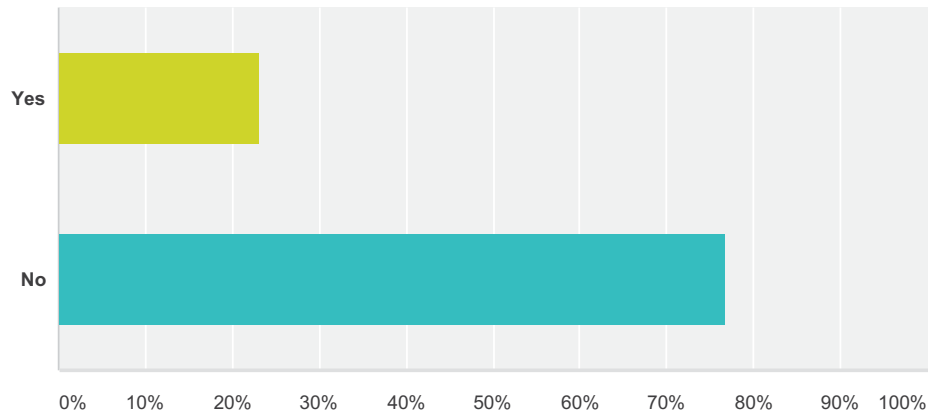## Q4 Should Venice Avenue downtown be converted to a walking mall, closing it to vehicular traffic?

Answered: 434   Skipped: 20

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**23.27%**	101
No	**76.73%**	333
Total		**434**

#	Additional Comments:	Date
1	Leave as is	1/11/2017 11:35 AM
2	Worst mistake. City needs to count current traffic on Venice, Miami, Tampa, & Tarpon in season and increase during summer.	1/11/2017 11:33 AM
3	That is an intriguing idea. I'm not sure what to think about that. Closing eastbound Venice Ave might work well. If westbound is converted to two-way with no parking and 41 Business and Harbor Dr. If a walking mall is created, please don't allow restaurants to clutter it up with chairs and tables and thereby defeat the purpose.	1/11/2017 11:19 AM
4	There are only problems in season. The rest of the year people who actually live here can have better access to restaurants.	1/10/2017 10:47 PM
5	Like as is.	1/10/2017 5:50 PM
6	But keep the crossroads of Nassau and Nokomis open. Make the spaces in front of the Shops and Restaurants for use by the Business owners.	1/10/2017 3:39 PM
7	People would be required to walk too far and that is not something people like or are able to do.	1/10/2017 1:58 PM
8	A definite idea- what would that mean for Miami and Tampa Avenue traffic, and where would all the cars park? Would parking lot still be available??	1/10/2017 1:45 PM
9	It is the throughway to beach and off-island. Don't close it off.	1/10/2017 9:35 AM
10	Too many cars and tourists and no parking available	1/10/2017 9:28 AM
11	never works. Lower speed to 15 mph	1/10/2017 9:25 AM
12	It is ok as is but needs more light on crosswalks at night.	1/10/2017 9:22 AM
13	We need better crosswalk lighting. Too dark at night!	1/10/2017 9:18 AM
14	A mall concept sounds wonderful but doesn't solve the parking issues. Diagonal parking will allow more parking but will jam up the streets when cars pull out	1/10/2017 9:07 AM

15	Absolutely not! Venice Avenue is needed for traffic control on and off Venice island.	1/10/2017 9:01 AM
16	You have lost your mind!	1/10/2017 8:56 AM
17	Not without a ton of planning and new opportunities to entice people to the area. In sailboat racing, if you're going higher and faster than the completion you don't touch anything of consequence. Perhaps there is a lesson here. The current business model is working . . . what is the compelling reason to mess with it and probably break it?	1/10/2017 8:48 AM
18	This would have a major adverse effect on traffic in the entire commercial/downtown area.	1/10/2017 8:46 AM
19	Need more study. What about the post office?	1/10/2017 8:37 AM
20	Fantastic suggestion. We could plant rosemary and other beautiful edible pants and have cool public art that creates inviting spaces to sit and connect with neighbors and visitors.	1/10/2017 6:56 AM
21	Yes, if the following is included: 1) if Nassau and Nokomis Streets continue to be through streets from Miami to Tampa; otherwise it will be a nightmare if traffic must flow out to Tamiami Trail and Harbor Drive in order to get from Miami to Tampa. 2) The Farmer's Market will be able to be hosted there on Saturdays. 3) Restaurant outdoor seating will be close to the restaurants without fees and not a part of the walking plaza space. 4) The Palms must stay, they provide ambiance, plus Venice just spent a lot of money to plant the Palm Trees. 5) The plaza is a space of beauty, gathering and relaxing as one has with a park.	1/9/2017 9:16 PM
22	See Reston, Virginia as an example.	1/9/2017 8:37 PM
23	Safer to walk. Would love to have more outside eating and entertainment areas. Have more trees and fountains.	1/9/2017 8:12 PM
24	As a handicapped full-time resident, going to shops would be impossible.	1/9/2017 7:09 PM
25	NO. We live downtown -- actually on West Venice Ave., and a walking mall would create impossible traffic -- especially to the beach --and congestion on surrounding streets	1/9/2017 5:51 PM
26	Walking malls in Europe are typically part of a down town with businesses on both sides of the street.	1/9/2017 5:46 PM
27	Traffic is busy but I believe tourists new to area get an overview by driving through- also many seniors cannot walk- now we can drive up to the restaurant or store and drop them off.	1/9/2017 5:45 PM
28	Absolutely not.........how does that relate to John Nolen's design and usage plan? Not everything should be considered to address traffic caused by snowbirds.	1/9/2017 5:43 PM
29	The downtown area is a jewel, and recognized so by residents and visitors. Turning it into a mall would greatly diminish it's beauty, it would also create parking problems, and for the reasons stated above only attempt to satisfy the desires of the business owners. Besides, we do not need another mall.	1/9/2017 4:00 PM
30	This is a better idea than single lanes and angled parking. I believe it would still make the most sense to add new parking lots on Miami and Tampa Ave's.	1/9/2017 2:49 PM
31	Sounds like urban renewal of the 70's and 80's that all everyone is trying to get rid of elsewhere	1/9/2017 2:05 PM
32	The traffic load is too great to elimate this driving lane	1/9/2017 1:51 PM
33	The current configuration works. Closing it will throw all traffic onto adjacent streets which are one lane...believe this formula for traffic disaster.	1/9/2017 1:36 PM
34	It would kill our downtown shops. Customers always want to park as near to the shops as possible and any more walking with discourage shoppers. In some cases where avenues have been shut off to autos and are just for pedestrians it kills the business. Our Venice Avenue is unique in that only one block has shops on the south side.	1/9/2017 1:26 PM
35	No, no, NO. There are lots of OLD PEOPLE down here and they can't walk the long distances that would be required if this became a "walking mall".	1/9/2017 12:38 PM
36	are you out of your mine	1/9/2017 12:28 PM
37	This would confuse people trying to get to the beach, or to residences further down Venice Avenue -- adding to traffic on other streets.	1/9/2017 12:23 PM
38	Do you think this would hinder evacuations for island residents? What about emergency vehicles. What a disaster for cars coming across the Venice avenue bridge to get onto island.	1/9/2017 11:19 AM
39	Would create major problems with traffic flow. Check out drivers trying to navigate the parking lot.!!!	1/9/2017 9:26 AM
40	I would say "yes" to this ONLY if there will be a parking garage. I understand the push toward angle parking to park more cars in less space to increase demand, but sooner or later even that won't be enough space to park. We need a parking garage and we need it downtown.	1/9/2017 8:32 AM
41	Great concept, but functionally the traffic congestion would be worsened.	1/9/2017 8:27 AM

42	Absolutely NO. Downtown Venice is charming the way it is. Don't ruin it!	1/8/2017 9:34 PM
43	Would certainly allow local people and snowbirds to shop without the parking problem in the winter months.	1/8/2017 6:58 PM
44	Again, it would significantly restrict movement of traffic in and out of downtown...which is inconvenient and not safe. As long as the city officials allow more high rise construction (more people) they need to also expand (not restrict) our access to move freely.	1/8/2017 5:07 PM
45	Too hard on the elderly to have to walk farther...leave it alone.	1/8/2017 5:01 PM
46	It is an important thoroughfare - don't block it off.	1/8/2017 4:56 PM
47	This would be a terrible idea for traffic flow from Venice beach, south jetty or anywhere in that direction of the island to/from hwy 41, and this would be really really bad if done in conjunction with one-way streets on Miami/Tampa as this would mean 3 current streets that can be used to get to/from 41 (Venice, Miami, and Tampa) would now be reduced to only one street to use to get to hwy 41....sounds pretty bad to me... BTW- This particular idea included in this survey along with the other questions as it has been done makes one think these ideas are all independent from one another, when in fact some of these ideas must be done together to make sense and some of these ideas cannot be done together to make sense. So, I think the way you have conducted this survey is grossly misleading and disingenuous to Venice residents....	1/8/2017 3:47 PM
48	this would be the death of our downtown area. venice is the main road thru downtown. how would locals and tourists get anywhere?	1/8/2017 3:29 PM
49	Some of the elderly people in the area need parking as close as possible on the Avenue.	1/8/2017 2:12 PM
50	The malls are all in trouble as it is.	1/8/2017 1:51 PM
51	see # 1	1/8/2017 1:36 PM
52	Absolutely not! Closing Venice Ave to vehicles would create a major traffic problem and confusion for anyone approaching the city from East Venice Ave.	1/8/2017 1:13 PM
53	Absolutely NOT! They did that in a town nearby in MA and all the business closed over a period of 1-2 years. Also, too far for many residents and visitors to walk	1/8/2017 12:22 PM
54	this is a BIG ABSOLUTELY NOT. it would reduce parking and force people to walk further to the shops/restuarants.	1/8/2017 11:57 AM
55	This will make the traffic flow downtown confusing, since everyone who wants to go on Venice Avenue (even residents, or beach-goers) would have to turn off somewhere and then turn back on somewhere else. Means increased traffic on other streets. Not enough walkers during the entire year to make this necessary, really.	1/8/2017 11:40 AM
56	it's really not that crowded most of the time and year	1/8/2017 11:32 AM
57	That would spoil the beauty of Venice Ave	1/8/2017 11:09 AM
58	not unless you add more parking close by....your target audience is seniors	1/8/2017 9:12 AM
59	Would create a parking issue. Venice downtown is a difficult to find reminder of old time American towns. Don.t destroy it.	1/8/2017 9:00 AM
60	In other cities this has actually killed the area as people find it difficult to get to and use. The latest trends of "instant downtowns" ncludes two way traffic with parallel parking and nearby parking garages. The historic appeal of Venice would be destroyed if you modified it this way.	1/8/2017 8:51 AM
61	IF THAT IS DONE YOU WILL REAJJY HAVE A PARKING PROBLEM	1/8/2017 7:25 AM
62	Only if a parking garage has been built.	1/8/2017 7:19 AM
63	Has not worked on other area when full time.	1/7/2017 11:00 PM
64	I am shocked by these crazy questions!! NO!!	1/7/2017 9:38 PM
65	Again, where will all these cars go? What buildings will need to be knocked down for a 'VERY MUCH NEEDED & LARGE parking garage. And 3, who is thinking this stuff up?. I find it very insulting to even only being a high school graduate, a very well driver and in a totally different field!	1/7/2017 7:45 PM
66	Leave everything as is.	1/7/2017 7:41 PM
67	This concept would make the downtown area really special. It would require building a parking garage but that is the only reasonable solution to parking problems and in the long-run is worth the money provided that the city undertakes steps to bring high-end shops to the area. This has worked well in many other cities. If we don't do this we will become just a small blip in the road between Sarasota and North Port.	1/7/2017 7:19 PM
68	That would really be a disaster	1/7/2017 6:25 PM

69	Although I think the concept is a good one, the one-sided retail street doesn't lend itself to a walking mall. If there were shops, outdoor cafes etc. on both sides of the street rather than a parking lot, than it could possibly be viable.	1/7/2017 6:12 PM
70	No. Takes away the original charm!!!!!	1/7/2017 5:28 PM
71	Absolutely not! There is no quicker way to kill a downtow. Go read some case studies!	1/7/2017 5:26 PM
72	This would create gridlock - terrible idea. Tampa and Miami Ave would not be able to handle the traffic.	1/7/2017 5:14 PM
73	Make Venice Ave, from US 41 to Harbor Dr a pedestrian Mall (open for walkers, joggers and bicycles), similar to the Lincoln Rd mall in Miami. Traffic coming west across the Venice Ave bridge would either turn right on US 41 then left on Tampa or left on US 41 then right on Miami Ave to continue west bound. The cross streets of Nokomis Ave and Nassau St would remain open for traffic to slowly cross Venice Ave. That will allow good access to and egress from the Centennial Park parking lot. The outdoor dining areas could be expanded with side walk, bike lanes and bike racks where the street is currently. A good design planner can come up with good, simple ideas to make it work. Keep the trolley going and include the Community Center parking lot until guests learn that it is there and they can get the trolley down town. Last year, residents in condos on Airport were flagging down the trolley and ridding downtown for lunch and back after doing a little shopping. That is exactly what we want, people taking the trolley instead of trying to park downtown. This year they say; if they have to get in the car they will drive off island for lunch since it is hard to find a parking place downtown.	1/7/2017 5:11 PM
74	The town I was raised in (which is about the same size but the make-up of residents was more mixed, not as many seniors) did this and majority of stores had to close their businesses due to lack of convenience for their customers. They reopened the street and the downtown is thriving again.	1/7/2017 5:08 PM
75	I love cities, like Burlington VT, who have converted a portion of their downtown into a walking mall. It works because Burlington has a dense population all year long. Not sure this would work in Venice in the summer months.	1/7/2017 5:07 PM
76	I would like to hear more about this and see some plans. I bet you would have to build a parking garage which would be ugly.	1/7/2017 5:03 PM
77	what ain't broke don't need fix'n !!!!	1/7/2017 4:31 PM
78	Ensure accessibility for ALL by giving locals and visitors the most options when visiting downtown.	1/7/2017 4:21 PM
79	Only if parking could be accommodated behind the businesses. In Naples, FL there are spaces behind the buildings on Fifth Ave. with most of the businesses having back door accessibility. Same on Third St. Maybe make a trip down and observe similar issues dealt with by Naples' consultants & see which work well & which don't.	1/7/2017 3:43 PM
80	it would lose some of its charm if no cars were allowed to cruise it.	1/7/2017 2:42 PM
81	I like this but you have to shuttle that traffic someplace.	1/7/2017 2:30 PM
82	Love the way it is	1/7/2017 2:25 PM
83	Where would we park and how to access the stores?	1/7/2017 2:11 PM
84	This is a wonderful idea, but many residents and visitors have limited mobility and nearby safe parking is a must.	1/7/2017 2:11 PM
85	No, absolutely not. We tried that were I lived up north. This caused many businesses to close and now we are spending millions of dollars to restore traffic to the street that we once closed to cars.	1/7/2017 2:06 PM
86	A good idea, but, need some research.	1/7/2017 2:00 PM
87	I COULDN'T WALK THAT MUCH ... LIKE TO PARK CLOSE TO THE STORE I WISH TO VISIT. I HAVE SEEN THESE IDEAS WORK IN A DOWNTOWN AND OTHERS NOT. MANY WILL LOSE ANY OLDER CUSTOMERS, NOT EASY TO FIND CLOSE PARKING IN THESE MALL TYPE DOWNTOWNS..BRINGS IN MORE PICKPOCKETS AND PETTY CRIME.WE HAVE ENOUGH OUTLET MALLS ALREDY, KEEP IT A SMALL TOWN DOWNTOWN!!!	1/7/2017 1:18 PM
88	Where would all the mall walkers park??????	1/7/2017 12:59 PM
89	It would create more of a parking issue. Recommend a parking garage.	1/7/2017 12:57 PM
90	Venice is not only for businesses some of us have to live here. These ideas would make that a misery. BUILD A PARKING GARAGE!	1/7/2017 12:43 PM
91	Too expensive and greatly reduces vehicle access.	1/7/2017 12:42 PM
92	Sounds like a possibility--- but can't imagine how this would affect the traffic pattern on Tampa and Miami and ultimately Rt. 41	1/7/2017 12:42 PM
93	Close the south lane to form a mall and leave the north lane as one way heading west. ANY closure will require alternate parking to replace parking lost on Venice Ave. heading east. I would also suggest reducing the number of cross walks. Many out-of-state drivers stop when no one is present further slowing traffic.	1/7/2017 12:39 PM

94	While this seems like a nice idea and may appeal to the merchants as well, it doesn't appear to be a viable option. The diverted traffic would use Miami and Tampa Avenues and they are not made to handle the additional volume. The main parking lot would then be accessed only from Tampa Ave (and Nassau from Tampa Ave). This would result in undue congestion on Tampa. This could lead to much frustration on the part of motorists seeking to access downtown Venice and result in less customer traffic. You can see the impacts of this idea when Venice Ave is hut down for Art Fairs, etc.	1/7/2017 12:27 PM
95	I wish we could figure out how to place parking away from the downtown area and make it walking a bike friendly with free or near free bikes like many of our cities now have. A supply of 3 wheelers would be nice for those that can not balance on a bike any longer. Get cars off of the business district and place parking out somewhere with public access like the trolley running on a regular advertised basis.	1/7/2017 11:55 AM
96	I just don't understand anyone's thinking here. The traffic flow seems to be just fine. Considering the age of residents and even visitors to the Venice area, how far do you think the average person is willing or able to walk. Why does something DIFFERENT have to be done?	1/7/2017 11:41 AM
97	That would divert a lot of traffic to more residential streets.	1/7/2017 11:28 AM
98	Absolutely not !	1/7/2017 11:19 AM
99	The population of Venice consists of many elderly people many who have trouble walking. This proposal would preclude them from accessing the downtown.	1/7/2017 11:06 AM
100	If it is converted into an outdoor village type of mall it is possible to keep the charm of downtown Venice.	1/7/2017 10:57 AM
101	CITY MANAGERS JUST CANT LEAVE THINGS ALONE WITHOUT SCREWING THINGS UP.........	1/7/2017 10:56 AM
102	people looking for more parking and you're taking it away	1/7/2017 10:55 AM
103	It's still an important way to get from US41 to beaches. Would totally overload Miami & Tampa Aves. Also many downtown patrons don't walk long distances well. Would negatively impact downtown businesses. Current extensive signage for pedestrian crossings works well.	1/7/2017 10:47 AM
104	No. See comments at Q.1	1/7/2017 10:46 AM
105	This way there would be more outdoor dining without the noise and smell from cars & trucks	1/7/2017 10:43 AM
106	Only if the closing of Venice Avenue downtown opens up parking. If not, then what is the purpose. The situation is lack of available parking. Closing Venice avenue will clog the other nearby streets (partly residential) with additional traffic consisting of drivers trying to reach the gulf beaches.	1/7/2017 10:28 AM
107	That ruins cities around the country and then a parking facility would've a definite must. Most people like convenient parking	1/7/2017 10:19 AM
108	This just adds to the parking problem! Venice needs a parking Garage!	1/7/2017 9:57 AM
109	Maybe, in context of a much better plan... but for a four month ish population burst, please do not ruin the reasons we just permanently moved here.	1/7/2017 9:53 AM
110	For limited times that benefit our downtown stores.	1/7/2017 9:33 AM
111	Probably not because of the number of lost parking.	1/7/2017 9:28 AM
112	It would be a wonderful asset to our downtown to walk down the street where there is no vehicular traffic. The restaurants could have tables outside on the sidewalks. People now are having a difficult time walking on the sidewalks because of all the tables. If someone tries to go the opposite way it is nearly impossible in some areas to pass. If someone has a stroller it is impossible to pass them going the opposite way.	1/7/2017 9:19 AM
113	not yet…first priority is to solve the traffic flow problem. Two one way roads with two lanes, one to the north, Tampa, one to the south, Miami, would help the traffic move.	1/7/2017 9:14 AM
114	Venice is a lovely, European style village, with beautiful individually owned shops and restaurants, no chain businesses!!!!!! People walk and ride bikes to town. It is a wonderful lifestyle. In keeping with the European village atmosphere, I would close at least the east bound lane of Venice Ave, and make it a pedestrian mall, expanding the food service and maybe adding vendor booths. Keep the west bound lane and turn Tampa/Barcelona into one way east bound. Would not impact traffic pattern. Indeed the congestion of foot traffic crossing Venice Ave and the cars going both ways would be improved. It is very dangerous now, due to irratic behavior of pedestrians and drivers.	1/7/2017 9:09 AM
115	Just the South side of the street. See above!	1/7/2017 9:05 AM
116	Best idea	1/7/2017 8:56 AM
117	Lack of alternative parking already a problem.	1/7/2017 8:40 AM

118	Again, the backups would be terrible.	1/7/2017 8:39 AM
119	Another nightmare scenario. Worse than making Venice Ave. one lane.	1/7/2017 8:27 AM
120	No, leave it alone.	1/7/2017 8:14 AM
121	Interesting concept would be to covert the Venice Ave roadways to entirely parking, with no throughput, ensuring it is a walking mall area-increasing the walkability, and parking at the same time.	1/7/2017 7:35 AM
122	Not enough stores to create the correct atmosphere. Need shops on both sides of the pedestrian mall, lots of shade trees. Go to Europe to see what a pedstrian mall should look and feel like.	1/7/2017 7:14 AM
123	Would create traffic issues on other streets. That strategy has not been effective in other cities that did it	1/6/2017 10:49 PM
124	That is really stupid.	1/6/2017 9:50 PM
125	More info is needed. I think that, as usually the case, you will get a number of people taking strong stances on these issues without having all of the details.	1/6/2017 8:53 PM
126	Would be nice, but what about additional parking? Cost to taxpayers?	1/6/2017 7:32 PM
127	Charlottesville, VA has a wonderful walking mall in their downtown and I think our weather would make this a terrific option but only if you are budgeting for a parking garage downtown or off site parking with frequent trolley service.	1/6/2017 7:12 PM
128	Heck No! I love that it can a parade route and the decor at Christmas while driving thru.	1/6/2017 5:48 PM
129	walkers, bikes and golf carts only-	1/6/2017 5:13 PM
130	That is just stupid.	1/6/2017 5:04 PM
131	My first reaction is no based on how far away folks would have to park from this area as a result.	1/6/2017 4:47 PM
132	ABSOLUTELY!!! (I actually submitted this idea last year to the Planning Commission). Tremendous idea. If you have ever been to Boulder, CO., then you know what it's like. Beautiful walkways, shops, restaurants, flower gardens...all along a walking mall, with no vehicular traffic (as is the case right now the case when Venice Ave. is closed for the annual big Arts/Crafts Festival). People will find places to park on other avenues, in parking lots (and maybe a new parking garage or two could be built, where the Classics Steak House/Pineapples Restaurant used to be, for example...like the parking garage we already have at the hospital), etc. Eliminates current problem of restaurants having tables on the sidewalk. Creates an atmosphere of not having to walk the Avenue or sit at an outdoor restaurant seat and inhale car exhaust fumes! Venice "Walking Mall" would become known nationwide...as with Boulder, CO! Suggest Mayor and representatives from City Council take a trip to Boulder, CO. if they've never been there BEFORE any final decisions are made. Venice, FL. would become a showcase city. Downtown businesses would LOVE it! People would LOVE it! Just envision it. PLEASE give this idea SERIOUS consideration! From the entrance to town (at the neon sign) to the intersection with Harbor Dr...no cars allowed...instead, a beautiful paver stone walkway, with benches, trees, flower gardens with the shops and restaurants on both sides! I get very excited thinking about it all!	1/6/2017 4:32 PM
133	Too many older folks have a hard time walking around let alone all down town area. Plus, where would the famous Venice Holiday Parade route be routed to then?	1/6/2017 4:26 PM
134	That would be nice but where would everyone park? The parking lots on Venice and Miami are already full in season. If you make Venice Ave a walking mall, you're taking away the street parking. I think you can only do this if you build a garage somewhere (maybe where Pineapple's was?).the	1/6/2017 4:00 PM
135	This will change everything that makes Venice, Venice.	1/6/2017 3:34 PM
136	It's an island and there is limited parking space. Why would you want to make it even more difficult for residents and visitors to enjoy accessing the areas of downtown they want to experience? Given the average age of our population, many can't walk as far as they would need to to do their business.	1/6/2017 3:28 PM
137	An interesting concept!! Would need to see a master plan for the walking mall.. Cities in Europe use this concept with success. I think such action could further revitalize the downtown area.	1/6/2017 3:15 PM
138	Hmmm. This is an interesting concept...I do think it would allow for alot more outside dining without so much congestion or worry of accidents going up on the sidewalk.	1/6/2017 3:12 PM
139	Absolutely NOT!!!! If you do that, shoppers/diners will have to park too far away. We will all have to walk so far to get to stores and restaurants. Much of our population is elderly so this would be a deterrent for them. What about the Christmas parade? The fact that Venice Avenue allows tourists to see what is available is a shopping and dining stimulus.	1/6/2017 2:54 PM
140	I think this is a very good long-term objective but too difficult to achieve right now. Therefore, I support the next option.	1/6/2017 2:49 PM
141	Doing this never makes the area a walking mall - it makes it a hangout!	1/6/2017 2:44 PM

142	And how would the parking be replaced?	1/6/2017 2:38 PM
143	Not completely, reduce to single lane either side with no parking on Venice Ave	1/6/2017 2:09 PM
144	But widen sidewalk on south side as suggested in (1).	1/6/2017 2:06 PM
145	Only on one side the other side should be one way traffic	1/6/2017 2:04 PM
146	Convert Venice to one way on one side (north) and make south side pedestrian/walking mall in concert with making Miami or Tampa one way with angled parking.	1/6/2017 1:25 PM
147	Absolutely not!! Why change what is working and what draws people to our town?	1/6/2017 1:13 PM
148	This is also interesting. In a tourist driven area such as this dedicated walkign space for leisure is very nice.	1/6/2017 1:11 PM
149	I would like that a lot!	1/6/2017 12:51 PM
150	The parking lot is a large separation between the rows of stores. Also, only two blocks have stores on both sides of the street, so it makes no practical sense.	1/6/2017 12:27 PM
151	YES! YES! YES! Move the sources of pollution away from the dining/shopping/entertainment area! Build a few multilevel level parking garages: one behind the Venice Theater, one across the Fire Station and/or one in the place of the Post Office.	1/6/2017 12:13 PM
152	Interesting concept. Undecided.	1/6/2017 12:03 PM
153	Tampa and Miami avenues would have to carry the additional traffic. They would become thoroughfares and I think the shopping on those now super busy streets would dry up. I like the idea of a walking mall, but it would have consequences for the entire downtown area.	1/6/2017 11:55 AM
154	Survey the forward thinking cities/towns in the U. S. and Europe that have done this to gain knowledge. Everyone seems to truly like it except the stores that were not included in the pedestrian type street. There is PLENTY of parking at the Community center and a trolley could bring people from the Venice Performing Arts Center as well.	1/6/2017 11:53 AM
155	Walking malls are boring and will soon not have people coming to visit the vendors. Driving, parking and walking is the attraction.	1/6/2017 11:49 AM
156	Exacerbates the parking problem. People won't come if they can't find a place to park.	1/6/2017 11:40 AM
157	That actually makes a lot of sense. I think you should also consider 2 story open parking lots off of Tamiami Trail. There are several lots with ample space, e.g., the defunct gas station and restaurants off the corner of Tamiami and Milan and Miami	1/6/2017 11:29 AM
158	Various larger American cities have done this and the walking area actually brings additional vibrancy to the community. Vehicular would also stop bicycle traffic, which is fine as long as additional bike racks are added to various side streets or along Miami and Tampa.	1/6/2017 11:28 AM
159	This has to be a "trick question". It's hard to imagine a worse proposal.	1/6/2017 11:27 AM
160	the town is great the way it is.	1/6/2017 11:18 AM
161	Absolutely not. Traffic would be forced to either Tampa or Miami and neither road can handle that.	1/6/2017 11:08 AM
162	Are we trying to be "Magic Kingdom? Are we just trying to spend money for the sake of spending it.	1/6/2017 10:50 AM
163	You must be out of your minds. This is one of the beautiful features of Venice. Driving into and out of town and access to all of the businesses along the route. This is also an older community; people drive.	1/6/2017 10:46 AM
164	Only in January, February, March, April	1/6/2017 10:41 AM
165	We don't have enough parking for the tourists	1/6/2017 10:36 AM
166	This is the worst idea of all.	1/6/2017 10:35 AM
167	One would have to walk for some distances in some cases to get a croissant. I think the merchants would not go for this. One way angle parking is one thing, closing the street off is something else.	1/6/2017 10:30 AM
168	Can't imagine the impact on the bridge and Venice/41 intersection. Bridge could be converted to one way - off island.	1/6/2017 10:29 AM
169	This would make everyday driving on the island a nightmare	1/6/2017 10:29 AM
170	Yes. Very good idea	1/6/2017 10:21 AM
171	Driving past the stores creates interest in shopping and dining at them. Older or persons with disabilities appreciate parking very close to the businesses they frequent. Shops and restaurants would loose the benefit of visual marketing to drive-bys.	1/6/2017 10:10 AM

172	This would limit access to the area for those with mobility difficulties. I myself do not access the downtown unless I can get a parking space near the area where i want to shop. I will also move my vehicle to the other end of town to access that area as it is difficult for me to walk to whole street.	1/6/2017 10:10 AM
173	Completely unnecessary. This would cut down on business and be a ghost town in the summer. In addition, due to our demographic on the island many need to park close.	1/6/2017 9:46 AM
174	This is a good idea for the future - after a multi-story downtown parking garage is built. Otherwise it would eventually kill the downtown as a destination for shopping and dining for the typical Venice resident. Have seen it happen in several cities in my travels.	1/6/2017 9:35 AM
175	Emphatic NO! Current state is an integral contributor to the concentric traffic and flow wait-time grid.	1/6/2017 9:28 AM
176	congestion	1/6/2017 9:15 AM
177	Fantastic idea!	1/6/2017 9:10 AM
178	No. Too important of a thoroughfare for the Island of Venice. May consider completely eliminating any parallel parking on the commercial side of Venice Ave and convert it into a wider walking area along the storefronts. Have parallel parking on the Centennial park side only. Continue to consider another public parking facility near downtown. The total number of parking spaces eliminated along the "store" side of Venice Ave would be relatively few. Consider, instead of having one large multilevel parking structure, have two or three smaller ones. Buy the old "Pineapples" property for one location. Negotiate with Federally run post office facility to relocate the distribution center, maintain a simple postal service and build the proposed "Hotel" project while integrating parking facility between the new "Hotel" (with postal service inside) and the BOA building. Nearly enough parking spaces, to replace the eliminated parallel parking on the south side of Venice Ave, could be placed in a poorly utilized part of Heckshir Park. Let me explain. On the East side of the park along Harbor Dr. are the basketball courts and some shuffle board courts with a small area of dead grass and small trees (northeast corner). The eastern 10 or 12 shuffleboard courts are rarely, if ever, used (I'm clearly aware of this since I live across the street from the shuffleboards). The western 10 or so courts are very frequently used and well maintained and must be preserved, but the eastern set of courts need to be eliminated and converted into surface parking. That may accommodate 20 or so parking spaces (guessing).	1/6/2017 8:58 AM
179	you have too many car to do this you will a nother jam up some place else. use your heads on this stuff.	1/6/2017 8:47 AM
180	This is a nice idea for a portion of the street in front of the large parking lot, but may not be popular.	1/6/2017 8:46 AM
181	Creating a mall would eliminate pedestrian safety issues and parking controversies. Restaurants would be able to expand their seating, and a mall would create additional opportunities for downtown events without having to close the downtown streets.	1/6/2017 8:21 AM
182	The way it is makes it unique and a special place.	1/6/2017 7:59 AM
183	This would be a good idea if there was sufficient, easy access parking close to Venice Avenue. A parking ramp has been talked about for years. It's time.	1/6/2017 7:51 AM
184	Nice the way it us	1/6/2017 7:43 AM
185	No. Venice Ave is still best access to the beaches and residents west of Harbor Dr. It's not just about the 3 blocks of shop keepers.	1/6/2017 7:33 AM
186	This is crazy. No!!! The charm of a main street is that it is a street.	1/6/2017 7:13 AM
187	the median is so nice-part of the history of Venice. Don't see where making a walking mall will create any more space .	1/6/2017 7:12 AM
188	not both sides, just the south side of Venice Ave would be a good idea	1/6/2017 6:22 AM
189	but...see #1 comment abovex	1/6/2017 12:12 AM
190	Additional parking would be needed before this could happen. And, traffic movement would be hindered, pushing additional traffic to side streets.	1/5/2017 8:39 PM
191	Would be great but has major issues...where are cars to be parked? How do people get to the new Mall?? Probably not a possibility.	1/5/2017 8:22 PM
192	Definitely will kill the whole charm and character of the town - Please don't even consider it.	1/5/2017 8:05 PM
193	have been in cities that have done this and the downtown has paid the price with a total destruction of the thriving downtown. after 20 years the sidewalks where ripped out and the street put back in a major revitalization to try and revive the downtown.	1/5/2017 8:03 PM
194	Not a bad idea but would obviously cause traffic issues on other streets,	1/5/2017 7:58 PM
195	No no no! There goes the quaintness that made me buy in Venice!	1/5/2017 6:45 PM

196	Not unless something happens to the parking lot which creates the need for more pedestrian walkways. Not sure if businesses could survive with her older population	1/5/2017 5:48 PM
197	would add tremendously to walking distance	1/5/2017 5:35 PM
198	would there be enough parking in the area if not available on Venice Ave.	1/5/2017 5:28 PM
199	This would cut off an essential corridor to the beach	1/5/2017 5:27 PM
200	This would only cause more traffic congestion and lots of confusion. And it would be a total waste of walking space from approximately April through December, when there are far fewer people in the area. Think about the year-round residents for a change.	1/5/2017 5:20 PM
201	loss of retail sales	1/5/2017 4:50 PM
202	Intriguing idea. Maybe	1/5/2017 4:40 PM
203	And that city planner Duoany (SP) should not be allowed to ruin Venice as he has ruined Sarasota. Nolen had a good plan and it remains a good plan The plan has stood the test of time and the circus put the town on the map. Those are the two most important things in the city's history. If people would read its history they might understand	1/5/2017 4:16 PM
204	Would lose parking spots.	1/5/2017 4:14 PM
205	The stores would lose a lot of customers	1/5/2017 3:50 PM
206	Venice Ave is a corridor that leads to the west side of the island, closing that will force everyone to find alternate routes, all service vechicles will now be cutting through residential neighbor hoods	1/5/2017 3:43 PM
207	there would need to more parking in a lot or garage	1/5/2017 3:39 PM
208	Are you going to build a parking garage nearby?	1/5/2017 3:38 PM
209	This type of conversion has failed 90 out of 100 times in similar restructuring attempts.	1/5/2017 3:22 PM
210	There are only shops on one side of the street. How can you call it a mall?	1/5/2017 3:07 PM
211	Possibly. You could have the "golf carts" take more people around. But where would people park? Are there any incentives (such as a store discount) for walkers or bikers -- any way to reduce congestion?	1/5/2017 2:59 PM
212	NO WAY!	1/5/2017 2:49 PM
213	Venice Avenue is the most direct route to the beach, I would image for tourists, closing it would cause some confusion. Also, for those going to the beach, driving through downtown, looking at all the shops and restaurants would be an attractant, if diverted, they may never see it. Also, parking is the issue downtown, how does closing the main road add to parking? I would be agreeable to this if there was an alternative, such as a parking garage, nearby (without having to cross 41).	1/5/2017 2:48 PM
214	wow......I should have read ahead. Only on weekends, however. European cities have retractable street barriers that prevent traffic from flowing at certain times......please consider.	1/5/2017 2:48 PM
215	Kind of. Please see my comment on number 1.	1/5/2017 2:44 PM
216	Sounds like a good plan but attracts loiters!	1/5/2017 2:41 PM
217	Only one eastbound lane, probably parking lane, or parking and inner lane. Restaurants could rent parking lane spaces for outside dining, clearing sidewalks.	1/5/2017 2:30 PM
218	More foot traffic on that side of the island will draw more restaurants and shops in need of business.	1/5/2017 2:23 PM
219	Developers continue to exploit the area. Why not limit some "growth"? The infrastructure is groaning under the development. Stop! Take a breath before allowing this crazy building.	1/5/2017 2:19 PM
220	Flow of traffic on and off bridge will slow down.	1/5/2017 2:06 PM
221	I think this would increase traffic significantly on the other residential streets going toward the beach	1/5/2017 2:06 PM
222	And where would you park cars?	1/5/2017 2:02 PM
223	I think it works fine the way it is. The center parking by the gazebo helps. Wouldn't that be lost?	1/5/2017 1:57 PM
224	I like it the way it is !!	1/5/2017 1:52 PM
225	Need to see traffic study	1/5/2017 1:45 PM
226	Get REAL	1/5/2017 1:16 PM
227	Not everyone can walk that much. But during special occasions it might work out great to have all the road space.	1/5/2017 1:04 PM

228	Like it or not Venice Avenue is the direct route to the beach and a 1000+ condos along it. Traffic needs to flow.	1/5/2017 12:59 PM
229	Interesting concept but I think not. Too many older people who can't walk far. They are the "bread and butter" of the downtown stores.	1/5/2017 12:40 PM
230	Absolutely not.	1/5/2017 12:30 PM
231	I have never seen this concept workout.	1/5/2017 12:30 PM
232	Absolutely not. To be able to drive through town allows visitors to see what our town has to offer them. The store owners and restaurants would definitely ne hurt.	1/5/2017 12:18 PM
233	If you follow the above suggestions, then you MUST keep Venice Ave. as a one way East bound.	1/5/2017 12:13 PM
234	I feel this would help so much more than angled parking... Driving is the issue - not necessarily parking.	1/5/2017 11:41 AM
235	possibly look into several blocks being converted, but certainly not the whole street	1/5/2017 11:39 AM
236	Area too small for such a condition. Late spring, summers & in the Fall, not enough people around for this condition and shops and restaurants would suffer.	1/5/2017 11:13 AM
237	As stated in comments on # 1 above. Think of people living on north end of the island that must travel through downtown to leave the island (heading north or east).	1/5/2017 11:08 AM
238	This would kill business; it has been tried in other areas and was soon changed back.	1/5/2017 10:57 AM
239	Big negative impact on the small businesses there.	1/5/2017 10:32 AM
240	No- the center area is open. Having this a walking mall might be nice if you are a tourist but residents are who you should be concerned with. I believe this would be a gross error.	1/5/2017 10:31 AM
241	If that model is used, then Tampa and Miami should both be made one way with angled parking	1/5/2017 10:23 AM
242	I think that would move congestion to Miami and tampa which are less capable of handling	1/5/2017 10:21 AM
243	Given this much thought. Still undecided. Might well be worth a trial period.	1/5/2017 10:09 AM
244	I have mixed feelings about this as I know this would make it more difficult for other people with walking problems and limit their ability to access the shops and restaurants. It would also cause a loss of parking spaces and increase traffic on Tampa and Miami. That being said, I usually park at Centennial Park and walk ("stroll") to my destination.	1/5/2017 10:06 AM
245	Maybe this could happen on a seasonal basis?	1/5/2017 10:02 AM
246	But only the area where most of the stores and restaurants are.	1/5/2017 9:46 AM
247	An interesting idea but only if a study showed that it would not hurt the local businesses.	1/5/2017 9:39 AM
248	Where will people park?	1/5/2017 9:37 AM
249	Although a nice idea, given the age of the people who live and visit here (and some of the physical challenges I've witnessed) I think that this would make going downtown prohibitive to many unless there was some sort of transportation provided to and from the downtown area.	1/5/2017 9:32 AM
250	Area ideal for such consideration. Many larger cities have done this to their advantage.	1/5/2017 9:26 AM
251	At some point in time I hope this can be done. However, we will need a transportation system that will get people close to the part of the Avenue they wish to visit. We will also need a parking garage or similar facility for cars not able to park on Venice Ave.	1/5/2017 9:25 AM
252	If converted to walking mall, I believe you would lose a lot of patrons who don't want to bother finding a parking space and have to walk further to access the walking mall. Venice Ave downtown has the lovely charm of being able to snag a close parking space and enjoy patronizing the businesses.	1/5/2017 9:05 AM
253	Way too much traffic now. Build a parking garage on currents parking areas on Miami. Buy more space if necessary.	1/5/2017 9:04 AM
254	Tampa and Miami could not handle the extra traffic.	1/5/2017 9:00 AM
255	As long as there is sufficient near by parking.	1/5/2017 8:58 AM
256	I would love to see this, with a beautiful plush green grass area extending from fountains to Nokomis Ave. Maybe a walk through made of pavers, and fountain.	1/5/2017 8:27 AM
257	NO! The beauty of downtown Venice is in the open air walkability outside. That's what the tourists flock here to do in the beautiful weather and people come down to live. No one wants to walk inside a mall they want to be outside dining and shopping. We have malls in Sarasota county and they don't seem to be doing well. This will spoil the aesthetics of the downtown area and what people come to Venice specifically for.	1/5/2017 8:26 AM

258	You have the common parking lot that does away with the necessity of a walking mall.	1/5/2017 8:26 AM
259	Too many questions on this one. You do not explain how you would route traffic around the "walking mall" to and from the two nearby draw bridges.	1/5/2017 8:11 AM
260	Will cause traffic problems elsewhere.	1/5/2017 8:01 AM
261	Until traffic study done. We need to consider trams or golf carts for the island.	1/5/2017 7:59 AM
262	I really like this idea if it could be done. It would create a better sense of community where people could walk and sit. The outdoor restaurants would be enhanced as folks would not be inhaling exhaust from the cars and trucks that use Venice Ave. as a through way .It would beautify the downtown area and add to safety for shoppers.	1/5/2017 7:54 AM
263	We have sufficient walking area on either side of Venice Avenue for walking traffic.	1/5/2017 7:54 AM
264	See what Boulder, Colorado has done!	1/5/2017 7:43 AM
265	Instead, Miami and Tampa should be more connected for foot traffic. And the City should acquire the Bank of America property to add to the charm. Consider small, successful restaurants that assume more seating will mean better results (profits). Often, the attraction to customers goes away with the upgrades. Why gut a successful formula?	1/5/2017 6:35 AM
266	That's a better idea	1/5/2017 1:45 AM
267	Yes, if we can attract more restaurants, shops, hotel etc...	1/4/2017 11:42 PM
268	It's a nice idea but it's the entry way to Venice Island.	1/4/2017 11:06 PM
269	Have never seen this successful--- Louisville, Ky --- Evansville, Indiana---Greenville, SC	1/4/2017 10:05 PM
270	I like the idea but am concerned it would affect business. All of the stops for pedestrians should be removed. It is dangerous. Either have 4way stops or nothing.	1/4/2017 9:51 PM
271	It looks great just the way it is. Why spend money unnecessarily?	1/4/2017 9:45 PM
272	I think this would be awesome. But with our growth we must be able to accommodate sufficiently elsewhere.	1/4/2017 9:40 PM
273	But heavy truck traffic should be restricted downtown. And the speed limit should be enforced!	1/4/2017 9:27 PM
274	This is yet another producer of traffic congestion thoughout the downtown area. Build a parking garage at southeast of intersection of Venice Ave. and Hwy 41 to reduce traffic in downtown and provide convenient parking; also build a pedestrian bridge over Hwy 41 from the garage.	1/4/2017 9:19 PM
275	Changes character of down town negatively	1/4/2017 9:06 PM
276	This sounds like a definite possiblity since craft and art fairs could be accomodated. Entertainment or classic music could be offered now and then in the Gazebo. Keep the people in the mall and be sure that are enough places for refreshment. Keep	1/4/2017 9:06 PM
277	The need for additional parking is the real problem. There is plenty of room for pedestrians now.	1/4/2017 8:59 PM
278	Works wonders in Europe. A Christmas market would be Perfect as well as other events!	1/4/2017 8:47 PM
279	We need a garage to accommodate the masses soon to converge on this small town. Creating circular traffic patterns with one way or pedestrian streets just compounds the problem without long term solutions	1/4/2017 8:43 PM
280	That would be lovely but what about parking for all the shoppers then ?	1/4/2017 8:34 PM
281	Absolutely not. Where is all the existing Venice Ave traffic going to go?	1/4/2017 8:31 PM
282	There are already more than adequate sidewalks, parks and pathways for pedestrian traffic. Traffic congestion would be significantly increased, loss of all of these parking spaces would only create congestion elsewhere.	1/4/2017 8:26 PM
283	I don't think this is practical although I love the idea.	1/4/2017 8:25 PM
284	That is the character of the downtown that should remain.	1/4/2017 8:15 PM
285	How are people going to get from the beach off the island? Especially if Tampa and/or Miami go 1 way?	1/4/2017 8:14 PM
286	What purpose would that serve? Seriously. Who thinks of these things?	1/4/2017 8:11 PM
287	But only the side with stores/shops/restaurants. Then make the other side one way only, with parking.	1/4/2017 8:09 PM
288	Don't believe it is necessary, but would prefer this as the second best alternative. It would allow for more street cafe space.	1/4/2017 7:59 PM
289	This will ruin the charm of our downtown and lose parking spaces as well.	1/4/2017 7:43 PM

290	Are you nuts? This is not Boca Raton. It would swamp nearby residential streets with traffic, cut off direct access to Venice Ave. bridge, and would be ridiculous in summer. Haven't the Venice Avenue festivals taught you anything?	1/4/2017 7:36 PM
291	Anyone can go to a mall. Do not screw up the downtown More parking is what is what is needed. Get rid of the post office.	1/4/2017 7:30 PM
292	But need additional parking.	1/4/2017 7:20 PM
293	Has potential...may need a solution to help elders get to businesses...not sure the downtown chamber would support this	1/4/2017 7:19 PM
294	One of these yhears yes, partial pedestrian malls in the inner citry are very attractive to everyone	1/4/2017 7:18 PM
295	Proposed changes are best compromise.	1/4/2017 7:17 PM
296	Try it for a 30 day period with the one way traffic on Tampa and Miami as a test.... make sure you have good signage for parking options. Have a poll done during the last week by an independent company of the people on the street.The businesses have their own venue to communicate their opinion. You will then have a balanced view.	1/4/2017 7:14 PM
297	Summer wasteland. Traffic goes where?	1/4/2017 7:06 PM
298	Yes, closing off a few blocks from the main parking lot to west of Daiquiri Deck would be really nice! Very pedestrian-friendly, a la the Farmer's Market on Saturdays. Makes a really nice atmosphere downtown; lessens the danger to pedestrians.	1/4/2017 7:05 PM
299	Ability to drive to the beach via Venice Ave. is too convenient to be lost. It can still be closed to traffic during fairs or art events.	1/4/2017 7:01 PM
300	If that is a option its a great idea	1/4/2017 6:49 PM
301	If we ever develop Centennial Park into retail and/or housing/parking building, yes, then I would support	1/4/2017 6:49 PM
302	Not needed with all the other trails	1/4/2017 6:35 PM
303	Given the age of the Venetian population, this would be difficult for them unless there were alternate means of transportation the length of Venice Ave.	1/4/2017 6:35 PM
304	Emphaticlly YES !!!!!!	1/4/2017 6:27 PM
305	Gives direct access to public beach. It is the signature road of the city. Also traffic pattern & flow to the bridge would be confusing & heavy especially in season.	1/4/2017 6:27 PM
306	I would love this idea IF we had a parking garage, and IF we didn't have so many elderly people.	1/4/2017 6:19 PM
307	Actually, I'd say maybe on this one - if there are alternate routes, then having Venice Ave converted to a walking mall would be fine.	1/4/2017 6:19 PM
308	Perhaps an exception for golf carts and bicycles could be made.	1/4/2017 6:19 PM
309	Just makes it that much farther for the majority of seniors in our community to have to walk to get to restaurants and shops on Venice Ave. Most will never even try to get there. We already have a perceived parking problem downtown, not because there are not enough places to park, but because there are not enough places to park within a few feet of the destination. How is forcing people to walk for several blocks going to help that situation? How is taking away all the parking on Venice Avenue going to help the parking situation? If Miami is one-way westbound, how will delivery trucks using the alley behind the Venice Avenue shops get back on the road to go eastbound on Tampa? If Tampa is one-way westbound, how long will it take the fire dept. to respond to the assisted living place across from Epiphany? There seem to be a lot of unconsidered, undesirable consequences.	1/4/2017 6:17 PM
310	What would you do with the traffic/parking during season?	1/4/2017 6:16 PM
311	Making the restaurants offering more concrete for beautiful outside dining with plants, no car fumes, & even concrete.	1/4/2017 6:15 PM
312	They did that where I come from and within 10 years they paid to convert it back. Nice concept, but people didn't want to park and walk there. Businesses lost business.	1/4/2017 6:06 PM