention, reserved table on main st., logo on event banners)

FESTIVAL OF TREES

- Tree sponsorship: sponsor a \$500 tree to be decorated and auctioned off for BCD's Community Grant fund, which benefits many local projects and organizations! (Name on tree & logo on promotional materials).
- Centerpiece sponsorship: sponsor a \$50 floral centerpiece! (Name on centerpiece).
- Mini-Tree sponsorship: sponsor a \$200 mini-tree to be silent auctioned during the preview night! (Name on tree & logo on promotional materials).
- General sponsorship: help cover the expenses of the event to give more dollars to BCD's new Community Grant Fund! (Name on gala program, logo on promotional materials, & live mention during auction).

COOKIE CRAWL

- Box sponsorship: sponsor a \$10 cookie box for families in need!
- Baking sponsorship: help ease the baking cost for new businesses - new to the event or new businesses - or businesses experiencing hardship to participate!
- General sponsorship: help cover the expenses of the event to help raise more dollars to BCD's beautification Fund!
 - \$100 (1 box, linked on website, logo on map)
 - \$250 (1 box, linked on website, logo on map, linked on social media posts)

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

- Flower baskets: sponsor a \$50 flower basket to help fill Main Street with beautiful blooms! (Linked on social media posts).
- Watering program: give to our watering fund to keep the flowers alive all summer! (Linked on social media posts).
- Murals: give to our mural fund to create more visual interest downtown! (Linked on social media posts).

CONTACT US TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

SURVEY RESULTS

DOWNTOWN PARKING SURVEY

This survey was in partnership with the City to gather info regarding parking in the downtown district (roughly Auburn to Campbell and Resort to 3rd). The City is considering different solutions to address various parking concerns downtown, but wished to gather data from as many stakeholders as possible to ensure they have data representative of the entire district.

This survey was live from April 26 to May 17 and received 31 responses total. Not all comments are published here due to space. However, the comments that have been published are representative of the unpublished comments..

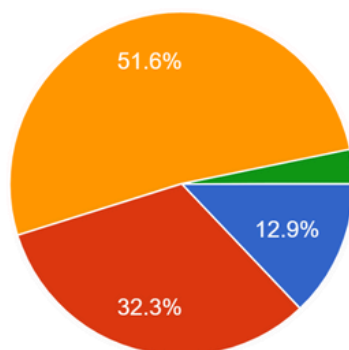
Thank you to everyone who participated!

Location of survey respondents:

Main = 17/31 ~ 55%
1st = 3/31 ~ 10%
Resort = 3/31 ~ 10%
Court = 1/31 ~ 3%
Washington = 1/31 ~ 3%
Main and Resort = 3/31 ~ 10%
Resort and Washington = 1/31 ~ 3%
Main and Broadway = 1/31 ~ 3%
2nd and Broadway = 1/31 ~ 3%

Which of the following do you think is the greatest challenge to parking downtown?

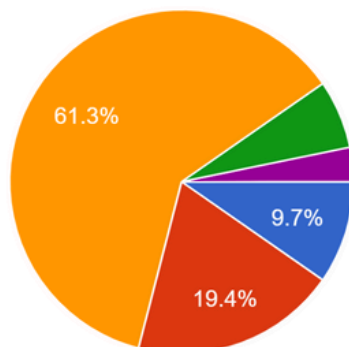
31 responses



- parking past the 2 hour limit on Main Street
- business owners, employees, and/or residents parking on Main Street
- lack of parking lots or structures downtown
- lack of time limits on Resort, 1st, and/or cross streets
- lack of parking meters or paid parking options

Which of the following do you think would resolve the greatest parking challenges downtown?

31 responses



- code enforcement of the 2 hour time limit on Main Street
- business owners, employees, and/or residents parking off Main Street
- creating a parking lot or parking structure downtown
- adding parking time limits on Resort, 1st, and/or cross streets
- adding parking meters or paid parking options

SURVEY RESULTS

What is your perspective on parking downtown?

Parking is exceptionally valuable to a healthy commercial district but signage is useless without enforcement. On many days there is 7 feet between cars parked as there are no painted Ts for spacing which we lose 1-2 cars per block. There needs to be identified areas for permit parking for residents and somehow addressing the major problem of owners parking in high value spaces.

- In the evenings, it does appear pretty busy
- Hard to find parking. Many spaces are occupied by owners/employees to establishments / businesses therefore leaving little parking spaces for patrons/tourists
- Not enough, for business owners, employees/staff and customers
- Hard to find parking during peak hours
- It is hard to find a place to park even in the off season. People that work downtown should not be parking in front of Main Street businesses.
- We could use some off-street parking

I cannot recall a time when I had to park more than 2 blocks (typically only a block) away from the entrance of the establishment I was planning to visit. In comparison to other "tourist" towns, that doesn't seem out of reasonable expectations.

- I typically park on Resort and have not had a problem locating a spot near my building.
- There is no parking on Main St. Business Owners and residents have no place.
- The addition of downtown housing for both residential and vacation rentals adds a new layer to the parking matrix, downtown now has vehicles that live 24/7/365 in the downtown. Would the city allow a commercial motel to build without providing adequate off-street parking? Same rules should apply to mini motels (VRBO type businesses). Long term parked cars also create challenges for snow removal and street sweeping. They also cause parking congestion around the businesses down below. The downtown is clearly designated a central commercial district, and therefore commerce should be the absolute primary use, and residential occupants should be required to secure parking outside of the business district.
- Downtown has some businesses that unlawfully (Read City Ordinances 70.06 & 72.05) park and leave their delivery trucks in loading zones. Many loading zones have become permanent private parking, which forces other delivery trucks to take up customer parking when making deliveries.
- There is not enough parking for both employees/owners, and customers. Resort street allows for those spots but forces employees and business owners to move farther from their place of work.

The speed of traffic on Main Street is too fast which makes it a challenge for pedestrians to safely cross the street, and it makes it difficult to parallel park. When walkability suffers, staff and customers will choose to park directly at their destination rather than use the option to park a short distance away. Solution, make Main St 3 lanes, clearly mark crosswalks, and slow down traffic.

- Business vehicles taking up valuable and limited space for customer parking
- Not a fan of diagonal parking especially on resort. It's very hard to get out of my business with the parking
- Downtown business employees should be more considerate of where they park. First and Washington westbound is a dangerous intersection because of diagonal parking.
- Allowing angle in parking is a recipe for disaster. The vision triangle off of Madison onto Resort is a joke. It is required to edge out into Resort to determine if any traffic is coming from Campbell, but this is a problem because: a) folks come in off of Campbell like changing lanes at Indy, they punch it as soon as the turn is made onto Resort b) folks coming out of the Dollar store tear off down Resort, so you may be edging out as cars are blazing out of the Dollar store. The vision triangle friends....do a little research. This is an issue all over the city, but is a problem even with curb parallel parking all over downtown. The propensity to drive too fast for the downtown streets just complicates the problem of restricted vision.

SURVEY RESULTS

What solutions do you have for parking downtown?

Not necessarily a large solution, but I think having "no parking" areas accurately marked could give a better idea of where parking IS allowed - this is something that seems more pertinent in the blocks from Church to Campbell. For instance, if the corners were painted in yellow indicating "no parking", it would be easier for people to recognize that they COULD park in between the yellow areas.

- Let's use the gravel area by Central Park for biz owners, employee, residents of downtown!
- Get downtown workers cars off of Main Street and enforce the 2-hour limit. Everyone knows this is not enforced. It needs to be. Parking meters perhaps.
- Paint the Ts. Enforce the time limits for 30 and 2 hour spaces. Offer permits and designated area (off of Main) for residents. Sign areas specifically for long term parking.

Buy a lot and create a structure...use some of new park access for parking with right of access purchased through Baker Garage...or, if Baker Garage is for sale, buy it. Perfect location. We've missed many opportunities in the past. Get a grant to buy a building or space.

- In addition to creating parking lots, enforcement of time limits throughout the downtown area would be a good starting point.
- Require the residences on Resort Street to allow diagonal public parking rather than have their own spot to parallel park, especially when they have a private driveway.
- Resort Street has plenty of parking - leave them alone.

1) Remove the handicap space on the corner of 1st & Court.

2) Utilize an empty lot, or lot with an old / neglected building that is not being used and make a parking lot or structure - of course it would need to be done with design in mind as to blend into the historic charm of downtown

- A parking lot with shuttle or bus to downtown for lunch goers or people planning on staying awhile.
- No parking meters. Our police are already short staffed and busy, it would be ridiculous to have them enforce the 2-hour parking. Ditto code enforcement.
- A parking lot or a small 2 story parking structure would make a huge difference.

I would like to see partnerships with the banks and other large parking lots near downtown along with other week day business' parking lots being opened to business owners and staff and visitors during the weekends.

- Designated parking structures. Designated areas marked 2-hour parking for customers along Main Street. Designated spots for business owners and employees.
- More consideration on employee's working downtown.
- I feel there are many components to this answer. All of the options above are great however building a structure or a lot would only work if there was one in the middle or one at each end otherwise if you built one at the north or south end people aren't going to park at the north end and walk to the south and vice versa. The 2-hour parking I feel is hugely taken advantage of. No one monitors it and no one seems to adhere to it. Most business owners will pull up out front of their business to get open in the morning then they go. I feel code enforcement is a crucial and key to this as well.

Historic photos show that during that time most streets had angled diagonal parking. The city should be aggressive in the effort to rebuild and actively promote the downtown as a place for tourism and local commerce. I-84 removed the need for Main Street to be a major highway, yet we still allow it to appear as a highway. Traffic should be slowed significantly, stopped for pedestrians, and focused on business and shopping. Vehicle traffic and parking should be steered more towards a shopping center environment. Would a mall allow 4 lanes of 30 mile an hour traffic to travel within feet of people dining on a sidewalk? No.

Do we want our downtown to be an obsolete 4 lane highway lined with old empty buildings, or do we want it to be a prosperous commercial shopping district where traffic politely meanders safely down the street?

*for solutions, look at "The Village" in Meridian Idaho, 8th Street in downtown Boise, or for a bigger scale 16th Street in Denver.

SURVEY RESULTS

Do parking limitations keep you from developing your business or building further?

- No = 14/31 ~ 45%
- Yes = 6/31 ~ 19%
- Maybe/sometimes/possibly = 3/31 ~ 10%
- Yes unable to plan special events due to lack of parking. For example employees for business next to mine park all day every day in front of my business so that there is parking spaces available in front of their business for their patrons.
- Not exactly, but many of my customers have complained (especially in the winter months) that they can not find a parking spot near my office.
- For decades, we have heard from locals that they won't shop if they can't park in the block. I am certain that holds for visitors as well. Without marked spacing and enforcement, we lose business every day.
- Yes. Customers have started driving down the alley to pick up their orders. This blocks the alley and UPS and other delivery is forced to wait, or park on Main St to deliver. Customers have no place else to park and pick up.
- Parking doesn't limit developing the business it just makes it difficult to doing business.
- Absolutely. People nowadays want to pull up and grab things and go
- Parking downtown is a minor inconvenience, not a major problem.
- Yes, if the parking is all full around our business people are less likely to come in. They don't want to drive around and search for parking. If there were more parking lots or a small parking structure people would be willing to park there and walk into downtown.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

FRIENDS OF BCD:

Amy Uchtman
Belinda Tiedemann
CaSandra Zeller
Charlene Chase
Fred & Camille Warner
Kim Mosier
Lisa Paulson
Terry Drever-Gee

BUILDINGS:

Bamberger Building
Candy Factory Building
Fanny Mae Building
Haskell Building
Lynnedale Building
Pythian Castle
Shoemaker Building

BUSINESSES:

1188's Bearded Dog
Anders Gallery
Baker City Realty
Baker Floral & Botanicals
Baker Food Co-op
Baker Heritage Museum
Barley Brown's
BELLA Main Street Market
Betty's Books
Blue Mountain Lodge #34 A.F.&A.M.
Broadcast Baker
CASA of Eastern Oregon
Charley's Deli & Ice Cream
Cheese Fairy
Churchill School
Compass Real Estate Inc.
Copper Belt Wines
Crossroads Carnegie Art Center
D&J Taco Shop
Davis Computers
Delicioso Mexican Restaurant
Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre
Eltrym Theater

Geiser Grand
Geonet
Hearts & Petals Flower Shoppe
J Tabor Jewelers
Jackson's Food Store
Jubilee Plants & Gathering
Katherine Bailey, Edward Jones
Kicks Sportswear
Latitude 45 Grille
Last Resort Salon
Main Event Sports Bar & Eatery
Matilda's
Mt. View RV Park
North 7 Brewing
Pine Valley 2050
Royal Artisan
Ryder Bros Stationery Store
Statewide Land Surveying, Inc.
Sweet Wife Baking
The Trailhead
Umpqua Bank
US Bank
Watershed Professionals Network
Wisdom House

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER