



Agenda Date: February 14, 2017

Agenda Item: New Business:
Downtown Streetscape Open House

The Downtown Streetscape Open House, held Thursday, February 2, 2017 was well attended. The sign in sheets indicate 59 people attended, but there may be others who did not sign in. Comments sheets were made available and people were encouraged to express their support, objections, concerns, and comments.

The following comments have been received:

- ❖ Corner sidewalk visibility – keeping sights clear. Viability of trees and vegetation & more maintenance. Love the ascetics of the centre lane with trees but also concerned with being able to see pedestrians. Greening up is great for attracting visitors but what is the \$ benefit and cost to taxpayers?? I feel there needs to be more discussion and input from towns people and businesses with money set aside for old highway maintenance and upkeep.
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- ❖ Concerned about tall trees and shrubs on corners potentially blocking view of traffic and getting damaged from road spray and snow. Using existing light locations is good for new light poles. Is median grass or turf or hard surface? What will impact be to taxes? Need to show some costs to public. Project proposal is useless without pricing.
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- ❖ Trees and bushes – NO – Do not plant / place trees and bushes on the corners of intersections. They are already dangerous due to lack of sight lines. As a pedestrian, those treed areas fill me with read. Build an actual park, with benches, somewhere else around town – front of post office, where fast gas was, great park spaces.

- 1) Sidewalk good. Wheelchair access to each business better!.
 - 2) None of the sidewalks in town are wheelchair acceptable and need replacement.
 - 3) Bike stands
 - 4) Lights at the corners leading to the by-pass. Will the new lights planned provide enough light to see by?
 - 5) Upkeep costs!! Has this been included with the budget?
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- ❖ Like the trees in centre but not on sidewalks. Sight lines would be hindered. Need safety before beautification. Street should not be narrowed as its harder for backing up. The new lights look nice.
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- ❖ “tax increase” a huge worry. Road not as wide which has always been great. Trees down the middle nice but not on sidewalk
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❖ I like the plan. Time to make downtown look pretty. Currently we look to be a dying town. Let's spend some money. In 5 years, there will be a huge difference in "the looks" and population. Build it & they will come.

❖ Where are the bike lanes? Many campers come into town via bikes. What is the cost of this? Do we get to hear?

❖ We need somebody to maintain the expensive storm drains during warm spells, the water has nowhere to go (plugged with snow, etc). Also the Alberta Liquor Control Board states you have to have off-street parking enough for every seat in order to serve liquor. As a main street taxpayer I see beer drinkers take up most of main street parking.

❖ Hopefully this project does not affect the businesses of Bentley, during the prime income season. The businesses on main street have had 3 years of streets torn up, one more year will be extremely difficult on business! Please do this project in a way that will not result in business closures! Please install property signage and lights on highway so people know where Bentley is.

❖ This is happening in our prime business season. My concern is that it needs to be done in a timely matter and in a way that is conducive to business carrying on with their daily activity. If there are sidewalks torn up and it makes it difficult for people to get to where they are going it is going to be detrimental. Also we truly need proper signage on the highway as well as lights. The sign to Bentley is a speck compared to the rest of the signage on that road.

❖ Don't need more taxes. No turn radius at each end. Not snow removal friendly (ask employees). Will have to back directly into traffic. Sight line at intersection obstructed. Very pretty but can money be spent more wisely. Do we not need more industrial land for more business.

❖ I think the concept is beautiful but also impractical. There are too many trees and the upkeep will be hard to do – raking and lawn mowing. Visibility to unpark will be hampered. I would like to know how this will affect our taxes as they are already high. In this time at economic hard times, maybe this is not the right time to do this. By all means fix the sidewalks as they really need it but think twice before spending money and maybe save for a rainy day or emergency.

❖ It looks nice but tell people where the money is coming from A lot of people think it is going to come from our property taxes. Don't do it in June, July & August. Too many tourists and the farmers market. Do it in stages. Do the sidewalks first because they are in terrible shape – maybe in May and do the median later – like Sept, October or maybe even next May. If you have good contractors, they should be able to get the sidewalks done in a month – weather permitting of course.

❖ Where are the funds for this streetscape coming from? Is the money already available. Is the projected pricing current for 2017? Will this affect future recreation budgets for the parks that we already need to maintain? How will the future costs be covered.

What would be the long term costs in maintaining the vegetation? In the past, it seems the trees don't seem to thrive in the downtown boulevard. Will groundwork need to be carried out in order for this vegetation to thrive? Is grass on the boulevard the best option? With all the

downtown foot traffic the grass will inevitably become destroyed. Also, in the winter, the sand and salt from the street will change the pH levels will contribute to the life of the vegetation. Which incur more costs with fertilizer to maintain growth? I suggest a more zero scape method. Possible upgrading the boulevard to a colored concrete with a pattern etched in.

Will these trees hinder pedestrian crossing? I suggest purchasing the concrete formed planters. Then plant shrubs that can sustain less water practices.

I believe that lighting is sufficient downtown. Maybe an improved with efficient bulbs. The town has more areas that require attention first in regards to lighting. There are several dark areas that should be improved in the residential areas.

In today's society we should be directing beautification toward zero scaping. Add concrete benches. Have these benches with the ability to have memorial attached to them. Even have statues on the main corners of downtown. Invest in a themed signage for downtown to help direct people to our services. More garbage receptacles downtown would be more beneficial in keeping downtown clean. How about installing a cigarette one by the monkey top to limit cigarette butts that end up in the water shed by entering our storm system.

I agree the downtown park could use some improvements. Remove the chain link fence. Replace the older wood park. A gazebo would be a nice touch to our town. Again the downtown park is dirty. More garbage receptacles or directed paths to garbage. The paths do need to be improved, I agree.

For some cost savings, why not coordinate with the school. Would work experience programs be helpful to our youth.

I think even a public washroom downtown would be sustainable. With all the tourism in the summer, it would help to keep the downtown core cleaner. The foot and bicycle traffic from gull lake causes an increase in people. Public facilities would be beneficial for all.

Based upon the funds provided, I believe the town may need to scale back the streetscape plan and re-direct funds to urgent and long term maintenance/improvement infrastructure projects. Also long term costing needs to be reviewed for maintenance of the vegetation.

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- ❖ I think trying to make downtown more beautiful is a good intention, but here are my concerns;
 - I know at times we need to spend money but I know that adding to taxes is not good right now. I am a middle class family and I am paying more here than I did in much bigger community. If we struggle with high taxes, I can only think how it will affect others
 - Can we focus on needs – lights, snow fences, signs
 - Make sure safety is looked at where the trees, scrubs are though to go. Beautiful but not safe or practical at all.

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- ❖ We feel the proposed “Main Streetscape Project” would not be suited to our small town. This project would fit better in a high volume tourist area. Now, most of our visitors, especially in the summer, will enter from the east. We just love the view of Bentley's main street with the blindman valley backdrop, as we come over the hill. We like the looks of the wide, uncluttered main street. We would not like to see that being narrowed. We would like to see the expanded park upgrades. Also, some trees in the center boulevard would be an asset. The

addition of bicycle racks and benches, where possible, would be welcomed by our summer visitors.

- ❖ I would like to commend the town council for their forward thinking. After living in many different communities in Alberta from Lethbridge to High Level as these communities beautified the main street through grants or other means. As the main street improvements came to fruition, the main streets became the focal points of the towns, cities, etc. New businesses opened and the towns grew, but the main street improvements gave the residents the pride to become involved in the town growth by becoming volunteers. I recognize that this plan will be implemented in stages, but will make our town attractive for residents, business owners and visitors alike.
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- ❖ Very disappointed in the way the “Information Open House” was done. No presenter with any information of probable costs, time frames, etc. IF Council decides to go ahead with project, who will they hire to do the job? The contractor the gutter work at the Monkey Top intersection is a very poor example of proper, knowledgeable workmanship.

Trees on boulevard – already have had to remove as this is not a property growing area. Trees need larger area for root growth and health of trees. Pavement makes the earth too hot and dry for root growth.

Shrubs, flower pots, etc, at intersection islands – this is a summer climate scenario – we are winter climate.

What about snow removal, plowing in restricted space.

What about driver sight lines – may be restricted, may be pedestrian sight lines restricted also.

Trees in front of some businesses – what about leaves on sidewalk that make it very slippery. Who has to clean them off. Again, this is not a property growing area for trees.

As a taxpayer her in town, I am DEFINITELY NOT in favor of this project. I DO NOT want my taxes raised to do this.

We – the town – do not have money for the project and there are other areas such as sidewalks by the Monkey Top that need proper repairs and maintenance.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion. I look forward to further open discussions and more presentations and consultations on this matter.

- ❖ I disagree with narrowing the driving lanes on mainstreet. We still have large delivery trucks, maintenance trucks and farm machinery that will travel through town.

There are still lots of people out of work or working for lower wages at poorer jobs. Senior citizens on fixed incomes cannot afford to keep paying higher taxes every year.

Now that you have the streets paved, gutters and curbs in place, storm system in place and a new fire station, I think it's time to lower our taxes, not build things just to beautify the town.

- ❖ Very disappointed there was no formal or informal presentation with a forum for questions and answers. Absolutely not in favor of paying higher taxes or fees to fund any of the this.

If the streetscape project is based on the 2013 Streetscape Plan, I want to see the costs of each proposed upgrade. Define furniture, define structures and provide individual prices. Any pricing should include “all in” – no surprises. What is “contingency”? How much will it be? This needs to be specified, as does “mobilization”.

Trees or shrubs on boulevard – NOT in favor. Growing conditions are far too hot and restrictive for living plants of any size due to reflected heat from pavement, cement. Also these are expensive, prime targets for vandals.

I am in favor of large pots of annuals in the boulevards, plus hanging baskets of flowers from existing light standards. Suggestion for example: light standards 1, 3, 5, 7 to have two hanging baskets of annuals – light standards 2, 4, 6, 8 to have flags/banners for community branding, advertising the rodeo, farmers market, etc. Posts with banners shown in “wow factor” are absolutely lovely.

Boulevards – if grassed in, may help tree survival but require more manpower to water, mow and maintain. Also, it means tearing up some existing pavement (to widen) which is in good condition, at present.

OF MAJOR CONCERN – extra trees, shrubs on boulevard and along sidewalks could impair visibility – a danger to pedestrians and drivers alike. Leaves are very slippery when wet or frosty and who will clean these up? The Town? Business?

Bike Lane – do NOT see a need for it. Will complicate snow removal and maintenance in fall & winter.

Suggested / Proposed:

- A) Focus on maintenance & repair of existing infrastructure
- B) Focus on pedestrian and driver safety – add crosswalks that are extremely well marked with overhead flashing lights as needed.
- C) Improve facades on business & main street buildings
- D) For a truly unique, inviting streetscape for our town, hire Bobbie Palanuik (Resident, fabulous artist) as a consultant for a wow factor (n.b. I do not personally know this person)
- E) Expenditures, reasonable, affordable (are Imperative) AND presented in an open forum to towns people for discussion and voting upon. Transparency with no surprises. Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion. I look forward to further discussions and Additional presentations and consultation on this matter.
Respectfully submitted

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- ❖ The streetscape project looks great. My concern, as a taxpayer are higher taxes of course. I would like to see the project done in phases with a lower tax increase. I would also like to see a clear picture of how that could be broken up and how that would reflect tax increases.

As a business owner, I have concerns with the disruption on the streets and roads and how that effects customers coming into our town & businesses. We cannot afford another disruptive summer or we will lose the great little business sector we have going now.

So again, I feel doing this in phases with a well thought out plan of how to do this with as little disruption and frustration to the town people and the people that come into our town. Once the farmers market starts in May, I would hope there would be no construction on Saturdays so people can freely move through town with frustration.

We have a great little town and I think enhancing the environment only betters our town.

- ❖ I am concerned with both the widening of the sidewalks and reducing the road to one lane. Traffic is still very heavy and eliminating the one lane will make backing out of parking stalls very dangerous.

I do not believe we need wider sidewalks. As a business owner, it is already difficult shoveling in the winter. As we are not allowed to push snow onto the road, it is difficult to push it to the side of the building. Being responsible for more snow maintenance will be burden.

- ❖ New sidewalks wonderful.

Boulevard - a few trees would look lovely (as long as well maintained) haven't had much luck over the years. When done, should be food for 40 – 50 years.

Lighting – seems adequate. New ones fancy but probably a good idea.

My main concern – I am not in favor of trees along the sidewalk area. Winter snow removal, icy sidewalks would be a big issue. Our beautiful sun heat in winter & spring would not be able to do the melting as well as it does now. When people walk down town now they always walk on north side of sidewalk as south side very icy much longer. eg – north side of my house still has snow & ice, when south side is grass green, flowers flourishing. I feel trees on sidewalk are would be huge issue.

Money wise: with economy & job situation very poor. If taxes are increased some young families would probably lose their homes (sad)

Please spend wisely. The QUEEN OF ENGLAND does not live in our lovely town.

- ❖ As new comers to Bentley, we already saw main street as beautiful. It was main street and its shops that made us decide to buy a business here. It cemented our decision when the highway bypass finally opened last year. As outsiders and tourist to Bentley for many years, the truck traffic was scary when you tried to cross the road. I would sell Bentley as a destination because the highway was re-routed, as a place to visit and spend a whole day not just 5 minutes it took to drive by. I would plant a few plants in the planters already on the street and get a few hanging planters on the lights. See how the next year goes without the highway and then decide. Advertise now and the people will come.
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- ❖ Your plans look great, but I hope there's room to do some changes. Having trees that jut out on the corners would make it hard to back out visually. Have grass in the meridian will create more work and would not take the salt in the winter. Let's take care of our parks and playground, after all, we have nothing for our youth.

We also have to see some growth in our town to level out. Our taxes are far too high now and adding more will discourage outsider from moving here. Our taxes have taken a big hit every year, lets take care of use first.

- ❖ Though I think we could use a bit of beautifying of the down town area, there is a lot to consider.
 1. Mainly the cost of the project. Where is the coming from?
 2. Can our businesses afford another summer with that type of disruption.
 3. We have no parking as it is
 4. I think losing the extra lane through town would not only be dangerous but would not allow others pulling of their stalls to move as there is so much traffic during our summer and fall months.
 5. To finish, I do feel the town should do some beautification projects through the years as that amount of money could be well used for proper sidewalks, signage for our town and fixing the area that is always so busy.
 6. Our town, our businesses and our events are a huge part of our community.
 7. Let's take it slower so that it complements all our citizen's needs.

I truly would have expected at the least some spokesperson & council to give us spoken information that we could have addressed to the Council and Stantec our concerns like a town meeting, not a showing. I felt we weren't very well informed before or after. Thank you

- ❖ Everyone who visits already say it is a beautiful community. Confusing night – few facts – no costs. Staff not identified – Councillors had different information.

Town promotion on the highway entrances to town more needed to save our businesses and have traffic to see our nice improvements.

With people struggling to pay bills, perhaps it would be better to scale down at this time.

- ❖ The focal point the money allocation seems to be strictly in the downtown business sector, while beautiful, I see the residential areas have great need for sidewalk upgrades and lighting issues. Though I do not disagree that Bentley could benefit by drawing to our local businesses, there are other pressing, year round needs that could enhance the community as a whole that would not only be aesthetically pleasing but functional. For example – upgrading our parks, ball diamonds, campgrounds.

I did attend the meeting and unfortunately I found the information (or lack of) misleading and incomplete and really no opportunity for interactive discussion. I know your jobs are not easy, but I hope you can understand my concerns and take them into consideration. Thank you.

- ❖ Do not widen boulevard. We need to maintain width of street to avoid accidents.
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- ❖ I am the owner of one of the downtown buildings on main street.

- It is not feasible, nor a good idea to change the parking from angle parking or to take away any of the parking space that is now available.
- The sidewalks are fine the way they are now.
- If you do anything to take way the wideness of the down town main street, it will cause numerous problems, with turning around the boulevard, pulling out from angle parking and vehicles trying to maneuver on a narrower street

- Have already seen firsthand how the cement areas that jut out onto the street from the sidewalks (eg – in front of chiropractor office) affects the area in front of my building – it takes away from parking, it makes it harder to turn at the corner and it causes many back-up from drainage issues and snow issues since it is hard to plow into the corner of where it juts out.
- I think you should leave the boulevard area of main-street the way it is and spend the money on other areas of the town that need it more.

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- ❖ 1) Some money should be “first used” to get proper welcome signs to get people to town.
 - 2) Looks nice but too many trees, bushes
 - 3) Boulevard is too wide, making backing into traffic a hazard – no foreseen value in very wide grass area on boulevard.
 - 4) Trees have been a failure in past??? Donated by people!
 - 5) As planned, upkeep will take many man hours.
 - 6) Trees on north side will affect site view of stores
 - 7) When is public follow up and accurate costs to be presented to community?
Information from these shared?
 - 8) Out of respect for businesses, IT CANNOT BE DONE between May long week end and September long week end. What is the rush? If you don't want confusion, streetscape 2013 needs to be taken off town web site or declared NOT VALID!
 - 9) With many people struggling to survive and pay utilities, a more modest approach may be wiser
 - 10) More parking lost with corners and cross walks expanded.

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- ❖ It's not just taxes going up and ups, it is everything from utilities, groceries, gas, as well and at every level of government
 - 5% carbon tax
 - 10% utilities
 - ? municipal taxes
 - ? provincial taxes
 - ? federal taxes

Every little increase by every gov't level and private business adds up to a whopping increase for every citizen.

Where do you expect everyone to come up with all this money. Economic downturns, like the one we are in, take a lot of time for citizens to recover from.

Seniors living on fixed incomes are hit especially hard as they haven't got the opportunity to work and most are unable to.

I am dead set against the project except for the sidewalk repairs, widening and property drainage of business down spouts through the concrete, instead of on top as they do now. Drainage on jut outs?

I also prefer for less trees and more lighting. All the trees will make the sidewalks so dark at night when once they mature.

Take out the paving stones (recycled bricks) and reseed to grass on the median. I don't understand why the median has to be so wide. Brad told me 6 meters??

The trees on the sidewalk – where is their water supply to come from?

How much is going to wages for maintenance (grass cutting), tree & shrub pruning, planters, not to mention this planning by Stantec? How much has this cost & how much more is budgeted?

How many years till this project starts, spread over how many years to pay for?

How many citizens pay taxes?

How many more presentations are there going to be?

Does the Council fully support this project?

Why are things not done properly the first time instead of putting more & more \$ into fixing the same things repeatedly?

What guarantees do we get on how all this will turn out this time?

With all the people struggling to make ends meet, we blow 100's of 1,000's of dollars on prettiness.

What's happening with the park?

Facts & figures

- ❖ After parking you will back into traffic

Can't turn a truck at the end of the boulevard

It will likely disrupt traffic in our busiest time of year.

Who is paying for this project? Taxes? Grants? What else?

Some of this money should be spent on the highway access points and tell people that Bentley is even here.

Who will maintain this wide sidewalk? Not the businesses, I hope. (snow removal, etc)

Who will maintain the trees and plants? Hope not like they were done in the past.

Will all other sidewalks be redone as well?

I hope this project is rejected as our town has had a main street that has lasted like this since it started.

- ❖ I am very disappointed on how this has been handled. It is too bad people didn't have all the information – costs, more accurate pictures, who is going to do all the snow removal and where are they going to put it (can't put it on the road now)

If this continues to long into the summer it will definitely affect the businesses. After th mess last year, the businesses don't need this.

I think more important is some signs on the bypass to tell people that BENTLEY is here !!! . It won't matter how pretty it is if people don't come.

I also hope that some of the other sidewalks in town are repaired.

There are lots more of concerns to me but it has all be decided so there is not sense saying. The Council should start thinking about their citizens.

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- ❖ We are definitely against anything like this in Bentley. They have to prove to us they can look after something like this. We purchased trees in memory of our parents and there gone. All the trees on main street were killing from no care. We could spend money on way better projects like getting our industrial area services in. If we don't make our town grow, we will loose everything like our stores.

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- ❖ Over, it looks very attractive. Love the lamp posts.

Have concerns about sign lines at intersections. Turning radius at the end of boulevard. Tough for larger vehicles (how about parade day).

Trees and shrubs are nice but require constant care and attention, not just when we have extra summer staff.

How does it affect snow removal?

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- ❖ CONCERN: Large trees in the centre median – very difficult to get larger trees established and if some thrive but some die, it looks worse than zero trees. Grass also high maintenance issue.

SUGGESTION: shorter shrubs that don't require such deep roots, kept short so not to interfere with traffic sightlines, less seasonal cleanup. OR alternate existing planters with new lamp posts to match those on the sidewalks. What about unique stylized trees of metal?

CONCERN: Increased traffic/pedestrian hazard created at main intersection of 50th street and 50th avenue with addition of trees/shrubs/benches, etc. As it is now, it's very difficult to see oncoming traffic from the east or west when trying to enter 50th avenue from 50th street or 49th street.

SUGGESTION: backless benches, garbage/recycling receptacles, lamp post

CONCERN: greatly increased workload for town staff with the addition of lots of plant material. Plantings of this scale cannot be maintained by the additional single staff from April – September and the STEP students due to the fact that there will also be additional work for them with the access entrances to Bentley from Highway 12. Trees, shrubs, grass & planters require constant maintenance, not just April – September.

SUGGESTION: make the downtown core of median, sidewalks, new lighting, etc, low maintenance and can still be visually appealing, while increasing the plantings, trees & shrubs and "parklike" setting in the actual main street park area. "Metal trees", created by local artisans could be powder coated, thus making them virtually maintenance free.

CONCERN: traffic flow/snow removal. With the increased permanent structures half way down the lower median and at the west end of the lower median, it has decreased available parking places, increased workload time management for snow removal, street sweeping (because there are more “things” to work around). Also the traffic turning radius at the ends of the median will be much more difficult for larger vehicles due to the above mentioned, as well as the median itself being much wider than it is now.

SUGGESTION: again, one more reason to have less plant material in the downtown core because existing town staff will have increased workload due to the fact that all of 50th avenue will be theirs to care for year round. And the concept changes will in fact greatly increase their time/workload balance. Although we don’t currently have 2 lane traffic with our angle parking now, the increased width of the median will force traffic to single lane and angle parking and will be a big change for many. We don’t want to discourage people from coming to our downtown core because we have made it too difficult to “get around”.

In conclusion the streetscape concept looks pretty on paper but we must keep safety and functionality in mind, I believe. There are many other areas of safety concerns within our community that also need to be addressed (many, many hazardous sidewalks that need replacing, as one example). Although money has been set aside for this project and more moneys are coming in, we are talking major expenditures for major changes and with scaling back, utilizing some of the existing features, I’m sure we can achieve more “bank for our buck”.

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- ❖ The plans looked beautiful, however, I was disappointed with the pen house. (I heard the plans we seen are not exact to what would actually be put in place, what a waste of time!) I would have rather seen a meeting take place where the public would get their questions answered.

My concerns are with how is this project being paid for. Will business or residential taxes go up? (I have heard there is already an increase in progress). If our money is paying for this I would like to see plans being scaled down for the in town beauty development and to use some of the money for advertising for businesses in town. Advertising could be done in outlying communities like Rocky, Rimbey, etc. We need to get people here with signage on the highway and other advertising on why it’s great to live in or visit Bentley. Higher taxes will cause people to move out, hurting our community. We need to encourage people to come live in Bentley, do business in Bentley or set up a business.

I heard that commercial property across the highway requires sewer and water which the town will not pay for, this would be up to the business to pay for then the town would charge them for sewer and water. This is not productive for attracting business!

How long will this project take? Would it have been more beneficial to wait and see how Bentley is effected this summer, with the highway bypass? If we are effected, then we could try scale down on the beauty and think of ways to attract people during the other months of the year.

Please excuse me if I haven’t got all the correct information, this is one of the things that happens when no meeting takes place! I’s not an easy task being on council, but we do expect consideration of our thought.

- ❖ By making the sidewalks and boulevard bigger, will take away from parking downtown. Without second lane to back out into the main flow of traffic will be hazardous. I have had pick up trucks with round hay bales pull in beside me which makes it hard to see traffic coming. Thank god for the 2nd lane which made it easier. Changing main street is not going to bring more people to town but will cause lots of issues in the summer when the farmers market is on. I do shop locally and like what we have. There were trees planned on main street before, they died. As a tax payer I am not willing to pay for trees each year, nor am I wanting my taxes going up by a lot. The economy is bad, people are struggling.
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- ❖ The plan is very nice. There are a couple of things I feel should take precedent.
 - 1) All sidewalks, residential & commercial, that need repaired, should be done. There are many residential sidewalks that are in very bad shape, trip hazards, etc.
 - 2) I would like to see Oxford School repaired. The roof is sagging and exterior bricks are shifting. We should what we can to reserve our history and historical buildings. I realize grant monies are probably not available for this. I just feel it's important.

Thank you for the chance to share my thoughts.

- ❖ Thanks for the opportunity view the options and make a comment.

I think main street looks good the way it is . . . but it could look better with a few additions.

1. Contact Appollo Landscaping in Red Deer and they will let you know which trees will do well on the boulevard.
 2. Repair all main street sidewalks. Make sure they are high enough and sloped properly.
 3. Paint the lines on main street so there isn't a passing lane. One lane should be for turning and backing into when you're leaving a business.
 4. Spend remaining money on repairing town sidewalks.
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- ❖ If this is "government" money, why weren't all town and county residents and business owners contacted first before any money was spent on "engineered" plans that we may not even want?

There should be a meeting with all the information available and a vote for including residents, business owners and country residents that use the town, to vote on if we even want main street changed at all or what else in town may be more important.

- ❖ Reasons not to proceed with the Streetscape Project:
 - As it is now, it is usable and easy to maintain and sept up good for snow removal. This is lots of room and it is easy to park, for seniors and tourists, as well as everybody, without obstacles to drive around such as new curb formations and trees. The road is good and wide now and works very well so people can get in and out of the stores to support the town's existing businesses. The middle of the

boulevard looks great and is very appealing, especially in the summer with the flowers in bloom.

- With new cement formations and trees put into main street, it will be much more difficult to remove snow and keep the streets safe.
- It is **very bad plan** to take out any existing parking on main street.
- If you change the parking by putting in trees and cement obstacles, it will be harder to drive around the obstacles and will most likely cause more accidents on main street. It will also be harder to turn around the boulevard.
- Trees have been planted before on the boulevard and the last two times they have not grown well and had to be taken out
- The businesses on main street cannot afford the loss and inconvenience of customers to have our street torn apart for another year or another summer.
- We need to make all of our town appealing, not just the main street boulevard portion of the town. Both the east and west ends of "main street" could be made better, not just the "downtown" area.

Better uses of the government money, instead of Streetscape Project:

- Repair and pave the road north of the arena to get to the new hall, so that it is useable year round.
- Repair and improve the entrance to the campground
- Install lighting at both entrances to town from the hew highway so that people can see where to turn to enter and leave town and so it is not so dark and unappealing.

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- ❖ More Welcome to Bentley signs to Highway 12 for exposure to Bentley. Town workers can do – money staying in community.

Need highway sign saying Bentley, services offered, at both entrance/exits. Sandy Point has more exposure than Town of Bentley.

"Safety First" for all people, sidewalks need replacing. This would be first priority, then trees in the median.

Median for trees – speak and hire own talented people in the community. Leslie Pelze. She has some education in this field as any person hired outside. She knows what would be best here. Money staying in community, helping our own business "shopping local"

Be more creative in spending money wisely – "sometimes less is more"

Big companies always want you to spend more than you "need" or can "afford". Times are tough so use it "smart"

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- ❖ To start – was not aware of the Open House. Not in our mail box, what was the notification to citizens? We received this piece of paper from our neighbors – they attended, walked around,

left more questions than answers. Not represented/presented. Poor communication. Would appreciate written notice as the plan time frame, costs to tax payers and ultimately.

Why now, since the highway is around use not through our community as it was for all these years. Seems little, too late.

We would appreciate a timely response as we are not aware of these changes and the timelines.

FYI – a petition may ensue if citizens information is not transparent. Thank you

- ❖ I have lived in Bentley for a lifetime. The boulevard has been “improved” several times. Let’s get this change long lasting & right. Bentley is known and envied for it’s wide main street. **Keep it wide.** We do not need the boulevard and storefront sidewalks both widened. Since people do not walk on the boulevard – widen only the storefront sidewalks. Choose a tree/bush/shrub for the boulevard that will NOT spread out it’s branches. The traffic flow in Bentley has greatly decreased since the opening of the by-pass, BUT when the Farmers Market is again open, we need our wide main street & all the parking. Make the change beautiful without sacrificing the function.
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- ❖ I attended the Streetscape Plan meeting last week and have the following concerns with the design:
 - The wide boulevard and reduced lane widths will impact u-turn movement at both ends of town
 - During busy period, such as farmer market days, the reduced outside lane width may affect vehicles trying to back up and create further congestion.
 - There was a real lack of information at the meeting in regards to the funding of this project. Stantec indicated the estimate for the renderings displayed was between 1.2 – 1.4 million, with the town’s budget being in the \$600,000. Range. Is Alberta Transportation providing any funding for this project? Has the town secured any grants? If so, do they need to be used on main street? How will this project impact property taxes? Will there be a significant increase in maintenance costs associated with the improvements? When is the proposed start date for construction and will construction be delayed until fall to minimize the impacts to local businesses during the busy summer months?
 - It was extremely disappointing to attend the public consultation and not have a representative of the Town present to address budget and funding questions. I believe the town would have far more support in delivering projects if they were more forthcoming with relevant information.
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- ❖ The drawings looked lovely, but:

1. My main question revolves around cost. I was told that borrowing would have to happen by one member of Council and that it would be covered by grants by another. I do not support borrowing for this project. If grants are used for this project, what other areas will suffer?

2. Safety is my second thought. It is obvious in the pictures that with wider sidewalks and boulevard, drivers will need to back into traffic.
3. Parking will obviously also be decreased due to crosswalks pictured, etc.
4. If sidewalks are being done if citizens agree with it or not, why not do the sidewalks the way they are and replace the boulevard trees. I spoke with 2 arborists that said hydrovacing holes and replacing soil in the tree's holes that they would do well.
5. If I would make the decision myself, I would:
 - Replace sidewalks to the same dimensions as they are
 - Plant trees in the boulevard
 - Continue with the planters and beautiful baskets as always
 - Hire a contractor to market Bentley and all the great things we have here now

People aren't avoiding Bentley because of the downtown visual . . . they just don't know what they are missing.

Lastly, if the boulevard is wider and the sidewalks are expanded, we will need to use the new by-pass to get round – a truck won't make the turn.

Elizabeth Smart, CAO