Imagine Downtown Chelan is the transformational strategy adopted by Historic Downtown Chelan Association (HDCA). It is a collaborative process with key stakeholders and the public to build a community. The downtown design process is led by the City of Chelan. Funding for a Design Consultant to finalize construction plans was secured by HDCA from the USDA (RBDG grant) and the Washington State Department of Commerce and is passing through to the city for the design. Full construction plans are necessary for the city to seek available funding from Federal and State grants for infrastructure improvements. Each step of the design process requires approval by the city council.

There are very specific guidelines in place for the design process. The design will **maintain view corridors to the lake, help preserve our community's identity, heritage, and sense of place while also making the downtown more attractive, user-friendly, and accessible** for years to come. This includes infrastructure improvements that have not had a major overhaul since 1984. Improving sidewalks, underground utilities, crosswalks, landscaping and lighting, as well as addressing the need for better connections from the downtown businesses with amenities like parking, public restrooms, and parks **is critical to thoughtfully prepare downtown Chelan for the future.**

In addition, bringing public spaces alive through design will help create a welcoming and inclusive place to gather. Studies have shown that a strong downtown core can be directly correlated to a healthy and vibrant surrounding community.

There are three key outcomes for Imagine Downtown Chelan Design:

1. **Upgrade Infrastructure**
2. **Improve Connections to Downtown Chelan amenities**
3. **Activate Public Spaces**

Glossary of Terms and examples for Imagine Downtown Chelan

Downtown Infrastructure:

Stormwater Systems: These systems are designed to manage rainwater runoff in urban areas, preventing flooding and minimizing water pollution. Stormwater infrastructure includes drainage pipes, gutters, catch basins, retention ponds, and other structures that direct rainwater away from streets and buildings.

Electrical Infrastructure: This refers to the network of electrical systems and components that provide power to buildings, street lighting, traffic signals, and other facilities. It encompasses power distribution lines, substations, transformers, electrical panels, and wiring.

Irrigation Systems: Irrigation systems are used to provide controlled and efficient watering for green spaces, landscaping, and public gardens in urban areas. These systems may include sprinklers, drip irrigation, and smart irrigation controllers to conserve water and maintain healthy vegetation.

Lighting: Proper lighting is essential for safety and ambiance. Street lighting illuminates sidewalks, crosswalks, and roads, enhancing visibility during both daytime and nighttime.

Trees and Landscaping: Trees, shrubs, and landscaping elements contribute to the aesthetic appeal of streetscapes while also providing shade, improving air quality, and creating a more pleasant environment.

Sidewalks and Crosswalks: These pedestrian pathways provide safe and convenient spaces for people to walk, jog, or use mobility devices. Crosswalks help pedestrians navigate intersections safely.

Accessibility Features: Curb ramps, tactile paving for visually impaired individuals, and other accessibility features ensure that streetscapes are usable by people with disabilities.

Street Furniture: Street furniture includes benches, seating areas, trash bins, bicycle racks, and public art installations. These elements add to the comfort and functionality of the streetscape.

Street Pavement and Materials: High-quality Street surfaces and materials contribute to the overall appearance and durability of the streetscape.

Downtown Infrastructure Continued…

Bicycle Infrastructure: Bike lanes, bike-sharing stations, and secure bike parking facilities support cycling as an eco-friendly mode of transportation.

Traffic Calming Measures: Streetscape design can include traffic calming features like speed bumps, traffic islands, and narrowed roadways at crosswalks and vertical elements to identify crosswalk locations can encourage safer driving speeds and prioritize pedestrian safety.

Examples of infrastructure in Downtown Chelan:

- Upgrade stormwater systems
- Upgrade irrigation to landscaping and trees
- Electrical infrastructure that is failing, include power source for holiday lighting of trees in Downtown Chelan
- Install historical replicas that use efficient LED pedestrian lighting with power source for things like holiday lights
- Replace street trees with varietals so that roots don't damage sidewalks and branches don't grow into awnings. Place trees in spots that don't create choke-points
- Replace sidewalk surfaces so they are safe to walk, and easier to remove debris, leaves, snow and ice
- Reduce chokepoints on sidewalks
- Change parking angles for safety when backing up
- Improve landscaping and benches
- Improve visibility of crosswalks
- Location of public art
- Well placed new garbage/recycling receptacles
- Business garbage solution

Connections

Good connections guide and encourage people to walk from downtown amenities, like parks, public restrooms and parking lots to downtown stores (and vice versa).

- Create well-designed and visually appealing pedestrian paths that lead from parking lots to downtown areas. Use quality paving, landscaping, and lighting to enhance the experience.
- Incorporate public art, interesting landmarks, or historical markers along the walking route to make it more engaging.
- Install clear and easily visible signage that directs visitors from parking areas to the downtown stores. Wayfinding signs should provide simple directions and distances to key points of interest.
- Ensure that walking paths are well-maintained, well-lit, and safe for pedestrians. This creates a sense of security and encourages people to walk.

Examples of Areas that need improved connections

- Riverwalk Park
- Public Restrooms (Kelly Allen Insurance and Riverwalk Park)
- North Parking Lot (Kelly Allen Insurance) to downtown commercial district
- South Parking Lot (behind Chamber) to downtown commercial district
- City Hall Parking Lot (behind Sheriff's office/City Hall) to Woodin Avenue
- Street Parking Downtown (other than Woodin Ave and Emerson Ave) to downtown commercial district)

Activating Public Spaces

Activating a public space, or "placemaking" involves transforming underutilized or neglected spaces into vibrant, functional, and inclusive places that promote community engagement, social interaction, and a sense of belonging. Plazas and pedestrian alleys are an example of public spaces that can be transformed into gathering spaces for the community.

Examples of spaces that could be better utilized (or "activated"):

1. Riverwalk Park (PUD) for Farmer's Market, outdoor concerts, events and festivals, friend and family gatherings, and social connections
2. Alley between Woodin Ave and Riverwalk Park (next to The Landing)
3. Alley between Woodin Ave and North Parking Lot (Kelly Allen Insurance)
4. Plaza next to public restrooms at Kelly Allen Insurance