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From: [Don Mrla - Google](#)
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I would like to encourage the City Council to direct staff to pause on the Promenade planning and take some more time to figure out what is best long-term for the City.

The establishment of the Promenade (and al fresco dining options) saved many restaurants during the pandemic. When indoor dining was prohibited, being able to serve customers safely outside kept businesses operating, staff employed and provide a reprieve to our community who were kept indoors. *The Promenade met an acute economic need during the worst point of time in the pandemic.* Business owners made investment decisions on building-out their outdoor spaces whilst facing an uncertain future. The result - as seen today - is a hodgepodge of 2020 decisions.

Some businesses in Uptown benefit from the Promenade and some do not (or are even disadvantaged). Establishing a permanent Promenade as an enduring feature of our Uptown needs to be done very carefully and intentionally (and not as a simple desire to “make it better looking”). We must treat the concept of al fresco dining as a key feature of a new Uptown street scape. One that is the result of comprehensive stakeholder engagement, careful consideration of others’ lessons learned and an honest look of what we want Uptown Whittier to be as an area destination. Getting granular on what we want Uptown to be is possibly a worthy investment of effort in the near-term. The promenade is a singular part of a list of potential improvements that ought to be considered holistically. That list of improvement must also consider:

- Traffic
- Beautification
- Security
- Mixed usages

Skaters - there are a lot of complaints about young people skating and causing problems. These young people are still members of our community. If their behaviors are not conducive to a specific atmosphere being cultivated in Uptown, we - as a community - must dig deeper and understand what is going on and address the root causes of those unacceptable behaviors. The solution of those root causes ought to have a place in a plan for a reinvigorated Uptown.

Best Regards,
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