

## **SUMMARY OF MEETING**

The following serves to summarize and highlight key themes from the meeting below.

### Chamber of Commerce, Forum 2020 (November 8, 2017)

Discussion at the Chamber of Commerce meeting included a range of topics. Concerns regarding parking (and the lack thereof) were discussed often, as was the impact the ACE train station has on parking in the nearby residential neighborhoods, and the required collaboration between the County, the City, and ACE. The discussion also included:

#### **Active Ground Floor Uses**

- Noted that conversion of existing buildings can be expensive and sometimes cost-prohibitive (e.g., converting an office space to restaurant or office to residential)
- Commented that leaving discretion to the Director of Community Development about additional uses that would qualify as active ground floor uses creates uncertainty
- The risk to the property owner needs to be kept in mind
- Discussed the case to “encourage” active ground floor uses (but not require)

#### **Civic Center**

- Questioned if there an option to keep existing civic center on the site
- Favored parking within walking distance of Main Street
- Commented that the Civic Center is really for the south end. Businesses struggle around the 600-700 block of downtown
- Requested consideration that the online survey may be misleading because it says parking will be replaced
- Discussed the need to make sure downtown is vital
- Noted that there appears to be an emphasis on public input as opposed to input from property owners

#### **Streetscapes**

- One person indicated streetscapes on Peters Avenue and Division Street should be improved (with his support to the medium change on Division Street). Noted people should use Peters Avenue and free up Main Street.