

# City of Lexington – Downtown Enhancement Plan

## 25 Ideas to Enhance Downtown Lexington

<p><b>1. Achieve Minimum ADA Standards:</b> Remove barriers to pedestrians and accessibility – minimum width for ADA-compliant sidewalk is 36 inches (3 feet).</p>	<p><b>2. Curb Extensions and Sidewalk Paving:</b> Help to provide additional sidewalk space for pedestrian movement; maintain existing brick paving patterns, but develop new standards for new areas.</p>
<p><b>3. Sidewalk Trees and Seasonal Plantings:</b> Provide trees in select locations, allow shade while not blocking views of historical architecture; enhance/increase seasonal plantings.</p>	<p><b>4. Underground Utilities on Jefferson Street:</b> Reduces visual clutter and increases pedestrian mobility; small bulbouts as an interim solution.</p>
<p><b>5. Pedestrian Through Zone:</b> Create a consistent corridor along sidewalks dedicated to the movement of people; ideally 48" wide, with a minimum of 36".</p>	<p><b>6. New Color Scheme - Black vs. Brown:</b> New fixtures and furniture should be black, replacing the existing brown color scheme; will have the effect of a fresh coat of paint and creates a timeless and classic look.</p>
<p><b>7. Public Art:</b> Opportunities exist to install public art in the Downtown, which can bring a modern flair and visual interest to complement, without altering, the historic setting.</p>	<p><b>8. SmartArt Tour/Sounds Around Virginia:</b> Take advantage of smartphone technology and self-guide audio tours to promote the story of the area and the City.</p>
<p><b>9. Historical Markers:</b> Consider historical paver project, installation of historical markers (Clark Trail), and information kiosks to create interest and share information.</p>	<p><b>10. Wall Mural Opportunity:</b> Look for opportunities to create wall murals on large, blank walls to create interest and promote the City's attributes.</p>
<p><b>11. Public Greenspace Utilization:</b> Explore ways to enhance the Downtown's existing public greenspaces (Hopkins Green, Old Courthouse Green, etc...)</p>	<p><b>12. Wayfinding: Automobile &amp; Pedestrian Scale:</b> Implement the City's portion of the regional wayfinding system developed for Lexington/Rockbridge Tourism.</p>
<p><b>13. Sign Diet:</b> Look to consolidate parking signage to reduce sign clutter in the Downtown.</p>	<p><b>14. Gateway Improvements at "The Split":</b> The intersection of Main and Jefferson Streets is a natural gateway to the Downtown, explore ways to create interest and improve the pedestrian experience.</p>

<p><b>15. Two-Way Traffic on South Main Street:</b> Investigate making S. Main Street, south from Nelson Street, two-way; improves access to these portions of Downtown and removes commercial traffic from residential areas.</p>	<p><b>16. Nelson Street Bridge &amp; Gateway at Nelson and Main Street:</b> The addition of banners, plantings, and new lighting on and around the new bridge works to create a sense of arrival and serves as the Downtown's primary gateway.</p>
<p><b>17. Visitor Center Relocation:</b> Consider relocation the Visitor Center to a site within the historic core of Downtown Lexington; an appropriate site would need to have easy pedestrian and vehicle access, visibility, adequate parking and bus access.</p>	<p><b>18. New Streetscape Furnishings:</b> To create a more welcoming environment, work to install trees, lighting, bollards, trash cans, benches, planters, tree grates, etc...</p>
<p><b>19. Pedestrian Scale Lighting:</b> Provide new pedestrian lighting with hanging flower baskets, to create interest and improve pedestrian safety.</p>	<p><b>20. Updated Traffic Signals:</b> Provide new vehicular and pedestrian signals at all intersections, to improve appearance but also pedestrian and motorist safety.</p>
<p><b>21. Bike Accommodations:</b> Provide bike racks and sharrows in the Downtown to encourage cycling and improve safety.</p>	<p><b>22. Outdoor People Places:</b> Look for opportunities to provide <i>parklets</i> in the Downtown to create places for lingering and possibly outdoor dining.</p>
<p><b>23. Mid-Block Crossings:</b> Provide 6 mid-block pedestrian crossings in the Downtown (3 on Main and 3 on Jefferson) to improve pedestrian mobility and safety.</p>	<p><b>24. Washington Street Pedestrian Improvements:</b> As a primary pedestrian corridor, look to improve the pedestrian environment by widening sidewalks and removing barriers; alternating the removal of parking from one side of the street would necessary.</p>
<p><b>25. Placemaking Opportunities &amp; The Pedestrian Alley System:</b> The collection of many of the above ideas works to create an improved sense of place; additionally, look to improve the access to and visibility of existing alleys to serve as a secondary pedestrian system, improving access to parking and areas of the Downtown.</p>	