

MAKING DOWNTOWN BAKERSFIELD THRIVE

Making Downtown Bakersfield a more desirable place to live, work and play requires a series of complementary strategies and initiatives all working in unison. But what are these building blocks for a more livable Downtown?

The following planning, urban design and other best practices illustrate many ways that together or in various combinations other communities have successfully implemented to make their downtowns more vibrant:

MAKING DOWNTOWN MORE CONNECTED...



Network of Streets

An interconnected, grid street pattern with a high density of intersections provides more route options for pedestrians, cyclists and automobiles.

MAKING DOWNTOWN MORE COMPACT...



Building Massing and Orientation

Development should face the street and public spaces at a pedestrian scale, respond to the existing community character, and transition between neighborhoods. As new development fills in existing "voids" and other underutilized parcels (e.g. surface parking) it makes Downtown more active and walkable.

Connectivity expands access across the region by increasing transportation options and serving adjacent land uses through an integrated system of pedestrian, bicycle, automobile and transit facilities in Downtown.



Mobility Options

More transportation options provides flexibility and expanded transportation choice both in and around Downtown and to and from Downtown.



Transit Integration

Integrating transit modes and service increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire transportation system.

Compact development patterns concentrate jobs, housing, shopping and services close to one another, increasing the number of users and types of trips that can be served by walking, cycling and public transit.



Infrastructure Reinvestment

The best infrastructure investments are the ones that utilize and upgrade the power, water, gas, and sewer lines we have already built. Targeting these upgrades at catalytic locations to encourage new and revitalize existing development both increases capacity while serving multiple ecological functions, as well as doubling as beautification initiatives, such as shade trees, bioswales, green roofs, and native plantings.



Balancing Development and Open Space

Locate and design public open space to support compact, mixed-use development that contributes to the interest of Downtown's urban fabric and connectivity to a multi-modal (bus, auto, bike and pedestrian) transportation system.

MAKING DOWNTOWN MORE WALKABLE...

Quality streets and sidewalks enhance the desirability of Downtown development by providing a comfortable and inviting environment for pedestrians and cyclists.



Photo: Spacing Magazine



Photo: Toronto Public Consultation



Photo: NYC DOT



Photo: Steve Brown

Complete Streets

Streets seamlessly designed for all users not only increases mobility options, but also broadens access to transit and compliments the pedestrian scale of new development.

Pedestrian Safety

Minimizing the conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, transit and automobiles enhances the comfort and safety of streets.

Wayfinding

Targeted signage increases the visibility, awareness and usability of Downtown's many districts, as well as simplifies navigation to final destinations.

Parking Strategy

A comprehensive parking strategy more effectively shares and manages available parking, conveniently locating structures while masking them from the street.

MAKING DOWNTOWN MORE DIVERSE...

A mix of uses, services, activities and destinations enhances the vibrancy of urban centers while optimizing the utility of the transportation system.



Photo: Donald West



Photo: James Diebold



Photo: James Diebold



Photo: Reurbanist

Mix of Uses

Provide a variety and combination of public and private housing, retail, commercial and institutional uses that make it easier for people to be Downtown.

Historic Preservation

Reuse the existing building stock to preserve local history and create a more dynamic transition of architectural styles across Downtown.

Programming

Careful and strategic efforts are necessary to activate the built environment with events like outdoor concerts, movies in the park, farmers markets and even scavenger hunts.

Active Ground Floor Uses

Actively-used ground floor uses in new development and redevelopment projects generate pedestrian activity.