



City Council Work Session

448 E 1st Street, Room 190 Salida, Colorado 81201

February 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Agenda

Please register, **BY 4:30 pm the day of the Work Session** for City Council Work Session

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AlrC-BsIRNiigokU1E5K4w

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. To watch live meetings:

<http://www.youtube.com/@cityofsalidacolorado>

Discussion Items

1. Dark Skies Overview
2. F Street Closure Discussion

Adjourn

Individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aid(s) may request assistance by contacting the City Clerk at 448 E. 1st Street, Ste. 112, Salida, CO 81201, Ph.719-530-2626 at least 48 hours in advance.



City Council Work Session Memo

Department Administration	Presented By Sara Law - Sustainability Coordinator/PIO	Date February 17, 2026
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Agenda Item

Dark Skies Overview

Background

On February 13, 2025, the Sustainability Committee received a presentation from the SMCS 6th Grade Destination Imagination (DI) Team, urging the City of Salida to pursue Dark Skies certification. After the meeting, staff spoke with Lori Young, a Dark Sky certification specialist, about the process and attached are the checklist guidelines to become certified.

In March, the Committee voted to revisit the conversation about Dark Skies in two years' time and encouraged the DI team to educate the public about Dark Skies friendly practices.

On September 11th, 2025, the newly formed Dark Sky Salida presented at our Sustainable Committee as the committee developed its strategic priorities for the upcoming year. In subsequent meetings, the Committee determined that they would support and encourage Dark Skies education and outreach, however, found the designation process costly and staff intensive.

Both the city and county require Dark Skies-friendly lighting for new developments. However, the most significant challenge to achieving Dark Skies Community status is retrofitting existing lighting infrastructure. This process will be costly and will necessitate a comprehensive education and outreach campaign, along with a coordinated staff and volunteer effort.

At present, the city has some general policies and guidelines in the land use code in place that support Dark Skies compliance, but these policies alone are not sufficient to earn the formal designation of "Dark Sky Community." Although new developments are required to adhere to these policies, there is limited enforcement, and many property owners fail to install the appropriate lighting. As a result, compliance is largely limited to new builds, with little progress on retrofitting existing lighting.

To become Dark Skies certified, there is significant staff labor required, including council action, updating ordinances, and collaborating with the county. The cost to become a Dark Skies community can range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 depending on staff capacity/time, whether external consultants are needed and what ordinances/codes would need to be updated to comply. While the initial investment can be significant, many communities find that the long-term benefits, such as improved quality of life, energy savings, and tourism, can make the costs worthwhile.

Requested Direction from Council

Does Council want staff to actively pursue Dark Sky Community certification, or focus on education and incremental compliance without formal designation?



City Council Work Session Memo

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Agenda Item

F Street Closure Discussion

Background

In November, 63% of Salida citizens voted to “restrict vehicular traffic on F Street, from Sackett Street south to the mid-200 block, for a period specified by the City Council, from a date certain in May through a date certain in September, for the years of 2026, 2027 and 2028” Since the passage of this ballot measure, City staff have been actively coordinating with community partners, businesses, and advisory groups to prepare for the implementation and long-term success of the F Street Closure.

Several ideas have come forward from City Staff, the Downtown Business Group and the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

Staff have been working with [CGI Digital](#) to design and produce new downtown banners that will visually support and promote the F Street Closure while enhancing the overall vibrancy of the corridor. This effort began with CGI reached out to the City offering 25 free banners supporting the 150/250 celebrations.

In addition, we have been collaborating with the Downtown Business Group to gather feedback on how the City and businesses can work together to create a cohesive and economically beneficial experience. These conversations have included operations, aesthetics, and shared promotional efforts. Staff have also been coordinating with the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission to identify opportunities to activate F Street through arts programming and creative placemaking through the budget that was rolled over from 2025

To support infrastructure and beautification needs, the City has submitted an application to the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant. The grant covers design of the sidewalk improvements (electric and irrigation), downtown art, including mosaics on the planters and painting two intersections. The total request was \$150,000 with a \$50,000 match. We will know in June if we are successful.



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We are reviewing the City’s Revocable License Agreement packet materials to ensure the process for businesses wishing to expand into the public right-of-way is clear, efficient, and accessible. Historically, there has been no cost for businesses to expand into the public right-of-way, and staff are evaluating current materials and procedures to ensure they remain transparent and supportive while aligning with the needs of the F Street closure program.

Recognizing the importance of business support, the City is partnering with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to develop a “Creative Business Bootcamp” tailored to our Creative District. This program is intended to provide tools and resources that help local businesses maximize the opportunities presented by the Summer Walk.

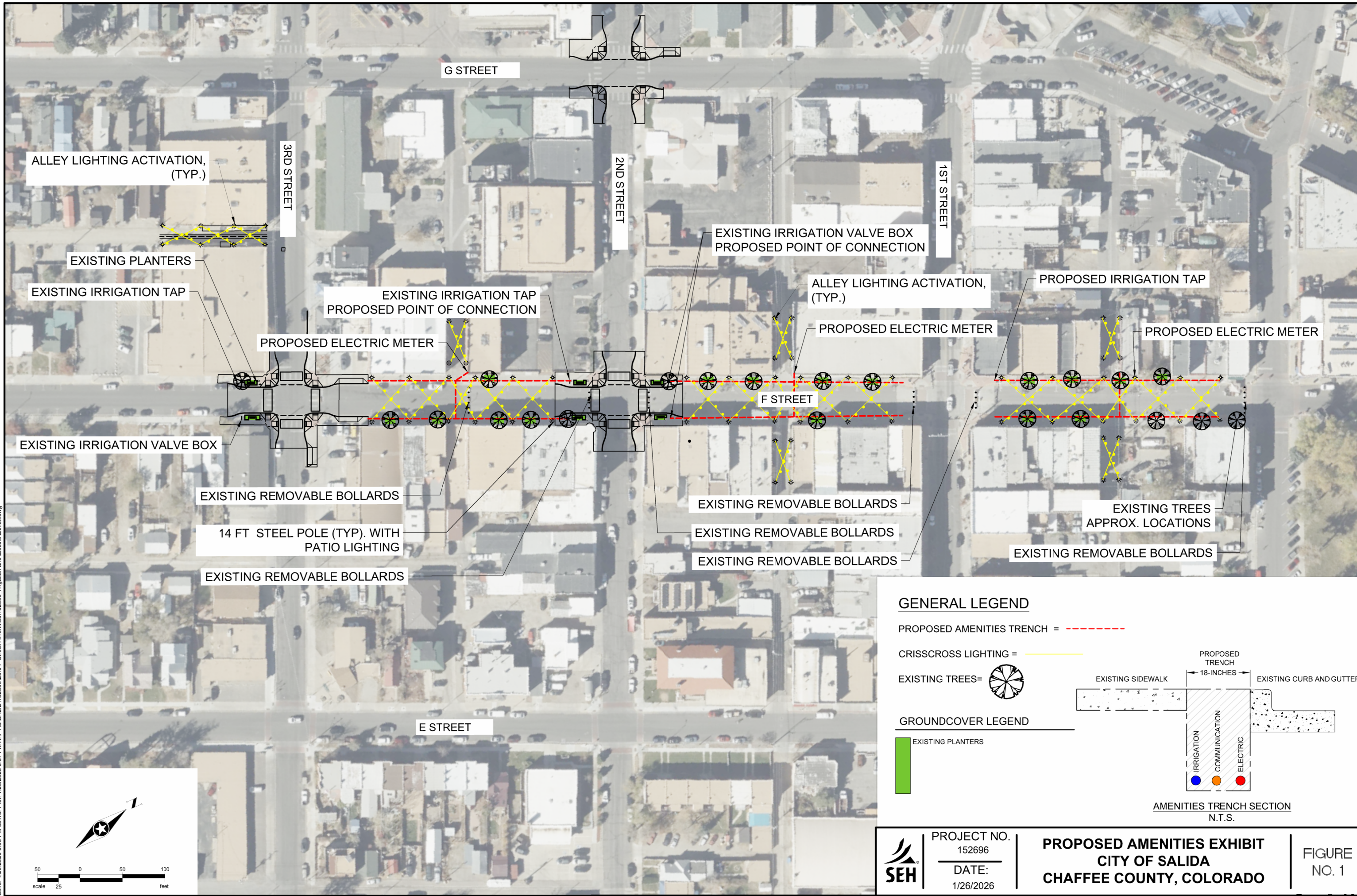
The City is also investing in physical activation elements to support the F Street Closure. This includes signage that clearly identifies the closure area and helps residents and visitors understand the purpose and boundaries of the program. Pergolas and seating have already been purchased in previous years and we are considering purchasing more depending on needs. CGI Digital banners, which will enhance the vibrancy and branding of the corridor, are being provided at no cost to the City.

Additional activation costs include approximately \$30,000 for street painting and an estimated \$5,000–\$10,000 for supplemental signage around bollards and closure points. In partnership, the Downtown Business Group and the City are also working on improved strategies to advertise and direct visitors to available parking in order to mitigate access concerns.

Requested Direction from Council

Staff are asking Council to identify any gaps, concerns, or opportunities that may not yet be addressed in the current planning efforts. This feedback will help ensure implementation reflects community priorities while supporting a successful and well-coordinated F Street closure.

Save: 1/26/2026 3:36 PM X:\PT\SS\ALID\152696\25.0 F-Street Amenities\152696_Irrigation and Electric Exhibit.dwg



ALLEY LIGHTING ACTIVATION, (TYP.)

EXISTING PLANTERS

EXISTING IRRIGATION TAP

EXISTING IRRIGATION TAP PROPOSED POINT OF CONNECTION

PROPOSED ELECTRIC METER

EXISTING IRRIGATION VALVE BOX

EXISTING REMOVABLE BOLLARDS

14 FT STEEL POLE (TYP.) WITH PATIO LIGHTING

EXISTING REMOVABLE BOLLARDS

G STREET

3RD STREET

2ND STREET

1ST STREET

EXISTING IRRIGATION VALVE BOX PROPOSED POINT OF CONNECTION

ALLEY LIGHTING ACTIVATION, (TYP.)

PROPOSED ELECTRIC METER

PROPOSED IRRIGATION TAP

PROPOSED ELECTRIC METER

F STREET

EXISTING REMOVABLE BOLLARDS

EXISTING REMOVABLE BOLLARDS

EXISTING REMOVABLE BOLLARDS

EXISTING TREES APPROX. LOCATIONS

EXISTING REMOVABLE BOLLARDS

E STREET


GENERAL LEGEND

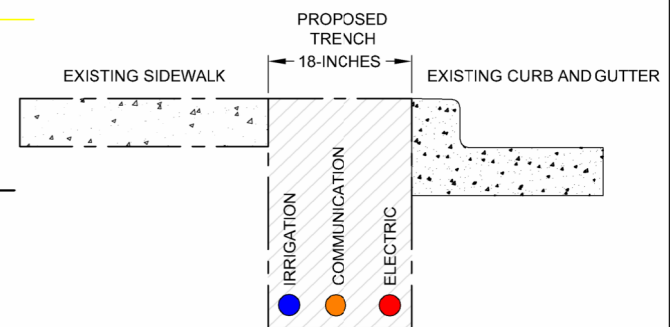
PROPOSED AMENITIES TRENCH = - - - - -

CRISSCROSS LIGHTING = ————

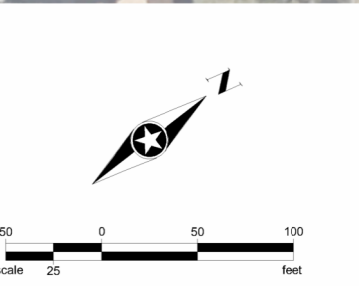
EXISTING TREES= 

GROUNDCOVER LEGEND

 EXISTING PLANTERS



AMENITIES TRENCH SECTION N.T.S.



SEH PROJECT NO. 152696 DATE: 1/26/2026

PROPOSED AMENITIES EXHIBIT CITY OF SALIDA CHAFFEE COUNTY, COLORADO

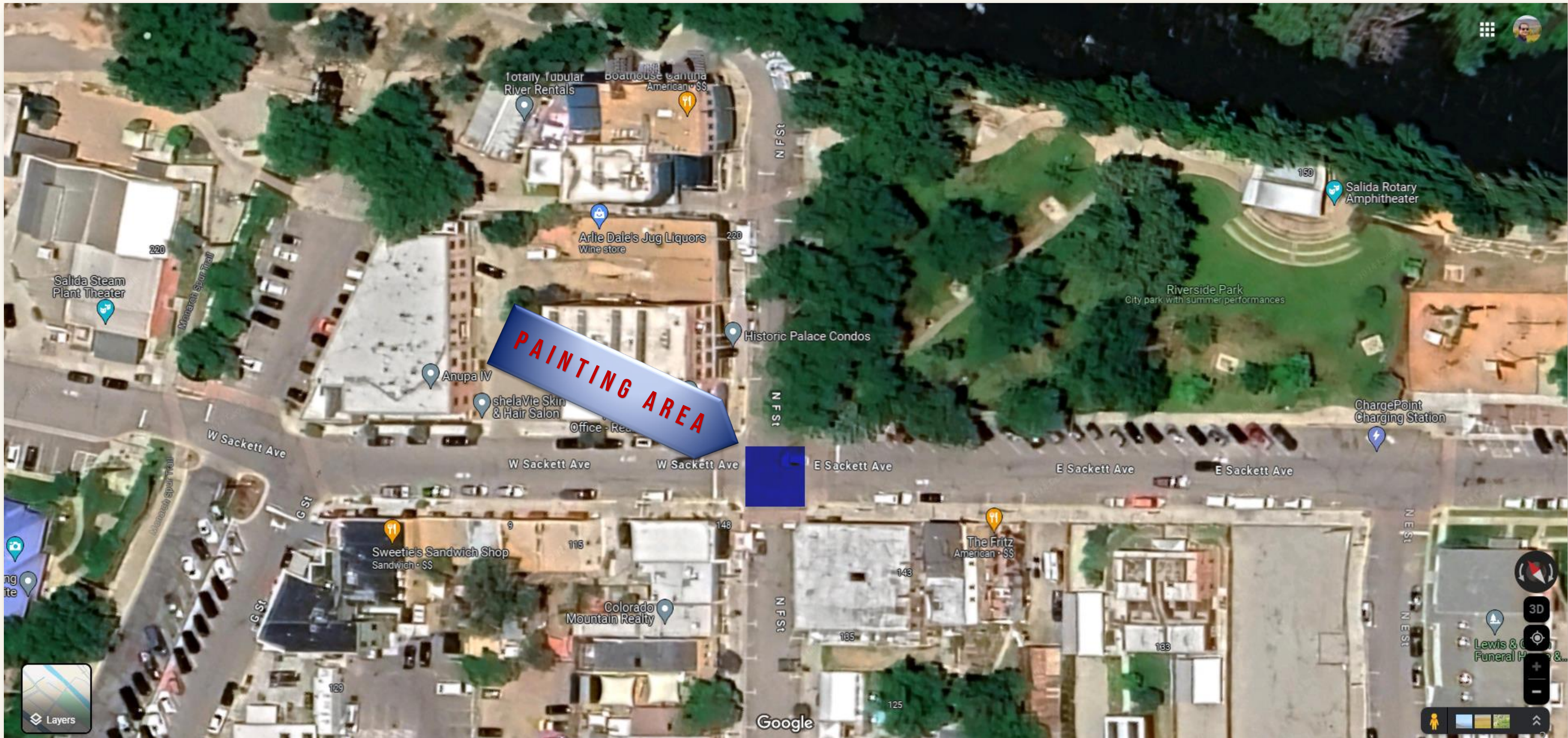
FIGURE NO. 1



SALIDA DECORATIVE INTERSECTION

3.15.24

N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201



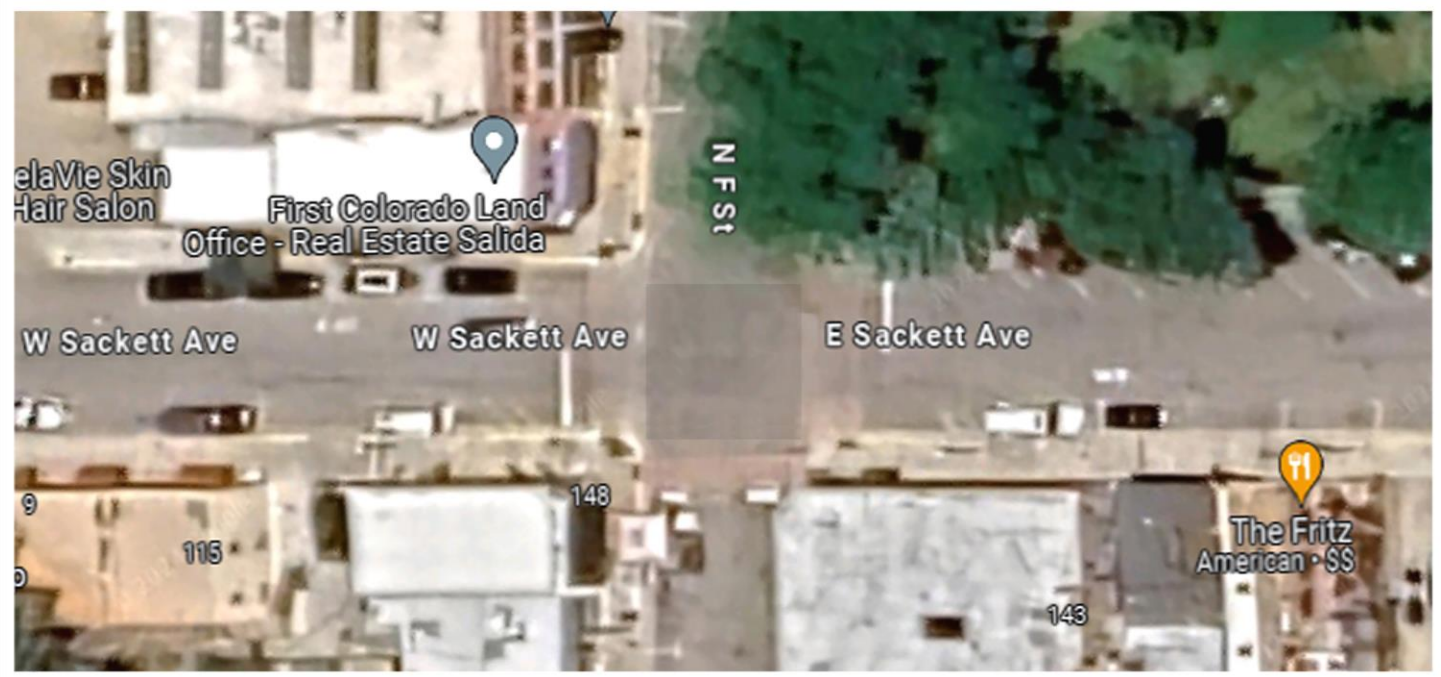
N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201



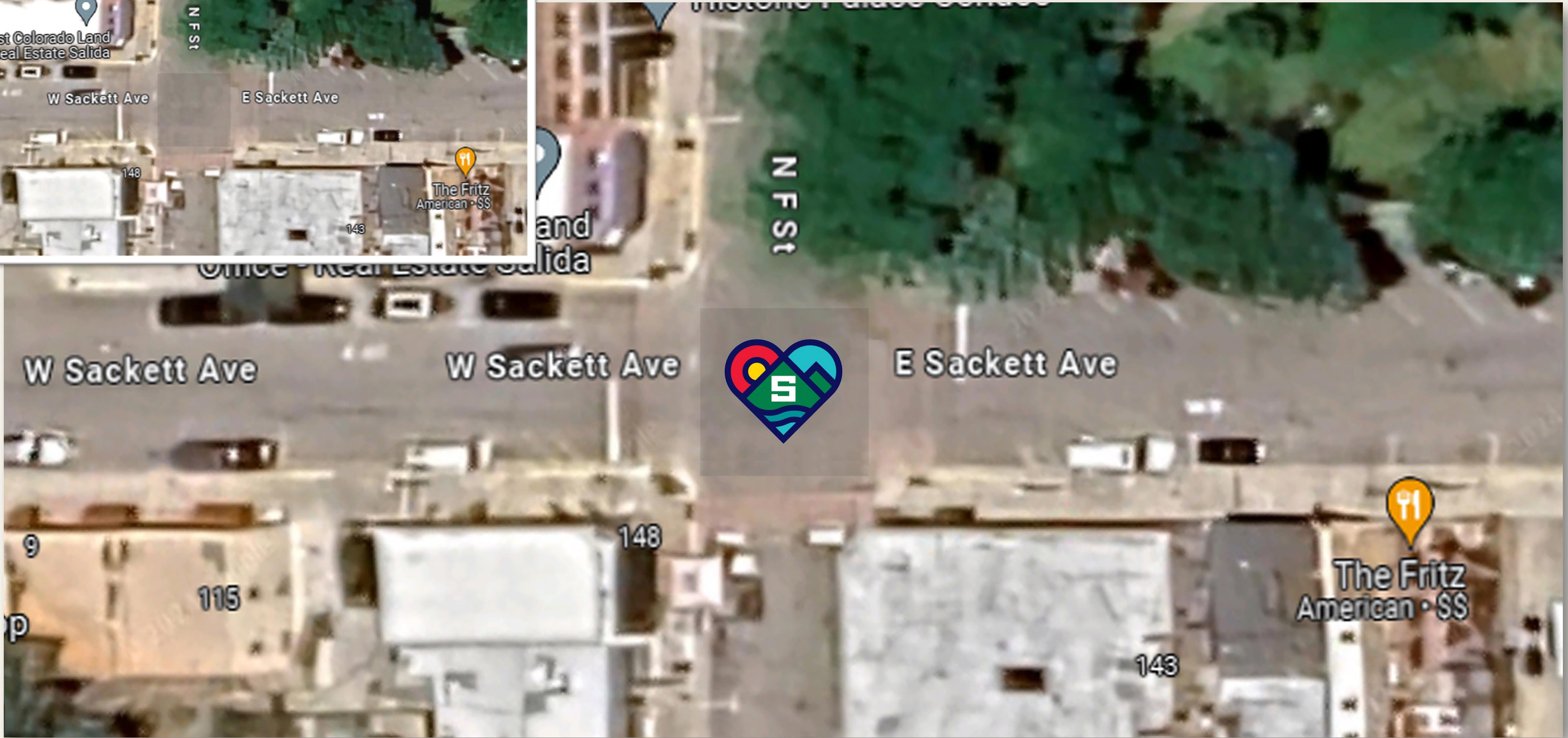
BEFORE



AFTER
3



BEFORE



AFTER
4

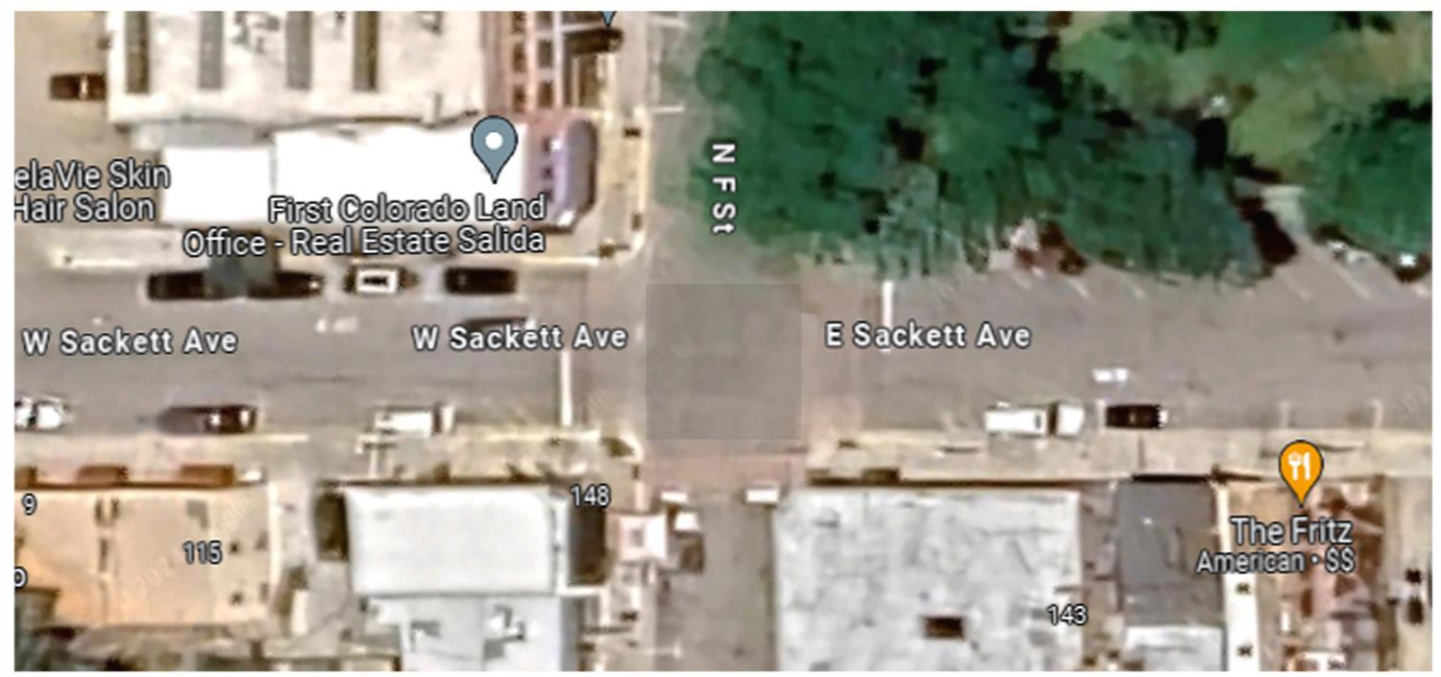




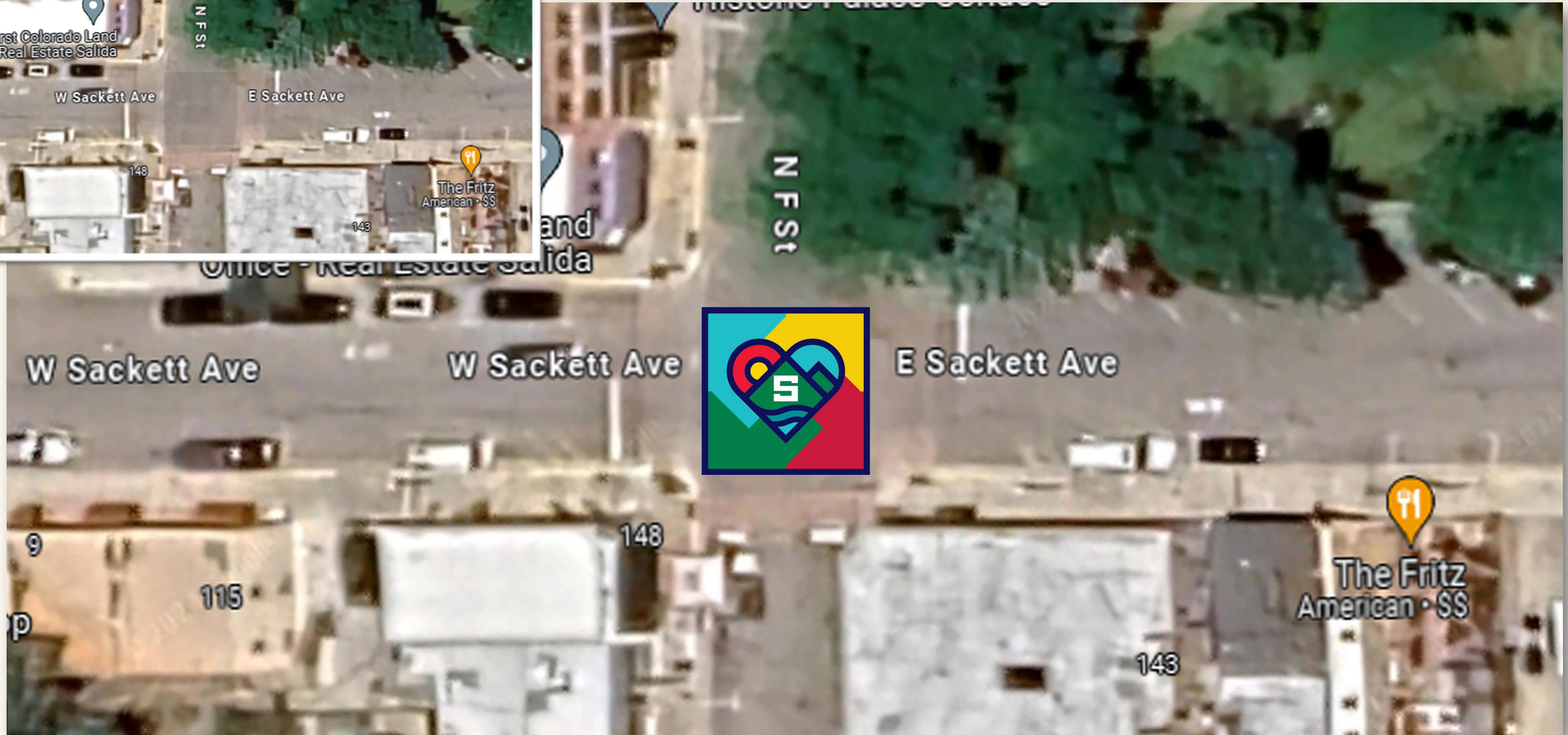
BEFORE



AFTER
6



BEFORE



AFTER
7



N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201

BEFORE



AFTER



N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201



N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201

BEFORE



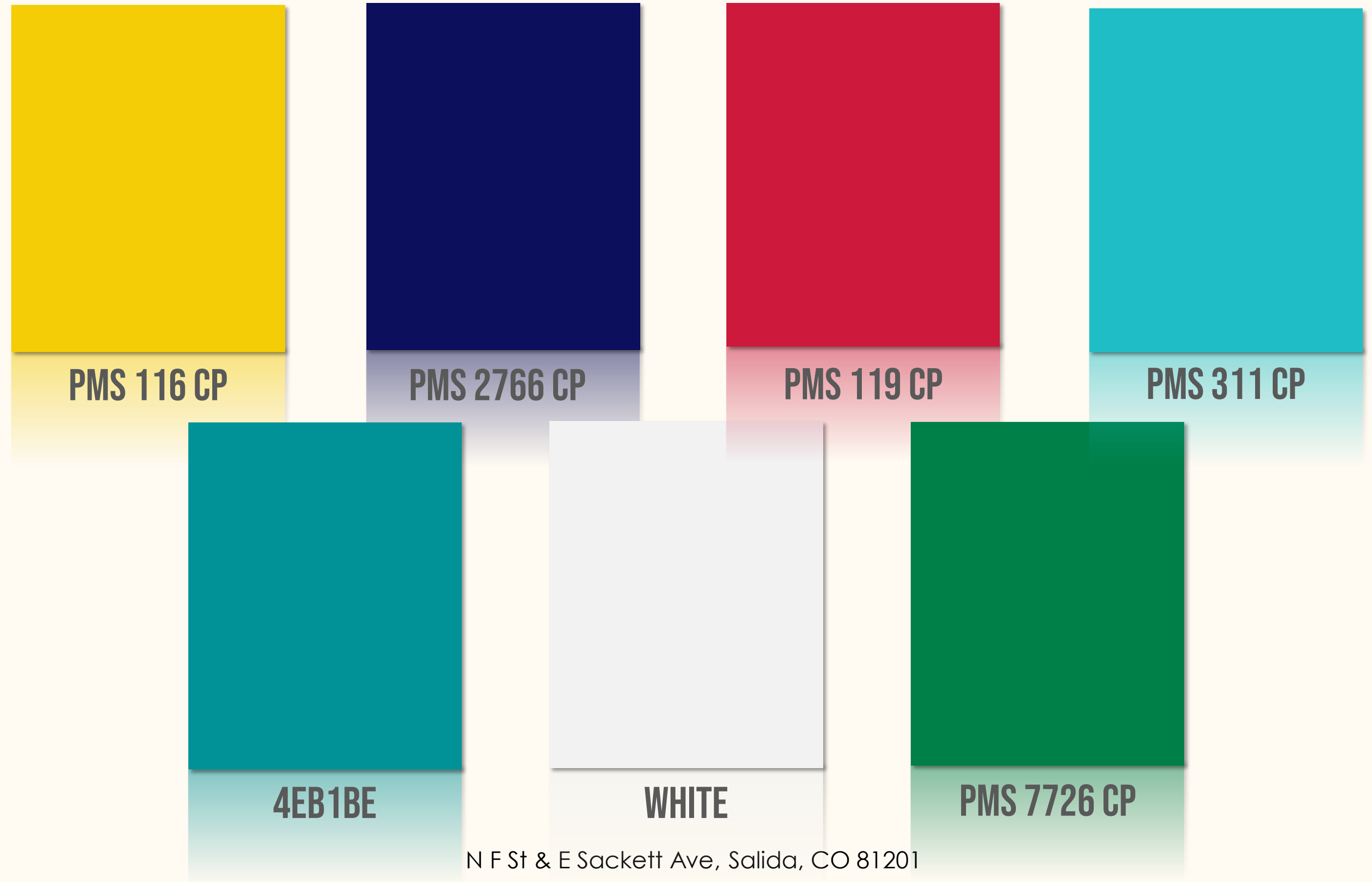
AFTER



N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201



N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201



PMS 116 CP

PMS 2766 CP

PMS 119 CP

PMS 311 CP

4EB1BE

WHITE

PMS 7726 CP

N F St & E Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201

Task / Phase	Lead	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PLANNING & COORDINATION									
Identify Cobra Poles	David Lady	●							
Wire Banner Feasibility (DBG)	Sara Law	●	●						
Alley Activation Best Practices	Bill Almquist	●	●						
REDI Grant Application	Christy Doon	●							
RLA Policy Review & Updates	Sara Law / Tommy / Christy	●	●						
DESIGN & APPROVALS									
Banner Design (All Types)	CivicBrand		●	●					
Banner Production (CGI)	CGI		●	●					
Pergola & Seating Inventory & Placement	Diesel		●	●	●				
Street Painting Concept & Artist Outreach	Sara / Christy		●	●					
Window & Mural One-Pagers	Community Dev / Sara		●	●					
INSTALLATION & LAUNCH									
Banner Installation	Public Works				●				
Pergolas, Chairs & Parklets Installed	Diesel / Public Works				●				
Street Painting / Art Implementation	Sara / Christy			●	●				
RLA Microsoft Form Launch	Sara / Tommy			●					

Parking Map Dissemination	Sara Law			●	●	●	●	●	●
SUMMER WALK ACTIVE									
Summer Walk Activation Period	City / Partners				●	●	●	●	●
Feedback Collection & Monitoring	Staff					●	●	●	●