



# Downtown Enhancement and Safety Grant

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Downtown Enhancement and Safety Grant is to provide City of Medicine Hat funds to support commercial property owners and/or their tenant(s)/business owners with permanent property improvements that enhance security and crime prevention measures. This program is a 50% matching grant of eligible, pre-approved, pre-tax expenses for a minimum grant of \$250 and up to a maximum grant of \$5,000. A total of \$70,000 is available for 2026.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Applications will be accepted until such time as the program is fully subscribed or the program is closed at City Council's direction.
- Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis via completion of online application form through Medicine Hat Economic Development website.
- Applicants must ensure that the application form is complete including required support documents. Additional requirements and/or support documents may be required on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the City Manager or delegate based on the nature of the work proposed. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.
- Once an application is deemed complete by the City Manager or delegate, the application will be time stamped and approved funding will be held for the project for a period of one year.
- Retroactive funding will not be permitted; expenses incurred prior to grant approval will not be eligible for funding.

## ELIGIBILITY

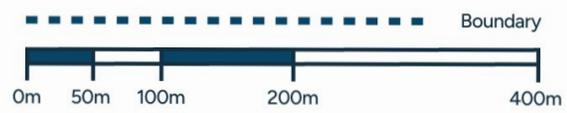
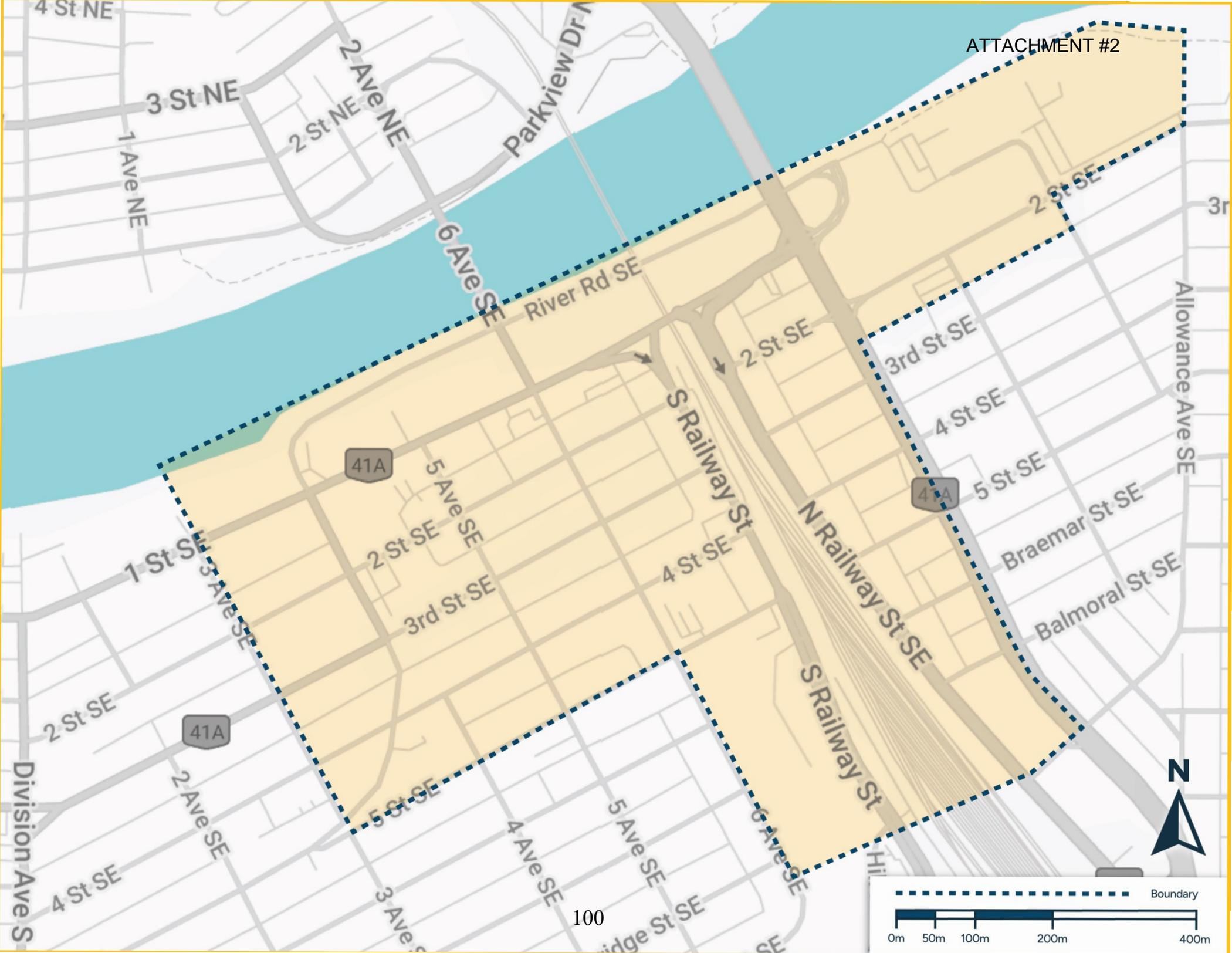
- A project shall consist of permanent security and safety enhancements such as exterior security lighting, fencing, shutters, shatter-proof glass, bars, gates or security cameras. This list is not all-encompassing. Other improvements may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- A project shall be carried out on private property located within the defined boundary map.

- Applicants must have an ownership interest in the eligible property and/or be a commercial tenant with a current City of Medicine Hat business license.
- Property or applicant must not be in arrears in municipal taxes, municipal utilities or any other municipal charge.
- Ineligible expenses include:
  - a) Ongoing operation, general maintenance and life cycle costs;
  - b) Non-permanent finishes and equipment including rentals;
  - c) Construction equipment and related hardware, tools, machinery;
  - d) Salaries and wages;
  - e) Construction insurance and permits;
  - f) Administration, financial reporting, fundraising, preparing the application, and similar activities; and
  - g) Expenses incurred prior to date of grant application approval.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The Downtown Enhancement and Safety Grant is a 50% matching grant for eligible, pre-tax and pre-approved costs related to permanent property improvements that enhance security and crime prevention measures for commercial properties and their business tenants in a prescribed area within the City of Medicine Hat;
- Funding is capped at \$5,000 per eligible applicant (\$10,000 total project cost). Minimum application value is \$250 (\$500 total project cost);
- Only one application per business will be accepted;
- Successful applicants have one year to complete their project following project approval. All invoices must be dated within the one-year time frame;
- Retroactive funding shall not be permitted; eligible projects shall only commence following an approved application by the City Manager or delegate;
- Projects must receive all necessary approvals including but not limited to: Development Permits, Building Permits, etc. If any approvals or permits lapse, project eligibility for funding will cease, application will be cancelled, and a new application will be required to be submitted;

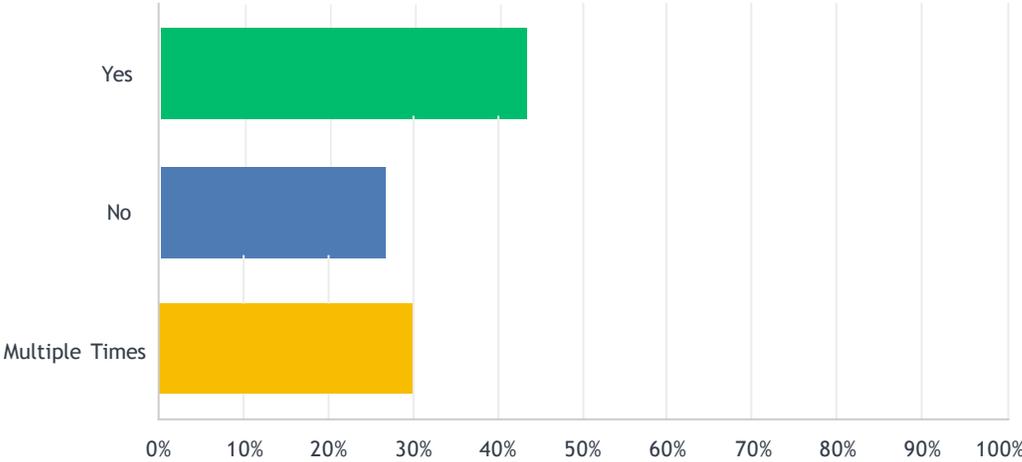
- “Before” & “After” Photos:
  - Grant Application Submission: the applicant is required to include current “before” photos of where the project is to take place,
  - Final Report & Payment Request: the applicant is required to include “after” photos showing the finished project; and,
- Final Report Requirements: Funding will be issued following the approval of the project Final Report and any necessary inspections by the City Manager or delegate to confirm completion. The Final Report must include:
  - Completed Final Report (template provided to successful applicant);
  - Applicable invoices;
  - Proof of payment of all invoices (scan/copy of cleared cheques, successful EFT’s, itemized receipts showing debit/credit/cash transaction); and
  - “After” photos.
- Applicants will have 90 days from project completion to submit a final report and request payment. Failure to submit a final report within 90 days of project completion will null/void the application.



100

# Q1 Has your premises or business been impacted by vandalism and mischief?

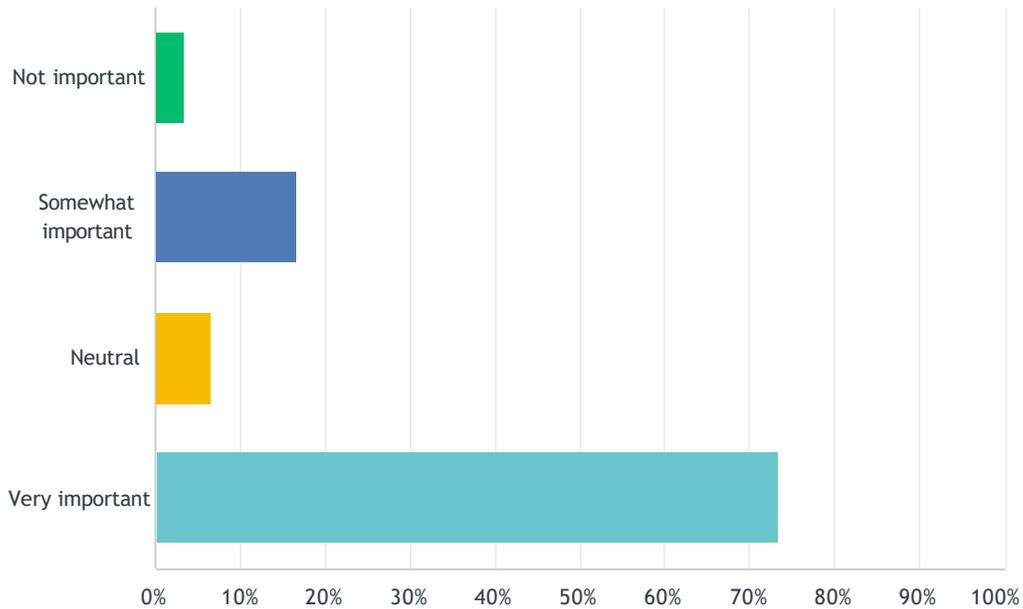
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	43.33%	13
No	26.67%	8
Multiple Times	30.00%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>

## Q2 How important do you believe it is to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) improvements to address vandalism and mischief in the downtown area?

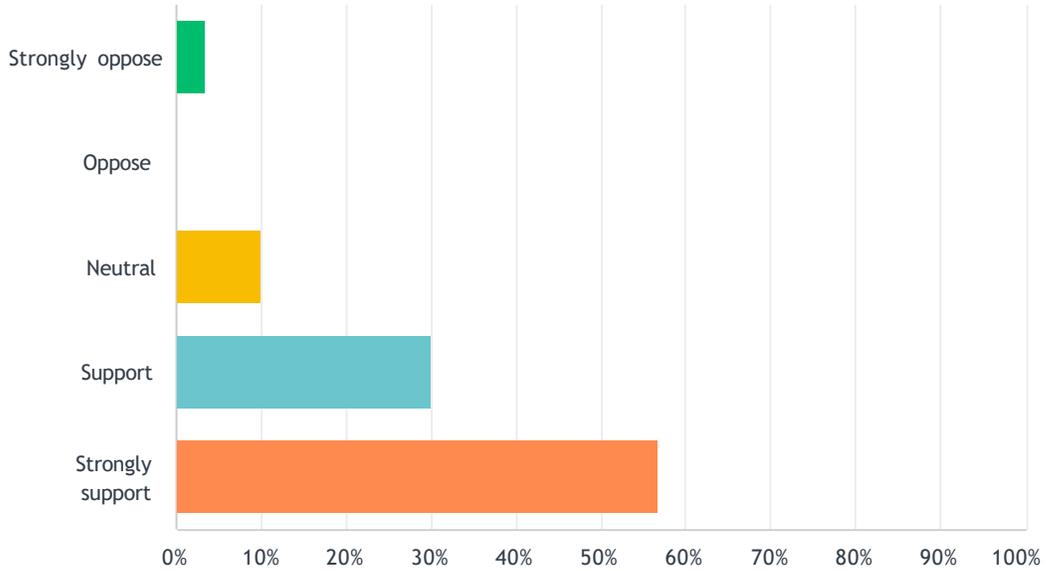
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not important	3.33%	1
Somewhat important	16.67%	5
Neutral	6.67%	2
Very important	73.33%	22
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>

### Q3 Do you support the idea of providing downtown enhancement matching grants to fund CPTED improvements or repairs caused by vandalism and mischief?

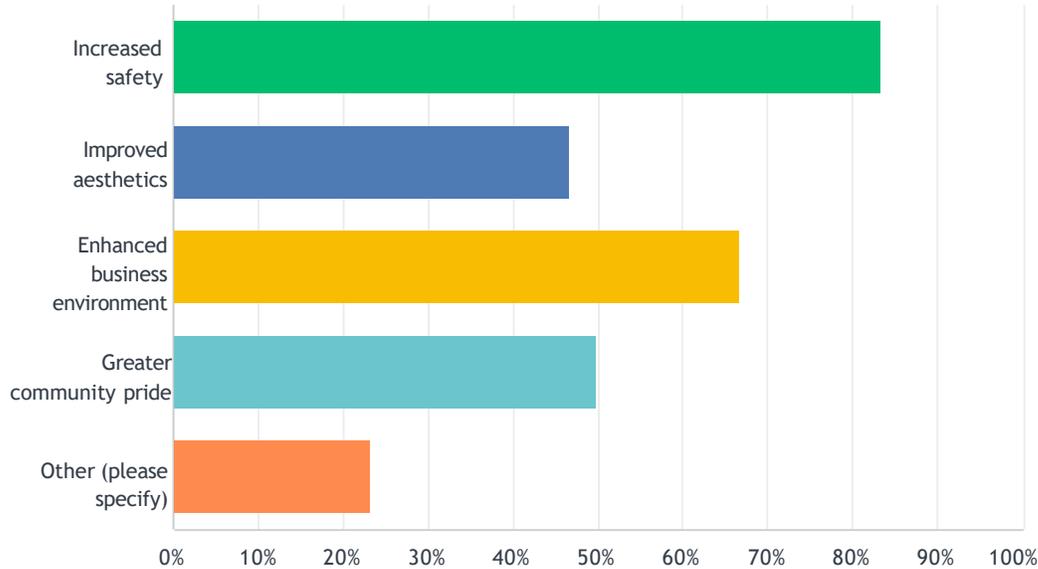
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly oppose	3.33%	1
Oppose	0.00%	0
Neutral	10.00%	3
Support	30.00%	9
Strongly support	56.67%	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>

## Q4 What do you think would be the most significant benefit of implementing CPTED improvements in the downtown area? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased safety	83.33%	25
Improved aesthetics	46.67%	14
Enhanced business environment	66.67%	20
Greater community pride	50.00%	15
Other (please specify)	23.33%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	If you are talking about spikes on ledges or sloped benches I think those look awful and make our city unwelcoming - and are just mean	6/12/2024 1:01 PM
2	I don't think we have been given enough info about how CPTED principals are going to be implemented in order to answer this question	6/11/2024 11:05 PM
3	Encourage more business downtown	6/4/2024 4:24 PM
4	NOthing	6/4/2024 1:52 PM
5	I think the vandals are simply unaware of who they truly are - Divine Light. Therefore, I think the best solution is to show them love and kindness.	6/4/2024 1:42 PM
6	Decrease in area for drug abuse to occur	6/4/2024 1:15 PM
7	This would increase business attraction for business owners.	6/4/2024 1:04 PM

## Q5 Do you have any suggestions that work towards curbing vandalism and mischief in the downtown area?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 11

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The downtown police patrol is helpful, but more and continued work needs to be done.	6/13/2024 9:56 AM
2	I think the city should instead fund more policing. We can see drug deals happening in our alley all the time. Police patrol but are not breaking up the groups hanging there even if it is 3am. If people start to make a space home, that enables more drug dealing as people know where to go.	6/12/2024 1:01 PM
3	CPTED often overlooks the behavioural impetuous for these actions. Has this methodology been compared to others to see if it is the right fit for our issues? Has there been a concerted information-gathering effort to determine what the motivating factors are for these undesirable behaviours? If so, where can we read the report? A document for your consideration: Exposing CPTED's Limitations Port Hope Police Service <a href="https://www.phps.on.ca/photos/custom/blogFiles/pdfs/behaviouralbaseddesign4CPTED.pdf">https://www.phps.on.ca/photos/custom/blogFiles/pdfs/behaviouralbaseddesign4CPTED.pdf</a>	6/11/2024 11:05 PM
4	Move the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Out of the Downtown Core. On days when it isn't operating (weekends), general vandalism and mischief is greatly reduced in the 3rd street alley and on 5th ave.	6/10/2024 4:59 PM
5	I would like to see regular cleaning of the pedestrian underpass. I have been told it is pressure-washed weekly by a third party company; if this is so, it is not happening an the city is paying a bill that is not accurate. I think pressure washing it regularly and keeping it clean will reduce many issues related to the cleanliness. I do not think weekly is necessary, but perhaps bi-weekly or monthly to start.	6/10/2024 4:53 PM
6	better lighting, night cameras.	6/7/2024 8:40 AM
7	Please provide a designated fenced and partially roofed area for the vagrants to participate in their extra curricular activities so they are not doing it in front of or in places of business.	6/6/2024 10:24 AM
8	Having a safe place for people to go Having a safe consumption site where people could use in privacy but with a safety net should things go wrong, this would also reduce the drug supplies/paraphernalia left on the ground. Re-open the tunnel so people have a safe place to sleep at night (rather than in the alley behind 5-ave church) and increase shelter bed space so they can choose to stay there instead. Increase hours of Downtown police patrol- mischief doesn't just start at 8:30am	6/5/2024 12:52 PM
9	I am not sure I know what CPTED is. I do wish the city had a clean-up crew that we could call as needed to help with cleaning up mischief i.e. feces, broken glass, old heavy air conditioners etc. This is time consuming and unsafe for my staff or myself to take care of. All if they had a team who could fix things that would be great too! For example all my down spots have been crushed and it looks unsightly. Extra lighting would be great in my back parking lot, but I need soemone who could do it etc. Thanks!	6/4/2024 2:33 PM
10	Bigger presence of downtown officers, More officers, bigger budget, put them on bikes to cover more area.	6/4/2024 2:28 PM
11	Would be nice to know does CPTED will alleviate crime? How will you 'design' a downtown that inhibits crime? The only way to manage crime in the downtown area is through police presence and more shelters/mental health counselling for the homeless.	6/4/2024 1:52 PM
12	CCTV warning signs, block watch, rewards to the arrest of an individual or group.	6/4/2024 1:47 PM
13	Same as above. Or, same as above so below.	6/4/2024 1:42 PM
14	cameras and holding people accountable	6/4/2024 1:19 PM
15	I truly wish I had the magic answer. As the owner of Local, I see and am impacted by the constant flow of vulnerable people in my alley. I am dealing with issues on a daily basis and not only is it negatively impacting my business but it is disheartening to see. My only suggestion would be to relocate the Salvation Army soup kitchen to a place outside the downtown core.	6/4/2024 1:15 PM

## Downtown Enhancement Grant

16	I don't really know if this is a suggestion, and while I am 100% behind the idea of CPTED, for some businesses the costs associated with implementing the suggestions from a CPTED report might not be feasible (even with a matching grant). So I think a matching grant is a great idea, i just don't think that it is a "one size fits all" solution.	6/4/2024 1:09 PM
17	We would love to know more about it first. Then more and sustained attention to patrolling & education towards those who commit vandalism & mischief.	6/4/2024 1:04 PM
18	We need more police presence and better ways to deal with the downtown vagrants that are damaging property. Drug use should be confined to an area that is not disrupting or discouraging business operations downtown.	6/4/2024 1:01 PM
19	Downtown security systems, more downtown patrol, better lighting	6/3/2024 3:20 PM