

## FAQs

NOTE: Not all questions will be answered, as the City may be waiting on information, state direction or internal processes to be completed. Unanswered questions are listed to show that the City is aware of the concern or issue. We will update unanswered questions as they are provided or finalized. Please continue to check back for updates!

Headings have a teal bar with text that is all capitalized.

## GENERAL

### Where can I get updates on G Street?

You can get updates about G Street through the following ways:

- Visiting the City's G Street webpage (<https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/g-street-activation-project/>)
- On social media. The City can be found on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X](#).
- Sending directly to: [GStreetActivation@cityofdavis.org](mailto:GStreetActivation@cityofdavis.org)
- Sharing your email with the City's Communication team so they can add you to an email notification list ([communications@cityofdavis.org](mailto:communications@cityofdavis.org)).

### Who is leading the project? Who can I contact to share my thoughts or to seek clarifications?

There are multiple staff that are assisting with the project. The easiest way to reach them is by emailing: [GStreetActivation@cityofdavis.org](mailto:GStreetActivation@cityofdavis.org).

### Does the City need to encumber the American Rescue Fund money for the construction by 2024 and spend by 2026?

The ARP funds have been allocated to this project for construction. Once we award the project to the lowest responsible bid contractor, a purchase order will be created that encumbers the funds. This meets the requirements of the December 31, 2024 deadline. We do have plenty of time to complete the project before the second requirement of spending all funds by 2026.

### What is the timeline for the project?

Barring unforeseen delays, the current tentative timeline is:

- Now – Ongoing: Conversations with businesses in downtown, especially those on G Street, about their interest in, and interaction with, the space
- Late August – Mid-November: Construction of platforms
- August: City meeting with businesses regarding the construction of the platforms
- Mid or Late August: Survey to businesses on G Street
- September: City meeting about the use and activation of the space
- Mid-November: Furniture the City ordered will be installed in public accessible spaces
- December: Event (TBD) to celebrate the completion of the platforms and additional meeting with businesses
- Ongoing: Use of space and future additions/adaptations of the space

### Where can I find the meeting materials and the dates that the City Council discussed G Street?

At the bottom of this page is the history of G Street, including all the City Council meetings and links to reports.

## CONSTRUCTION

### **Will businesses be notified before construction starts?**

Yes, businesses will receive a combination of the following methods about the construction, based on their proximity to the construction:

- Email
- Mailed letter
- E-notifications through the DDBA
- Social media
- In person

### **What is the status of the construction drawings and where can a person get the most recent version of the plans?**

The construction plans are final. The bid for the construction advertised on July 22, 2024 and bids were opened on August 9, 2024. Plans and specifications (not including standard specifications and other documents included by reference) and proposal forms, may be obtained by logging in at: [www.davisplanroom.com](http://www.davisplanroom.com).

### **Are the ramps and platforms ADA compliant?**

Yes, the platforms are ADA compliant. The furniture the City ordered is also ADA compliant.

### **Is there a plan to reduce the pitch of the street?**

No. A project that included reducing the crown (or pitch) of the street would have required reconstructing the entire street and there was not enough funding allocated for that and the construction timeframe was exponentially longer. It would have disrupted business operations for what the City believes would be an unacceptable timeframe. The platforms were chosen for the civic space to manage cost, construction time and to minimize disruption to the businesses along G Street and the community that regularly visits and enjoys the space.

### **Is there a way to create a walkway in the middle of the street?**

The middle of the street needs to be accessible for emergency personnel, including fire trucks.

### **The drawing of the space in front of the Davis Beer Shoppe is not clear, what happens to the Beer Shoppe after the November 2024 construction project?**

City staff met with the owner of the Beer Shoppe and there will be a platform, matching the rest of the platforms, in front of this business.

### **Will there be any meetings about the project after the construction is completed?**

Yes, City staff is looking to schedule a meeting after the civic space is open, and there will be regular check-in meetings moving forward to ensure ongoing lines of communication about the space usage, design, maintenance, business use of space and programming.

## **FURNITURE**

### **Is the furniture the City ordered ADA compliant?**

Yes, the furniture the City ordered is ADA compliant.

## **What furniture did the City order?**

City staff has ordered seating blocks (that can be re-arranged), round café tables (that cannot be connected) and bar-height seating with tabletop space (that can be connected for larger groups). The furniture that was ordered is to initially set up the space and have seating ready for the community to use. Additional furniture and seating can be added by businesses on G Street once a design guideline has been finalized and via rental agreements (see below)..

## **How did the City determine the color of the seating?**

The color palette of these public furnishings was based on input from the community meeting on October 4, 2023, and on recommendations made by the consultant team. In addition to meeting the public's preference for the function of these amenities, the furnishings must also be durable, appropriate for outdoor use, appropriate for other parks should the furnishings need to be relocated, able to withstand heat, direct sun and graffiti, moveable but not easily carried off, ADA-compliant, and priced within the City's budget. All these factors contributed to a limited number of compatible color options for various products being recommended to staff. Staff selected the color palette that worked best with the contextual references on G Street and that would also work well in other City parks. Please contact the City if you are a business on G Street that would like to add or include seating on G Street in front of your business.

## **How will groups larger than four people convene on G Street, such as parents with strollers, sports teams, professors and students, and large families?**

The block style seating may accommodate larger groups, but the furniture will be heavy and not conducive to moving around. The bar-height seating can be connected by the City for larger groups.

## **Does the City have a plan to secure more funding for additional seating or other amenities?**

The City does not have plans at this time to secure more funding. City staff will start working on that in early 2025, including seeking grants or other fund sources that may be utilized to make future enhancements to the space over time.

## **Will the City maintain the new furniture in the public right of way?**

The City will manage and maintain the furniture that the City purchased.

## **Will there be any meetings about the project after construction is completed?**

Yes, City staff is looking to schedule a meeting after the civic space is open and will hold ongoing dialogues as the project progresses into the future.

## **BUSINESS USE IN THE CIVIC SPACE**

### **On July 9th the City Council received a staff update on the G Street Activation project, including adjustments to the business plan from renting spaces to adjacent businesses to a shared public open space model, which can be used for community events. What does a shared public open space model mean?**

A shared public open space model means that the G Street project will result in a civic space where commerce can also occur. The Downtown Specific Plan, adopted in 2022, states that well-designed civic spaces are essential to achieving the desired built environment in the downtown. Civic spaces, also known as urban public open spaces, can take various forms to produce different environments, such as an intimate pocket park for a neighborhood gathering place or a large plaza for an active center. These downtown public spaces are categorized into "civic space" types and are regulated in downtown through standards customized for each type. The regulating code for civic spaces is in the City's Municipal Code section 40.14.100. The G Street civic space is a "Passage." A "Passage" is a non-automobile pathway that extends

from the public sidewalk into a civic space and across the block to another public sidewalk. The passage must be at least 15 feet wide between or through buildings. The G Street civic space is 60 feet wide, which is the width of the current distance of the street between the curbs. Typical uses of this kind of civic space include civic activity, commercial activities in support of civic activity, casual seating, and outdoor dining.

### **Why did the City Council change the business plan on July 9th?**

The goal of the G Street project is to create a civic space that is a vibrant hub of activity offering attractions, amenities, and benefits to everyone who lives in or visits Davis, including businesses, residents, families, and students. The design is one that everyone can enjoy, including those groups who may wish to rent it for a community event through the City's event permit process, or businesses that may choose to rent portions of the platforms for commercial activities.

The goal for G Street has been discussed at both the Commission and Council level and with the public. In these forums, it has always revolved around how to best create a shared public open space model. On January 12, 2023, the Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission voted in support of keeping the road closed to automobile traffic with the desire to explore creating common areas along the street where people can gather outside of the dining areas. On January 17, 2023, staff presented an exhibit to the City Council that provided a general idea of the project area with proposed functional spaces created in what was previously the street. Enhancements included boardwalks, or raised platforms abutting the sidewalks, which will provide the foundation for additional safe and attractive areas for offerings from the adjacent businesses and/or for public use. At the October 4, 2023 Community Meeting, staff presented two design concepts to the community. Both were based on a shared public open space model. Concept A maximized the platform spaces for casual seating and outdoor dining space and minimized the designated public gathering space. Concept B minimized the platform spaces for casual seating and outdoor dining space and maximized the designated public gathering space. On February 6, 2024, the City Council approved "Concept A" and a continuous rectangular layout and directed staff to proceed with the design. On July 9th the City Council directed staff to commence with the construction phase and affirmed a slight shift in direction by adding in the City purchase of furnishings to ensure that the platform spaces are fully activated for community use, while also leaving the option open for adjacent businesses to lease spaces for business outdoor seating use for those who may wish to do so.

### **If the platforms are for future businesses to rent for outdoor dining and alcohol service, why isn't the City staff incorporating their feedback on the design or constructing what each business needs or wants in the street in front of their business?**

City staff has incorporated the public feedback that it received at the October 4, 2023 community meeting and through the November 2023 community survey. The community overwhelmingly voted in favor of "Concept A" over "Concept B" with "Concept A" receiving 359 of the 506 votes cast (70.95%). The community was more split on the layout options that were presented, with "Layout 2" being slightly more preferred. While the two cross-section concepts (A and B) were presented in the survey to gauge how to best create a shared public open space model, the two layout concepts were to gauge the community's preference for the platform's areas shape and feel and how they interacted with the public spaces. The City Council approved Concept A and a continuous rectangular layout on February 6, 2024. When the Council approved the conceptual design elements, they also directed staff to proceed with the final design and construction plans.

Since the July 9, 2024 meeting, where the City Council authorized staff to commence the construction phase of the G Street project, City staff has received additional feedback and questions from the business on G Street. The questions and feedback range from design elements to concerns about how the business will continue to use the platform areas as expansions of their brick-and-mortar establishments. City staff will work with all of the businesses that wish to continue the use of their outdoor dining spaces. However, City staff have fiduciary responsibility and obligation to the community at large to use City resources for the public's benefit. Time and resources have been spent on community outreach and the final design of the project. The final design of the platforms, ramps, and lighting is reflective of the community's feedback, engineering best practices, practical and construction constraints, and the public's use of G Street as a civic

space.

City staff want to support the business and ensure that they continue to thrive in the downtown. City staff will continue to listen to businesses' requests for their specific wants and needs for the streetscape improvements in front of their business and will incorporate what they practically (and legally) can. The City Council is generally prohibited from spending public funds for private benefit. Therefore, staff will not make any recommendations for the use of public funds that appear to conflict with the California Constitution's Public Financing Sections (Article XVI, Section 6).

### **What do businesses do with their existing furnishing and will they be able to move their furniture back onto G St. after the project is completed?**

Businesses are required to remove all their outdoor platforms, fences, furnishings, lights, chairs, tents, umbrellas, etc. from the street by August 23, 2024, for construction of the G Street project. Businesses may choose to store these items for future use, or they may recycle or repurpose them. City staff is working on outdoor furnishing standards for any businesses that wish to enter into an exclusive use agreement with the City to use a portion of the platform for commerce activities. Only upon execution of the agreement and satisfying all the requirements and provisions therein will the business be permitted to acquire and place their furnishing in the public realm. Having a consistent theme to the quality and safety of the furnishings and materials along the corridor is a key project objective and the City is happy to work with adjacent businesses on incorporating business owned furnishings provided those furnishings meet or exceed the City standards.

### **When will the business see the furnishing standards and/or the rental agreement?**

City staff is working on both the furnishing standards and the rental agreement. Staff are also working on updates to the City's Municipal Code and other City administrative and regulatory documents. All these need to be consistent. Staff will post updates to the website and the FAQs as information becomes available.

### **What is the cost to the business to enter into the rental agreement?**

To be determined. City Staff is working on this. Staff will post updates to the website and the FAQs as information becomes available.

### **How much of the platform can I rent?**

To be determined. City Staff is working on this. Staff will post updates to the website and the FAQs as information becomes available.

### **How long is the term of the rental agreement?**

To be determined. There are various legal and liability issues that City staff and the City Attorney are developing. There are also policy considerations such as those that are discussed in the Downtown Specific Plan. Staff will post updates to the website and the FAQs as information becomes available.

### **What should we say to customers who cannot eat or drink on the street during construction?**

Businesses should please ask customers to enjoy the indoor spaces that each business provided to their customers before the pandemic and to pardon the City's dust and noise in the street during the

construction timeframe. Businesses may direct concerned customers to the City's G Street project website or staff for more information.

**Will businesses be allowed to use the sidewalks for outdoor dining and alcohol service during construction?**

No, the sidewalks must be kept clear during the construction of the G Street project.

**Will alcohol be allowed on the platforms after construction is done?**

Yes, alcohol sales and service will continue to be allowed pursuant to current State ABC rules, the City's Municipal Code, other applicable regulations and administrative processes and pending individual license agreements between businesses and the City on this block of G Street. An additional avenue may be available should the State legislation (SB 969) be adopted by the State.

**Will businesses be allowed to use the sidewalks for outdoor dining and alcohol service after construction is done?**

Please see above regarding alcohol service. All outdoor seating areas will be available for open outdoor dining for the community in all public access and public seating areas. City staff ordered seating blocks (that can be re-arranged), round café tables (that cannot be connected) and bar-height seating with tabletop space (that can be connected for larger groups). The furniture that was ordered by the City is to help set up the space and have seating ready for the community to use once construction is done. For businesses that wish to utilize an outdoor dining space area for their exclusive use, the City is drafting the parameters for license agreements to allow this on a business-by-business basis. Staff will be having further engagement with G Street businesses to work out these details.

**When is the next business outreach meeting?**

City staff is working on scheduling a date in September.

**Will there be any meetings about the project after construction is completed?**

Yes, City staff is looking to schedule a meeting after the civic space is open and for the foreseeable future afterward.

**How can businesses provide feedback?**

Businesses are welcome to provide feedback directly to staff by emailing: [GStreetActivation@cityofdavis.org](mailto:GStreetActivation@cityofdavis.org).