



The Houston-Galveston Area Council hosted our Quarterly Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable and 10-year Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

Attendees heard an overview of the recently updated "Downtown Revitalization Guide for Local Governments"; heard an update on Historic Downtown Rosenberg; learned about tools and trends downtowns across the state are using; heard an overview of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; and shared highlights from their communities or consulting firms. Presentations from the event are available online at [Bringing Back Main Street Roundtables and Workshops | Houston-Galveston Area Council \(H-GAC\)](#).

Those in attendance also shared the “favorite things about their downtowns” by writing them on post-it notes and placing them on downtown illustrations around the room. While we did not have time to discuss the similarities and differences in the notes, ideas from the exercise could be sorted into three broad categories – retail; placemaking and events; and safety and infrastructure. Staff collected 27 notes, some with more than one idea included. Some notes could have been categorized under more than one topic.

Retail

Shopping, dining, and local businesses represent the ideas in the retail category, highlighting the essential need to ensure communities are attracting, welcoming, and maintaining businesses in their downtowns and that downtown plans consider ways to streamline business openings and operations.

Responses

- More businesses
- Shopping
- One stop shop – flowers, gifts, shoes, jewelry, and food – outdoor events and festivals – something for the whole family
- Unique shops (Dickinson)
- We have people eating, shopping, and doing business (Angleton)
- Vintage and thrift stores
- Locally owned coffee truck (Pasadena)
- New restaurants, Post HTX, easier to walk now
- Local shops (Liberty)
- Local restaurants (Dickinson)

Placemaking and Events

Creating walkable spaces with places for gathering, such as seating areas or a stage, were just a few of the ideas posted in the placemaking and events category. This category had the most notes, reinforcing the idea that providing activities and environments to draw people into downtown is essential to creating and maintaining vibrant, active downtowns.

Responses

- A stage
- Walkable, economic opportunities, potential to live, work, and play
- Community gathering place for events
- Love the people and diversity – want to see a sense of place and pride
- Downtown Austin live music venues
- Special events (Dickinson)
- Local shops, safe environment, human-centered design, walkability, trees
- Christmas decor contest
- It feels like a Hallmark movie (Richmond)
- Human-scale, built for people, shops, trees, lighting, and seating
- Love downtown square
- Scarecrow contest

Infrastructure and Safety

Lighting and visibility, pedestrian crossings, access to amenities such as parks and trails, and revitalizing downtown buildings top the list of “favorite things” about downtown in the safety and infrastructure category. This supports the concept of human-centered or human-scale design, considering the individual desires and well-being of the people who live, work, play, and visit downtowns.

Responses

- Walkability and high visibility, pedestrian crossing features
- Access to parks and trails
- Revitalized downtown businesses
- New streetlights that match
- Sidewalks and lights





