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OPEN HOUSES TO FOCUS ON DOWNTOWN ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY, ZONING

RAPID CITY--The public is invited to two open houses next month for an update of the Downtown Master Plan land use zoning recommendations and review of the downtown area architectural survey.

The first open house, hosted by the City Planning Department, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 from 2-6 p.m. in the Community Room of the City/School Administration Center, 300 Sixth Street. Topics for the session include a review of the Downtown Master Plan recommendations related to zoning and a summary of existing conditions. It is the first of several open houses to be held related to the zoning updates proposed in the Master Plan.

Participants will be asked to provide feedback and suggestions for the character of future development in the downtown area.

"The Downtown Master Plan, adopted in October, aims to make Downtown Rapid City a more prosperous, connected, active, welcoming, and livable place," said Sarah Hanzel, City Long-Range Planner. "Plan implementation is underway, with the top priority for the City being land use regulation (zoning) updates that will encourage mixed-use development and housing throughout downtown."

The second open house, hosted by the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission, will share the findings of the downtown area architectural survey. The session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8 from 4:30-6 p.m. in the First Floor Community Room of the City/School Administration Center, 300 Sixth Street.

The architectural survey is a grant-funded project for the purpose of conducting archival and primary records research, documenting architectural features of commercial buildings and hosting public engagement activities for area stakeholders. The project consultant will give a slide show presentation on the architecture of the survey area. This project has been financed with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior through the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office.

Hanzel says information gathered during the survey project will be used to guide preservation planning, promote community education about local history and encourage adaptive reuse of significant structures with the continued development of the downtown area.

For questions or comments about either open house, contact Sarah Hanzel in the City's Long Range Planning Department at 394-4120 or by email at sarah.hanzel@rcgov.org.