



Downtown Advisory Commission

Recommendations and Feedback to Council

Staff Liaison: Kevin Evans
September 28, 2021

Agenda

1. **Members of the Commission**
2. **DAC Mission Statement**
3. **Recommendation #1:**
One-way to Two-way Restoration
4. **Recommendation #2:**
Riverfront Master Plan
5. **Recommendation #3:**
Downtown Wayfinding

Members of Commission

Commission Chair: Mark Misselhorn (CORE)

Staff Liaison: Kevin Evans (City of Peoria)

Commissioners:

Vincent Boyle (OSF Saint Francis Medical Center)

Alma Brown (Caterpillar Inc.)

Jon Jenkins (Lucwork Enterprises & Former Downtown Resident)

Ray Lees (Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)

Peter Kobak (Peoria Park District)

Kim McGhee (OSF Saint Francis Medical Center)

Jon C. Neidy (Bradley University)

Angie Walker (DDC, Downtown Resident, and Business Owner)

DAC Mission

- Serve as an advisor to the Mayor and City Council
- Represent the many voices in Downtown Peoria to the Mayor and Council
- Advocate for the development and growth of Downtown Peoria
- Provide a public forum to Downtown businesses, organizations, and residents
- Consider ways to improve the quality of life Downtown
- Learn from other communities and leverages successes
- Provide recommendations to support the City of Peoria's efforts to attract business, residents, and visitors to Downtown Peoria

Recommendation #1:

One-way to Two-way Restoration

The Downtown Advisory Commission (DAC) endorses current plans to restore two-way streets in Downtown Peoria and requests the funding needed for completion of this project become a priority.

The restoration of two-way streets will:

1. Increase economic development
2. Support the ongoing creation of a vibrant downtown
3. Be an effective component of a systems-based solution

One-way to Two-way Restoration

Recommended Priorities:

1. Implement the project as soon as possible
2. Safety of pedestrians & cyclists
3. Communicate the changes with impacted business owners
4. Communicate the changes with impacted residents
5. Communicate the changes to the public
6. Ensure public art inclusion where possible
7. Coordinate with Wayfinding and Main St. redevelopment efforts
8. Ensure compliance with Combined Sewer Overflow plan

Recommendation #2:

Riverfront Master Plan

The Downtown Advisory Commission (DAC) recommends revisiting the current Riverfront Master Plan presented by Terra Engineering alongside consideration of the attached priorities that have been compiled by the DAC and public stakeholders.

The Peoria Riverfront is the key feature of Downtown Peoria... a singular opportunity to ensure good design. For this reason, development must be approached collaboratively, thoughtfully and creatively to ensure the viability of our riverfront, city and region.

Riverfront Master Plan

Recommended Priorities:

1. Resolve flooding concerns
2. Resolve parking concerns
3. Coordinate with Riverfront business owners
4. Coordinate with the Peoria Park District
5. Coordinate the Wayfinding and Main Street Redevelopment efforts
6. Ensure significant green space
7. Ensure public art inclusion
8. Ensure opportunities to shop, gather, play and learn

Recommendation #3:

Downtown Wayfinding

The Downtown Advisory Commission (DAC) recommends Mayor Ali and the City Council members reengage in conversations/plans regarding Wayfinding Plan for Downtown Peoria and requests the funding needed to make a phased completion of this project a priority.

The DAC asserts completion of the Wayfinding Plan will increase economic development, support the ongoing creation of a vibrant downtown, and be an effective component of a systems-based solution which will continue to ensure the viability of our city and region. As a community, we have been discussing this since December of 2017 and believe it is time to act on the plan.

Downtown Wayfinding

Recommended Priorities:

1. Convene a Community Wayfinding Stakeholder Meeting:

Identify a consensus between stakeholders for a path forward to initiate a pilot wayfinding signage plan.

2. Alternative Wayfinding Signage:

Explore alternative simplified design and fabrication options including but not limited to, the use of the City's sign shop fabrication and install capabilities.

3. Budget Analysis/Confirmation:

Determine design, fabrication and installation costs associated with the revised approach of using City signage development and installation capabilities.

Downtown Wayfinding

Recommended Priorities Continued:

4. Modified/Phased Implementation Plan:

Once costs are identified, review initial Corbin Design Plan to assess proposed locations and signage information to determine a prioritized, phased implementation plan.

5. Funding:

Seek additional funding sources for implementation including public/private partnerships, grants and other transportation-related funding that may be available from stimulus programs from the state and/or federal government.

6. City Council Recommendation:

City Council should adopt the Downtown Wayfinding plan as a starting point and integrate with the Bicycle Master Plan plus alternative more cost-effective design options.

