

Colorado Springs Experience Downtown Plan Update

May Engagement Summary | 5/9/2025

Coffee Chat

May 8th, 7:30 – 9:30 AM

In the early morning on May 8th, the Colorado Springs Experience Downtown Plan Update project team met with about 40 residents, employees, and visitors outside of the Pioneers Museum. People engaged with activity boards, chatted, and shared coffee and pastries. Key takeaways from conversations included ideas about parking efficiency and affordability, desire for more public art, interest in more wayfinding and pedestrian improvements, ideas about connectivity to parks, and desire for affordability for both housing and businesses.

Utilities and Infrastructure Focus Group

May 8th, 1:30 – 2:15 PM

Stakeholders with expertise surrounding Downtown's utilities and infrastructure gathered with the project team for an extended conversation at the Pioneers Museum. The 7 attendees did brief introductions and an icebreaker, and then jumped into a conversation around updates to the fibreoptic network, stormwater, electric grid, wildfire evacuation, parking, and street signalization. Some major takeaways from this conversation included the confirmation that existing utilities in Downtown can support additional density, future parking conversations with the public would benefit from additional education and context, wildfire evacuation is not a concern, and stormwater infrastructure is the biggest hinderance of new development.

Urban Design, Parks & Rec Focus Group

May 8th, 3:00 – 3:45 PM

The second group included a group of 7 stakeholders with expertise in urban design, parks and recreation, and the CreekCOS Plan. After brief introductions and icebreakers, the team dove into a productive discussion about the need for parks and plazas, how additional development will support existing public spaces, and the implementation status of the COSCreek Plan. Key takeaways from the focus group included emphasis that new parks are not needed but activation of current parks are needed, more small plazas and public spaces are a desire, there is potential for the diagonal Pueblo Ave to be activated in the future as a public space, desire to connect the Legacy Loop and to increase access to downtown amenities, and desire for redevelopment of the Drake site.

Walk and Talk

May 8th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

The final touchpoint of the day included two opportunities for the broader public to provide project feedback. At UCCS Downtown, the project team set up interactive boards to prompt attendees to share their thoughts about existing engagement data points and future desires. As these boards were an interactive option for the entire two hours, a number of attendees also participated in the Walk and Talk portion of the event. At about 5:15, about 15 residents, visitors, and employees of Downtown gathered for brief introductions and project background before setting out on a stroll.

We walked to and paused at two of the Catalytic Sites, and discussed a third on the walk back. First, at the Antler's Hotel and Plaza, attendees reflected on how the plaza felt to stand in, how Cascade Ave is very loud, busy, and unsafe feeling, and explored how the architecture and history of the Antlers Hotel could be maintained through redevelopment to make the space more inviting and useful. We then walked north and west to visit Antlers Park and the Train Depot. The group discussed how the Train Depot could once again be iconic and functioning, and how the surrounding urban design could tie into the Antlers Park and Hotel, Pikes Peak College and the future Park Union development to the south through activation and streetscape design.