



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF BREVARD IMPLEMENTS STREETScape PILOT PROGRAM TO CREATE OUTDOOR SEATING ON MAIN STREET

BREVARD, NC (June 4, 2020) - The City of Brevard, in partnership with the Heart of Brevard, is moving forward with a plan that will create more outdoor seating for restaurants in downtown Brevard. On May 18, 2020, the City Council approved a Resolution Designed to Help Downtown Businesses Re-opening in Phase 2 of the Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order. City Manager Jim Fatland presented the recommendation stating that restaurants, bars, and specialty shops that create jobs and lend unique character to Brevard are at severe economic risk. Fatland said "The loss of our Main Street businesses would be irreparable, and not just for the people whose livelihoods depend on them, but for our community as a whole."

The initial phase calls for using the two East and West Main Street blocks adjacent to Broad Street as test blocks for the Streetscape Pilot Program to assess the viability of the plan. The streetscape will evolve over the course of the summer as the City responds to feedback about the test blocks.

On May 22, the Governor implemented Phase 2 Reopening guidelines for North Carolina. According to the NCDHHS website, this phase "allows restaurants to open for on-premises dining with limits on occupancy, specific requirements for disinfecting common spaces, and six feet between each group of customers sitting at each table."

While restaurants may now have customers inside, their occupancy is limited to a percentage of their total capacity. The City wants to help enable social distancing by creating outdoor spaces for restaurants and retailers. Restaurants will be able to seat patrons and serve alcohol on the sidewalk in designated areas; retailers can increase their retail space; and there will be additional spaces downtown where folks can enjoy the outside.

In the next few days, installation will begin on semi-permanent fencing that will partition off the parking spaces on Main Street. The sidewalk extension fencing will run as follows: on the south side of East Main Street between South Broad Street and Gaston Street; part of the north side of East Main Street; and on the north side of West Main Street from N. Broad Street to N. Caldwell Street. Smaller decorative fencing will be installed on the sidewalks in front of restaurants to be used as dining space. Existing city-owned street furniture will be moved as necessary and additional tables will be set in place as they are delivered. Hand sanitizing stations will also be added on both blocks where the city tables are installed.

All open parking spaces within those two blocks will be reserved for curbside pickup and cars will be allowed to park in these spaces for 30 minutes. The City will place ADA ramps along the curb where appropriate. Heart of Brevard is working with shops and restaurants on a design plan so that the entire project will further beautify the downtown streetscape.



Maureen Copelof, City Council Member and Chairman of the Downtown Master Plan Committee, said “The City and Heart of Brevard have worked closely with all of the downtown businesses to find ways that we can step up and assist them and the public during this health and economic crisis. We have reconfigured the use of outdoor spaces to help protect the health of the public. This creates space for social distancing while also providing our local businesses more flexibility in how they use the outdoor areas. We will closely monitor and listen to feedback from both the businesses and the public on how these changes work and look for ways to continue to improve on the plan.”

The City will also work with businesses that are not on Main Street to come up with similar space allowances. If you are in the downtown district, and would like to add outdoor space, please contact Paul Ray at the City of Brevard Planning Department to discuss your ideas.

As we navigate toward a new normal for the Downtown District and our community at large, we will all experience changes that will take time to get used to. While some parking spaces will be lost on Main Street with the installation of this plan, it is expected that it will help keep our small town businesses alive in the long run. A map of all the parking downtown as well as the evolving Streetscape Pilot Program is available on the city’s website - www.cityofbrevard.com. Please contact the City of Brevard Planning Department at 828-885-5630 with questions or concerns.