

Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza 2025

“What We Heard” – Community Feedback Summary

Thank you, Midland! Over 260 people joined the conversation this fall to share how the Pedestrian Plaza shaped their downtown experience. Here’s what we heard from the 190 people who took the time to respond.

■ Community Highlights

- **92%** of survey participants visited the Pedestrian Plaza between June and September 2025.
- People love the **free live music**, outdoor dining, and relaxed community atmosphere.
- The new **public restrooms**, landscaping, and cleanliness earned top marks.
- Families, friends, and visitors describe the Plaza as Midland’s **‘go-to summer spot.’**

■ What People Love

Community Connection: The Plaza makes downtown feel welcoming, safe, and vibrant—‘Midland at its best.’

Entertainment: Free, high-quality music and Friday/Saturday concerts create energy and excitement.

Social Scene: Meeting friends, grabbing dinner, and strolling with a Commons beverage are summer highlights.

Atmosphere: Beautiful flowers, cleanliness, and new amenities make downtown shine.

■ Opportunities for Improvement

- **Accessibility:** Add more handicap parking, consider short-distance shuttles or drop-off zones.
- **Comfort:** More shaded seating, umbrellas, and regular restroom cleanings during events.
- **Programming:** Offer weekday or Sunday activities, add variety to music genres, and adjust concert volume.
- **Retail Support:** Encourage later store hours and cross-promotions during Plaza events.
- **Design:** Improve barrier aesthetics and sound systems; better define dance/seating zones.

■ By the Numbers

Activity	Participation Rate
Visited a bar or restaurant	84%
Attended live entertainment	80%
Shopped retail	70%
Met with friends/family	74%
Enjoyed a Commons beverage	64%
Walked, jogged, or exercised	45%

■ Looking Ahead

Residents overwhelmingly want the Pedestrian Plaza to continue and evolve. Common ideas for the future include:

- Extending the season from **May through October**.

- Adding **Sunday afternoon entertainment** and daytime programming.
- Hosting themed events, **food trucks**, or pop-up vendors.
- Exploring **Commons merchandise** and loyalty cards.
- Improving accessibility through parking, signage, and shaded rest areas.

In summary: The Pedestrian Plaza continues to be a defining part of Midland's summer identity — a place where friends meet, families play, and the community comes together to enjoy our downtown at its best.

Thank you, Midland! Your input helps shape the future of our downtown spaces.



Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Survey - 2025

November 3, 2025, 1:48 PM

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Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Survey - 2025

Share your input on the 2025 Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Season

Summary Of Responses

As of November 3, 2025, 1:48 PM, this forum had: **Topic Start**

Attendees: 262 October 16, 2025, 3:00 PM
Responses: 190
Hours of Public Comment: 9.5

QUESTION 1

Did you visit the two-block closure of Main Street - the "Pedestrian Plaza" - from June through September 2025 ? (If the answer is "Yes", please select "Yes" and skip to question 3.)

		%	Count
Yes		92.1%	175
No		7.9%	15

QUESTION 2

If you did not visit the Pedestrian Plaza in 2025, what was your reason(s) for not doing so?

Answered 19
Skipped 171

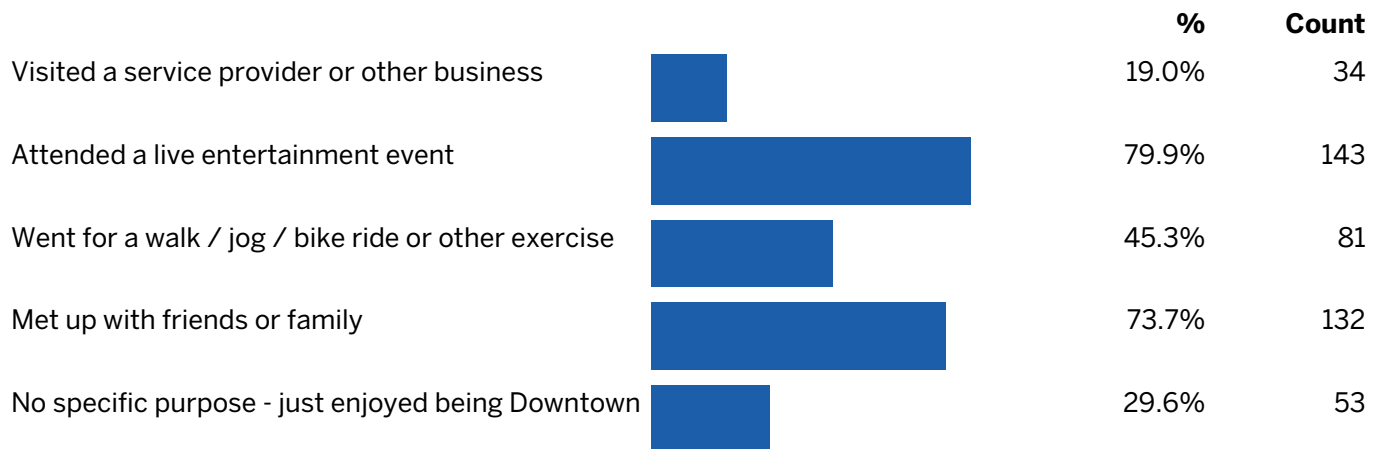
QUESTION 3

What did you do during your Downtown visit(s)? (Please select all that apply.)

		%	Count
Visited a bar/restaurant		83.8%	150
Enjoyed an adult beverage in The Commons		63.7%	114
Visited a retail store to shop		70.4%	126

Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Survey - 2025

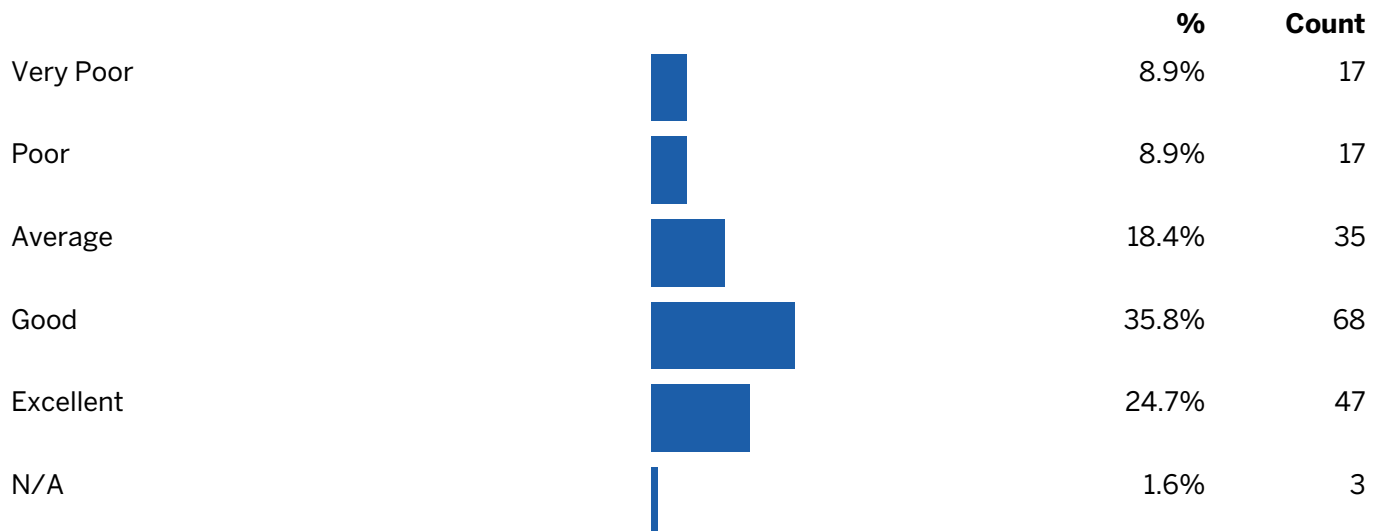
Share your input on the 2025 Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Season



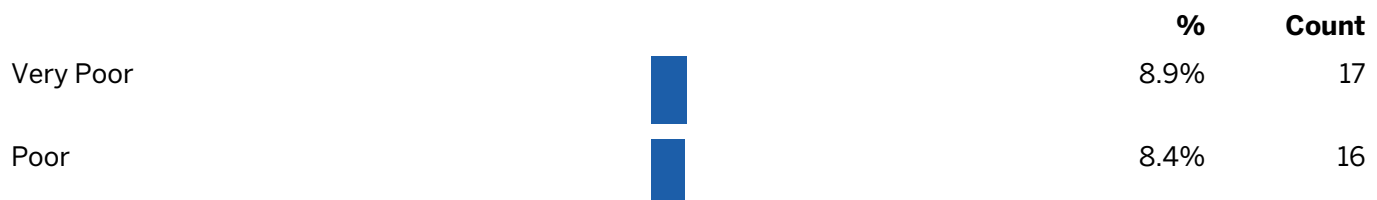
QUESTION 4

Please provide your perception of the following items during your visit(s) via the scale below. (Select "N/A" if not applicable.)

Parking availability

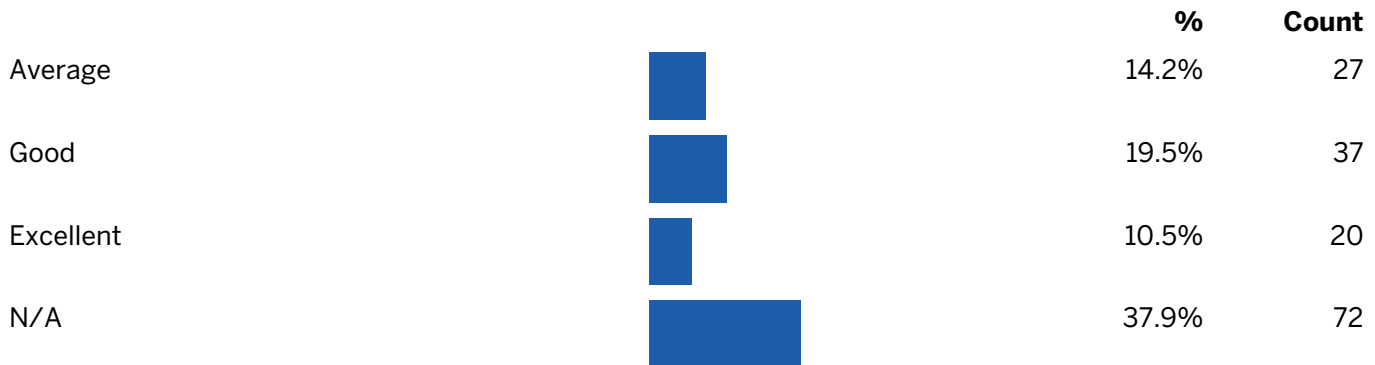


Ability to find & use nearby designated accessible parking

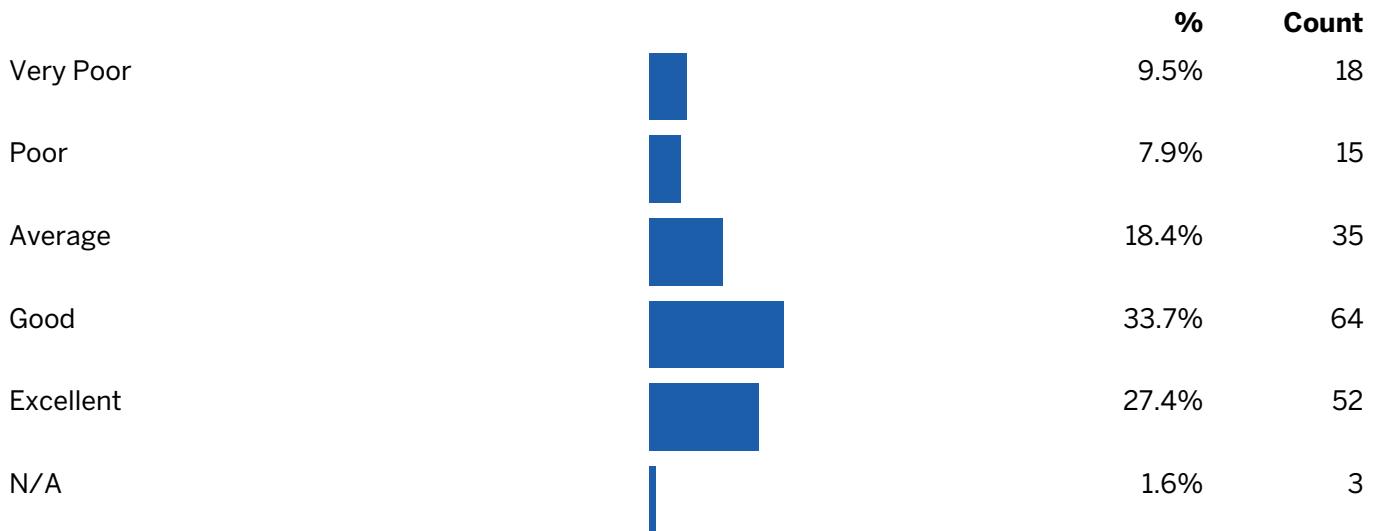


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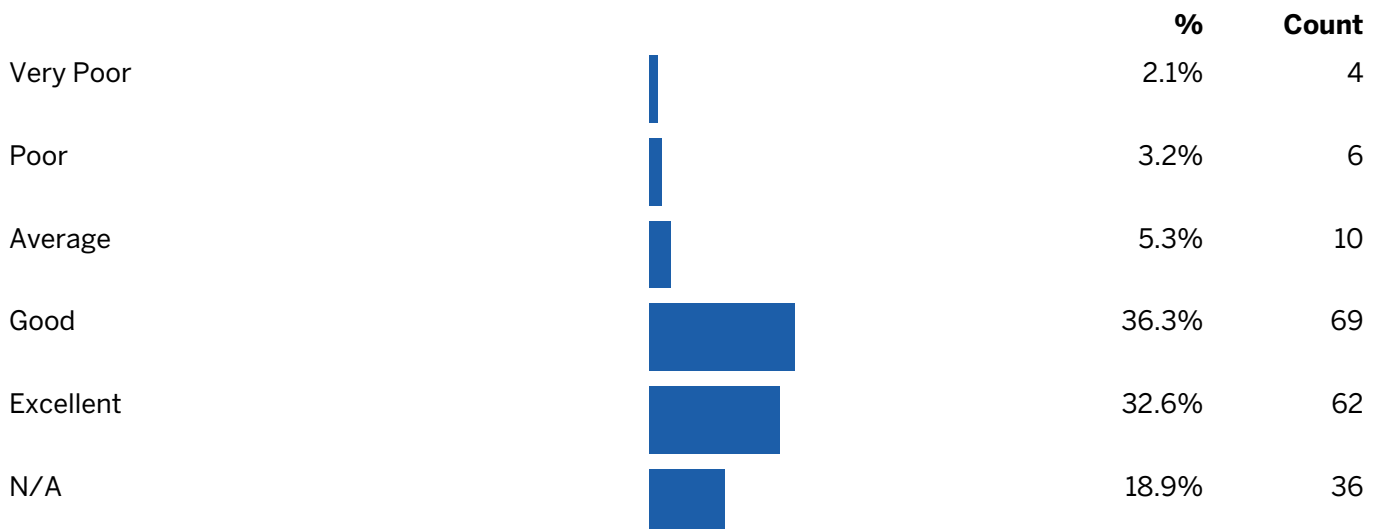
Share your input on the 2025 Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Season



Distance from available parking to destination









Availability of Pedestrian Plaza programming (open mic nights, exercise classes, events)









Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Survey - 2025

Share your input on the 2025 Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Season




Quality of live entertainment

		%	Count
Very Poor		2.6%	5
Poor		1.1%	2
Average		7.9%	15
Good		27.9%	53
Excellent		44.7%	85
N/A		12.1%	23

Overall liveliness of Downtown Midland

		%	Count
Very Poor		2.6%	5
Poor		2.6%	5
Average		8.4%	16
Good		22.1%	42
Excellent		56.8%	108
N/A		5.3%	10

Overall cleanliness of the Pedestrian Plaza

		%	Count
Very Poor		2.6%	5
Poor		0.5%	1
Average		6.3%	12

Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Survey - 2025

Share your input on the 2025 Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Season

		%	Count
Good		17.9%	34
Excellent		65.3%	124
N/A		4.2%	8

QUESTION 5

Did you utilize The Commons to enjoy an adult beverage within the designated area?

		%	Count
Yes		63.7%	121
No		30.5%	58
Not applicable		5.8%	11

QUESTION 6

Please list three things you like about the Pedestrian Plaza:

Answered	156
Skipped	34

QUESTION 7

Please list three things that would improve the Pedestrian Plaza:

Answered	135
Skipped	55

QUESTION 8

Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Survey - 2025

Share your input on the 2025 Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza Season

Please provide any additional feedback you have regarding the 2025 Pedestrian Plaza or thoughts about the future of the Pedestrian Plaza:

Answered	102
Skipped	88

**Key Findings - Community Survey Verbatim Responses
on the
2025 Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza**

OVERALL SENTIMENT

- Strong majority support for continuing and even expanding the Pedestrian Plaza.
- Residents view it as a signature community gathering space that fosters connection, vibrancy, and a sense of pride.
- Many say it makes Midland feel “alive,” “safe,” and “fun,” and that they bring visitors specifically to experience it.
- A small but consistent minority opposes the street closure due to perceived inconvenience, loss of parking/access, and business impacts.

WHAT PEOPLE LOVE MOST

Community & Atmosphere

- The sense of community and friendliness is a major draw.
- People appreciate the cleanliness, safety, and family-friendly feel.
- Residents enjoy the multi-generational mix and chance encounters with neighbors and friends.
- “Feels like a big city experience in a small town.”

Entertainment & Activities

- Free, high-quality live music on Fridays and Saturdays is the single-most praised feature.
- The variety of bands and outdoor social atmosphere are major assets.
- People love games, chalk areas, and children’s play spaces, which make it inclusive for families.

Food, Drinks, & Socializing

- The ability to dine outdoors and carry drinks (Social District) is a strong positive.
- The mix of restaurants, bars, and snack stops adds to the experience.
- Many mention “date nights,” “running into friends,” and “summer traditions.”

Environment & Aesthetics

- Positive feedback on new bathrooms, cleanliness, landscaping, and flowers.
- Visitors describe it as “beautiful,” “safe,” and “Midland’s best summer venue.”

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Parking & Accessibility

- Parking and accessibility are the most common concerns, particularly for seniors and those with mobility issues.
- Suggestions for:
 - More or closer handicap parking
 - Shuttle or golf cart service during events
 - Better access signage and clearer navigation around closures

Shade, Seating & Comfort

- Some want more shaded seating, umbrellas, or sun sails like those used in East Lansing.
- Additional seating for individuals and families requested.
- Several noted bathrooms get dirty on busy nights — suggest more cleaning during events.

Music & Programming

- Volume control is a recurring complaint — especially from nearby residents and diners.
- Desire for:
 - More variety (not all 70s/80s rock)
 - Sunday or daytime entertainment
 - Theme nights (e.g., 80s night, Christmas in July)
 - Expanded season (May–October)

Retail Access & Hours

- Shoppers note many stores are closed during evening events, limiting their benefit.
- Some suggest extending store hours or weekday/daytime programming to bring more daytime visitors.
- A few retailers expressed concern that street closure limits foot traffic to their doors.

Design & Infrastructure

- Aesthetics: want more attractive barricades, better sound system, and more defined dance/seating zones.
- Several asked to extend the plaza to adjacent blocks or make it year-round.
- Others (a smaller group) asked to relocate it off Main Street to improve access.

SAFETY & POLICY FEEDBACK

- Smoking and vaping enforcement: multiple complaints; stronger enforcement requested.
- Dogs: mixed opinions — some love dog-friendliness, others demand a no-dogs rule due to bites or crowding.
- Crowd management: calls for keeping walkways clear, chair placement guidelines, and marked dance areas.
- Requests for visible police presence (reassurance, not necessity).

FUTURE IDEAS

- More kid programming: fitness classes, crafts, balloon artists, or daytime games.
- Interactive features: splash pads, fitness areas, trivia nights, “mini markets.”
- Creative promotion: punch cards for frequent visitors, Commons-branded merchandise.
- Shuttle loops or partnership with Northwood, Dow Gardens, or MCFTA for connected routes.
- Sunday afternoon shows and late-season events into October.

Downtown Midland Pedestrian Plaza 2025 Survey

Verbatim Responses

If you did not visit the Pedestrian Plaza in 2025, what was your reason(s) for not doing so?

1. Parking not accessible; not really my thing to sit and drink.
2. I try to avoid it because the closure is inconvenient to me as a customer. I did go through the area and carried my purchases several blocks to my car. Love the convenience of fall shopping without the plaza.
3. Not interested in having to park a distance and walk to stores on Main Street
4. I was only walking through it to shop.
5. No interest in going there, nothing for senior citizens
6. Parking and too much alcohol
7. Not enough parking . We are customers of downtown businesses and Restaurants, not in the summer months of blocks closed.
8. It didn't appeal to me. I am a senior citizen that enjoys walking Main St.
9. The wife and my daughter turned 1 this summer, so our ability to go be social was very limited. In last years, before the baby, we frequently enjoyed the commons and were sad that we were unable to make it this last summer.
10. No parking. Long walk for people with mobility issues
11. we sit at least 1 block away off of Main St - music is way too loud, can't even talk to people we are with if sit on Main - even a block back is way too loud with some of the bands
12. Various reasons. Shopping, dining and music
13. Not interesting to me
14. Concerts
15. Have not purpose. It just blocks traffic and causes more congestion in the downtown area wasting more of my time to get where I need to go.
16. Could not find close enough parking and walking long distances or up hill are difficult.
17. Too hard to find convenient parking as I have difficulty walking.
18. We tried once. There were too many people and no parking.
19. Too congested no convenient parking for seniors or way to navigate to viewing area and bring your own chairs not user friendly for anyone with limited mobility

Please list three things you like about the Pedestrian Plaza:

1. I enjoy the games provided for people to play, such as corn hole and ping pong. I like that you don't have to worry about crossing the street - you can just cross. I appreciate that when there isn't live music, there is still music playing from speakers
2. Great place to meet up with friends! Love to grab dinner and a drink with entertainment (live music). Free family fun (live music)
3. free music.
4. I love that the kids can run free while we enjoy dinner and a beverage. Love the adult games. I love the energy when it is packed with a band playing.
5. Excellent gathering place for groups. Fun for kids (chalk, games, slides) and adults (music, adult beverages, food). Sense of community
6. live entertainment. commons area to enjoy adult beverages. activities and amenities available
7. A big city feel in a small city. Walkability. Meeting people
8. The community. Watching families being together. Reconnecting with friends as we are both down there randomly. All of the different music styles.
9. Provides a place for community involvement. Safe. attractive
10. Walking around with drinks. Live music. Seeing friends
11. absolutely nothing -- I hate that I cannot drive through the area
12. It brings people together in a large area that's well connected to many businesses. It's open and has a lot of places to sit, hang out, and spend time. It allows the outdoor dining areas of the businesses to expand substantially.
13. We liked the open space to walk. The more quiet area with no loud trucks.
14. Live entertainment. Beverages. Food
15. No traffic. plenty of options. unique atmosphere
16. no traffic. open atmosphere. recreation available.
17. It happens! Entertainment value. Meeting place
18. Very good setup with a stage for live music. Always meeting new people. Cleanliness of common area
19. The live music. The restaurants and businesses participating. Enjoying a night on the town with friends and family.
20. Lack of traffic and the noise that comes with it. Ability to be together outside with friends
21. Live music. Open area. Being able to visit retailers and restaurants
22. Enjoying adult beverages outside. The music and games. New bathrooms!
23. Live entertainment. Ability for everyone to get what they want and still eat together. Love the furniture.
24. Street atmosphere. Live music. Varied seating options
25. Other people like it.
26. The small town feeling.

27. Absolutely nothing
28. It's neat and clean. It provides outdoor seating for restaurants. The firepits
29. It is family oriented. Nice place to gather with family and friends. Showcases how nice our downtown is
30. Outdoor restaurant seating. Live entertainment. Safety
31. Extra seating. Community atmosphere. Live entertainment
32. Outdoors. Convenient. Safe
33. Meeting up with friends. Enjoying music on Fridays and Saturdays. Planning a meal downtown
34. Atmosphere. Space. Drink choices
35. expanded restaurant seating. games to play outside. entertainment
36. Sense of community. Games and activities for kids. Safety of not having cars and traffic
37. safe to roam. fun place to play. extended outdoor eating
38. Outdoors. Entertainment. People
39. Safe place for kids to play outside during dinner. Having the streets closed to mingle and dine freely. Business engagement with the pedestrian plaza
40. Atmosphere. The bands. Meeting up with friends
41. Seating. Ambience. Shopping
42. Free entertainment. The set up. Meeting old acquaintance
43. Atmosphere. More room for seating. Fun environment
44. Safe space for families to bring children. Sense of community. Variety of places!
45. Safe place to gather for fun. Good food options. Entertainment
46. It's a fun environment on summer afternoons and evenings. We love all of the activities. So many businesses in that downtown location that I often forget about but frequent during summer
47. Enjoy the music. Cost is free. Variety of food to choose from
48. Community. Outdoor activities. Music
49. Live Music. Be outside for drinks etc
50. Nothing At All
51. Safe. Consumer accessibility. Beautiful/Clean
52. Loved the ability to have drinks & dinner & wander through the area. We always run into people we know & it's fun to catch up!
53. Open area to meet with people and enjoy a good time. Ability to visit different shops and bars/restaurants in an evening. Enjoying the time outside with music and lots of activities.
54. Drinks. Socializing. Music
55. 0 0 0
56. Music. Beautiful atmosphere. Food/drink
57. Ample seating. Community spirit. Great restaurants
58. Seeing people out and about. The games like corn hole, ping pong. Live performances/festivals

59. Love the live Music & dancing. Enjoy eating outside, it's a beautiful area with really good food. The games are fun
60. Shopping. Restaurants. No traffic
61. the ability to do a small pub crawl. Stopping in and shopping in the stores between drinks and dinner. aviator cookie
62. Nice outdoor seating. Music was nice
63. Live music. Vibrancy of area. Pedestrian vs cars
64. It makes Midland feel like a community.
65. Variety of entertainment. Lots of community engagement
66. Meeting place. nice to dine and drink outdoors. great use of space for entertainment
67. Just that it exists. The new bathrooms installed in 2025. Bike lockup space
68. Area with games for kids and family. Access to restaurants. Community
69. Drinks. Outdoor restaurant seating. Dog friendly
70. The friendly atmosphere. People are so pleasant! The city was welcoming! The multi generational activities available. The freedom to walk and talk and sip an adult beverage
71. Family friendly. Good events and entertainment. Fun!!
72. Great place to have fun with friends and family
73. Great music. Seeing the crowd enjoying an evening out. Community spirit
74. Children's play area. Plenty of seating. Blocked off road
75. Safe. Lively. Addition of bathrooms
76. Entertainment - was great. Accessible bathrooms- loved new restrooms. Long season June through the end of September
77. Family Friendly. The games such as golf, ping pong, corn hole. The live music
78. Social District. Live Bands. General Atmosphere
79. outdoor games. relaxation of no traffic. friendliness
80. Plenty of seating. Music. Ice Cream at Heather & Holly's
81. The live music. Especially Jedi and the Rock Show. The new restrooms. Seating
82. The sense of community and SAFETY is unmatched. Seeing my community have fun together is great. It is so fun, the atmosphere. No matter what I can count on going downtown for a good time. I love all the events and music. It's my favorite place to be in the summer
83. music, ability to eat at restaurants, ability to play games
84. The atmosphere. Perfect for date night. Games are fun
85. Entertainment. Hometown feel. Beautiful flower beds
86. Number one is the live music on Friday and Saturday nights! Extra seating to eat outside. Special events like art show
87. Cornhole/Ping pong. Socialization. Live music
88. Location. Family friendly. Amount of options for drinks and food
89. The live music. Watching people enjoy dancing. Outside community event
90. Socializing with friends outside. Free entertainment. Close to home
91. Music. Sense of community. Retail availability

92. Family friendly. Can enjoy multiple establishments as a group (people can pick and choose where they eat or drink). Outdoors option for food, drink, and entertainment
93. Open space. Fun environment. Ease of access
94. Music. Atmosphere. Food
95. things for families to do. music. utilized for various things
96. Fun place to meet friends. Good entertainment. Good restaurants and bars
97. Atmosphere, friendly/safe. Great music/crowds. Access to a variety of foods, etc.
98. Loved the outdoor music. Appreciated the available bathrooms and trash containers.
We were happy that stores were open so we could shop and snack.
99. Community-centric. live entertainment. food trucks—more of these!
100. Entertainment. Park like atmosphere. Adult beverages
101. Good entertainment. Food. People enjoying down town.
102. Great bands with a variety of music. No-cost close parking. Several food/beverage options
103. Variety of bands. Like the bands on 2 nights. Easy to be in a group of people watching the bands
104. Live music. Varied age groups. Three Bridges has live entertainment after the feature band finishes at 9
105. A lot of seating. food and beverages to go. lots of people
106. The Commons Beverages. Live Music. Setup to keep kids entertained
107. Games for kids. Music. Cleanliness
108. Closing Main Street, making it pedestrian only. Concerts. Outside dining by restaurants
109. Music. Atmosphere. Food
110. Being able to eat and drink outside and during events. Love, love, love that Main Street is Closed to vehicles for the summer. The live music!!!!
111. Walkable sidewalks. Fosters community. Adds to the culture of our city
112. Commons bands. Dancing in the street especially this fall. Having a drink from 3 bridges while enjoying a band at the Commons
113. Atmosphere. Entertainment. Impact on local businesses
114. Activities for families. Live music. Picnic tables
115. Social engagement. Alcohol commons
116. Music. Atmosphere. Cleanliness
117. The music. Gathering place for families. Fun and entertaining
118. Nothing. nada. not a thing
119. Music. Outdoor drinks. Free
120. Place for community to gather together. Can take drinks with you. Music
121. Music. Sidewalk artists. Games and murals
122. Community place. Open atmosphere. Beautiful plants
123. Being able to stroll without worrying about traffic. The increase outdoor dining options. The Commons

124. Good place to meet with friends and family. Clean and Safe. Great atmosphere.
Great Live Events.
125. Open seating. Clean environment. available trash bins
126. Live music. Kids section. Open alcohol
127. Outdoor eating. Landscaping
128. When it's over and I can park and access restaurants again. The whole thing makes me not go downtown. When it's gone. Takes up two whole blocks and makes it pointless to go down there.
129. Great for the community, brings people together. It's a free space to be and so few things are free these days. The drink offerings are great with a nice variety, there's something for everyone.
130. Live music. Bringing people downtown. Fun things for kids
131. Live entertainment. Local restaurants and cafes. Local shops
132. Concerts. Outdoor dining. Walkability
133. Open mic nights. Fun atmosphere. No worries about traffic
134. Mini golf. Live music
135. Music. Being able to have a drink outdoors. Games for kids
136. Comfortable gathering for community. I met some new friends while walking around with my dog. Comfortable eating area
137. The live music was fantastic!! Enjoying a pizza and beer while listening to the band!
It's free entertainment unless you choose to purchase food and drinks or go shopping!
138. Easy access to live music. Able to bike from home, park and walk for the evening.
Always good to get some food or drink with friends.
139. Openness. Atmosphere. Proximity to shopping
140. Feels community oriented. Makes downtown even more of a destination.
Encourages people to stay downtown, not just stop and leave
141. Community gathering place for all ages. Walkability. Diversity of food/beverage choices
142. I enjoy the social district so I can buy a drink from any bar and carry it while walking around. The games are free and allow me to play with friends/family when they visit.
Most of all, that fact that it's free and music is on two weekend nights so I can always make it.
143. The games. The seating. The entertainment
144. Variety of bands. Outside seating. Ability to purchase drinks
145. Live music. Affordable activity. Liven up Midland
146. The Concerts. Having a space with no vehicles. More space for outdoor Cafes and events
147. Easy access, cleanliness, beautiful
148. Free concerts. Adult bevs. No cars, bigger patios for businesses
149. Live bands are fantastic! Coolest thing in Midland by far. Great food options. Bands playing after 9:00 at Three Bridges!!

- 150. Entertainment. Atmosphere. Warming Stations
- 151. Clean. Many activities. Feel safe
- 152. Seeing members of the community out and about. Good place to meet up with friends. Good and safe to take visitors
- 153. The community. The ease of access. The outdoor seating
- 154. The concerts. The opportunity to eat outside while enjoying events. The space to move amongst the businesses without traffic on those few blocks
- 155. Casualness. Community. Variety
- 156. Appreciated the energy, and atmosphere. Walkability. Live Entertainment

Please list three things that would improve the Pedestrian Plaza:

- 1. I would advertise later hours in places other than bars for teens to be able to hang out I would provide more games to play, like pool, shuffleboard, foosball, air hockey, etc. Since the aforementioned games can't be in the rain, provide a shade for the outdoor games
- 2. Drinking Water fountain. More late night food options. More bathrooms
- 3. Having it open to traffic during the day when there are no events. more handicap parking. Timers on the fire pits. Like a hot tub at a hotel.
- 4. Have it be open from May-November
- 5. a Rod Stewart cover artist would be nice. more speakers (The area of McDonald street for concert viewing doesnt have the best sound)
- 6. More businesses open in after hours - esp during Taste of Midland.
- 7. more signage so people don't sit in the walkways that should be be open. people need to understand liquor laws & cannot bring their own into it or argue w/K. the locks on the bathroom are so teeny to read
- 8. Choose entertainment that has a generational appeal. Shorten the season. Continue to keep it safe
- 9. Better stores. Less vacant buildings. More choices far bars
- 10. Eliminate it
- 11. More programming of the plaza throughout the week days. Try events for kids during the weekdays. Bring in bands/live music at other times than just Friday and Saturday nights.
- 12. The traffic barriers could be more esthetically pleasing.
- 13. more handicap parking spaces. More effort to keep walkways and sidewalks clear during live entertainment
- 14. extend the area. extend the time frame. buy in from all the businesses
- 15. businesses open later, especially on weekends. more covered areas in case of rain. It's temporary. This could be enjoyed year round.
- 16. Community involvement. Participants actively listening dancing and singing. Shut down the eateries so people can focus on enjoying the entertainment not as much talking!

17. More available parking. Outside vendors. More choices for food
18. NA. NA. NA
19. Don't allow bicycles and scooters in the Pedestrian Plaza. Start it in late April and keep it until the end of October or even through the holidays
20. Designated clean up crew after concert evenings
21. More seating for concerts. More ping pong tables. Access to free water
22. Kids entertainment - ie the balloon guy from the farmers market. Reusable cups
23. Add food trucks to the existing businesses
24. More staffing at local bars/restaurants to reduce lines. More casual food options
25. Move it to less used blocks near Townsend Street. Move it to Larkin Street.
26. Hang lighting across the street from the buildings
27. Eliminate it
28. Later hours. More food offerings. Better announcements of upcoming activities
29. Turn down the volume! We left a couple of times because it was too loud. Get those empty buildings filled! Encourage restaurants like Amazing Deli to stay open. Allow food carts.
30. More food options. More shade options
31. make barriers blend in more with Main Street vista. Have more weekly events like store markets. find a business for former Oscars building, it is a real problem
32. Longer season. More kid events like mini golf on main
33. open longer/more of the year. programs/activities during the day, maybe geared towards kids/families. additional games to play
34. Parking. Shorter season. The plaza excludes other businesses in the area.
35. A few more bars. A few more restaurants
36. More shaded seating. Afternoon entertainment. Vendors
37. Parking. Less focus on alcohol. Inability to get to the stores when handicapped
38. It's good the way it is
39. The furniture got pretty dingy. More regulations on people putting chairs on sidewalks etc. More events
40. Shuttle service for those with mobility issues. Easy access to schedule online. More evening scheduled
41. More parking options
42. Bigger space for sitting and parking. Cleaner bathrooms during entertainment. Better parking space
43. Staying open all year
44. Longer season. Sunday live Music
45. Stop closing down the street
46. Add temporary handicap parking on side streets. Add more shade. Increase recycling
47. Maybe a canopy area that would allow time to enjoy outside in poor weather. Maybe extend past the current boundaries to Brinstar or toward Cafe Zinc. Keep encouraging more family friendly events.

48. Businesses that actually sell stuff that people care about
49. More bars. More tables and seating. Larger commons area
50. The lawn games are great, possibly consider adding a few
51. Shops open later
52. Make it permanent. N/a. N/a
53. I wish there were more fitness options all I ever see is pound, other music workouts would be fun. The drink lines sometimes are very long and slow on music nights good to see a few outdoor bars. Keep trying to keep the walkways open please sometimes it feels dangerously obstructed.
54. Use side streets instead of Main, to improve access to downtown businesses
55. Having more variety in restaurants/styles. A few more of those heaters for beginning and end of season evenings when the sun goes down. having designated fun zone/walking paths...it can get crowded near the pingpong tables!
56. ADA parking. Many times nothing close enough to walk. Wheelchair parking not available. Need better cleanliness. I was disappointed in the amount of trash. Trash cans overflowing
57. Stores open late at least one night. Prettier ways to block off road
58. Improving pedestrian and bike access from town to the main street area from a safety POV
59. Parking. Parking. Parking
60. Parking
61. Sunshades like downtown East Lansing uses.
62. More of same
63. Possibly a hot dog cart on both ends of the street? Maybe a more detailed description of the music offerings. Restaurants opened in the daytime.
64. Crack down on people bringing in food and drink. Smokers :(
65. Sunday afternoon entertainment
66. Keep crosswalks and sidewalks clear. Get people to understand value of forming rows with their chairs we really enjoy going downtown
67. Better music options, less geared towards 70-80's. More children play areas
68. Keep it up through mid Oct. More benches
69. Better defined dance area for popular dance bands ie SSR, Jedi, Rock show, etc. More accessible food & beverages - to avoid long lines & wait times. More theme nights like the 80's night- with special activities, pictures & games
70. not as many instrument bands, more locations for dinning and drinks
71. More Food Options. No Smoking
72. more games. keep games out longer--we missed the window for putt golf. have game supplies at more locations - or easier to find where to get them
73. NO DOGS! NO DOGS! Please, no dogs where there's food present or music being performed.

74. More vendors. Less putting up folding lawn chairs hours before the music and not showing until music is half done
75. volume of the bands be turned down
76. More games. More seating
77. No blocking walkways. No bikes on sidewalk during music events
78. Another game possibly. Extend into first week of october
79. Another public bathroom with multiple stalls. Having it run later. A prepaid boxed dinner from a downtown restaurant
80. More tribute bands. Run the firepits on chilly nights more consistently. The bands played longer
81. Sunday afternoon entertainment
82. Would love the season to be expanded even more
83. Larger area. More events. A longer time it's open
84. Christian band. Food carts or trucks
85. more things to do during day hours with kids
86. Add the tridge area
87. designated dance area. aisles for moving about/exiting. This is a safety concern!
88. No smoking or vaping
89. Food trucks
90. No dogs ! Cover for the band stage
91. Need a more conspicuous bathroom occupied indicator The current ones are too small to see after dark
92. Police presence. I feel safe but it wouldn't hurt to have law enforcement on a regular basis. No smoking. More trash cans
93. Parents need to watch their children better. more business open
94. More things for kids ages 3-6. Not allowing motorized scooters on sidewalks. Some stores open later/Commons Merch
95. More availability to use restrooms. No smoking/vaping. Better bands
96. Make it year round instead of seasonal. Improve the quality and physical appearance of the barricades used to close the street
97. Dance area marked off so people dont sit too close. Band play longer. Cheaper drinks
98. Better enforcement of the no smoking policy!!! Smoking and vaping is a real problem. Extend the time allotted for the live music on Fri & Sat to 10pm ???
99. Shorter season, especially regarding road closure. Help retailers. Very focused on entertainment and dining. Curious about retailers' feedback.
100. Better choice of entertainment. Better screening of past crowds should be all you need. More handicap parking. Better policing of those smoking mauriuana
101. New furniture needed. Better grass throughout the plaza
102. More handicap accessible parking
103. More food trucks. Monitoring of e-bikes going through crowds
104. More lunchtime events. Maybe adult nights only

105. More shade availability. Concerts on Sunday. More trash receptacles
106. Don't have it. Stop blocking the roads for stupid stuff. Hold it somewhere else
107. Sounds quality. Shops open later
108. Better paths to get through crowd around stage. More opportunities to meet people on evenings & weekends. More ways to meet people and actually talk
109. More accessible for people with disabilities. More handicapped parking close to main Street.
110. Ability to park close to the stores. Ability to shop the downtown merchants
111. Sound systems for concerts need improvement. Food trucks would be fun. Night farmers market
112. -
113. Bigger kids section. Food trucks. A bar on main st
114. Shade, it's too hot. Sun shades. Large potted trees
115. Moving it. Move it. Put it at Emerson Park or somewhere there is room
116. Get Northwood University more involved - many students say they don't know Midland has a downtown. As someone who works downtown, parking is difficult during the summer... During the Dow Championship, the turnout was very underwhelming... more promotion during that week?
117. The high back white rocking chairs obstruct viewing the stage during concerts. See below. See below
118. More Clapton County Boyz music on open mic nights. Festive overhead string lights. Food trucks so I can try fun new local flavors at places like 3B
119. More variety of live bands
120. More bars with to go drinks. More seating outside of specific restaurants. Stores actually being open past 4 pm
121. Love the new bathrooms. Handicap parking for the entire summer. Weekday hard to get to shops.
122. food trucks
123. Set seating areas/rows around stage so people know where to put chairs and don't block the sidewalk. Set area for dancing. More free dance classes or informal meetups for different styles (swing, line, ballroom dance, ect).
124. More theme nights. No Northwood scavenger night during bands, couldn't this on a Thursday instead. Bring in a couple of food trucks for a bigger variety of choices
125. A cover or roof over the Concert Stage. That would help prevent cancellations & Protect Equipment.
126. More seating for one or two people. Nice to see picnic tables, however more chairs or benches needed
127. Get something in the old Oscars. Delivery of food on roller skates
128. More Midland-based bands, like The Socially Distant Band! Food trucks. Drink specials outdoors.

129. More shady areas for people to sit. More handicapp accessible free parking. Not everyone can walk far and not everyone has wheelchair.
130. More budget friendly options for quality food. Permanent outdoor games to play
131. Keep it open for later in the year! Don't need music playing from the speakers all the time. More tables/benches for bigger groups
132. Keep it open for longer in the season. Music over PA doesn't have to be playing as often/so loud. seating for larger groups
133. More access to parking, especially on Loons game nights. Some shade especially earlier on summer days, canopy's? More options for dessert
134. Types of events. Access to event info prior. Different foods
135. Difficult to find out what the entertainment schedule

Please provide any additional feedback you have regarding the 2025 Pedestrian Plaza or thoughts about the future of the Pedestrian Plaza:

1. Love it! Keep up the great work!
2. I love this addition to Midland! It is such a wonderful space to gather and socialize. Well done!!
3. Love the addition of the new bathrooms!
4. cannot wait until next year!
5. I am concerned that the few Main St. businesses may be losing customers because shops seem less accessible.
6. There are so many other areas of the city that are underserved -- why focus on the downtown. I do not go there when plaza is in place so therefore I do not shop or go to restuarants during this time.
7. This is a wonderful public space for Midland and for downtown but too often the space is vacant and underutilized - this is what leads to complaints that closing the street to cars is detrimental to business. The DDA should look to fund and bring in creative programming throughout the day and weekdays beyond just evenings and on Friday and Saturday nights. Some ideas of additional programming could be for kids under 18 during the weekdays, events or activities that collaborate with older adults and Senior Services, or maybe a DJ on a Wednesday night or in the middle of the day on a Thursday.
8. progress has been made keeping walkways and sidewalks clear during live entertainment but still needs work.
9. It was a great idea when it started, and has continued to enhance the downtown area.
10. I would like punch card for visiting estbmnts giving free drinks after x purchases. You go and spend a ton but no deals to speak of. Some ready made popcorn would really rule. Like dow diamonds. Family friendly deals, not having to spend a whole bunch on one outting!

11. My family enjoy going to the plaza, having a drink, eating and visiting the business. It's a great way to bring the community together. So many kids! It's awesome seeing the kids playing bags or ping pong. The addition of the public restrooms was very nice too. I still used the porta johns most of the time but the public restrooms are a very nice touch. I really hope community members were respectful and didn't destroy them.
12. Have more activities for special needs and disabled programs
13. Other people enjoy it.
14. This needs to stop. The streets need to be open for cars that's what they were designed.
15. Keep it. It's a great place to take visitors.
16. Bad idea. Suited for younger people ont
17. I love it. Summer is beautiful in Michigan, and this allows a pleasant, unhurried way to enjoy being outside. I really encourage you to continue it next year.
18. This feature provides a draw for downtown Midland. Definitely a positive for downtown.
19. Better combine River Days with more downtown events.
20. Pedestrian Plaza is great for downtown, just need more businesses/restaurants located on Main Street
21. We've enjoyed the pedestrian plaza since before we lived in Midland and look forward to it every year!
22. Include different locations within the city.
23. Clearer signing for bathroom location for parents with potty training toddlers. Drinking water readily available.
24. My husband and I love it downtown. Keep doing what you're doing because it's great! Midland is very lucky to have this space to spend evenings with friends and family to enjoy the outdoors with great bands and fun atmosphere. Thank you!!
25. Thank you for doing such a great job! It is my go to!
26. Why on main Street when Midland has so many parks that are more family oriented
27. I would like the Pedestrian Plaza to be a year round thing. It gets me into the stores and restaurants more than I normally would.
28. Keep it going! It's so much fun and brings a lot of people downtown in the summer.
29. Love it. One of my favorite things about Midland.
30. Make more room and sitting and parking space. Clean bathrooms during entertainment cause they get bad
31. Lasts too long. Can't enjoy downtown with the blocked streets
32. I hope it continues. It definitely increases how often we visit and spend money downtown. We go to businesses we wouldn't normally visit and it has become a destination when we have out-of-town and out-of-state visitors who always comment they wish their community had something as nice as we do.
33. Love the new bathrooms!
34. I love it. I'm so impressed and show it off to our friends and family when they come into town. Everyone really enjoys their time there.

35. Parking is horrible for customers that want to day shop with walking blocks to shop, the ally way in the back of shopping is terrible .
If you do go to the Commons at night ...The stores are mostly closed along with Restraunts.
We go down to Ace on Thursday to listen to Blake Hinson playing guitar/singing with family movie night
36. Thank you for hosting/organizing these events. We visited many days this summer - weekends and weekdays - and had such a lovely time. I have nothing negative to say!
37. Thank you so much for making Midland Commons so fun! Midland has become an exciting town to live in and visit! We enjoy many of the bands, Sunday afternoon entertainment would be great!
38. We stayed at the H hotel for our anniversary for 2 nights, we had a great time at the ballpark, restaurants, and bars!
39. Please open Main St, and use one of the side streets instead. Closing Main Street makes access to our downtown area more difficult for people with disabilities and mobility issues.
40. I found it hard to go into shops in the closed off area
41. Please keep this idea going--it's one of the nice things about Midland!
42. Maybe close one block for disabled parking.
43. Great job!
44. Sunshades like downtown East Lansing uses. They have potters on a pallet for easy placement. The potters have metal poles in the center to connect sunshades to. Having more shade would allow families to spend more time on Main without worrying about sunburn.
45. Keep doing and expand
46. Looking forward to getting back out there next summer with a slightly more capable toddler.
47. We really enjoy going downtown in the summer - so keep up good music!
48. We love the entertainment provided and often come from Saginaw to hear the music and dance in the street!
49. Overall I love it. We meet there, mostly on music nights, for dinner and drinks. Really like the new bathroom. We prefer the live music of normal rock/classic rock/country bands and not so much the bands for instruments like saxophone quartet or jazz trio
50. I love downtown Midland and everything that's available.
The Pedestrian Plaza is a great way for the community to get together.
51. Please continue
52. I'm a real music lover & enjoy MOST of the bands, except for the volume
53. Maybe have some comedians. Replace Cornhole bags and cushions for lounge chairs frequently. Have wasp traps or something for when they are bothersome.
54. How about a Christmas in July theme night? Santa in his swimsuit shorts and open up the Santa house for pics

55. Please continue. Thousands of people coming together throughout the summer to enjoy themselves and their neighbors in atmosphere of community.
56. We love the pedestrian plaza! Truly, it is one of the highlights of summer and one of our favorite parts of living in the area. I would love for the season to be expanded (I would even be open to it being year round), maybe have large viewings of football games in the fall. We love having a place to gather outdoors, our son loves playing with the children's items and making new friends, and we love supporting all of the businesses.
57. We love coming downtown and grabbing food and then sitting and listening to music. I'm grateful for this opportunity to do something with little cost
58. It's the best venue in the area. A few improvements & it would be even better!
59. We visit as often as we can. We really appreciate the Friday and Saturday night music.
60. The dogs on main street are out of control. People are getting bit . Employees of business have been bitten and not reported. The last night of this year we had dogs behind us barking which set off other dogs to bark .
61. Love the live music! We're the envy of many in surrounding cities.
62. We love the Commons! Highly recommend creative merchandise with fun sayings. Shirts/sweatshirts/coozies. Would be nice to extend it straight back from the main stage and make a more young kid friendly area/block off that section of road too. Larger area for them to run and more things to climb and play on where their adult parents can still enjoy music and stay close. Relocate the little houses, slides, and add to it. Nightly kid activities (invite Jewls the Clown, face painting, sidewalk chalk)
63. Not a fan.
64. Having the Pedestrian Plaza is an excellent part of Midland!
65. I absolutely love the Pedestrian Plaza and wish other towns would follow your lead. I live 30 miles away and would drive to Midland at least once every weekend just to eat dinner then listen to the band. Have met some amazing people down there. Is such a fun, lively, community atmosphere.
66. Please do a better job selecting the band for the 4th of July. Don't select a tribute band for that event (or the River Days nights.) When you select a tribute band (such as the Tom Petty band that was selected this year) a lot of people are disappointed because that specific band was never a favorite. For such large events as 4th of July and River Days stick with the excellent bands that cover a variety of artists!!! Save the tribute bands for the Commons Music nights because then people can pick and choose which ones they don't care for. Disappointing this year have the annual family gathering and the only option was listening to Tom Petty music (yuck!) Nothing against that band, they were okay, but we all wanted a variety of music!! Trust me, I heard that from so many people!!! My final comment is just keep doing the Commons area. Midland is a good to place, especially Fridays and Saturdays because of this!!!! Well done!!!!
67. I'm very concerned about our non-restaurant shops and the impact the plaza has during this timeframe.
68. For the most part my wife and I enjoy the concept and atmosphere

69. We love it and hope to see it continue
70. We love the new bathrooms
71. I am there every Friday and Saturday night when there is music. It is such a happy environment! Please continue the Pedestrian Plaza.
72. Thank you
73. Do not have Gus Macker downtown. The people are disrespectful of the front lawn of the Riverside resident and having strangers in and out of the building causes anxiety for many of the residents. Also the participants are not respectful of the reserved parking in the resident parking lots. If it need to be on main Street then the organization should hire security to make sure the participants are not in spaces that they should not be in
74. No need to close the street.
75. We struggled with the speaker system and the sound balance at many concerts. It would be good if the city invested in a system that could be used across all performances
76. Keep doing it. It is a funtastic venue for summers in Midland!
77. Terrific place to sit and 'people watch'
78. We are always in the kids area by serendipity because of our 5 year old attendee, and would love to see an expanded kids area with more seating for parents and an easier space to have eyes on kiddos.
79. It takes up two whole blocks, there's nowhere to park, and now I can't access any business down there without parking a mile away and walking through a crowd. Can't take my dog downtown in the summer because of it. I've completely stopped going downtown because of it.
80. The new public restrooms this year are such a great improvement!
81. Crosswalks across Main do not need to be maintained free of chairs during concerts. The crosswalks across McDonald should be free of chairs during concerts for accessing businesses on Main. The permanent seating at the corners of the Main/McDonald intersection should allow sitting facing the stage without putting feet in the planters. This could be easily done by installing concrete in a portion of the planters.
82. Absolutely loved it! Thank you for transforming downtown Midland into a fun and lively gathering spot! Also, please pass along my compliments to the landscaper(s). The flowers downtown always looks so colorful and festive!
83. Honestly we really dislike it. Closing the streets downtown for months is really inconvenient, and my wife and I just avoid going downtown on weekends altogether. We're always excited when it closes up for the year and we are able to enjoy downtown again. I wish the city would stop doing it, or at least avoid shutting down all of downtown all the time.
84. Keep it! Such a lovely way to enjoy our downtown area and gather in community. It's a safe place for kids to be.

85. Keep up what you're doing!! This has been so wonderful for our community! We are looking forward to next summer's line up!
86. Love the new bathroom. Love the downtown vibe for kids, teens, adults and seniors.
87. Open areas during daytime hours so businesses would be accessible. Avoiding downtown area during entire season.
88. great concept and execution- look forward to next year
89. Having a dedicated shuttle service (like a temporary summer bus line that can have consistent stops at different locations around greater Midland that goes downtown, or from downtown to other areas (e.g. downtown gardens/Whiting Forest/MCFTA, the circle) could be beneficial to circulate folks from home and to other destinations around the city.
90. I love that I can do things that I would do on a weekend "up north" in my home town - have coffee as I take a morning stroll downtown, meet friends for a drink and dinner, take an evening stroll with the family and grab ice cream.
91. The pedestrian plaza is great for getting the community out of the house and interacting with each other! I have so many friends and family who come in from out of town just to come with me to the music shows, and they always compliment how great it is that we have these free events and opportunities to frequent our local businesses during them! The city has always done a great job running the plaza and I hope it continues for many years!!
92. Nice event, something to look forward to during summer
93. This is a wonderful option during warm months. I love to stroll, take in live music, have a beverage, etc. I love it
94. Future, could extend later date into the fall. Still more enjoyable weather lasting till late October.
95. Love it
96. Coolest thing in Midland! Please keep it going strong!!
97. Kids were throwing the beach balls at people's faces on purpose after awhile. Several adults were getting angry by it and these kids' parents were nowhere to be found around them. We will not be a babysitter for their kids. We came to watch entertainment not unruly children.
98. We came to town for the weekend and had no idea that this was happening. We wanted Pizza Sam's for dinner and we were amazed when we got downtown. We found parking easily at the Tridge, a short walk up to Pizza Sam's. After dinner, we walked the pedestrian plaza and listened to the band. They were excellent. The amount of people and the vibe/atmosphere was incredible. Having the retail shops open during this was also a great bonus! We were here for the last event on September 26. We live in the metro-Detroit area and now are interested in coming back next year for one of these events! Keep up the great work - this was a lot of fun and, like I said, we would love to come for another one next year!

99. I love the pedestrian plaza. It vitalizes midland and provides a fun space for many ages to come together!

100. Concerts are great

The River Days After-party is a highlight of the summer

Maybe some of the businesses, especially the ones that serve drinks, could stay open later

101. It was really fun, maybe there could be delivery to seats from the restaurants

102. Lots of events are always happening in Midland. But it was tough to know the schedule