

Agenda Item # 6
Staff Report

Meeting Date: February 15, 2022
To: Planning Commission
From: Planning Department
Subject: Update on Outdoor Dining Long Term Plan

Summary

In May of 2017 a City Council resolution was approved for an on-street parklet pilot program, to last for a period of five months. The intent of the programs was to allow businesses the opportunity to construct, operate and maintain outdoor parklets, and allow the City the opportunity to evaluate how well the Parklet Program works, and to establish objective criteria should the City decide to continue the plan.

In June of 2020, as business started opening back up from the Covid 19 closure, City Council members expressed interest in assisting businesses, specifically restaurants, in allowing them to participate in the parklet program. Two parklets were opened with encroachment permits, under guidelines provided by the City for construction and operation.

A long term outdoor dining plan is being considered. One of the issues that has come up is that the current outdoor dining areas were designed as temporary in nature, and do not follow specific design guidelines relative to long term materials and colors. A long term outdoor dining plan may be needed or we may need to consider the addition of design guidelines for more permanent parklet facilities.

There are some other competing or potentially compatible considerations. The Walk Bike Ride Mt. Shasta sustainable transportation plan is in progress, and is considering an improved bicycle transportation route along Mt Shasta Blvd. Whether the road width can support both outdoor dining parklets and a bicycle route is one consideration. Another idea that has been considered for a number of years is the feasibility of one way routes in the downtown area.

Next Steps

It is recommended that a downtown enhancement plan be vetted through the public, with consideration to long term outdoor dining and possibly to take a look at updating the road corridor in the downtown area. At this point, this matter is a discussion item only, and additional information is needed, including the final Walk Bike Ride Mt Shasta plan, before we consider moving forward on anything with the potential for changing the road corridor in the downtown area.