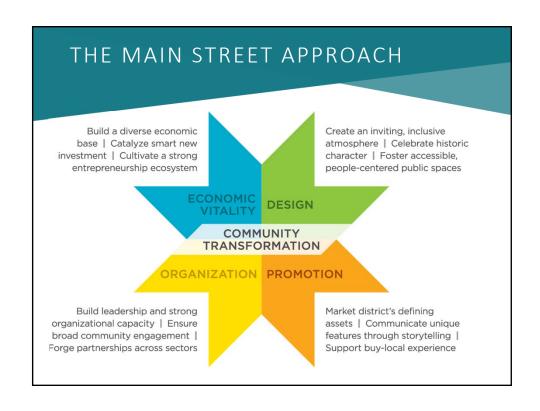


## ACTION / WORK PROCESS

- + What is your process now for developing your action/work plans?
- + Who feels like their board and committees are working toward the same vision or common goals for downtown?
- + How many programs rely on staff to put the action/work plans together?
- + How many use an online format to share with volunteers and partners? (Slack, Google Docs, etc.)
- + How many use their action/work plans at their committee meetings?
- + Who thinks they have the perfect action/work plan system in place?





## MAIN STREET FINDINGS

- **Challenge with organizational silos** needing stronger connection
  - Internally between board and committees and among committees
  - Externally lack of defined partnerships or collaboration with other groups on common grounds and distinctive roles



- > Need to strengthen position
  - Not always viewed as serious economic development organizations or with a seat at the table...
  - Challenge in "packaging" and promoting value

## MAIN STREET APPROACH® Community vision + Market understanding: Establish a community vision for the Main Street district that acknowledges market realities and provides a foundation for future (re)development. Key tools: local surveys, market data **Transformation Strategies** Select a strategy aligned with the community vision and local market to guide programming, planning and DESIGN investment in the downtown district. Key tools: focused strategy, implementable goals Implementation and Measurement Identify programming, partners and capital needed to implement transformation strategy; define measures of success to track impact over time. Key tools: project work plans, data collection and

# WHAT ARE TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIES?

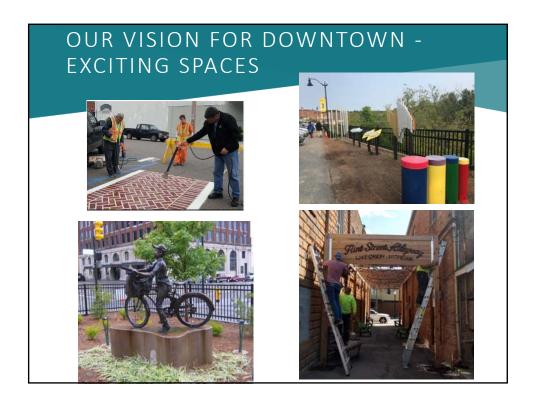
#### **Transformation Strategies:**

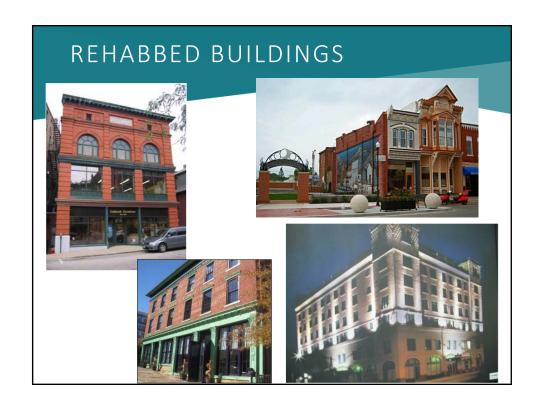
- + guide the direction of the revitalization initiative
- + bring about substantive transformation
- + reflective of community vision
- + based on an understanding of the district's economic performance and opportunities
- + implemented through all Four Points
- + measurable
- + re-evaluated every 2-5 years

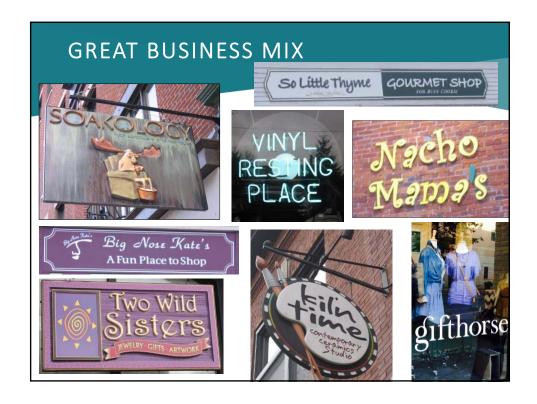
# THE (NEW) MAIN STREET APPROACH

### **Key benefits**

- + Targets your market and community strengths (focused work)
- + Better economic impact
- + Broader community engagement
- + Tangible, quantifiable outcomes
- + Greater organizational flexibility
- + Relevance for more communities and organizations who share the same vision for downtown

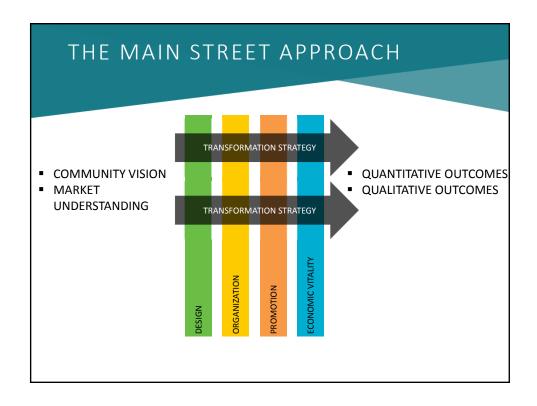








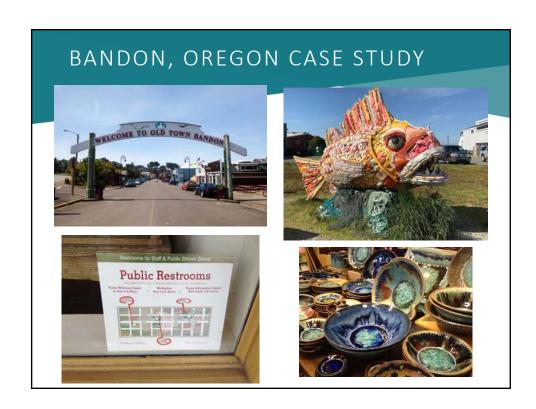




## VISION FOR DOWNTOWN

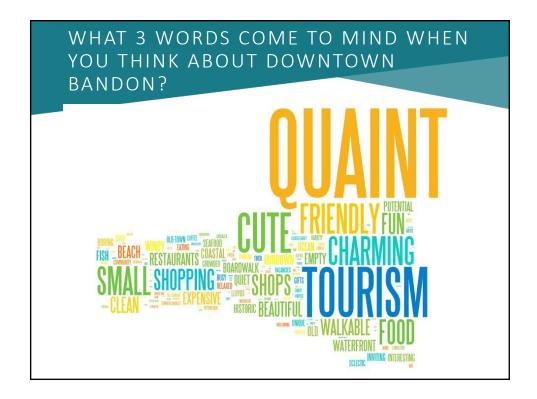
- + How do we get the community to participate in identifying the shared vision for downtown?
- + Survey Monkey
- + Public Forums
- + Social Media
- + Focus Groups



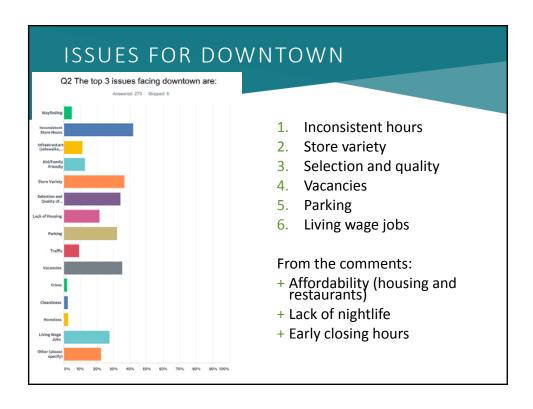


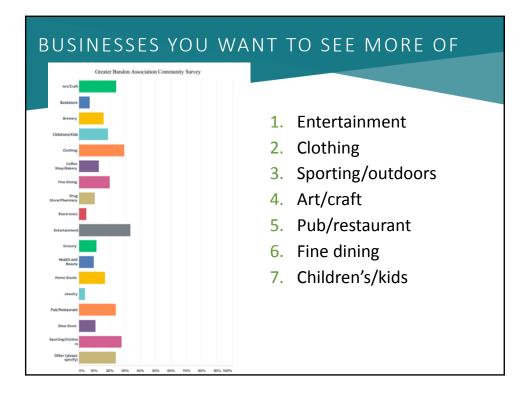
## INPUT GATHERING - SURVEY

- 1. Three words about downtown?
- 2. Top 3 issues facing downtown
- 3. Businesses you most often patronize
- 4. 3 business types you would like to see within the district not currently present?
- 5. What time of day do you most typically do your shopping (not just downtown)?
- 6. Day of the week do you most frequently shop (not just downtown)?
- 7. Where do you live?
- 8. Would you live in the downtown/district if you could?
- 9. Where do you work?
- 10. How old are you?
- 11. Describe downtown in one sentence









# "DESCRIBE YOUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN"

- + "Keep merchants local"
- + "That it always has a small-town feel"
- + "More variety"
- + "More restaurants"
- + "Year-round entertainment, as when tourists come in"
- + "Redevelop some older structures into mixed use, multi-story buildings with housing above..."
- + "Keep it vital, draw more visitors"
- + "Fill empty buildings with new shops"
- + "Not over-commercialized; cater as much to retirees, families, etc., as tourists"

## BANDON'S TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIES

- + Family and Active Retiree Friendly active retiree reflects the demographic data and knowledge of people who come to the community, love the area, and decide to retire in Bandon. Family friendly reflects a desire to make Bandon a place where people can stay and raise their families or to attract more families to Bandon.
- Local Coastal Cuisine this reflects the number of businesses that sale and serve locally produced items as well as the availability of fresh local seafood and produce. Additionally, this reflects local market trends and community energy towards becoming a "foodie" destination.
- + **Enhanced Visitor Experience** (an update of Visitor/Tourism) enhanced visitor experience reflects GBA's role in building upon the authenticity of downtown that makes it inviting for local people and, in the process, this will make it inviting to visitors as well.
- + Local Goods and Services (update of Convenience Goods and Services) reflects a desire to have easier access to basic goods and services to meet the needs of residents and visitors.

## **COMMUNITY VISIONING**

- •Community-driven process that brings stakeholders from all sectors together, inviting them to be proactive participants in the revitalization process.
- •Provides a foundation for outlining the community's own identity, expectations, and ideals while confirming real and perceived perceptions, needs and opportunities.

#### Example:

•Community decides it wants to become regional arts and culture hub.



## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

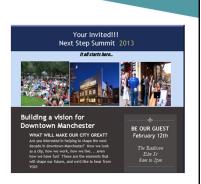
- •Typically communities will find two to three Community Transformation Strategies are needed to help reach a community vision.
- •Example of Arts Strategy: a shortterm strategy could be to develop a public mural program, engaging local students as artists.
- •A longer-term strategy could be to develop form-based planning codes to promote housing for arts and culture workers – providing for live/work space without requiring special permits.
- •Work on these strategies would align with the four points.



## VISION STATEMENT

## Where You're Going...

- · Preferred future of the district
- Inspiring!
- Consensus, developed by a broad cross-section of the community
- Comprehensive
- Uses, significant improvements
- Specific, sensory language
- Reality check for annual activities
- Many ideas generated for projects over many years





# TYPES OF TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIES

- + Catalyst Strategies: help organizations without (recent) market information get started
  - Catalyst Strategies generally fall into one of two groups:
    - Strategies that build on the presence of a customer group
    - Strategies that build on the presence of a concentration of a type of product, service, or business
  - Can be used by mature Main Street programs as well as communities new to the Main Street program

## Customized Strategies:

- based on more substantive market information
- can help an organization tackle more complex or challenging transformations





## POTENTIAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

- Invite one or more people involved in rural economics to serve on a task force or committee and provide initial and ongoing guidance on developing the Agriculture strategy.
- + Explore potential grant opportunities to support food production, distribution, and marketing (e.g., from the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Programs and from private foundations interested in improving access to healthy food).
- Invite ranchers and farmers to serve on the board, committees, or advisory board
- Assure publicity on what your doing in downtown reaches ranchers and farmers
- + Get kids from FFA or 4H involved





# SAMPLE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES:

- + Organize a farmers market or annual local food festival
- + Host a Farm to Table dinner on Main Street
- Incorporate sugar beet bowling (or other local products) into special events
- + Ugly pickup contest or antique tractor show
- + Farm Art Contests
- + Ag Tours
- + Special business promotion for farm/ranch families





# + Design and install an urban orchard in a vacant parcel between storefront buildings. + Add fresh herbs to planter boxes throughout the district and encourage shoppers to take home a handful. + Historic walking tour with hoof prints on the sidewalk + In vacant storefront windows showing ag related displays (equipment, photos, etc.) Provide guided torus for schools and interpret displays

Ag related mural featuring local farm and people









# EXAMPLES OF CUSTOMIZED STRATEGIES

- Highlighting legacy of a famous person Michael Jackson and the Jackson Family and/or the Music Man
- Music (events, live concerts, stages built) on vacant lots
- Business development: theater reuse, record stores (new and used), recording studios, restaurants, lodging
- Murals and banners



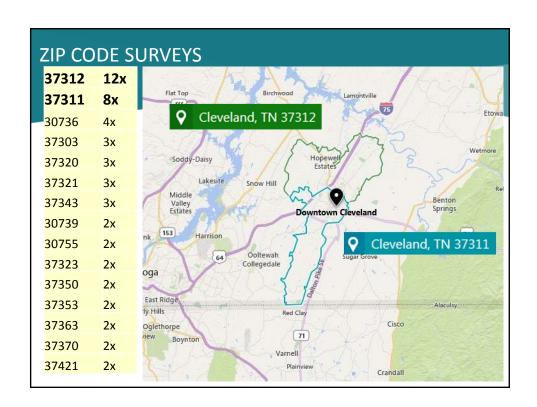


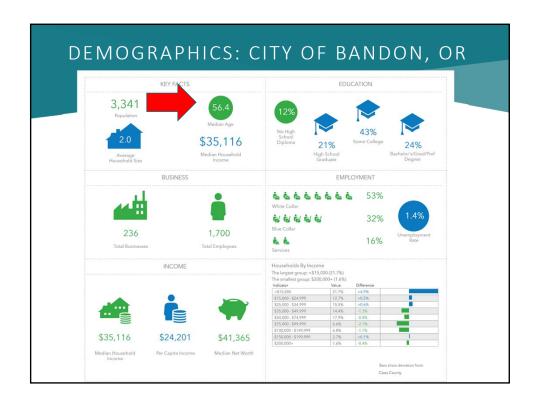


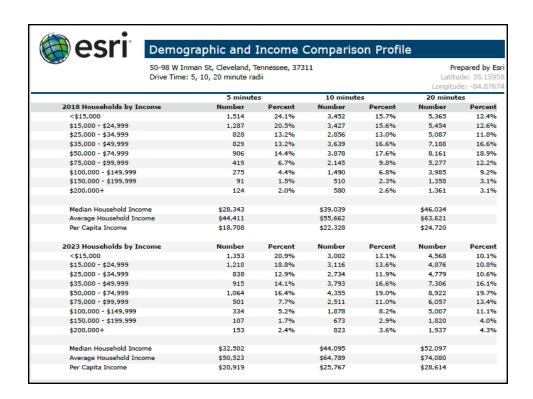
# HOW TO BUILD ON SPIRITUAL DESTINATION

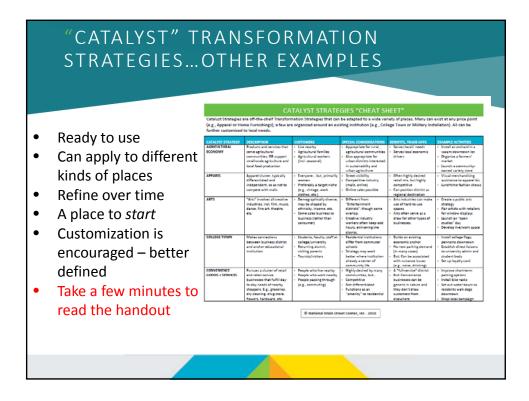
- + Build a meditation/prayer space in downtown park
- + Church Tours (as a fundraiser)
- + Invite church representative to work with MS
- + Recruit non-alcoholic restaurants
- + Past alumni from Lee reunions and potential funders of DT efforts
- + Christmas = strolling carolers
- + Newlywed game with long time married church leaders

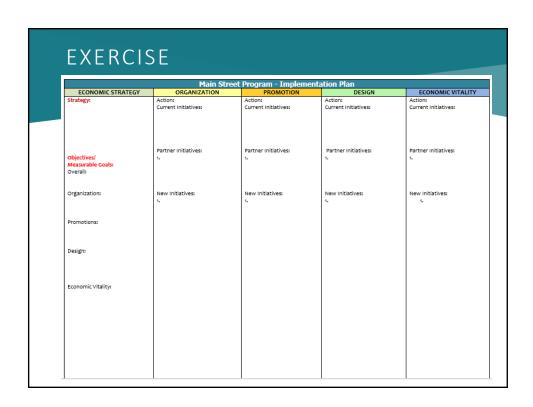












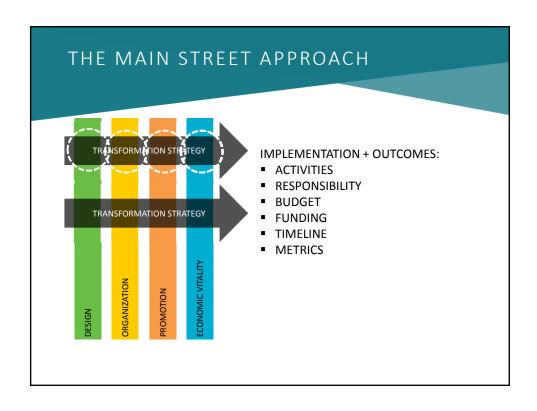
## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR DOWNTOWN

- + Do you have a niche of businesses?
- + Does your downtown serve a specific consumer group?
- + Chose one of the Catalyst Strategies and begin to fill out the sheet. Even if you're from the same community each person should fill one out.

# PAIR UP WITH SOMEONE NOT FROM YOUR COMMUNITY

- + Share your reasons for choosing the strategy your did.
- + What activities and projects are you doing now that align with the strategy, under each of the Four Points? (organization, promotion, design and economic vitality)
- + Describe at least one new project that could be added to the action plan that would support the strategy.





# WHY DO WE RESIST PLANNING? (COMMON EXCUSES)

- + There is not enough time
- + No good ideas
- + If you <u>do</u> plan, then you will accountable for something
- + We don't know how to start
- + We are a nonprofit we don't need planning
- + Things change so fast it's a waste of time
- + It's all in our heads, why bother writing it?

## WHY WE DO WORK PLANS

- Project management tool 12-18 month "to-do" list
  - Improves success rate of projects
  - Reduces confusion and conflict
- Fundraising Tool
  - Attracts donations for specific projects and gets support and buy in from a diverse set of stakeholders and partners
- Volunteer management tool
  - Motivates volunteers to achieve a goal
  - Spreads out the workload
  - Doesn't waste volunteer's time manages their time
- Evaluation Tool
  - Provides benchmarks for success
- Record-keeping tool
- Required for National Accreditation\* (2021)

## PLANNING THE WORK... ...WORKING THE PLAN!

- + Beyond the visioning, Main Street methodology requires implementation of well-planned and orchestrated projects.
- + The development of a work plan serves four purposes:
  - manage wide range of activities.
  - develop realistic timetable and budget.
  - explain program's purpose and its activities.
  - measure, in quantifiable terms, the program's success.
- + Considerations keep in mind throughout the process:
  - Work plan reflects the program's main priorities.
  - Undertake appropriate activities.
  - Be flexible.
  - Program year should coincide with fiscal year.
  - Program manager coordinates work plan development and implementation.
  - Have good committee chairs.
  - Flexible formatting.



## WHY ARE YOU DOING EACH PROJECT?

- How will it improve downtown?
- Is it targeting consumer groups to use downtown more?
- Is there support communitywide for the project?
- Do you have the resources to make the project impactful?
- Does it leverage your assets?





# WORK/ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Board establishes Committee Goals & Objectives
- Committees brainstorm potential activities to meet objectives
- Committees develop detailed Work Plans for each activity
- Board reviews and approves Work Plans
- Committees implement Work Plans as approved by the Board
- "Working" documents at Committee meetings

#### COMMITTEE ROLES WITH THE BOARD

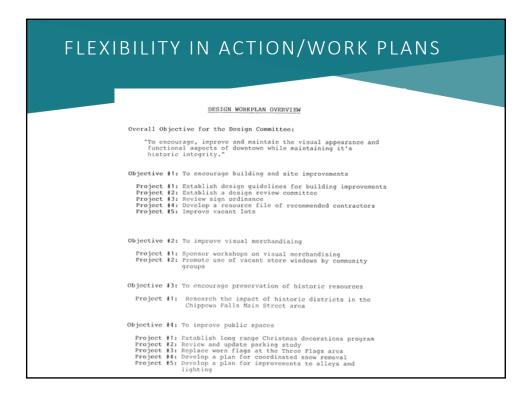
- + Initial planning meeting with board after adoption of strategies
- + Alignment of existing projects
  - what can be adjusted to better align
  - what project might be "voted off the island"
- + Brainstorm new initiatives
- + Prioritize (short, mid and long-term)
- + Identify new partners plan to inform and contact, spread the word about the strategy
- + Develop individual work plans

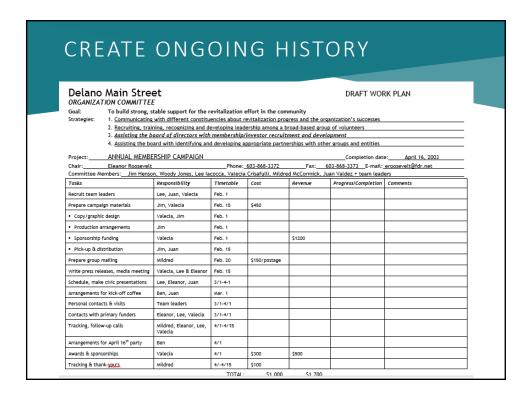
## ACTION/WORK PLANS

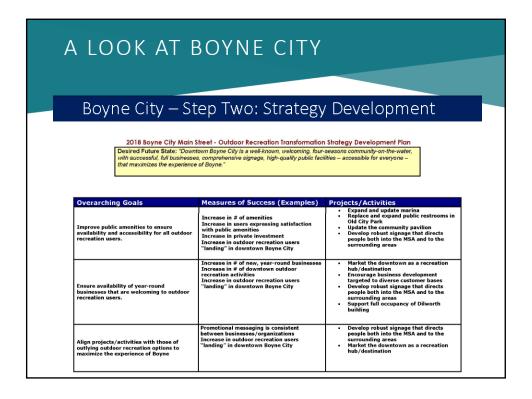
- Before we can recruit volunteers, we must know what we need them for and what difference they will make to our efforts at revitalizing downtown.
- Volunteer cultivation is an on-going project
- The action/work plan is your best recruitment tool

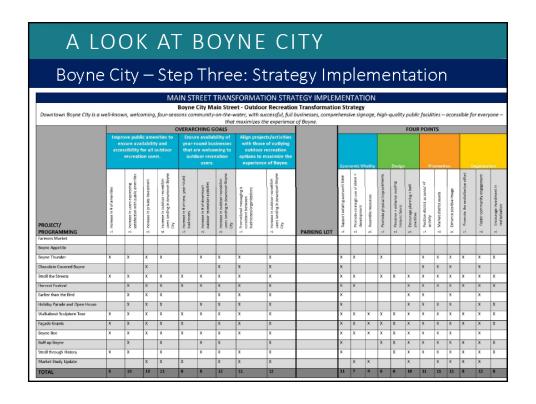


2019-2020 Woi	:ee						
Economic Strategy: Project:				Event d	ate or Projec	t Completion	date:
Anticipated Results/Measur	es of Success:				acc or riojec		<del>unce.</del>
Chair/Person Responsible: Project Team Members:				Phone:		E-mail:	
Tasks	Responsibility	Timetable	Cost	Revenue	Volunteer Hours	Staff Hours Needed	Progress/Completion/Comments Measurements of Success
				1			



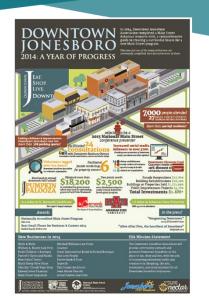






## METRICS WE TYPICALLY TRACK

- + Building rehabs = private investment
- + New construction
- + Public improvements
- + Net business gains
- + Net employee gains
- + Volunteer hours
- + New housing units
- + Vacancy changes
- + Use of incentives & leverage ratio
- + Rent levels
- + Property valuation
- + Retail sales



# METRICS TO TRACK UNDER THE NEW MAIN STREET APPROACH

Depending on the Transformation Strategy, these measurements might include characteristics like:

- + Number of people attending promotional events related to each of the district's Transformation Strategies
- + Number of square feet of retail space devoted to products relevant to the Transformation Strategies
- Number of new SKUs added by the district's businesses to adapt their merchandise mix to support one of the district's Transformation Strategies
- + Public perception
- + Addition of new partners in revitalization efforts
- + What else?

## FURTHER DEFINE STRATEGIES

- + Creates strategies that are meaningful and specific to community's assets
- + Explores unique assets and identify what successful implementation looks like
- + Provides benchmarks for progress
- + Builds a sense of ownership around the strategy



## **ENGAGE PARTNERS**

- + Make sure every stakeholder is represented and at the table
- + Leverage resources around a shared strategy for Downtown
- + Understand roles of different key stakeholders in implementing the strategy for downtown



## USING YOUR WORK PLAN

- To guide development of meeting agendas -- approve minutes, record decisions and tasks
- Discuss projects of most urgency – not all projects -make and record decisions and assigned tasks
- 3. Make your work plan a living document write on it, note progress, edit and update.
- Monitor the progress in reaching your vision
- 5. Board, Staff and Committees evaluate

Saco Maine put their work plans on mouse pads



# PLANNING TO SUCCEED – THE SMART WAY!

#### **SMART – Strategic Management Planning by Objectives** – outlined by

Peter Douken, Book: "The Practice of Management"

- + Defining objectives, then comparing & directing performance against them
- + Aims to increase organizational performance
- + Avoid the "Activity Traps" getting so involved!
- + Method:
- 1. Specific
- 2. Measurable
- 3. Achievable
- 4. Realistic
- 5. Time-related

## DON'T FORGET ADMINISTRATIVE WORK



- OMS Requirements (reporting/training)
  - Grant Applications
  - Office Operations
  - Communications
  - Board and Committee meeting prep
  - Reporting and record keeping
  - Civic Organization representing Main
  - What else do you do that your board isn't aware of – and that takes time from your work day?

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS



- Comprehensive
- Incremental
- Community-initiated
- Public/private partnerships
- Existing assets
- Quality
- Change
- Action-oriented



