



508 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
(704)255-6200  
www.altaplanning.com

To: Town of Matthews Staff

From: John Cock – Alta Planning and Design

Date: June 28, 2019

**Re: Town of Matthews Mobility Plan: Meeting Summary from Downtown Business Owner Site Walk**

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*Notes below are summary notes from a meeting/site walk with downtown business and property owners held on June 27, 2019. Attendees included Town of Matthews staff (City Manager, Sgt. Nelson From Police Dept, Susan Habina-Woolard, Dana Stoogenke, Jay Camp), staff from Alta Planning + Design (John Cock and Emily Condon), and various business and property owners and employees. [Town of Matthews staff has the list of attendees]*

*In general, parking seemed to be the priority issue – attendees were generally seemed willing to prioritize more and better parking over streetscape enhancements.*

### **Key Issues and Suggestions**

- **Parking**
  - Not enough parking
  - Not enough handicap/accessible parking
  - Can't see past parked SUVs
  - Need employee parking/long-term parking in downtown
  - A municipal parking lot would help
  - Loading spaces needed
  - One-way circulation on RR parking lot is problematic
  - Perception of lack of personal safety (safety from crime) on RR parking lot prevents some from parking there, especially at night
  - People unwilling to walk to end of RR parking area or feel comfortable crossing Trade Street to/from parking lot
  - Some 1 hour parking spots needed
  - Add parking on Charles Street; also provide lighting
  - Use Windstream lot for parking?
  - Some ambivalence about parking enforcement
- **Traffic Through Downtown**
  - Speed of traffic through downtown
  - Speed of traffic on E. Charles; speed hump on E. Charles?
  - Drivers "fly" around Charles Street from Trade
  - Reduce traffic on Trade; provide alternative routes

- **Trade Street Design**
  - Bus stop at Pizza peel: when bus is present, blocks view of Matthews Station intersection
  - People can't get out of angled parking spots (due to traffic)
  - Consider reverse angle parking on Trade
  - Right in/right out at Matthews Station? (Difficult/dangerous turning in and out of intersection)
  - Consider leaving angled parking and not widening parking
  - Stairstep sidewalk on Trade is problematic
  - Too many pedestrian crossings on Trade
  - Some participants indicated that they'd rather have more parking than wider sidewalks
- **Pedestrian Comfort/Safety**
  - Add pedestrian lights at crossings
  - Street lighting at night not sufficient, especially on 300 block (Matthews Station block) of Trade
- **General**
  - Need more and better lighting
  - Downtown is a "tenuous business district"; don't make changes that will negatively impact businesses
- **Matthews Station**
  - Move food trucks to the green; currently, they take up a lot of parking
  - Lack of wayfinding for Matthews Station retail and public parking at Matthews Station (e.g., Library)
  - Wider sidewalks for ADA and sidewalk dining
  - ADA: curb ramps in wrong places, not enough of them; not enough HC spaces and not in the right places; steps; hard to get around outdoor dining to get around the railings
  - Concern that residents/guest at new residential development will use parking spots for retail businesses
  - Flooding in back alley
  - Need loading zones
- **Events**
  - Roads being shut down for events negatively affects businesses
  - Events affect businesses