

PROPOSED



EXISTING

ISSUED: 05.30.17



SUNSET DRIVE GATEWAY - TIMBER CONCEPT

SUNSET DRIVE GATEWAY - BLOWING ROCK, NC

Blowing Rock Public Meeting Comments: May 30, 2017

1. Start Over!
2. Rethink the parking. Build another parking area. Not Grand enough
3. I am not in favor of removing any parking on Sunset!
4. We are about to spend a lot of public money to make an old service station look. I vote not now
5. I like the smaller more discreet signage on the bottom picture- but not the columns. The pointed tops-could that be changed?
6. 8-10 ft sidewalks are unnecessary, losing parallel parking is not okay, there is no need for a median, too much disruption to existing properties, the only thing I feel is appropriate is signage at the intersection of 321 and sunset to indicate where downtown is. What about doing something on the other side of 321? i.e. the old Scotchman building and the used car lot
7. I think we definitely need to improve the appearance and safety of sunset-like better lighting. Also need to address parking (town wide) handicap access, and signage currently is not visible and many visitors do not realize the additional businesses on Sunset exist.
8. No fences! Open and inviting, flowers instead. The #276 sunset dr. owners cleared the jungle at rear of property bordering school and replaced with Foot Bridge for mothers walkers and children to cross with ease. We want a warm welcome feeling from valley Blvd. to main street- of course, it will be if electric lines are replaced with underground lines. The renderings are both pretty and inviting thank you for your involvement
9. How, exactly, can you plan this roadway when you do not know what the long-term plan for the drugstore property will be?
10. 30 min parking on street, loading and unloading zones, signs for parking, indicate 10 min walk to downtown or 5 min walk to main street
11. Parking: some bus (antique) need to see into and don't want parking in front. Parking on street is critical for sunset and vine, even if just for 30 min. Crossings: have enough space to see between cars
12. Taking away parking on sunset anywhere from main to ransom is a poor, poor idea. Are you trying to kill the businesses there? Please reconsider this, as parking through there is a fundamental need!
13. The plans from section 1 and 2 are poor: we already have a parking problem—do not remove parking from sunset! For older visitors and residents, it is important to have convenient parking
14. Overall, I like just about everything that is proposed, I just don't want to spend a huge amount of tax dollars to do it. Id like to know more about the cost and how it may affect tax rate
15. Too common, too contemporary, ever visited Martha's Vineyard, Hamptons, historic areas? This looks like a Gatlinburg-ish common solution. Landscape has an artificial feel, unnatural and disengaged. Tree grates-ugh!
16. I would like to see the Blowing Rock logo on anything you put on fences or crossings at sunset. Would like to see studies on traffic and pedestrian traffic

done before spending millions of dollars. The town needs to address parking issues now! Who is paying for it?

17. Especially like a definitive and lovely entrance way, Plus more safety on Mains St
18. Impressive plans, I like a mix of both, Love the return of blowing rock hedges would like to see the other side of 321 addressed to have it done in a coordinated fashion
19. Doesn't really work unless old drugstore Blvd. and Rustinger sell- love the landscape in middle of street
20. I like copper caps and hedge border rather than fence, both signs look too contemporary signs should look like they have been there 100 years in design
21. Please share with the planning board: simplify tone this down some. More sidewalks 6/7 feet widen driving lanes. Not 10 ft. sidewalks. Get real! Americans aren't walking distances that you're imagining they will. And to have to trek back up main St.? You are dreaming. Rework the idea of sunset and valley Blvd. to reflect the entrance to a historical village. New concept is better but too modern,



4 Forty Four

June 1, 2017

Mayor J.B. Lawrence
P.O. Box 74
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

RE: Blowing Rock Gateway Project

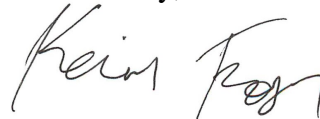
Dear Mayor Lawrence,

I recently attended a presentation of the Gateway Project by Destinations By Design that was held at the American Legion Building. I was quite impressed and inspired by the layout and drawings. The vision that was presented shows a gateway that can be enjoyed by those that live here and the visitors to our town.

As a business owner and tax payer of three units at the Glenwood office condominiums on Sunset Drive I would like to let you, the Town Council, and all involved know I wholeheartedly support the Gateway Project. I feel that I am one of many that would embrace and recommend that the Council proceed with this project.

We celebrate the fact that Blowing Rock has been presented with many awards for being a beautiful town and I believe that the completion of this project will make this "Crown" of the Blue Ridge shine brighter. Thanks to all of you, both Council and town staff, that have worked so hard to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Troyer
President
4 Forty Four

Cc: Mr. Albert Yount
Mr. Jim Steele
Ms. Sue Sweeting
Mr. Ray Pickett
Mr. Doug Matheson
Mr. Ed Evans, Town Manager



Thursday, June 08, 2017

Honorable Mayor and Town Council,

The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce would like to applaud the Council's forward thinking vision for the Sunset Drive Gateway concept.

As you know, the Chamber has been a strong advocate for making Sunset Drive the primary entrance to downtown Blowing Rock since before the widening of US 321 began. The design of the new highway has significantly changed the traffic patterns at both of the two traditional intersections of 321 business and 321 bypass to the extent that travelers may not see or be able to turn onto Main Street as they have in the past. Furthermore, we have felt that Sunset Drive has been neglected for many years deteriorating into an embarrassing representation of the Town. The EDC worked with Appalachian State to produce some very preliminary concepts to make the intersection of Sunset and 321 a spectacular space. The vision was to connect the heart of the town, Memorial Park and the new gazebo to the highway.

We applaud your leadership in stepping up and taking progressive steps to move Blowing Rock forward on a project that should return tremendous economic gains. The steps you have taken with this project have demonstrated your willingness to move past the negativity to create impactful change. We hope you will continue to use your best leadership skills to take the proactive steps necessary to see this through to the desired result.

Together,

Charles Hardin
President / CEO
Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce

Jim Pitts
Chairman of the Board



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June 8, 2017

Honorable Mayor and Town Council,

As a business leader, Chairman of the Board of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Blowing Rock Chamber Economic Development Council, I would like to express my support for the exceptional work being considered for the Sunset Gateway and Sunset Drive projects currently under design and being considered by the Blowing Rock Town Council. The most recent concepts reviewed by myself and our committee represent a groundbreaking opportunity for the Town of Blowing Rock and would continue to reinforce why Blowing Rock is one of the most visited communities in the North Carolina, highlight the vitality of our community to our visitors and the business community, and advance the Blowing Rock brand into a new and progressive era.

I would encourage the Mayor and Town Council to "stay the course" and not be derailed by the limited amount of negative feedback and special interests commentary that oftentimes results during periods of growth and prosperity. Your leadership is exactly what the Town of Blowing Rock needs to keep our town and community relevant in the tourism marketplace and to create new opportunities for reasoned growth and expansion in our economy.

Thanks for your consideration leadership and proactive steps in making the Town of Blowing Rock truly the Crown of the Blue Ridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James R. Pitts".

James R Pitts
BRMC General Manager
Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board
Blowing Rock Chamber Chair – Economic Development Council