

Downtown Square Walking Survey

11/26/2013

Observations

Anabel Pelham and Karen Jenney walked the following route at 7PM: Edith from San Antonio to First Street, First Street to San Antonio, San Antonio to Edith. In addition we surveyed the cross streets and parking plazas in between. These are our findings:

Edith has three street lights from San Antonio to the Expressway, making the sidewalks very dark and hazardous. First Street is well lighted from Edith until just past Drager's—then the sidewalks are quite dark all the way to San Antonio. Some of these sidewalks are narrow, uneven and need repair. The Central and South Parking Plazas are extremely dark. Whitney is also very dark. There is a street light that is not functioning at Lyell and San Antonio.

Second Street has some low foot lighting along the Packard building. The 300 block is dark. There is a light not functioning at 350 Second Street. Walgreen's provides excellent lighting in its parking lot. The North Parking Plaza is not well lit and the city lighting ends there. A street light next to 100 Second Street is not functioning.

Both Third and Fourth Streets are dark from Edith to State Street.

Main and State Streets are well lit and are extremely inviting with the Christmas lights twinkling in the trees. These lights are also presently in the parking plazas making them pleasant and safe.

Recommendations and Comments

Recommend that holiday twinkle lights around trees be present throughout the year. This is less expensive and timely than adding more street lights throughout the area and it gives a sense of welcome and life, along with safety, to downtown. Neighboring cities have similar lighting year round. Given the condos that are now in the downtown area (and more coming) good lighting is necessary and could encourage people to frequent the restaurants during the evenings. If a goal of the City is to encourage biking and walking downtown, then proper, safe walking and biking paths are necessary. A key element of safe walking at night is proper lighting. Even drivers of autos need proper lighting when walking amid the parking plazas which are markedly dark.