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Comments:

- 1.** In downtown, we need to restore all the historical building and look for business to build on all the vacant lots downtown. Mill creek is a great idea. What about creating a whitewater park in this river. It doesn't take much water and is being done throught out the US. It is a great amenity that requires little up keep and allows people to beat the heat of summer.
- 2.** I don't know much about downtown - it's not my favorite place to hang out
- 3.** sounds good
- 4.** The streets are so narrow and crowded. it is almost impossible to get around
- 5.** Downtown is confusing and crowded, I say expand it
- 6.** If there is a federal court downtown then many cases will be diverted to Bakersfield, causing a lot of unnecessary publicity
- 7.** The Mill Creek Project - It's hard enough already to park downtown.
- 8.** Instead of worrying about these projects to create new places, it would be nice if someone actually made an effort to fix the rundown places that already exist,
- 9.** Make people walk more to promote good health.
- 10.** The mill creek project would be nice, but its not absolutley necessary.
- 11.** Re-open old buildings and create more businesses.
- 12.** Downtown needs to be improved.
- 13.** I think commercial and retail are very good to have here.
- 14.** I don't like how there are homes being built, and then right next to it they put apartments. It crowds schools alot.
- 15.** We need more parking for shopping areas.
- 16.** Clean up downtown, and get the homeless in shelters and off the streets.
- 17.** We need more strip clubs, dance clubs, and bars.
- 18.** As pertaining to housing growth, i would like to see it stop or slow down a lot. Btown is already getting much bigger than I would like. We are looking to move somewhere smaller. We miss the small town

feeling and less traffic of the early days here.

- 19.** These plans are very important to improve downtown.
- 20.** Your freakin questions don't make sense.
- 21.** We need an amusement park.
- 22.** Amusement park please.
- 23.** We need to clean up the back areas of downtown.
- 24.** I think downtown should accomodate the size of Bakersfield, so downtown should be bigger. That's where I want my money to go.
- 25.** Everything in the community that involves improvement is always important.
- 26.** Don't knock out the little guys.
- 27.** We need to increase the speed limit.
- 28.** More skyscrapers
- 29.** I don't think it is fair that students have to wait until they are 17 to apply for a drivers license.
- 30.** Why do they keep making changes downtown? Fix more of the East side or do equal work!
- 31.** The Federal Courthouse idea is a great idea. The Mill Creek project is good, but not top priority (personal opinion)
- 32.** On the East side of Bakersfield there is a lot of work that needs to be done. Parks are less enjoyable when restrooms are filthy and they don't even have doors most of the time.
- 33.** Ughhh!!!!
- 34.** Don't we already have a federal courthouse.
- 35.** The Mill Creek project, I don't know all about it; if it's just to have a river street than it's not important. I don't know if it can be used for other things.
- 36.** You need to explain more on the downtown strategies.
- 37.** Downtown is so busy and there is never any parking...it would be nice to have more parking that is available 24 hours.
- 38.** Everything in Bakersfield feels so cramped together.
- 39.** Downtown is kind of plain, so these ideas are cool.
- 40.** I don't see the point of these questions when we really don't have choices.
- 41.** There will only be a need for more parking down town if there are more open buisness.
- 42.** Mix used buildings- create a vibrancy downtown.
- 43.** Rather than build a canal in downtown, let's see if we can't find a way to keep water in the Kern River year-round and develop parks and walking along the "mid-town" river area.
- 44.** Why is the federal court house a responsibility of local community?
- 45.** Downtown is the "center of Bakersfield's universe" and ought to reflect that.
- 46.** Maybe try to, but in more stuff.
- 47.** Make downtown a big shopping area with resturaunts and cool unique place's.
- 48.** If you do 2,3,&4- #1 will occur.
- 49.** We need more shopping and stuff downtown.
- 50.** A system of trollys downtown could add character and decrease the need for parking.



- 51.** We need to create more options besides the dependency of the automobile. We need to encourage the use of public transit. Downtown needs to be dense enough to encourage walking and minimize the impact of cars.
- 52.** Need more incentives to attract business downtown, especially retail shops and restaurants. Possibly have tours of downtown to promote the history of the downtown area.
- 53.** I never go downtown unless there is an event at a place downtown.
- 54.** The only place downtown that needs 24 hour parking is the Amtrak station. Get people out of their cars either walking more or on the bus.
- 55.** Why do you want to continue starting new projects but not finishing the ones you start. Downtown is not finished. There is still no parking to speak of. There is the Penny's building that you should have "taken" a long time ago if you were wanting to take property and make something of it. That whole block for that matter. Why not have several retail stores that draw a good crowd move in there. Ups, Coffee shop, Pier One, Gap, ect. instead of trying to make downtown closer to union. Make "downtown" outlet stores. Your downtown expands out of what "downtown" really is. There could be so many wonderful things to be brought into downtown but your not putting the energy into it to promote retail that would bring people down there and then why - there's no parking to support it. Do you get the retailers to open and then worry about parking? I don't think any smart business person would. You promote all the positive to them to get them to come. Parking would be a big plus. Bars & tattoo parlors are not what people want to come downtown for. How can low income & retirement people support Mill Creek? Do you have any idea how much money it takes to continue with a business? How much they need to sell to keep their doors open or how much food they must sell to keep employees? If it was so easy everyone would already be doing it.
- 56.** The area you denote as "Downtown" has never been so. To think that you can create a "Marketplace" type area from an area already ruled by minority gangs and semi-poverty is illogical.
- 57.** Apartments, townhomes, condos, parks, and markets for downtown residents. The most important factor in downtown development is easier access, i.e. relieving the traffic congestion on Rosedale and Truxtun. It is insane and I dread having to go that direction at any time of day!
- 58.** KC needs to provide better parking for jury services folk. Parking on the other side of the train tracks stinks! Need to provide a pedestrian overpass at that location!
- 59.** I am leery of proposed projects that will "save" downtown since so many have failed to go forward in the past. If a theme project works, it should work for residents, too. Let's get away from the idea of super sport stadiums (which often are outdated by the time they are built). How many people actually go to see the Condors? Take that number and cut it in half and you may get an idea of how many folks would go see a baseball game. Bakersfield needs to look at what has worked in other cities to rejuvenate downtown. Obviously, our own civic leaders think we are A-OK as it is, based on the slogan: "Bakersfield: It's What Life Should Be." That's hilarious!
- 60.** Need to get more restaurants in the downtown area and less bars, its ok to have bars, but to close down when the restaurants close down for the night, that might help with all the teenagers, so they will not get trouble.
- 61.** Why do we want a "mixture" of development types in the downtown area? Mixtures are very hard to manage. What we really need is a vibrant, healthy, well planned, COMMERCIAL downtown area with good mass transit to move users in and out of the area.
- 62.** When a city is near the beach, a lake(s), in a ski resort area or contains other natural assets, that will be the focus and identity of the city. Mayor Katz, of Portland, Oregon, was asked what you tell a community that doesn't have the obvious assets that Portland has. His response was that then, "Downtowns come first."
- 63.** I would love to see a new baseball stadium in the downtown area.
- 64.** The Mill Creek Project will bring income to Bakersfield.
- 65.** Parking, Parking, Parking. Please, also try to remember that the downtown of a city is its heart.
- 66.** We should close several of the one-way cross (i.e. 18th) streets to create plaza's for outdoor dining, weekly farmer's markets, etc. Building more parking spaces is not a long term solution, yet creates long term debt and wastes space for commercial development. Instead a shuttle service should be explored/intercity rail project.



- 67.** Critical to maintain a vibrant downtown sector where people can congregate for entertainment and business.
- 68.** I would like to see some better housing downtown and rebuild the northeast side of downtown- specifically around the old Hopper site.
- 69.** Condo, townhouse, loft type of housing needs to be developed. Certain areas of downtown need to be designated for housing only or light retail so that the quality of residential life is high (and not diminished by battery shops, bars, industry next door. Downtown focus should be housing, retail, entertainment, town square living.
- 70.** Bicycle accessible and friendly. Parking facilities near all businesses. Encourage bicycle commuting. Wheel chairs, skates, etc.
- 71.** Don't tear down the brick buildings along California street between Union and Chester. Incorporate them into the master plan.
- 72.** I would not recommend any additional building without adding parking. As a downtown homeowner, I am concerned with the strategies that will be used to increase mixed development downtown, but would welcome incoming uses for empty buildings/lots. I like the idea of a creek/river area similar to SLO, but do we have similar infrastructure support?
- 73.** The Mill Creek Project would be the most important project on my list.
- 74.** I feel as though the downtown development is very important--what better place to enjoy walking and enjoying nature and its environment. However, the completion of the development for housing with the cottages is very disappointing, did the developer not know about the sewer problem? Did the developer move on to other projects intentionally and now who can afford the cottages!
- 75.** I feel a river walk area would be beneficial both to the businesses and the community. Having lived in San Antonio, TX i remember the lazy leasur days and evenings walking the riverwalk. also good exercise.
- 76.** I'm mixed on downtown development as similar new projects explode around town. Moreover, I'm hesitant to throw my support behind a makeover of downtown Bakersfield with the Mill Creek Project & mixture of housing, retail, and commercial because of the potential upfront cost to City (i.e., if private developers do not want to pay the existing owners for their property, then the City may seek to pursue via eminent domain under the auspices of "Redevelopment" and resell to the private developer - like they tried to do a few times before in this area -this approach is highly unfair to the existing owners and I'm sure will bring on several lawsuits.). I think a Federal Courthouse is absolutely necessary, given the population/size of Bakersfield and its environs.
- 77.** Create a judicial complex encompassing local, state and federal courts
- 78.** Need East/West Freeways at either White Ln, Stockdale Hwy or Rosedale, not at 7th Standard in the North or Hoskins in the South. Continue the "58 Freeway to no where" Westward. Need recreation facilities (a 4 plex softball complex) for our youth, we are falling desperately behind other cities around us like Tulare, Visalia, Clovis, Castaic, Santa Maria, SLO, Paso Robles, ect. It seems like the city wants private citizens to handle & pay for everything for them so they won't have to do anything.
- 79.** One only has to look at oldtown Pasadena to see how a mixture of vibrant businesses and living situations can revitalize a downtown area. This revitalization then influences the success of the entire town. Bakersfield is set up to have a great downtown area that could be alive and well and exciting for all!
- 80.** what happend to the revitalization of the downtown business district? It's a ghost town with the exception of a few shoty mom and pop shoe stores, smoke shops and sparatic businesses.
- 81.** first of all, is this for the Chamber of Commerce? Also, why is the webaddress NOT .org...instead, it is commercial...i find myself skeptical and suspicious of this survey. pls advise. I will, however, continue. -- Roberta A. Westerfield (in Bakersfield since Nov. 4, 1987)
- 82.** Downtown should be just what it is, downtown. No housing is needed downtown. Downtown should be a pleasant place to visit. There should be big shops, small shops, ice cream shop, candy shop, small dining, fine dining. Something for everyone is needed downtown.
- 83.** MIXed use development. Increased public transport options. Infill development. Higher density development. Walkable and bikeable neighborhoods. Active Community Environments as recommended by the CDC. All extremely important to a sustainable future for our city.
- 84.** Clean up and revitalize the downtown by creating less opportunities for bums to hang out, loiter and



keep people like me from wanting to go down there! Sacramento and West Sacramento have done marvelously in cleaning up old railway yards, eliminating parks that bums sleep in, and adding housing for people that work in the downtown area - perhaps we can learn by example.

- 85.** A downtown that is safe and accessible 24 hrs. would be an outstanding goal.
- 86.** Parking should be free. we pay enough in gas
- 87.** Not enough parking to accomodate... Rabobank arena and convention center Court buildings Jury duty any street or other functions.
- 88.** I am not sure what the Mill Creek Project is. I believe the river banks should be preserved as parks. The areas adjacent to the river should be used as jogging, bike riding and horsetrails, although something like the Riverwalk in San Antonio would be a valuable addition to the city. However, we live in a desert, and we should not be using our water for "looks". However, if we could get some recreational use out of the water as it moves toward the aquifer recharge areas without polluting that water, that would be a great. I do not see why we need 24 hour parking downtown. I think we have too many bars now that are open too late. We do need more parking for jurors and for shopping, but I do not think the demand is that great. I would like to see the downtown retooled for residential.
- 89.** Downtown should be a place accessible to pedestrians and an area of interest to all: specialty shops, museums, comfortable settings to rest, eateries of various ethnic cuisines, designer wares and furniture, bookstores, while government is better located outside the downtown area and altogether where there is parking without meters, like San Jose. I enjoy cities that have a downtown plaza with parking on the outskirts. San jose's trolley system is convenient and unique.
- 90.** Weekend traffic downtown is weak. I've seen what Arroyo Grande and Ventura did to their downtown and it works. Small shops, open on Sat & Sun, perpendicular parking to increase numbers, and they are thriving.
- 91.** Need a Starbucks/Dagny's and/or a Sequoia Sandwich Shop near the Amtrak Station.
- 92.** Until you rid the downtown area of the homeless/low life/wino /thugs downtown will never thrive & prosper. Many improvements have been made over the past few years, more needs to be done to make the area safer. Downtown could be like "State street" in Santa Barbara or it can continue to be inhabited by degenerates. Where will our town leadership take us?
- 93.** I believe that the downtown is the soul of any city; and our downtown needs help. Lets make downtown the center of the Bakersfield community by attracting retail, residential, and business tenants.
- 94.** The use of eminent domain to take private property for redevelopment and return the property to private property owners as is being done with Mill Creek is wrong.
- 95.** The problem with the Mill Creek Project, is it would take too much money. If the money was spread out the benefits would be spread out.
- 96.** We need to clean up our freeways and onramps and offramps. I am sick of looking at trash. Why not ask the community for help, get the young adults who break the law to cleaning. We need flowers around the exits on the freeways so our city shows pride. Throw out poppy seeds in Jan. Let each county and city adopt a small section of the city and garden away. My family laughs at Bakersfield when they come here and call it the city of trash. It's a wonderful place to live but we need more recreation. Boat rides and fun around the river.
- 97.** 1. Downtown Housing is #1 - if people live downtown, they will shop downtown and attend activities downtown. 2. More headaches than it's worth - what if we have another 7 year drought? 3. GREAT idea - more job, less travel for plaintiffs, attorneys, witnesses to Fresno. 4. FREE parking around Rabobank Arena/Convention Center - alot of people do not attend functions at these locations because of parking issues.
- 98.** Need that new ballpark
- 99.** Downtown should be a nice outdoor shopping experience, much like the Westwood area near UCLA or the Santa Monica Promenade. A water feature (river street) is not practical in light of the exhorbitant maintenance costs, needs of our remaining farmland, and other areas of our city that need a little TLC.
- 100.** This city planning is out of control - subdivisions
- 101.** The development of a new vibrant image of the city is important to erase the image of a hick town full of hill folks.



- 102.** A federal court house would be nice to avoid having to go to Fresno. But not on my nickel.
- 103.** Until after-dark crime and vagrancy are eliminated, downtown will not be attractive for housing. Mill Creek Project - this isn't San Antonio. Less expensive aesthetics are available. No-cost daytime parking for visitors and shoppers is critical and in short supply.
- 104.** Move the trains! Open up downtown as more of a professional area instead of just for the LAW. It is like downtown is strictly for a court system, full of attorneys, bondsman, police departments. It has the atmosphere of a penial colony.
- 105.** Pioriy tree plantings, every new home must have at least 3 trees planted. Every shopping center must have SHADE trees. We need GREEN !
- 106.** No one way streets!!
- 107.** If we have more parking downtown, I'd like to see it in relation to increased public transport and a developed pedestrian zone -- so people would be parking their cars and not needing them for the entire day.
- 108.** Bakersfieldians rarely use large public parking lots..They are important, but must be co-ordinated with location and TIMING.
- 109.** Im not really familiar with the Mill Creek project, did I miss it in the news or is it not publicized?
- 110.** I currently live in the downtown area. I would love to see more businesses move into the vacant buildings. If the area is thriving, I believe that people will come back to the area.
- 111.** Revitalization of the downtown area is extremely important to the future of our community. Removing undesirable elements and replacing with housing and businesses that can operate with the expectation of safety for their investment and for patrons. Creating a downtown environment that attracts rather than discourages community patronage should be a firm goal.
- 112.** The Mill Creek Project should go out to bid and not GIVEN to Lennox Homes. In my opinion Lennox Homes are ruining the landscape of Bakersfield with their 4 or 5 basic/simple box floorplans and their unstyleish roof tops. They are all the same - we are starting to look like a mini L.A.
- 113.** I'd also like to see a 'covered marketplace'in our downtoan area w/restaurants and shopping, similar to the ones in Nashville and Las Vegas. (that includes secure parking nearby).
- 114.** I like the idea of accessible parking and a housing/professional downtown....would be great....Federal building???? More waterways for kids to drown in? No!!
- 115.** Revitalization of the downtown area is of utmost importance in unifying the city as a whole, wich will help to continue the "small town" community atmosphere.
- 116.** I feel that it is very important to maintain the small business and antique housing feel to the Downtown area. I am extremely opposed to any modern "Southwest Bakersfield" housing in the downtown area. We have acres and miles of boring track housing in Bakersfield. No more housing developments destroying the charm of the lovely downtown area.
- 117.** The parking situation downtown is a major detriment to attracting people to visit that area. Most of the parking spaces only allow 30 minute parking, which is insufficient for shopping, dining, or government business. I don't know if it needs to be available 24 hours, but 2 hours at a time would be an improvement.
- 118.** Our city leaders need to open their eyes to how minorities are mistreated in Bakersfield. I would like to see fewer new homes being built, better access via roadways from the west to the east side of Bakersfield, and more equity in how decisions are made by our government officials. The downtown issues effect a minority of people of Kern County. If you are not a county, city or state employee, the only other business during the day on a regular basis is if you need to go to the court. Why should 100% of our population be so concerned about issues that effect so few?
- 119.** Have some kind of shuttle service instead. Park the cars farther away.
- 120.** The revitalization of downtown to date is going in the right direction. We need to continue with a project that would attract outside interest, and be something of which we as citizens can be proud.
- 121.** Build an overpass behind the court house.
- 122.** I would like to see the buildings and environment downtown continue to improve, however I don't believe



adding more structures or projects will be beneficial to the area. The downtown area already suffers from overcrowding.

- 123.** More high rise condo type housing needs to be built downtown and city streets open to foot traffic only to create an outdoor mall effect on the side streets.
- 124.** Downtown is NOT IMPORTANT!!! there is nothing special about downtown, no more so than any other part of town. If downtown (by this I mean its property owners) cannot attract people to shop downtown by themselves then NO PUBLIC money should be spent trying to force people to shop there, period. Downtown is no more 'historic' and no more deserving of public money than any other part of town. In fact, since downtown is not the center of town, public building should not be located there. They should be located closer to where most of the people live.
- 125.** River through downtown should accommodate covered pedal boats for exercise and practical transit with cargo (such as backpack, food, etc.). Would be nice to connect the river access to Kern River Parkway facilities. Since there is difficulty traveling east-west in Bakersfield by bicycle, a path/river that traverses downtown through Old Town Kern and East Bakersfield would help revitalize the East Bakersfield area and promote healthy activities. Riverboats like in San Antonio would establish new lifelines and boundaries, reduce dependency on cars and provide access for local residents.
- 126.** I do not feel that it is a wise use of funds to divert water to create a river street in the downtown area. This money should be used for maintaing the surface streets instead.
- 127.** I am not familiar with the particulars of the Mill Creek Project. There was no other box to check.
- 128.** I love what I see happening to Downtown Bakersfield. We need to get the Padre Hotel project going again. It is a beautiful landmark. It needs to be part of the Downtown revilization.
- 129.** Make downtown more bicycle friendly with additional bike lanes and class I bike trails. Add high density housing with enough surrounding shops, restaurants, and entertainment to make it desirable.
- 130.** I think our downtown is okay -- but it does not draw me to the area for regular shopping, dining, or entertainment. When I think of an exciting downtown, I envision those of older college towns, with upscale shops for cooking, decorating, books, clothing boutiques, etc. We have a few of these types of businesses downtown, but they are spread out and not centrally located. That means I must drive to one location poke around, get in my car, drive to another location and look for more parking. I think more downtown living would encourage businesses to be where people were. It could even include a consistent nightlife scene.
- 131.** I think the Mill Creek project will revitalize downtown and create a tourist area similar to San Antonio Texax.
- 132.** I know they are unattractive, but parking garages would be great!
- 133.** I love the downtown area and would love to see it used. I hate when the downtown area gets a bad rap from a bar fight/stabbing. I have been in Bakersfield long enough to know these things happen all over and not just downtown.
- 134.** If the housing is upscale appartments and condos for people working in the downtown area.
- 135.** Don't even think about Downtown development without thinking about a drastic improvement in road infrastructure
- 136.** Put in adequate guardrails on Panorama Drive and the roads to it so that no one else is killed driving over the cliffs. Very important.
- 137.** FREE parking. Downtown must be made more accessible.
- 138.** Some type of linear park, potentially linking several areas with a pleasant, walkable greenspace, sounds like a good idea. However, an artificial river appears to present a set of large resource-intensive challenges. If you want water, why not a series of fountains?
- 139.** Why not improve what we have in place. Why spend tax money on down town rivers, etc? WE have enough of those type of projects in place. The ones where people say, "is that what they're spending our tax money on"...
- 140.** Parking is important because of the absence of a public transit system (i.e. metro, subway, BART). It is probably premature for this type of transportation but provisions for future construction should be made. If Downtown becomes a big draw it will be critical.



- 141.** MORE HOUSING DOWNTOWN. I was forced to move out of downtown because of a lack of housing. Condo highrises would be very attractive. Also, More parking garages and _less_ parking lots. all the empty space created up the lots detracts from downtown.
- 142.** Mill Creek is a total waste of water. It will breed mosquitos. It has the potential to raise the water table to unsafe levels (liquefaction) and recharge groundwater that is already miserably contaminated with MTBE, dry cleaning solvents, nitrates and God knows what else (reference RWQCB). Leave the water in the Kern River or the existing canals, where it belongs.
- 143.** We had a Federal Courthouse. The City and County allowed it to be sold at auction to Tom Carousella!
- 144.** A federal courthouse is important for the community, but not necessarily for the downtown area.
- 145.** consider parking garages--for shade and greater use of space
- 146.** I suggest creating a link pedestrian and bicycle friendly link between downtown and the Kern River Parkway. One idea is to build a class one bike path along the Santa Fe railroad track rights of way--- Chester Ave to Kern River Bike Path. Another link would be to create a bridge and bike path into and around the Kern County museum area. How a;bout a path along the widening and wall blocking of the future 24th street (rosedale, 78) through Westchester to downtown. How about all three routes, in phases?
- 147.** Federal Courthouse will need adequate parking that will support some retail. Some sidestreet parking in downtown creates a safety issue as the street is very narrow (H & F St). Need better parking near the FOX
- 148.** PRotect the old buildings and keep their antique facade. Make heritage sites. Bring in more restaurants than bars. And don't waste money on things like a downtown trolley - rather give tax incentives for businesses to open up in the downtown rather than in the developing outlying areas.
- 149.** The heart of Bakersfield needs to be where it belongs...in the heart of Bakersfield. We need a vibrant alive city center.
- 150.** The Mill Creek Project sounds interesting, but I just don't get it?
- 151.** Need a river walk like San Antonio!
- 152.** The mill creek project planning is not being performed in a manner that brings an adaquate perspective on the overall economic impact it will have on the public. To my knowledge, cost-benefit analyses are not specifically required in the city, and are not totally comprehensive in the county as a part of the EIR. I think that the environmental considerations are important, but the long-range economic and social impacts are net being appropriately considered for new development/growth elements. I understand that the local fiscal responsibility of taxpayers will be at least \$2 mil. in addition to the matching funds required, plus the other incentives given to the developer. I'm not saying that this should stop Mill Creek, but let the taxpaying public see the total economic impact that will be created by Mill Creek. And, of course, this has to do with the entire planning/growth process. We are not being informed. The planning processes are carefully and clandestinely ongoing with a brief exposure at the rubber-stamping Planning Commission. At times I wonder why we even need a Planning Commission after I attend its meetings.
- 153.** Would like to see the downtown area less congested with vehicles and more pedestrian friendly.
- 154.** our leaders want to brag about bakersfield and declare what a great metropolitan area we are becoming. i suppose this is to attract more businesses to bakersfield area. however, we remain, at best, an enormous small town. i have waited and listened for over 50 years hoping for positive changes and have seen ideas come and go with nothing changing. we cant even decide on long overdue freeways. a recent trip to sacramento made me realize where we could and should be in terms of a more modern and cosmopolitan city. our overzealousness in our conservative background leaves us hopelessly mired in the small town quagmire. city leaders, please help.
- 155.** In implementing future changes, one very important addition needs to be APS (Accessible Pedestrian Signals). These are of vital importance to blind/visually impaired citizens.
- 156.** If these are your only downtown strategies, your in trouble. Development of a mixed use is pleasant, however the strength of a downtown area is predicated upon its commercial, retail, office, and governmental development. While these are developing, circulation, open spaces, and service utilities must be taken into account, not an afterthought. Water flowing through the city is pleasant, but always the liability. The drain for the fountain at the Civic center is a case in point. I would like to see a more master planned downtown developed instead of letting every little piece of this and that happen whenever or wherever possible. Set aside a commercial district, professional office district, retail district,



etc.... with open spaces, corridors for walking or people movement from place to place... why wait for someone to tell the city what they want to have, tell them what the city wants instead.

- 157.** I love all the different places downtown. I notice a lot of youth like to be there on weekend nights there should more places for them to go downtown so they will not get into trouble.
- 158.** Bring the old clock tower back to its original historical place in the downtown area.
- 159.** Conservation water very important no Mill Creek Project
- 160.** San Luis Obispo is a wonderful example of how a downtown could be. Even with people sprawled all over the county the downtown area would be a place to shop, eat, walk etc. In Santa Barbara too, I think it is great that there are major department stores on the main stree.
- 161.** soon we will not be able to get downtown because of the traffic jams caused by a very poor traffic light management that does not seem to concern the city at all!
- 162.** I've lived in several cities in the U.S. and Bakersfield is one of the most accessible and attractive in "downtown" design. We are foolish not to revitalize this area. If it's attractive and safe, the people will come.
- 163.** It is easy to let downtown turn into a place for the poor and homeless. It needs more upscale eateries and shopping.
- 164.** I live on the west side of town and there is no easy route to downtown. I am less likely to visit downtown businesses due to the drive.
- 165.** Promotion of parking downtown should be given top priority when planning for increased attendance at events as well as jury duty.
- 166.** I work downtown and would love to see it have a more mature nightlife.
- 167.** "Downtown" confuses me. I was told it is where Montgomery Wards was. "Downtown" in most cities includes government buildings, department stores, and generally a point of interest. Bakersfield doesn't have this. I go "downtown" to see a doctor or visit a government facility. I have yet to go "downtown" to shop. I go to Valley Plaza on rare occasions, or I go to Rosedale. A vision should include where your housing will be (variety). Where the commercial area will be. And, where your medical center will be. I think that east of Hwy. 99 is an area I don't want to venture into. The west side has such a mixture with commercialism on every mile road (except around Grand Island). I have spoken to or emailed two supervisors about a revitalization plan that I have seen this summer while visiting Indianapolis. I do have pictures of the homes they built and what a difference. A city that was about the size of Bakersfield, when I grew up there. That city has a vision. It has included a "ring road" around the city and a highway that goes thru the city. You need to consider "in fill" with your building. Plan your city. I see a hodge podge. Whatever a builder wants you let them build. Size of homes, cost, color, parks and CC&Rs should all be required. The ugly turquoise car wash with it's bright yellow lights at Calloway and Brimhall that backs up to my housing should never be allowed. You have the capabilities to demand a certain level of 'elegance' to a neighborhood. Our home values are not reflecting the neighborhood. The 7-11 and the Rite Aide are all precusors to more commercial building at Brimhall and Calloway. Why would you do that to your city. Property values will not hold and when values go down so will your taxes. Please consider how you want your city to look in 2020. Like Camarillo, Thousand Oaks or like L.A. How many of you have been outside the state of California or for that matter - outside the City of Bakersfield and really looked at other cities. The fast train you want to stop in Bakersfield will serve very few people. Compared to good highways that can serve the majority of people. New government buildings do not serve the general public. It serves only a few working people. You also need to have more activities for teens. There really isn't a lot to do here. So make a plan that will encompass all the needs for all the citizens. Think twice about where the money is going.
- 168.** The downtown area needs retail and customer friendly environs, not housing. The exception to that would be highrise condo's with great security. The proposed 780 unit housing development along the Mill Creek proposed development is in the wrong place. This will only CREATE A FUTURE GHETTO. Traditionally, housing along railroad tracks and transportation hubs has a lower value. The area is not zoned for housing for a reason! This housing project should be on the South side of California Avenue, which is in the Southeast Redevelopment Area, is already zoned for residential use and has a dire need for redevelopment. The area between the railroad, Q St., Truxtun, California and Union Avenues should be designated as a Commercial, Business and Entertainment area, creating a buffer zone between the transportation area (railroad, Amtrak, future High speed Rail station, high speed rail, and future highway) and the residential area. The majority of high use customers of these transportation modes will be from the business community. Any urban planner or design professional knows the reasons for this traditional planning discipline. Better planning and attention to the realities of Urban Development are needed to

implement a truly great vision for downtown Bakersfield.

- 169.** I think Bakersfield or I should say California in a hole waist to much of the tax payers money..
- 170.** Downtown has many activities now - yet little interest from the community. Focus the resources elsewhere.
- 171.** Reliable and quick public transportation connecting downtown to the rest of the city.
- 172.** I think we need to look more at building a new baseball stadium. We built the new swimming complex and ice skating rink and that was a total waste of money. That money could have been used to build a stadium that could be used for several different venues. Instead we get a swimming pool and an ice skating rink that I can assure you, most of the people in Bakersfield will never use.
- 173.** While downtown should be kept clean and well maintained, it is not the center or heart of the city anymore. The city should work with businesses to assist in and encourage rebuilding projects in the downtown area, but not take on the ownership and operation of the redevelopment. The city should only provide incentives and make it easier to for private enterprise to rebuild the downtown area. Virtually every city run project has failed to redevelop the core area. Let's give free enterprise a chance. Cut out the red tape and quagmire of city rules and ordinances. Work with business not against it.
- 174.** I believe that the beautification efforts are important, however funding towards such projects should be allocated as they become available. It would not be wise to take funds from projects essential to the growth and development of the city for aesthetic reasons.
- 175.** all are critical
- 176.** I think getting a handle on traffic flow and congestion will go a long way toward relieving air quality issues and even toward beautification (if not as much land is dedicated to the automobile.)
- 177.** My husband and I travel frequently and our favorite places are the towns with great downtown appeal. For example the cities of Orange, Petaluma, Visalia, and Paso Robles. We love to eat, shop, have a drink and a local place and we especially love a nice farmers market.
- 178.** Not sure enough about need for Federal Courthouse to render opinion.
- 179.** I am real estate broker for 12yrs. just moved to the hot real estate market in Bakersfield...and I'm living life as life it should be...It has been great living in Bakersfield for the last two years.
- 180.** Parking - Get the "trolley" going and reduce the need for more "close and easy access" parking. Improve our air quality by limiting the number of cars needed to get around downtown.
- 181.** No river through a downtown street! I have been to San Antonio (RiverWalk), Amsterdam and Venice . . . we do not need an open-to-the-air sewer system! The water will become stagnant an not moving, which will cause it to collect trash and debris, which then omit odors.
- 182.** Bakersfield does not need anymore housing developments. You need to stop building and let it all catch up with itself. You're creating a monster!
- 183.** I am opposed to the Mill Creek Project. I feel we have more important things to do with our time and money.
- 184.** It would be wonderful to have a riverwalk with various commercial ventures, including restaurants and theaters, in similar fashion to San Antonio (TX), Kansas City (MO), or Omaha (NE).
- 185.** The Mill Creek Project - what happens when there is no or low water to divert. Will the "dry river" bed become an eyesore or become a skateboarding nightmare and potential graffi canvas?
- 186.** Housing and shopping in the downtown area is desirable only if it contributes to an environment that makes one feel safe living and shopping in said area.
- 187.** I am excited about the Downtown development. Keep up the good work and develop the Downtown area. It is important that we have a strong community in the Downtown area.
- 188.** I think that there should be more housing and shops downtown. I am not familiar with the Mill Creek Project. Courthouse idea is pretty good. Definitely needs parking that is close and easy to access.
- 189.** Mixed use construction should be applied within individual buildings -- not each in a separate building. "Living above the store" is an idea whose time has again come.



- 190.** People have to be living downtown in order for there to be a vital 24 x 7 downtown. We need more water elements and greenery to make the downtown inviting.
- 191.** I think it's important to revitalize downtown and to make the heart of the city more vibrant. I think it would alleviate some of the nightlife crime that has occurred to develop more upscale, conservative-type entertainment venues that the average person would want to visit. Biker or punk bars are not going to help downtown.

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