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## **Master planning survey open until end of August**

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Livingston City Manager Grant Gager, left, and Colorado resident Andy Rutz, principal/founder of Crescendo Planning + Design, work the city's booth at the Livingston Farmers Market on Wednesday.

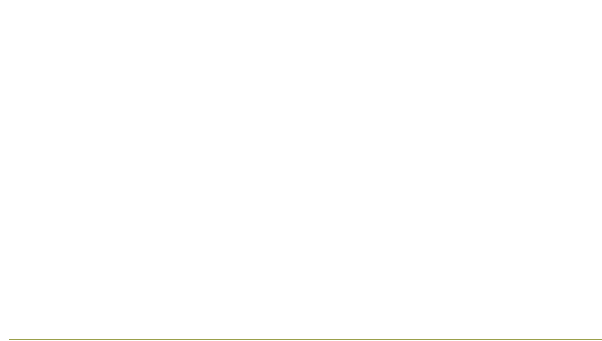
Sean Batura/Enterprise

Livingston residents are being asked to help plan the future of the downtown area, and as part of that master planning process, a survey is still live on the city's website — but only until the end of August, officials say.

The survey, which takes less than 3 minutes, can be found at <https://www.downtownlivingston.org/plan>.

There had been 291 respondents by early Wednesday evening, according to Andy Rutz, principal/founder of Colorado-based Crescendo Planning + Design, which the city hired to undertake the master planning process.

Rutz was on hand at Wednesday's farmers market with a large map of the downtown area spread out on a table at the city's booth, along with sticky notes for people to fill out with ideas for improvements. Some requests included more trees, a safer school bus route, an underpass/overpass at the train tracks, bike lanes on Park Street, more sidewalks, more workforce housing, more trees, better parking, facade improvements for some old buildings, and more.



Rutz said 90% of the people spoke to at the farmers market asked about the community wellness center project. More on that issue can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/mt3scvbm>.

Since the Park County Commission opposed holding an election in November on the question of a special district to fund operations at the wellness center, Livingston City Manager Grant Gager has been in contact with the fundraising entity for the wellness center to determine next steps. Gager, who was at the farmers market Wednesday, said he will have an update on the project to present to the commission next month, Sept. 5 at the soonest.

“I think one of the things we're most excited about is engaging with the community,” Rutz told the city commission at a Tuesday meeting. “We're spending today, tomorrow and part of Thursday trying to meet with as many stakeholders as we can, drop by local businesses, get to word out about this visioning survey. As you all know, the engagement part is the most important part of a process like this, so we're really going to try to be

intentional about providing a variety of touch points in-person, online, meet people where they are, try to leverage a lot of community events that the city already has in place so we're not asking folks to come to us as much as possible.”

The Downtown Master Plan will be the first comprehensive downtown area plan of its kind for Livingston, according to city officials. It will create a guiding vision focused on a holistic approach to promoting high-quality development, economic vitality and activities in the downtown area that encourage responsible growth while preserving the historic charm Livingston is known for,” reads the city’s vision statement for the project.

The Downtown Master Plan also will include:

- A Wayfinding Plan to help visitors navigate downtown more easily
- A Streetscape Improvement Plan that includes projects such as public art displays and street furniture throughout the planning area
- Recommendations for plan implementation, including identifying key partners and stakeholders
- Identify priority and transformative development/redevelopment projects in the planning area that include both short- and long-range opportunities
- A summary of potential funding resources to create and sustain downtown revitalization and economic development identified in the plan.

City Commission Chair Melissa Nootz has said the master plan will help guide what the city’s role should be in stimulating economic development in Livingston.

There will be future announcements as the process moves forward, including more opportunities for the public to contribute to the planning effort. The plan is anticipated to be complete in spring 2024, according to the city.

## WATCH

Presentation by Downtown Master Plan consultant Andy Rutz: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8jv2vp>