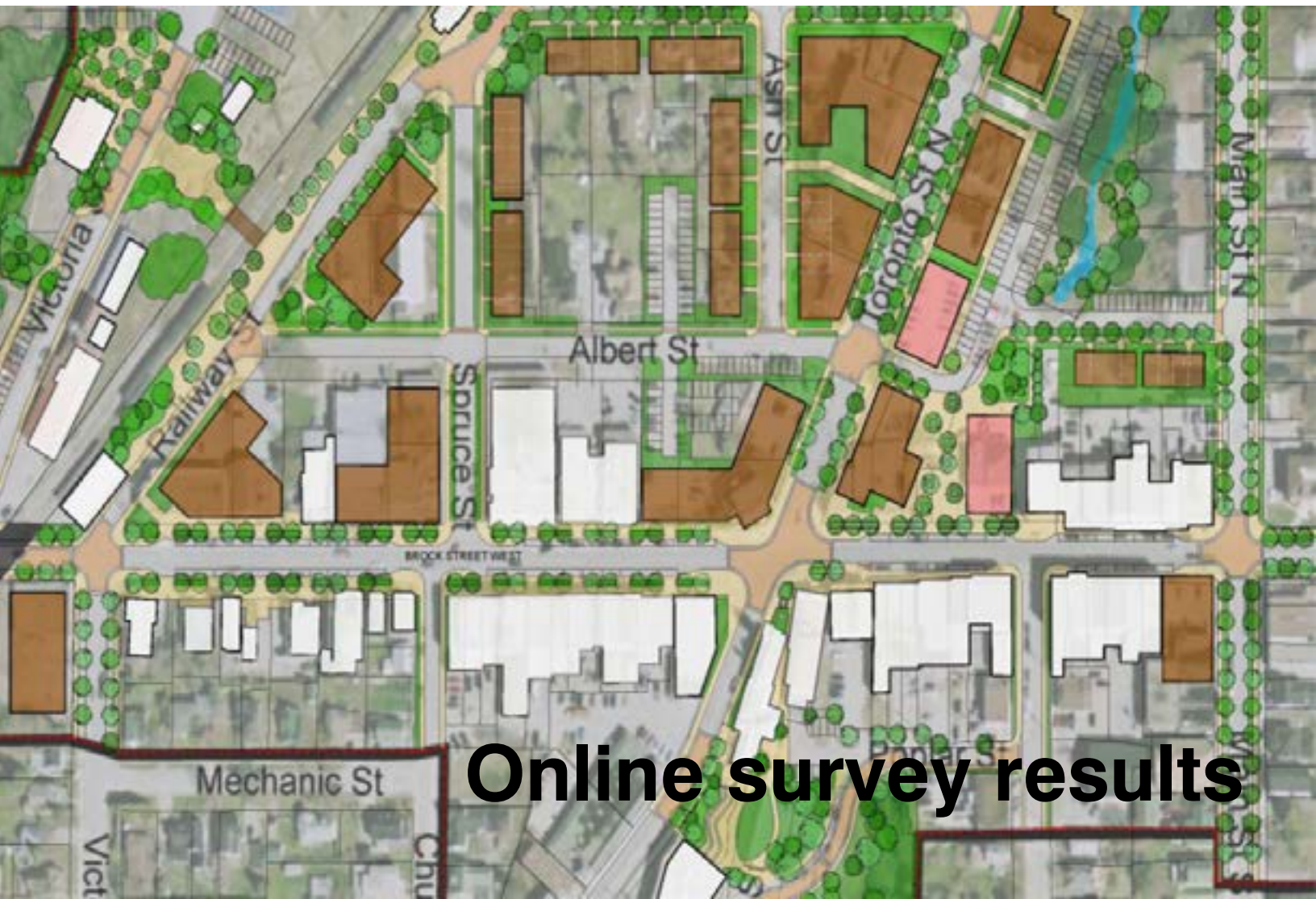


Downtown Uxbridge Visualization



Online survey results

1.0 Introduction

The Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization project was launched in August of 2020 to develop a long-term vision for the downtown area. The Project will deliver a Strategic Plan and an Action Plan that will focus on the longer-term economic development and social well-being of the downtown. As part of the Revitalization project, The Planning Partnership was retained to prepare visualizations of intensification and redevelopment in downtown Uxbridge. Early thinking on a number of key directions was shared at a community workshop on June 28, 2021. Following the workshop, the workshop material was used to create an online survey to seek further community input. This report provides a summary of the survey results.

The survey was live from July 20, 2021 to August 20, 2021 and was promoted by the Town on their social media, web page and through emails. In total, 507 people completed the survey.

Most respondents were between 35 and 50 years old:

- 2% were between 0 and 18 years old
- 17% were between 19 and 34 years old;
- 40% were between 35 and 50 years old;
- 28% were between 51 and 65 years old;
- 13% were older than 66 years old; and,

Most respondents live withing walking distance of Downtown:

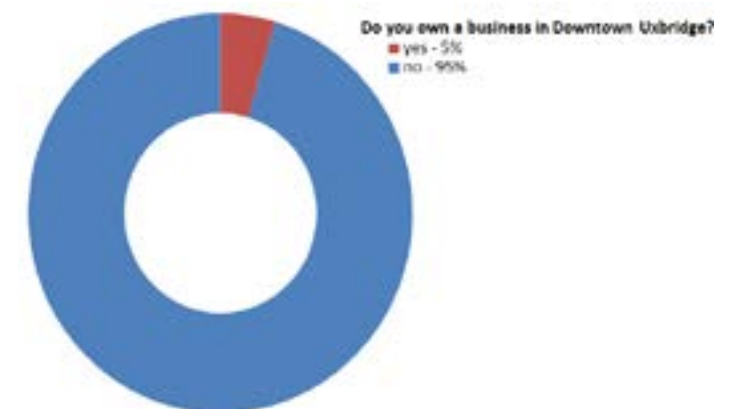
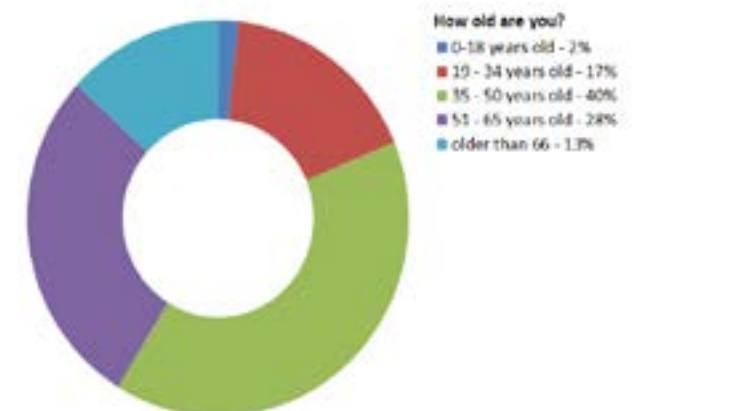
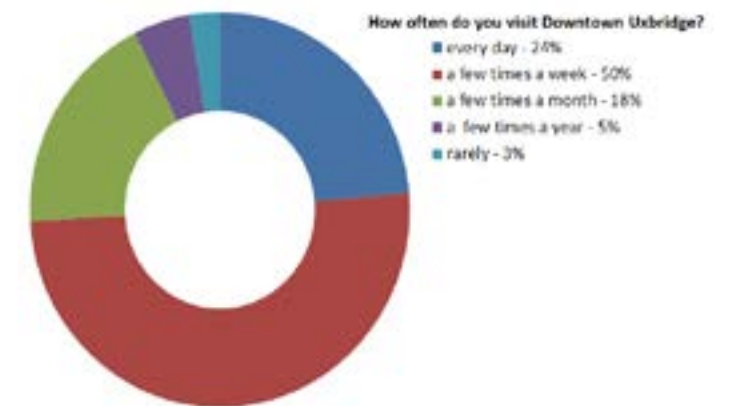
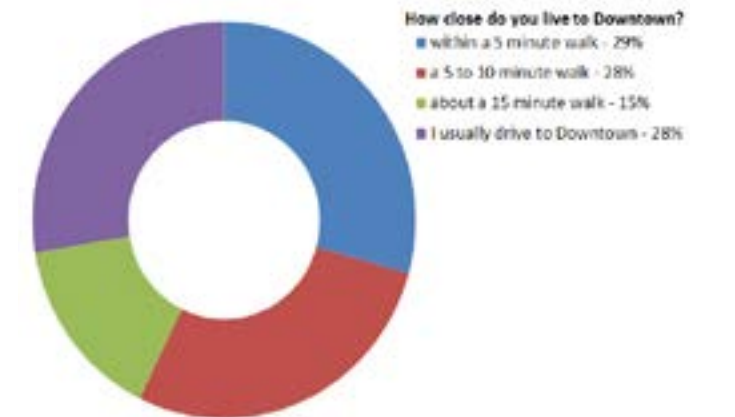
- 29% were within a 5 minute walk
- 28% were within a 5 to 10 minute walk
- 15% were within a 15 minute walk
- 28% usually drive Downtown

Most respondents visit Downtown a few times a week or every day:

- 50% visit a few times a week
- 24% visit every day
- 18% visit a few times a month
- 5% visit a few times a year
- 3% visit rarely.

Only a few respondents own a Downtown business:

- 95% said they do not own a business; and,
- 5% said they did own a business.



3.0 Survey Questions

3.1 Priority Ranking: What's Most Important to You?

Priority Ranking — Summary



Priority Ranking: What's Most Important to You?



Downtown Uxbridge could include more places to live in mixed use buildings with shops and services on the ground floor and residential units above.

- Having people living downtown keeps the centre of Town vibrant and safe.
- Permit parking and garbage collection behind buildings.
- Affordable rental housing would attract more young people to live downtown.



A new town square should be incorporated with new infill development on the Township-owned property.

- This would be excellent for creating a gathering place for events and encouraging community.
- Absolutely need somewhere to gather, shop and rest.
- The Town Square should include vibrant greenspace with native plantings.
- The Town Square should provide access to amenities such as seating, shade and convenient access to restaurants.



Buildings should be well designed, respect the heritage context and incorporate buildings with historic interest.

- This adds beauty and charm to our small Town.
- Restore and maintain existing buildings.
- New buildings should respect the Town's built heritage.
- This is essential to making Downtown a destination and attracting tourism.
- The Town should implement Design Guidelines.



Sidewalks should be wide and have trees and other plantings to help buffer pedestrians from traffic.

- There are many sections of sidewalk that are too narrow or in need of repair.
- Trees would compliment safe sidewalks.
- Large trucks passing through Downtown create a nuisance and are not safe.

Priority Ranking: What's Most Important to You?



Rank 5

Variety of Places to Shop

Downtown Uxbridge should have a greater variety of places to shop or be entertained.

- It's great to have a variety of shops and support local businesses.
- There should be a greater variety of restaurants and boutique shops to attract people.
- Grocery and convenient stores to provide basic necessities.



Rank 7

Lots of Parking

Downtown Uxbridge needs more parking as opposed to infill development.

- Current parking is adequate, but should not be reduced.
- It is easy to find somewhere else to park.



Rank 6

Streets with Lots of Trees

Streets should be lined with trees.

- Improving the tree canopy is a cost-effective way to make streets more welcoming.
- Trees, flowers and nice lighting for the evening make such a difference.
- Trees are a great way to reduce the impacts of pollution.



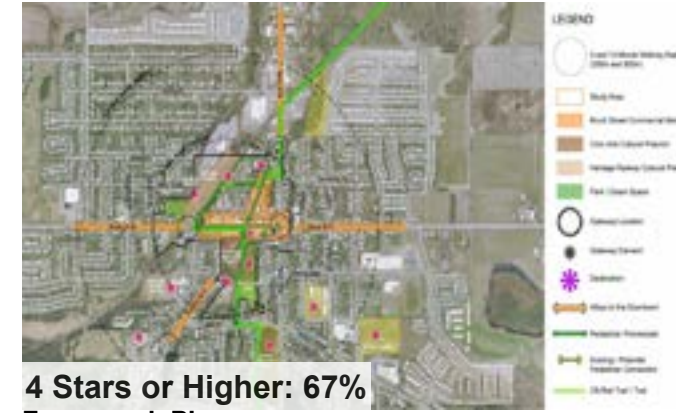
Rank 8

Connections to Trails

Downtown Uxbridge should be well connected to the wider trail network.

- I would love to be able to walk through Town joined by connective trails.
- Signage would help people better locate existing trails.
- Trail connections Downtown would draw more visitors.

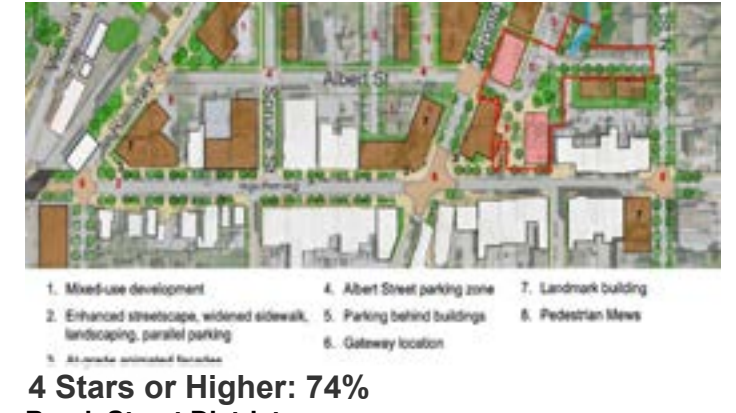
3.2 Scenario Rating: Ideas to Explore — The Framework and District Plans



4 Stars or Higher: 67% Framework Plan

Establishes an organizational structure for the downtown based on three character districts, a pedestrian promenade linking the three areas, locations that mark gateways to the downtown and locations for potential development.

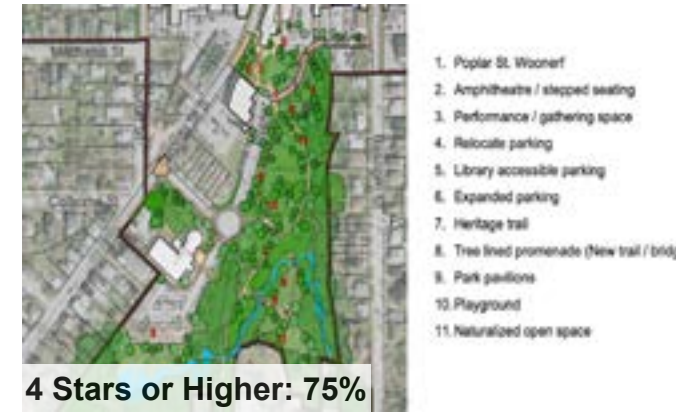
- Accessibility, places to go and visual appeal are essential.
- The sidewalks on Mill Street are too narrow, the pedestrian promenade is a great idea.
- Parks, green spaces, amenities and opportunities to appreciate public art are important.



4 Stars or Higher: 74% Brock Street District

Improves streets and parks to support business/create a pedestrian place. Multi-storey buildings framing the streets with commercial uses in the ground floors and residential uses above. An enhanced streetscape with traffic calming, trees and on-street parking. Redevelopment on Township-owned property (outlined in red) includes a new public square.

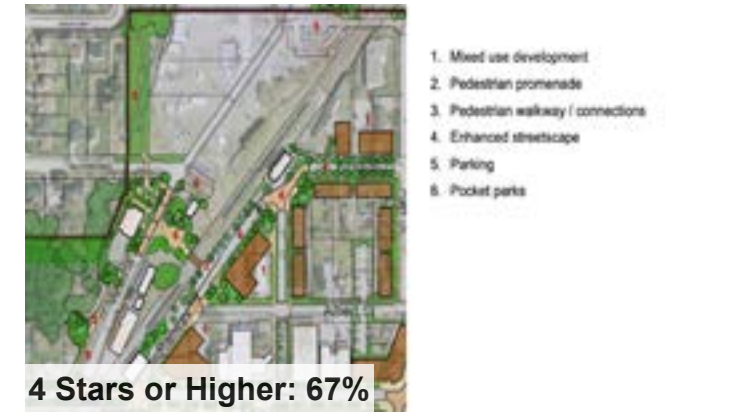
- Consideration should be given to mixed income housing.
- On-street parking makes the Downtown more accessible.
- More trees and improved building facades.



4 Stars or Higher: 75% Civic Cultural District

Some parking is relocated to the Municipal offices, accessible/priority parking is maintained behind the library. Poplar Street is redesigned as a shared street to also function as an urban square for events and gatherings. Stepped seating on the slope beside the library to create an informal performance area. New walkways, bridges, playground and pavilions in the park.

- The addition of community gardens would be a great addition to the Town's park system.
- More greenspace is good, but parking availability must be considered.
- A central community space is much needed!



4 Stars or Higher: 67% Heritage Line District

Redevelopment brings more diverse uses, including residents to the area. Buildings front the streets, landscaped pedestrian promenades run the length of Victoria and Railway, small parks are created where redevelopment occurs and traffic calming ensures cars, trucks, bikes and pedestrians share the space.

- Enhanced streetscape and pedestrian walkways will help make this area more appealing.
- Safe areas for pedestrians and small parks are a great idea.
- Redeveloping this area will preserve our history while connecting it more to Downtown.

3.3 Image Rating: The Various Parts of the Concept Plans

Downtown Promenade



👍 94%

Promenade

A walking circuit should be clearly defined to access and animate the entire Downtown.

- The sidewalks downtown are too narrow.
- It would be awesome if we could bring more life to the shops downtown, using heritage buildings as focal points.
- More space is better, providing opportunities for seasonal activities and artists.



👍 74%

Brock Street

Travel lanes on Brock Street should be narrowed to have more space to widen sidewalks for pedestrians, street trees and space for outdoor patios.

- Allow sidewalk / street patio areas.
- Angled parking should be removed from Brock Street.
- Large truck traffic should be rerouted away from Brock Street.
- More sidewalk space is needed.



👍 98%

Street Trees

Sidewalks should be defined with street trees and other shrubs and ground covers.

- There should be focus on native species.
- Love trees and planters!
- As long as things are maintained.
- Trees with lights are a great feature.
- Trees provide needed shade and should compliment the local trail system.



👍 84%

Key Pedestrian Connection

A continuous pedestrian walkway, connecting Toronto Street to Railway Street should be provided.

- Bike and pedestrian friendly, please!
- Crosswalks are important and clear signage.
- Absolutely, connecting the pedestrian walking trails to other parts of Uxbridge will encourage more foot traffic flowing to different areas of the Town.

Image Rating: The Various Parts of the Concept Plans



👍 66%

Wayfinding

Maps and signs (prints and digital) should clearly define where you are and what's within a short walk.

- Signs should be small, discrete and in keeping with the heritage feel.
- Signs should be accessible to all residents.
- Signs are important for tourists.
- Signs are not needed.



👍 82%

Public Art

Locations at gateways are ideal locations for public art.

- Current art is in need of repair.
- Should support local artists and recognize the Town's history.
- Public art at key locations and added to the way finding.
- More flexibility in where public art is located.
- Public art can liven building facades.

Gateways and Green Space



👍 73%

Gateway Buildings

Gateway buildings are located on key Downtown sites, such as on entrances and at key intersections. Design gateway to address both public streets and include special features to identify the importance of their location.

- Gateway buildings should fit in with the historic character of Uxbridge.
- Building facades should keep the Town's built heritage.
- Current historic buildings should be maintained.
- Keep the small town charm.



👍 91%

Town Square

Redevelopment of the Township-owned property at Toronto and Brock should include a town square for outdoor patios, seating, a fountain, etc. that enables year round use.

- Yes!
- This will support local businesses, give people space to sit and provide an opportunity for integrating public art.
- The Town Square should be used year-round.
- This space should be designed to allow different civic activities, ceremonies, special events, leisure areas, etc.
- The Town Square should create a sense of community while providing a natural gathering space.

Image Rating: The Various Parts of the Concept Plans



80%
Library Amphitheatre

The slope beside the library should be redesigned to incorporate stepped seating to enable its use for events and celebrations.

- Great idea!
- Seating should be easily accessible.
- The hillside should be accommodating to children.
- Consider the impact on parking availability.



70%
Brock Street Parking

Angled parking on Brock should be replaced with parallel parking.

- This would make it easier for cars to get out of parking spaces.
- Yes, the diagonal parking is dangerous.
- Parking should be moved away from the main street to accommodate wider sidewalks.
- Would the number of available parking spaces be effected?

Streets and Parking



88%
Albert Street

Albert Street should be the location for Downtown parking in lots and along the street.

- With safe, enjoyable pedestrian routes between parking areas and Brock.
- The intersection at the railroad is hazardous.
- Parking should be close to downtown, but not immediately visible.
- Great idea, easy access to downtown without congesting Brock Street.



84%
Poplar Street

Poplar Street should be redesigned as a shared street to give priority to pedestrian use.

- Consider how redesigning Poplar Street will effect parking availability and access to Centennial Drive and the medical centre.
- Love this!
- Incorporate 4-season access to Brock Street.

Image Rating: The Various Parts of the Concept Plans



80%
Parking at the Municipal Building

The parking lot at the Municipal building should be expanded to provide more public parking close to Downtown and next to Centennial Park.

- Parking should be expanded only if will be used.
- Parking should not encroach into existing parkland.
- Any negative impacts on the surrounding natural environment should be minimized.
- The park needs more light at night.



79%
Mixed Use

All new development in the Downtown should include mixed-use buildings, with commercial uses at the ground level and residential units in upper levels.

- Residential units need to be affordable.
- Buildings should be kept in a good state of repair.
- Some mixed use buildings would be helpful, but maybe not everywhere.
- New development should maintain the historic look of the area.
- This is a good idea for providing more housing options.

Buildings



86%
Township-owned Property

The Township-owned property (outlined in red) should be redeveloped with a Town Square as the focus and include buildings (pink colour on the drawing) with commercial uses on the ground floor, residential uses above the parking. See Scenario Rating for numbers.

- Terrific idea, a town square will give focus, identity and create a natural gathering / event space.
- Redevelopment should be compatible with existing buildings and character.
- The Town Square should have seating, space for events and open space.



48%
Building Height

In order to encourage redevelopment, new buildings should be 4-6 storeys with housing and commercial uses.

- 6 Storey buildings would detract from downtown's character.
- 4 storeys would be a more appropriate maximum building height.

Image Rating: The Various Parts of the Concept Plans



Mid Block Pedestrian Connections

On larger redevelopment sites landscaped mid-block pedestrian connections should be provided that have 'eyes on the space'.

- Yes, we need greenspace!
- Community safety is important, consider eyes on the street, lighting and lockable bike racks.
- Consider how local businesses can benefit, such as permitting outdoor patios.