



**WEST HARTFORD TOWN CENTER  
INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN:  
WINTER 2023 STREET DESIGN OPEN  
HOUSE SUMMARY**

February, 2023

Prepared for:  
Town of West Hartford

Prepared by:  
Stantec

Project Number: 192311344

# 1 Street Design Open House Summary

In February 2023, the Stantec team and the Town of West Hartford facilitated an open house at Town Hall with the following objectives:

- Project awareness
- Project process update
- Present draft designs and rationale for both LaSalle Road/Farmington Avenue as well as the overall Master Plan
- Present preliminary thoughts for details such as plantings and materials
- Provide opportunity for public to comment on issues / opportunities

The open house consisted of an in-person event on February 2 at the Town Hall Auditorium from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Materials for the open house included informational posters as well as posters that invited people to vote on design preferences.

It is important to note that the team is also meeting with key stakeholders for feedback. The project email, WHCenterPlan@WestHartfordCT.gov, is also open for feedback.

## 2 Findings

The sections below summarize key takeaways from the open house, including themes from public conversations and comments on the variety of open house exercises.

### 2.1 FEEDBACK ON INFORMATIONAL POSTERS

The open house had several posters that provided some information on what the team is considering for plantings, materiality, and the overall Master Plan. Participants provided input on these posters, summarized below.

Topic Area	Detailed Concerns	Feedback and Ideas
<b>Plantings and Materiality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blackbirds</li><li>• Pavers are challenging to walk on, bike on, and maintain</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for native plantings</li><li>• Consider raised crosswalks</li><li>• Desire for benches with both no backs and backs</li></ul>
<b>Infrastructure Master Plan</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase cost of on-street parking to maintain 80% occupancy</li></ul>

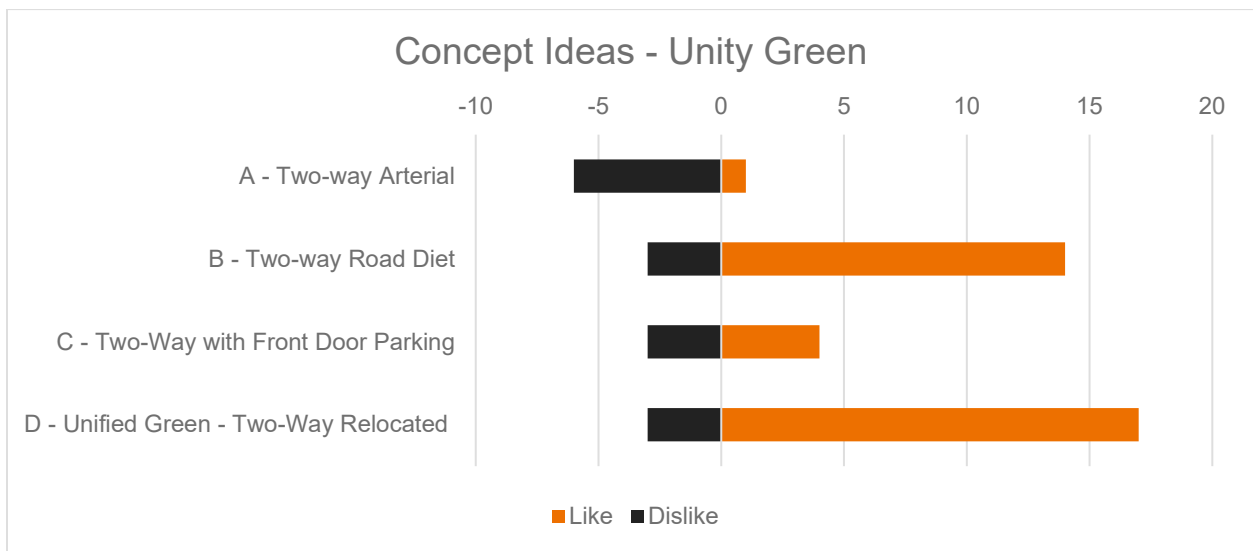


## 2.2 CONCEPT IDEAS RESULTS

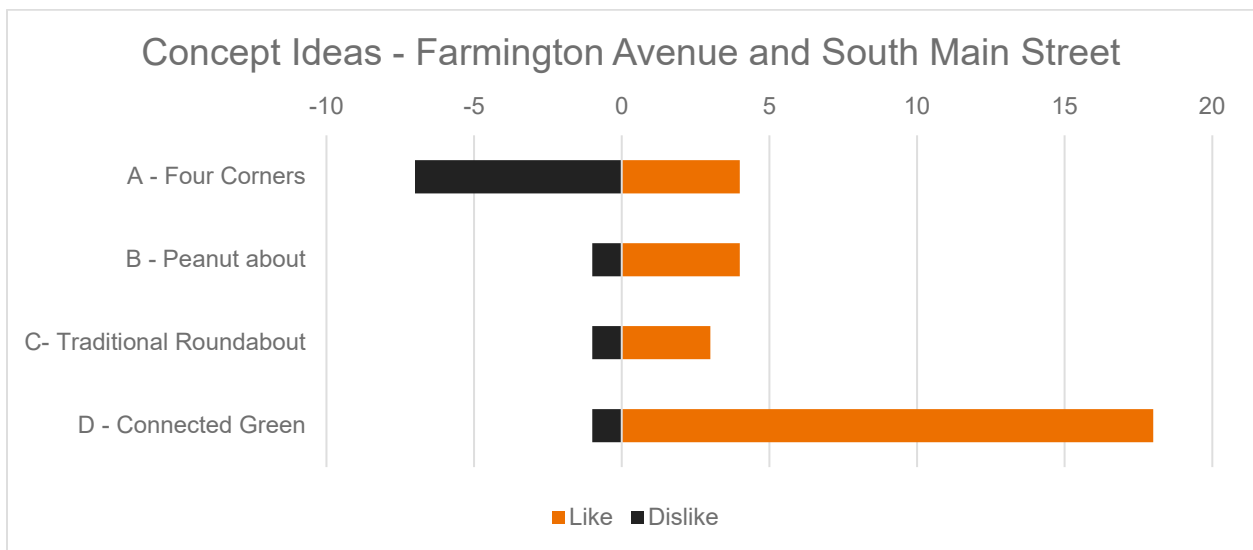
Open house participants were asked to rank four concept ideas for two locations on posters at the open house. The locations were Unity Green and the intersection of Farmington Street at Main Street. The results of the ranking exercise are shown below. For design ideas, please see Appendix A or materials on the website.

Overall, respondents preferred options for both Unity Green and the Farmington Street at Main Street intersection that consolidated Main Street lanes.

**Figure 1 Unity Green – Design Options Voting Results**



**Figure 2 LaSalle Road – Street Design Options Survey Results**



## 2.3 LASALLE ROAD AND FARMINGTON AVENUE

Open house participants had the opportunity to review a concept design for LaSalle Road, a concept design for Farmington Avenue, and to vote on the location of dining amenity space on LaSalle Road. Participants also offered comments on the concepts, summarized below. Figure 3 provides voting results on the two concept designs (LaSalle Road and Farmington Avenue, respectively) while Figure 4 shows the results of voting on where dining space should be on LaSalle Road.

Topic Area	Detailed Concerns	Feedback and Ideas
<b>LaSalle Road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for bike lanes on LaSalle</li> <li>• Don't like dining close to traffic</li> <li>• If seating close to parking, concerns about people walking through from parking their cars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep LaSalle 1-way, widen sidewalks and provide bicycle amenities</li> <li>• Free up space by removing parking, and create drop and go spots, bicycle facilities, and/or more space for sidewalks</li> <li>• Close road entirely</li> <li>• Close road on weekends only</li> <li>• Higher priced street parking</li> <li>• LaSalle too short of a street for bicycle lanes</li> </ul>
<b>Farmington Avenue</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sidewalks should prioritize pedestrians over dining</li> <li>• Like the idea of higher priced street parking, with lower priced parking in garages</li> <li>• Need physical barrier for bicycle facilities</li> <li>• Review Massachusetts Separated Bicycle Lane Design Guide for transit stop treatments</li> </ul>

Figure 3 Voting Results on Concept Designs for LaSalle Road and Farmington Avenue

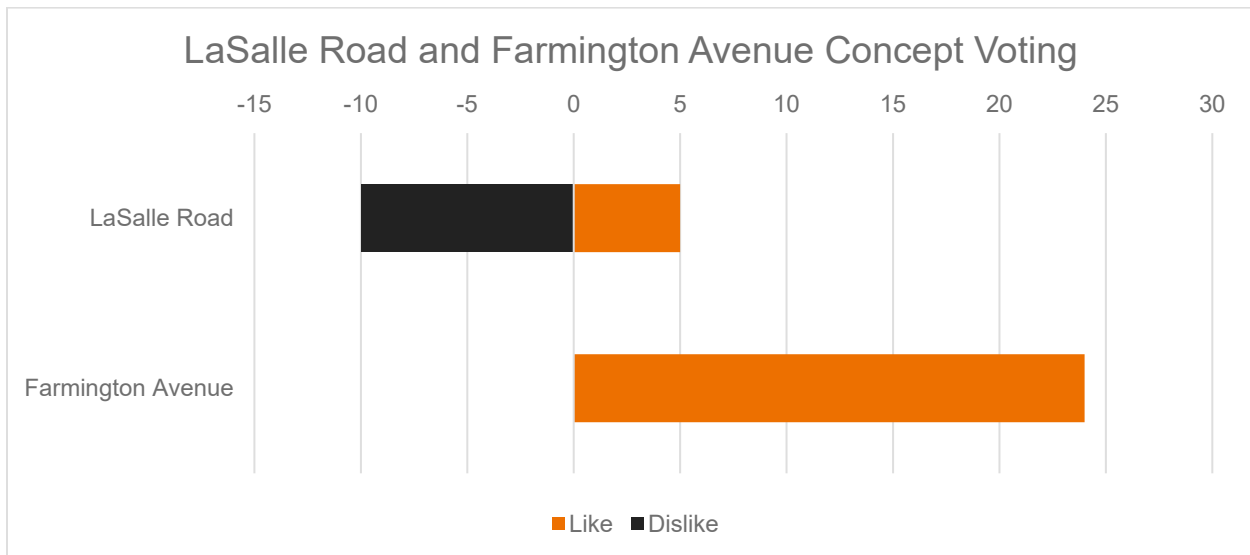
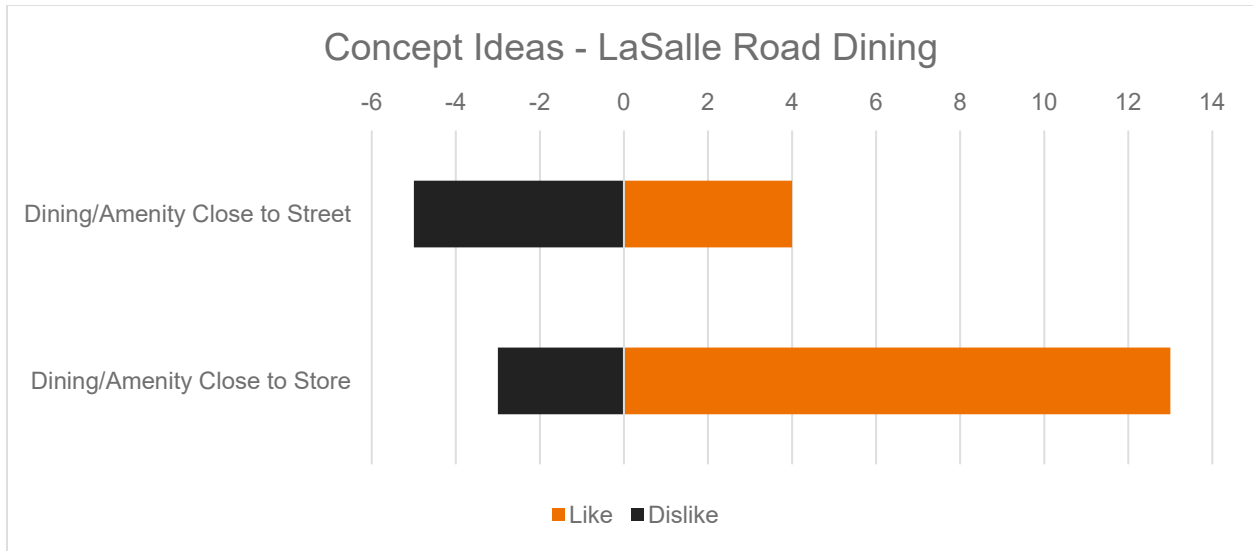


Figure 4 Voting Results - Dining Location



## **A.1 In-Person Open House Boards**

