

THE MAIN THING

I'm on a 
Highway
to Help



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
Division of Local Government



Since the pandemic hit, a lot of government agencies and organizations have offered programs to help. One of the most impactful for our downtowns has come from an unexpected source – the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

CDOT developed the Revitalizing Main Streets Program to support infrastructure projects that provide open spaces for mobility, community activities, and economic development in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency. These quick-win activities will improve safety and create new community spaces to encourage healthy activity and mobility in Colorado’s towns and cities.

Colorado Main Street communities capitalized on this opportunity to enhance their parks, sidewalks, outdoor spaces, and much more.

Learn how to implement similar projects and utilize grants provided by the State of Colorado in our accompanying [How-To Guide](#).



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ABOUT THE MAIN THING

During these times, focus can be tough to come by. *The Main Thing* is a collection of resources compiled by **Colorado Main Street** to highlight innovations, give a thumbs-up to local practitioners, and encourage the spread of positive news.

SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

TOWN OF HUGO

COORDINATOR: GILLIAN LAYCOCK



PROBLEM



Deteriorating, uneven, broken, and narrow sidewalks along Town-owned properties posed safety hazards to residents. Additionally, many sidewalks required upgrades to meet ADA compliance.

Who was involved:

- Hugo Main Street
- Hugo Town Board
- CDOT Revitalizing Main Street Grant Program

SOLUTION



- Replace sidewalks in seven locations
- Focus on most-used sidewalks first

- Meet ADA compliance by building ramps the correct width and slope when entering from the street



“One Hugo Main Street Board Member shared that she drives behind the kids walking home from school in the winter to help ensure their safe passage home as they have to walk in the street.

— Gillian Laycock, Main Street Hugo

OUTCOMES



\$150,000
OF NEW SIDEWALKS



\$1,200
TOWARDS PUBLIC SAFETY



\$16,300
TO IMPROVE WALKABILITY
AND BIKING AMENITIES



THE SIDEWALK
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WILL DRASTICALLY
BENEFIT HUGO

THE POCKET PARK

TOWN OF CENTRAL CITY

COORDINATOR: LISA ROEMHILDT



PROBLEM



Central City recognized a lack of a safe outdoor gathering space for residents and visitors. A vacant lot between the Belvidere Theater and City Hall proved to be the perfect spot for this new space.

Who was involved:

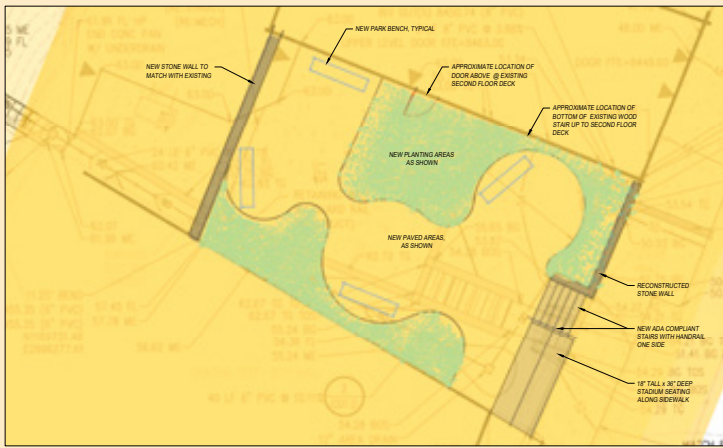
- Central City Mainstreet
- Public input
- CDOT Revitalizing Main Street Grant Program

SOLUTION



- Promote economic development by activating the lot near Belvidere Theater, named one of Colorado's Most Endangered Places by Colorado Preservation Inc. in 2016

- Turn the vacant lot into a 'pocket park' by enhancing its amenities



BELVIDERE POCKET PARK
CENTRAL CITY, COLORADO



DRAWN: 12/10/2020
BY: LARRY B. LUCAS, II, AIA

Site Plan

Scale: 1" = 7.5'

“ This project is intended to promote economic development by activating a vacant lot as well as public health by providing residents, visitors, and employees a safe outdoor space.

— Lisa Roemhildt, **Central City Mainstreet**

OUTCOMES



5

NEW BENCHES



2

NEW BIKE RACKS



\$2,700*

ALREADY INVESTED FOR A BENCH, TRASH CAN, AND HAND-SANITIZING STATION

*Funding provided by AARP



CENTRAL CITY'S FIRST PUBLICLY OWNED POCKET PARK IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE WILL BE FINISHED BY THE END OF SUMMER 2021

THE SIDEWALK CAFÉ

TOWN OF WINDSOR

COORDINATOR: MATT ASHBY
CONTRIBUTOR: LOGAN WARD
CONTRIBUTOR: DAVID LAND



PROBLEM



The Town of Windsor mobilized quickly to assist local restaurants when distancing restrictions were put in place. The temporary Town resources, however, were borrowed elements (tables and barriers), and had to be returned. Many items were also too large for sidewalks. Restaurants needed a more permanent solution to fit their needs for outdoor, distanced dining.

Who was involved:

- Windsor DDA & Main Street
- Town of Windsor
- CDOT Revitalizing Main Street Grant Program

SOLUTION



- Establish a sidewalk café kit-of-parts for businesses
- Find weather-appropriate elements to make the kits useful in both summer and winter



“A key element of the toolkit is the weather appropriate elements – shade structures for the summer, and greenhouses and heat lamps for the colder winter months.

— Logan Ward, **Main Street Windsor**

OUTCOMES



15

GREENHOUSES
ADDED FOR OUTDOOR
WINTER DINING



3

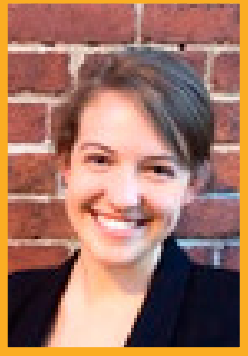
SIDEWALK CAFES
ADDED TO WINDSOR'S
MAIN STREET



RESTAURANTS WERE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR
CAPACITY WHILE REDUCING THE CHANCE OF
EXPOSURE TO PATRONS AND WORKERS

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Behind the scenes at CDOT are teams of people passionate about strengthening the relationship between the organization and Colorado cities and towns.



MOLLY BLY – PROJECT MANAGER OF CAN-DO GRANTS WITH CDOT

Molly Bly, who has been with CDOT since 2016 and a project manager of the Can-Do Grants since their introduction in June 2020, spoke with Colorado Main Street to provide a little more insight into the program’s goals.

The Can-Do Grants consist of two grants – one for community telework and one for Revitalizing Main Street (RMS), featured in this issue. These grants are funded by CDOT state funds; they are not part of a stimulus package or COVID-relief fund. CDOT recognized gaps in funding to support our struggling small businesses happening around downtowns. To better support local economies, CDOT formed the program to help both municipalities and businesses make adjustments promoting health and safety.

Whether a street is town-owned or a CDOT highway, the grant applies! To date, RMS awarded 64 communities the grant, and only 18 of these projects took place on a CDOT highway. “CDOT designed the grant to be less cumbersome. We issue grants through purchase orders, which cuts back on upfront paperwork and allows them to be deployed relatively quickly. Cities can implement projects

within a month and a half of applying,” Molly said. As a result, many creative and exciting projects are currently underway.

So far, communities have overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the RMS grant. “We’ve heard from applicants that it’s helpful for businesses, especially in mountain towns for tourism. There is a need for additional space for people to enjoy public areas in a new and different way,” Molly said. “The main thing that’s struck me is how creative and broad the implementation of this grant can be. If there’s a trail or downtown space, people can be creative and propose cool ideas that they may have been wanting to execute.”

At the time of this publication, \$3.3 million remains on the table for Colorado communities to utilize. Begin your application process [here](#).

