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Media Contact: Ciara DePinto, Communications & Engagement Specialist <u>cdepinto@fruita.org</u> 970-858-3663

## City of Fruita Seeking Community Feedback on Mulberry Street Outdoor Space, Potential Permanent Space.

The City of Fruita is looking for community input on the closure of North Mulberry Street (between Aspen Avenue and the alleyway). Residents and visitors are encouraged to provide input on the project through an online survey. **The survey can be found online at** <u>fruita.org</u> and will be open until May 15, **2022.** Residents and visitors will also have an opportunity to provide input on the project at the Fat Tire Festival on May 6-8, 2022, in Downtown Fruita, Colorado.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Fruita temporarily closed sections of North Mulberry Street and Peach Street to street traffic. The spaces were transformed into outdoor seating to support downtown businesses during social distancing restrictions. As restrictions related to the pandemic lifted, Peach Street was reconverted back to a street while North Mulberry Street continued to be a gathering area for residents and visitors. North Mulberry Street is centrally located in Downtown Fruita and is located next to a large parking lot.

After high utilization of the space, the City of Fruita is pursuing options for making North Mulberry Street a permanent outdoor space. In September 2021, the city was awarded the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant of \$25,000 from the Department of Local Affairs for the purpose of creating a permanent outdoor space on North Mulberry Street.

Currently, the City of Fruita is collecting community and stakeholder input on what the space should look like moving forward. After feedback is collected, a concept and design for North Mulberry Street will be shared with the community. The plan will outline priorities for the space and is projected to be complete in May 2022.

For more information on the project, visit fruita.org.