

Village of McBride Historic Train Station

Overview

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's

possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." -Francis of Assis

As we move towards Universal Design and Access, the goal is to adapt the built environment to increase access for everyone. Building Codes are minimum standards that do not take into consideration the interaction of people within the built environment. It is important to keep in mind the principles of Equitable Use, Flexibility in Use, Simple and Intuitive, Perceptible Information, Tolerance of Error, Low Physical Effort, and Size and space for Approach and Use.

These recommendations will go beyond simple code and be best practice for the specific site. Taking into account of the existing facility, recommendations are made to increase general access. The recommendations are made to benefit everyone as they move through the site.

For the purpose of these recommendations, the Facility shall refer to the Train Station. The information desk will refer to the Information Counter in Main Lobby. The Whistle Stop Gallery shall be referred to as the Gift Shop/ Gallery – as the use at the time of assessment. The Model Train Exhibit shall be referred to as the Exhibit Space.

Recommendations

Parking: Access and Safety

For this recommendation it will be looking at the current situation. The Proposed redesign of the village side of the Train station will be dealt with as separate section.

- The Parking Lot is currently well designed for the designated space.
 Currently the space provided can accommodate a designated space with an Access Aisle. To increase accessibility, it is recommended that the designated space to have vertical signage directly in front of the space.
 The current sign on the building is a fair distance away and is not intuitive to acknowledge the space.
- The pathway from the village main street has crosswalks indicated on the
 pavement but lack clear vertical signage to ensure safe crossing. It is
 recommended the addition of signage to indicate the crossings. It is also
 recommended that a pedestrian pathway (crosswalk) be painted on the
 Parking Lot asphalt to indicate a path from the crosswalk to the facility.
 This can be accompanied by vertical signage.
- The concrete barriers and other fixed objects can be painted with a highly visible colour that contrast to pavement (70% contrast is recommended)
- Lighting is limited from across the street and several smaller lights on the facility. Being a Northern Community, the summer daylight hours are quite substantial but in the winter season the daylight hours are limited.
 Additional lighting for parking lot and exterior approach is recommended.
- As the visitation increases, it is also recommended for designated spaces for larger vans/RV's or buses. This would provide safer access to the facilities and reduce stress to locate such an area.

Exterior Pathways Go with the Flow

Village side:

As mentioned above, the need for intuitive flow and direction increases accessibility for everyone. Where do we go and how do we get there is a question everyone asks when they arrive at a new place.

- The access to the Train Station is currently disorientating. Designated
 pedestrian flow would help with safety, reduce liability, and ensure visitors
 will be able to conveniently and with dignity, access all amenities. The
 pedestrian pathways through the parking lot can direct visitors to steps or
 the ramp. Indicators can also be added to direct people to the entrances.
- This can be accomplished with the addition of handrails along the ramp and landing. When the railings are installed, precautions have to be made not to reduce the width of the ramp. This can be accomplished by attaching the railings to the side of the ramp. Railings should be installed along the wooden deck. By designating areas for steps, the proper rise can be accommodated and will also provide edge indication to prevent accidentally going over. The step can be provided with a nosing that has a seventy percent colour contrast for visibility. Handrails should be added to aid in stability while stepping up or down.
- The current signage for the entrances and amenities are limited. As you approach the facility it is not currently apparent which door belong to which amenities. The signs are cluttered and difficult to read from a distance. Signs should be clear and precise. An increase in the size and varying styles of the main entrance signage would allow the focus of visitors to the visitor centre and the amenities within such as the

Exterior Pathways continued

 washrooms, Information Desk, Restaurant, and Gift Shop/ Gallery. Adding Directional signage on the wall and Blade Signage would increase visibility from along the pathways.

Train Side: Welcome One and All

Visitors arriving on the train may have never been to McBride before. A quick glance should provide them with the information they need to experience the facility.

- Along the train track side, painted directional arrows from the train to amenities would aid in flow of the visitors. This could be colour coded to the signage of the amenities for example green to the restaurant and blue to the Information Desk. Blade signage for all the amenities is also recommended as when on is walking along the building, the entry doors for each amenity is not initially apparent. Signage for the seating along the side could also added.
- Around the facility as a whole, there is ample seating. I would recommend
 the addition of seating that has backs and arms they can aid in usage.
 The plastic patio chairs do have a tendency in being unstable and are
 prone to breakage. Therefore these chairs can be a liability.
- Lighting for the surrounding pathways of the facility should be looked at for the expected usage in all seasons. Ample lighting can provide safety for visitors as well as increase visibility of obstacles.

Main Entrance: Our Doors are Opened

The Main Entrance is the gateway to the facility. It should be intuitive, inviting and draw people into the Train Station.

Village side Entrances:

Information Desk and Gift Shop/Gallery

- The entrance on the village side is currently not stand out as the main entrance. Since all entry doors open directly into the facilities, I do recommend a vestibule to provide weather protection. This could also provide an identifiable feature for the entrance.
- The entry door is currently not power assisted. Adding a power assisted
 opener is recommended for all exterior doors. Controls can be installed to
 be convenient and identifiable, both interior and exterior. When installed a
 barrier or markings should be added to indicate path of travel.
- In the meantime, the closures should be adjusted to allow one to enter through the doors with ease. The closures should close slowly (8-10 seconds) to approximately 70% then can increase in speed to close.
- The doors should have kick plates installed on the interior and exterior of all doors as they are sometimes used by people in wheelchairs to aid in passage through the doorway.
- The door hardware are currently the recommended U-shaped lever action.
 A change to increase accessibility would be to a push plate on one side
 and a fixed U-shaped handle on the other. Security can be done with the
 current deadbolt application.

Restaurant What's Cooking?

The restaurant entrance:

• All exterior doors should have the threshold weather stripping removed and style of weather stripping that is installed directly on the door is recommended. This removes any tripping hazard and liabilities as well increase accessibility. The village entry is currently also used as some storage for the restaurant. This decreases clear space for turning the 90 degrees to enter. It is recommended that this space is kept clear of obstacles. Entering into the restaurant space, obstacles were in the space reducing access. This pathway should be kept clear. In the entry there is a small shelf protruding into the space that can be a liability as it can be eye level for those in a wheelchair. It is recommended that this be removed.

Train Side Entrances:

Information Desk and Gift Shop/Gallery

The main entrance to the facility on the train side is not easily identifiable.
 The current signage is weathered and not easy to read. A new sign is recommended along with blade signage to increase visibility to all the amenities (model train exhibit, restaurant, main entrance to Gift Shop Gallery, Information Desk and washrooms.)

The Model Train Exhibit

 The door to the Model Train Exhibit is not accessible. The current threshold is near to 75mm. The door currently has a thumb depression handle. These situations keep this space from being accessible. The

Model Train Exhibit continued

recommendation in the long term is to replace the door style to one with a level threshold and assessable hardware. In the meantime, a temporary exterior grade rubber ramp can be installed on both sides of the entry doors and accessible U-shaped hardware installed. The ramps approximately cost \$250 each depending on the sizes.

Restaurant

 The restaurant door on the track side has a threshold weather stripping that should be changed to a door mounted weather stripping. The door currently swings outwards therefore it is recommended that a barrier (railing) be erected outside to indicate the path of travel.

Interior

What is New?

Lobby/Reception:

- The Lobby/Reception area is wide and open. The Information Desk is well indicated but is at an elevated level (1100mm). It is recommended to have some area of service desk counter height for accessibility of 860mm. A long term recommendation is to have this renovated to accommodate the service counter height accessibility. Leg room is also recommended for the service counter. When the service counter is renovated, it is recommended that is colour contrasted to the surrounding walls.
- The Lobby does have seating available. It is recommended to add a seating with arms option to assist people in sitting down and standing.
- Directional Signage for the restaurant access from the Lobby is recommended as is directional signage to the Model Train Exhibit.
- There is a lacking of signage for the Gift Shop/Gallery in the Lobby. It is recommended that signage at the entrance of the Gallery.

Lobby Reception continued

 Directional signage is recommended to be installed at 1200mm off the finished floor. Blade signage for the washrooms, and access to the restaurant are also recommended to increase visibility from both entrances.

Sanitary Facilities We All Have to Go!

Men's and Women's:

Washrooms are essential for everyone. Accessibility allows one to use the facility with the greatest safety and dignity.

- Most of the recommendations for adjustments or changes can be universally applied to both washrooms.
- The Men's washroom is located down a short hallway. This does not currently allow tactile signage at the recommended height of 1200mm on the latch side. It is recommended to install additional signage in the recommended location and at the hallway entrance.
- The doors to the washrooms is not powered but has a closure. The closure is recommended to be adjusted to allow 8-10 seconds to reach 70%. This facilitates the entry to the washroom.
- The door handle is a knob style but is used as a pull. Round knobs can be difficult to pull therefore it is recommended to install a D-shaped pull on the door.
- There is currently no kick plates on the doors. It is recommended that kick plates be installed on both sides of all doors.
- A long term solution for the men's washroom would be to remove the door and have a privacy screen/wall installed.
- The stalls in the washrooms do not have a sufficient size with the
 accessible turning radius to 1500mm or greater. There is a sewer vent or
 pipe in the stall that limits the radius. It is recommended to remove or
 change location of pipe to increase radius. Alternatively a longer term

Sanitary Facilities continued

- solution would be to move the water closet to back onto that wall and thus the pipe would be in a location that would not affect the clear radius.
- The coat is recommended to be moved to a height of 1200mm. The
 current height is 1800+mm. The latch and door pull is recommended to be
 lowered to 950+/-50mm. The latch is currently small difficult to grasp. It is
 recommended to install a sliding latch that is easily moved with a closed
 fist. The door pull is recommended to be D-shaped and installed
 horizontally and 200-300mm from hinge side of the door.
- The grab bars should have a diameter of 30-40mm and a clearance of 35mm. They shall be installed with the centerline 300-330mm above the water closet and be 600mm horizontally then rise at a 60 degree angle for another 600mm. The transition from the horizontal to 60 degree angle is recommended to line up with the front of the water closet. It is recommended that an additional grab bar of 600mm be install above the tank and centered on the water closet.
- The toilet paper dispensers are recommended to be installed in line with the front edge of the toilet below grab bar.
- The Urinal is recommended to install grab bars on either side of the fixture. The Urinal is current at a height (650mm) exceeding the accessible basin height of 500mm +/-12mm. It is a long term recommendation to install a second urinal at the recommended height to help with capacity and accessibility. The surrounding tile should be of a contrasting colour. A clear width of 800mm from centre of fixture is needed for each urinal. The basins currently does not have accessible or automatic faucets. It is recommended that these are replaced with the appropriate lever action faucets.
- The hand soap dispenser and paper towel dispensers are recommended not to be directly over the vanity. This blocks access and is recommended to be moved over beside the vanity.
- Mirrors in the washrooms are recommended to be changed out. The height for the bottom edge is recommended to be no greater that 1000mm

- and no greater that 200mm above the vanity. A tilted mirror acceptable. An alternative full length mirror is also an acceptable addition.
- The women's washroom has limited clearance in front of the vanity and to access the change table. A long term recommendation is to consider moving the vanity to allow clear access.
- Another long term item would be the addition of an electrical outlet beside the toilet to allow powered lifts and chairs to plug in.

Emergency Systems Safety First!

Emergency systems are what we rely on when everything goes wrong. They are the investments we hope we never need to use.

- At the time of the assessment the facility was electronically monitored for security with heat, smoke and CO2 detection.
- There was two fire extinguishers on site that were noticeable. One was in the kitchen under a counter and the other mounted high in the Model Train Exhibit Space. It is recommend that all fire extinguishers are mounted on the wall at a height of 1200mm.
- The exit signs are located on the ceiling or a high location. It is recommended that exit signs are lowered because once an area is filled with smoke, the signs are no long visible in the ceilings.
- A long term recommendation would be to include visual alarm indication and pull stations at the exit points. If there is a fire in the Kitchen, can we immediately notify people in the Model Train Exhibit?

Additional Spaces

Enjoy Our Small Town Hospitality

Workstations

Our employees may have the skills to do an excellent job, so how can we make their workplace more efficient and accessible.

- The work stations behind the Information Desk is limited for space. At the time of the assessment the space was not occupied. It is recommended from the assessment that the space may be opened up to provide greater access by having all the desks along the outer walls of the work area and keeping the centre area clear for access. This is an initial recommendation. A more in depth consultation would have to be done with management to interpret how the space is utilized.
- The workstation for the Gift Shop/ Gallery is set up along one wall with clear space access. The lunch room/ coffee room had lights that were not working at the time and could be hazardous to employees. It is recommended that the lights be replaced/repaired.
- I also recommend that any renovations have the electrical outlets be placed a 400mm to centre and switches be placed at 1200mm.

Exhibit Space

The Model Train Exhibit Space entry was discussed above. The current elevation for the model display is approximately 1200mm to the base. To see the display you have to be above this height. A long tem solution would be to lower the display. Access to an elevated platform would be restricted.

Restaurant

The Signage and Wayfinding in the restaurant is insufficient. The Order
Here sign and the Cashier sign are not visible from all the entry points. To
help inform and reduce confusion when entering, signage that is visible in

Restaurant continued

- placement and size is recommended. Another technique would be to have indication arrows on the floor to direct visitors. The Menu display is written small and is not places where it can be easily seen if someone is in front. The shelf where you write the orders down does not have sufficient leg room and is too low for accessibility. It is recommended that the counter is raised to 865mm. The wayfinding to the washroom facilities in the main entrance is recommended to be added from sight lines at the Order Counter to the Lobby.
- The tables in the restaurant are congested when occupied. A solution would be to have a designated seating that allows for extra room.
- The restaurant staff are extremely helpful but access to all amenities such as the coffee and cream and sugar is limiting and could be moved to provide ease of access. This could be done by lowering the shelf and moving the products.

Gift Shop/Gallery

More than just memories, we want the visitors to take home a piece of McBride.

- The Gift Shop/ Gallery is set up with ample space to maneuver and access to displays. The areas of concern for accessibility in this space is the one step raised area that creates a barrier to people with mobility. A long term solution would be to remove the raised area.
- A short term solution would be to have a 70% colour contrasting nosing installed to prevent a tripping hazard.
- The Point of Sale (POS) Desk is at a height that is not conducive to accessibility. The counter is currently at 1200m. It is recommended that a section of the counter be reduced to 860mm to increase accessibility.

Other items to keep an eye on

Through day to day activities it prudent to keep in mind that placing items temporarily paths of travel can have large impacts on people with mobility concerns.

In Conclusion

The McBride Train Station and Visitor Centre is an historic treasure in your village. This is a historic opportunity to create a facility that will accommodate all your visitors. Canada will soon have 20% of the population that will identify to having a disability. The train station has the advantage being on a single level. Many of the recommendations are small changes but will make a large difference. Accessibility does not have to cost a lot of money and if included in the planning stage, it can save. Signage should be intuitive to allow your visitors the best experience in your great community. This is an opportunity to invest in a structure that will serve McBride and all the visitors you welcome.

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see"

Mark Twain

Summary of Priorities

Safety and Access

Facility

- Door Thresholds removal of the floor mounted weather stripping and replacing with door mounted for clear path of travel.
- Adjustment of ALL the door closures to allow 8-10 secs for the first 70 degrees of movement from opened position. This includes exterior and washroom doors.
- Threshold ramp at the Model train display to facilitate access. See image below (links to suppliers provided) https://curbramps.com/products.php
 https://www.pridemobility.com/
- 4. Door hardware change to a U shaped or D shaped handle.
- 5. Long term solution to the Exterior Doors is to retrofit them with power assist openers with highly visible controls

6. Men's Washroom

- 6.1. Change style and placement of the grab bars, and the correct placement of the toilet paper dispensers. (See attached document for all bathroom amenity placement.)
- 6.2. Accessible Latch and proper placement
- 6.3. Proper placement of the coat hooks and door handles.
- 6.4. Install grab bars at the Urinal
- 6.5. Soap dispenser moved to the side of the vanity.
- 6.6. D-shaped handle on the washroom door (exterior), with push plate on the interior.
- 6.7. Kick plates installed on both sides of the door.
- 6.8. Install Tactile (braille and raised lettering on the handle side of the door -1200mm to the center of sign.
- 6.9. Install a faucet with lever handle controls there are many styles and are readily available.
- 6.10. Change mirror to be flat mounted on the wall is it is 200 mm off the vanity, or a tilted mirror if above 200 mm.

7. Long Term Solutions For Men's Washroom

- 7.1. Remove or move the vent/drain pipe in the bathroom stall. It reduces the clearance for turning around and maneuvering.
- Lower or add another Urinal at the proper basin height (see attached information)
- 7.3. Change bathroom door to a Privacy Screen/Wall Walk straight in and turn 90 degrees to the left.

8. Women's Washroom

- 8.1. Change style and placement of the grab bars, and the correct placement of the toilet paper dispensers. (See attached document for all bathroom amenity placement.)
- 8.2. Accessible Latch and proper placement
- 8.3. Proper placement of the coat hooks and door handles.
- 8.4. Soap dispenser moved to the side of the vanity.
- 8.5. D-shaped handle on the washroom door (exterior), with push plate on the interior.
- 8.6. Kick plates installed on both sides of the door.
- 8.7. Install Tactile (braille and raised lettering on the handle side of the door -1200mm to the center of sign.
- 8.8. Install a faucet with lever handle controls there are many styles and are readily available.
- 8.9. Change mirror to be flat mounted on the wall is it is 200 mm off the vanity, or a tilted mirror if above 200 mm.

9. Long Term Solutions for the Women's Washroom

- 9.1. Remove or move the vent/drain pipe in the bathroom stall. It reduces the clearance for turning around and maneuvering.
- 9.2. Change the location of the Vanity to allow clearance and ease of usage. If it is moved to the wall that has the chalk board, and move the change table, greater access to all the amenities.
- Wayfinding and Signage When Visitors arrive most have not been at the Train Station before. Signage to the amenities such as the washroom, information desk or restaurant helps direct people to their needs and reduces confusion and stress.

- 10.1. Blade signage (see images below) are visible from many angles and from a distance. This can be done inside for the washrooms themselves, the Information Desk, The Gallery, the Restaurant directions to interior entrance. Exterior, they can be added to identify each door's purpose, such as the Model Train Exhibit, The Lobby/Reception Area, and the Restaurant.
 - 10.1.1. Washroom Blade Signs mounted above the Women's Washroom and on the corner above the pay phone for the Men's
 - 10.1.2. The Gallery Blade Sign could be mounted directly above the entrance or just to either side
 - 10.1.3. The Information Desk Blade signage could be mounted just to either side of the Desk.
 - 10.1.4. The restaurant directional Blade signage could be mounted above the doorway to the interior entrance and have directional washroom signs return the other way to the lobby.
- 11. Long Term Solution to Signage
 - 11.1. Add one main sign out front of the Building and blade signage for all exterior entrances. See image below.





11.2.

12. Restaurant

12.1. <u>Signage – The Order Here Sign is not Visible from all directions.</u> This can be corrected by having a double sided sign and an increase in size. The Cashier Sign could have additional signage to be visible from the train entrance. 12.2. <u>Tables – Tables with corner legs cause a barrier for wheelchairs and walker.</u> A pedestal style table base is recommended.



- 12.3. <u>Chairs –</u> Chair options are important some with and without arm rests. Chairs with arms rests can assist with people to sit down easily and to more stably rise.
- 12.4. Accessibility to Order counter and Cashier creating leg room and ensuring the proper height of the counters will increase accessibility.

Definitions

<u>Blade signage -</u> A blade sign is a type of projecting sign mounted on a building facade or storefront pole or attached to a surface perpendicular to the normal flow of traffic. These signs are one of the most effective way of attracting foot traffic into your establishment. See Pictures





<u>Rubber Ramping</u> – Rubber Ramping is a recycled tire rubber product that can be retrofitted to locations where a change of elevation is a barrier <u>i.e.</u> thresholds



D Shaped Door Hardware -



U Shaped Door Handle



Kick plates



Door Mounted weather stripping



Lever handle Faucets



Proposed Village Side Entrance and Picnic Area

A New Way Forward

The design of the proposed changes to the entry of the train station on the village side is very well done and takes into considerations several of the recommendations that were made in this report.

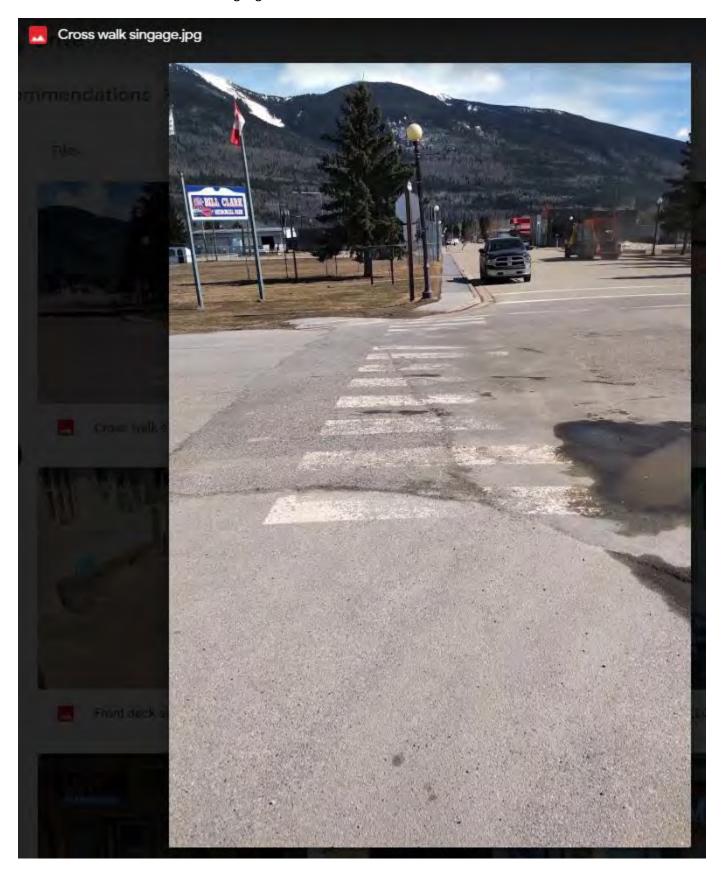
The concept creates high visibility for the main entrance and clear paths of access to the facility. The designated parking in this proposal would address the visibility of the spaces with the signage relocation.

Recommendations for Consideration

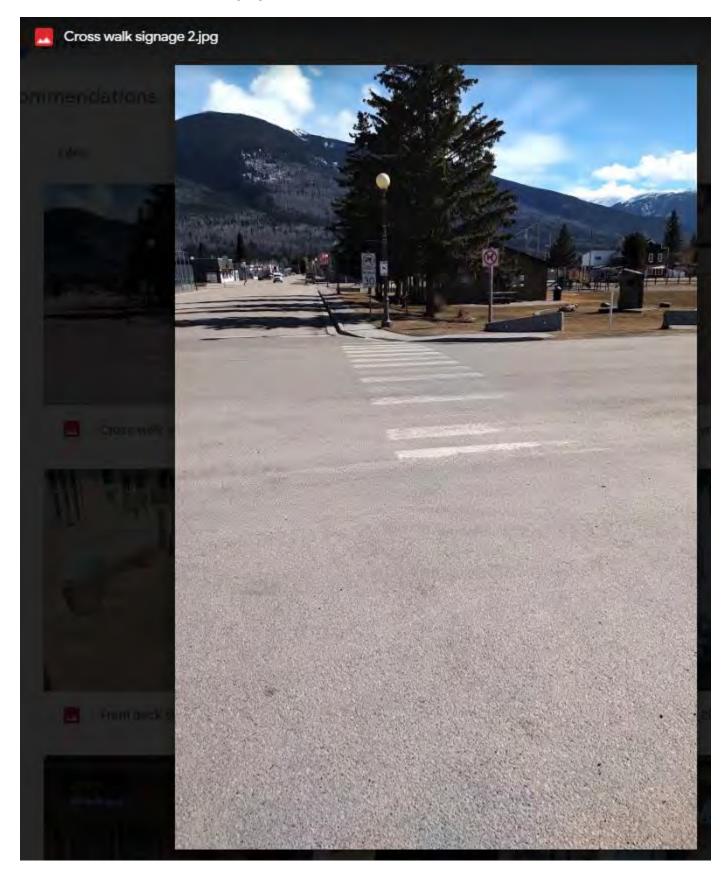
There is several recommendations for this proposal to be considered. There is ample seating provided. The consideration would be to provide different options such as seating with arms, or seating with backs. This provides options for individual needs. The next recommendation is to ensure there is ample space for the wheelchair access to the picnic tables. Designs with proper leg room and elevations are preferred. If there are fixed seats, ensure there is a proper space for access.

The final consideration from the proposal is a discussion on maybe having the centre ramp have access along the building to the restaurant entrance. To be able to use the same entrance as others maintains pride and dignity.

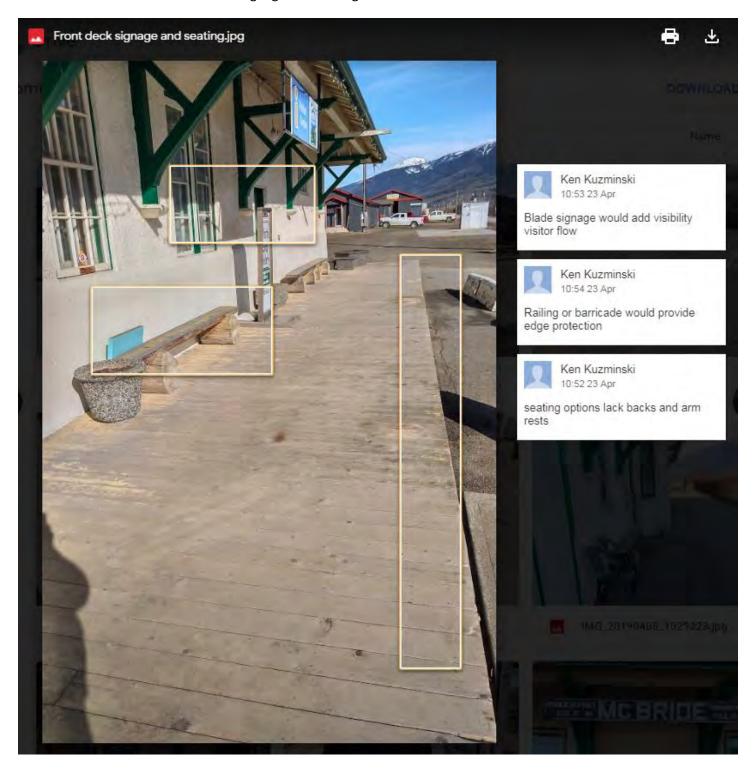
EXTERIOR PATHWAY – Cross Walk Signage



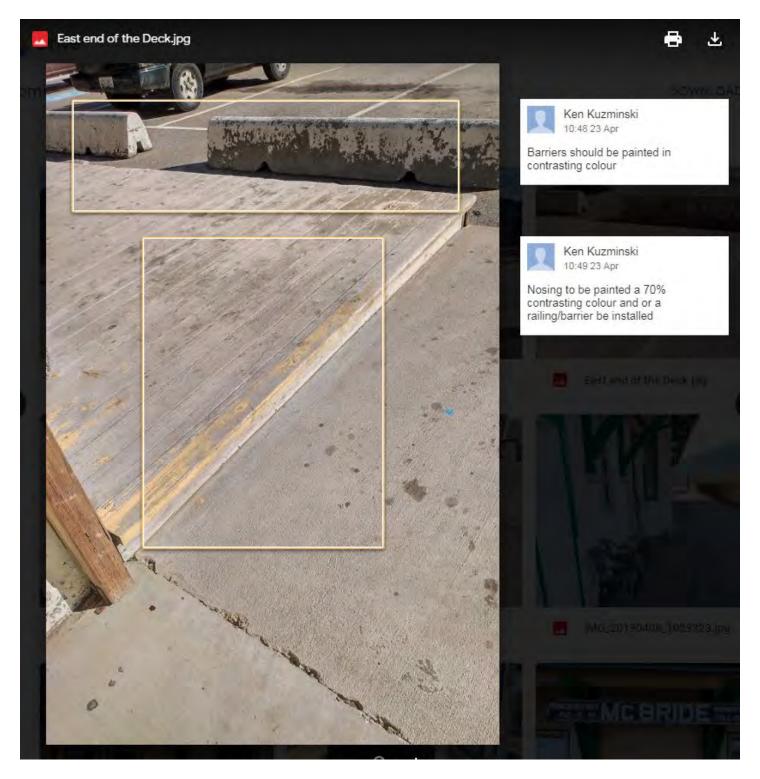
EXTERIOR PATHWAY – Cross Walk Signage



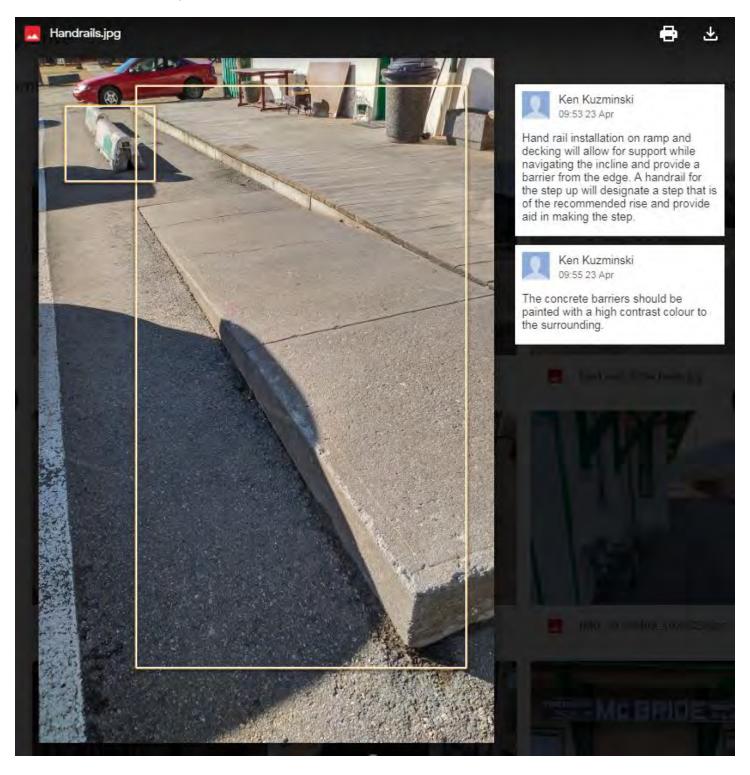
EXTERIOR PATHWAY – Main St. Deck Signage and Seating



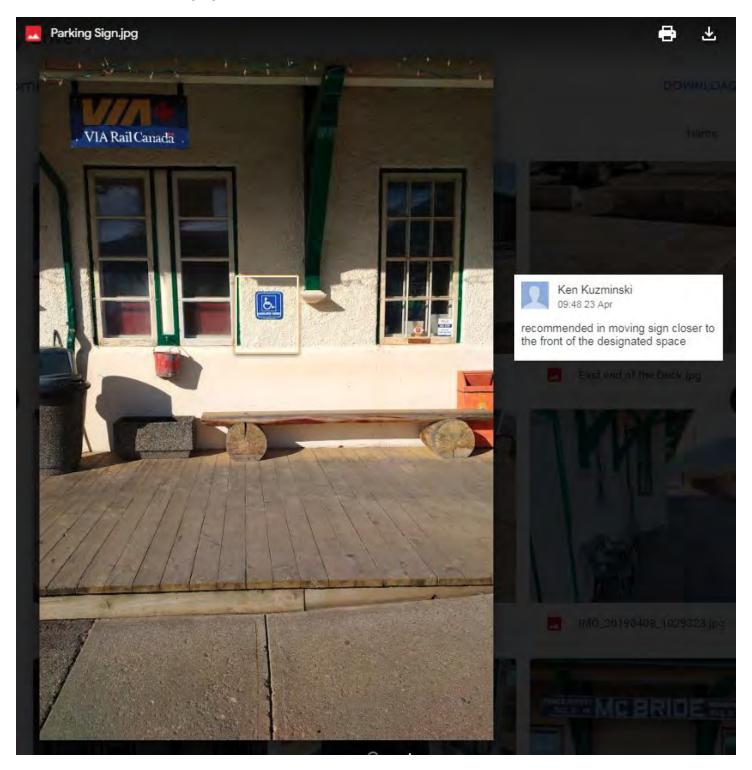
EXTERIOR PATHWAY – East end of Main St. side deck



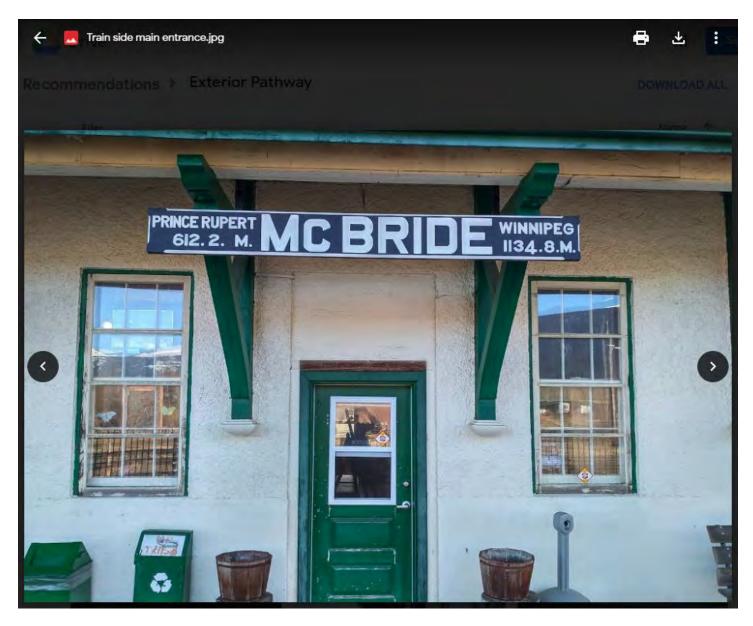
EXTERIOR PATHWAY - Ramp Hand Rails



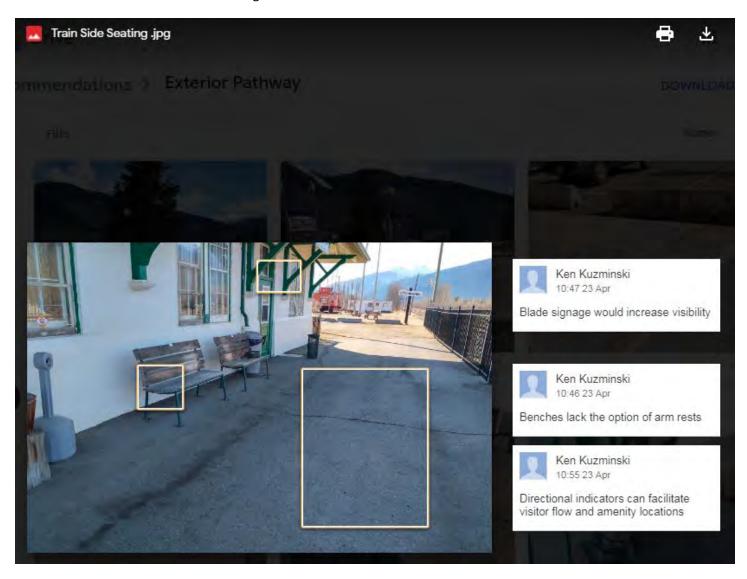
EXTERIOR PATHWAY – Parking Sign



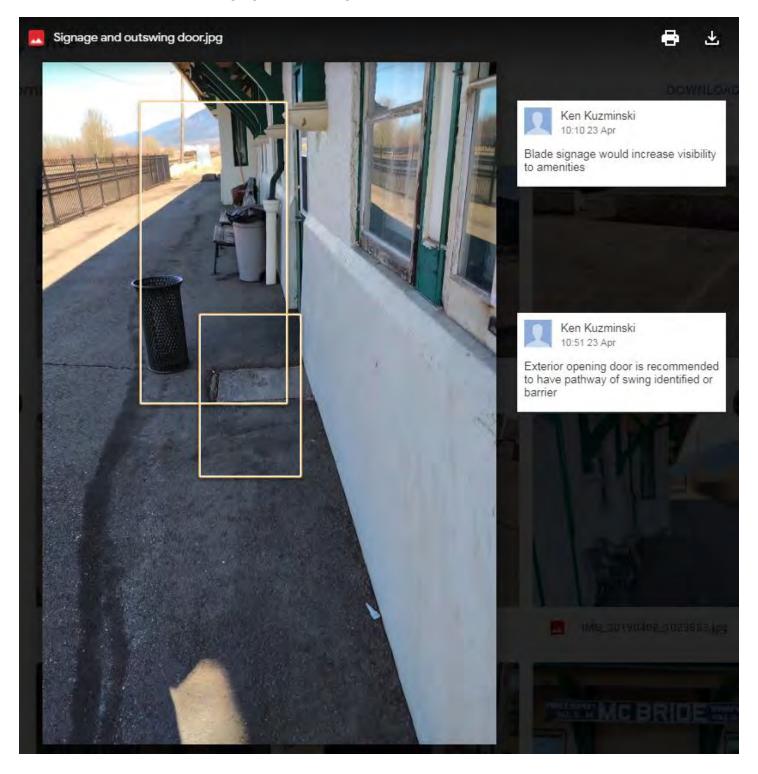
EXTERIOR PATHWAY - Track Side Main Entrance



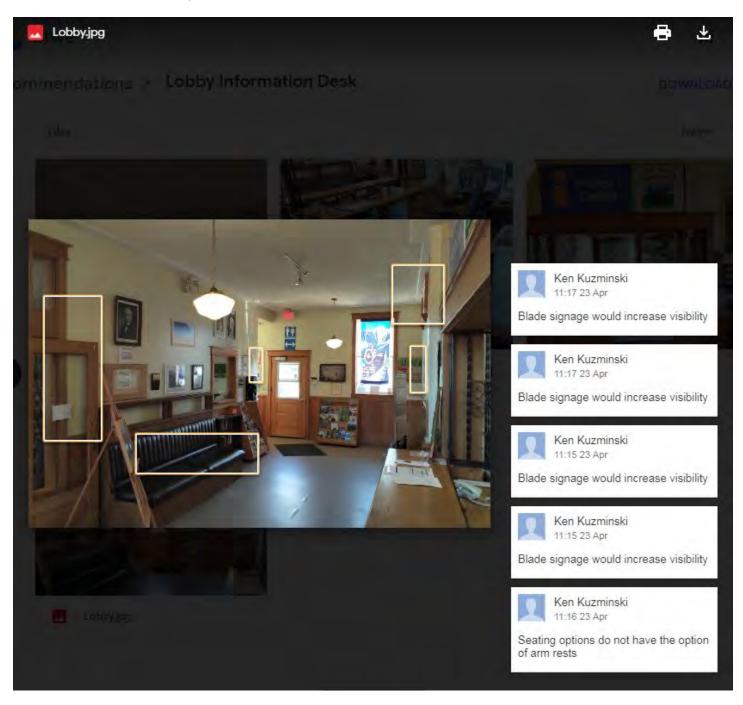
EXTERIOR PATHWAY – Track Side Seating



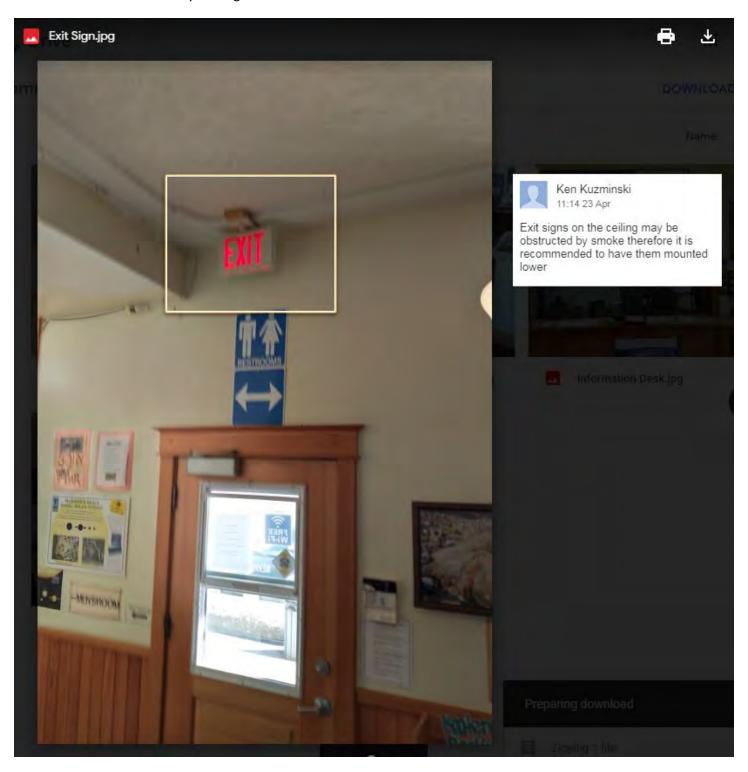
EXTERIOR PATHWAY – Track Side Signage and Outswing Door



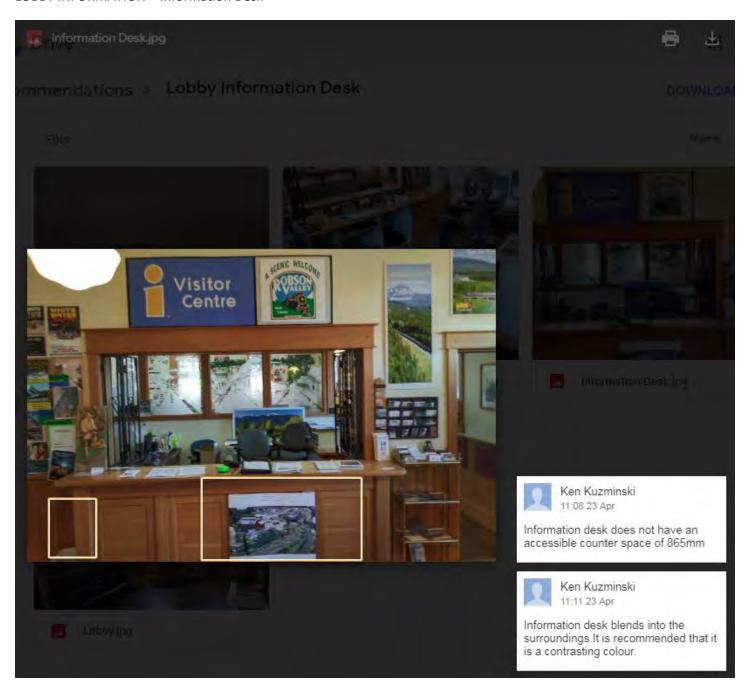
LOBBY INFORMATION - Lobby



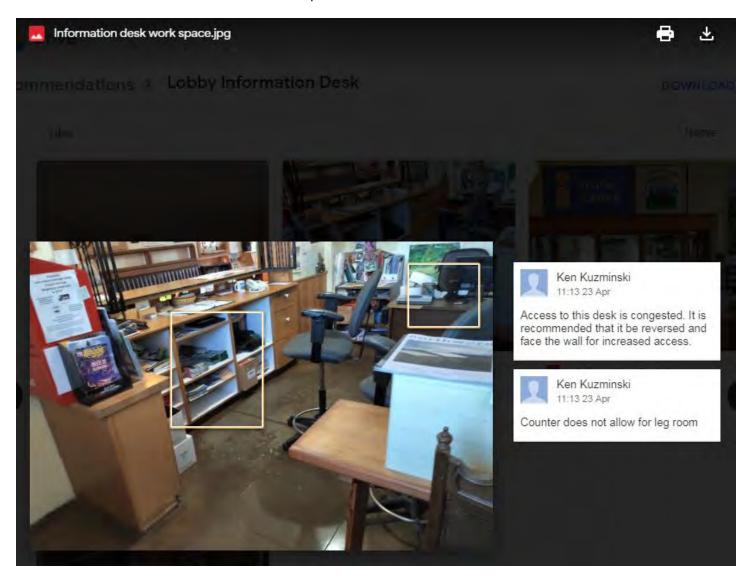
LOBBY INFORMATION – Lobby Exit Sign



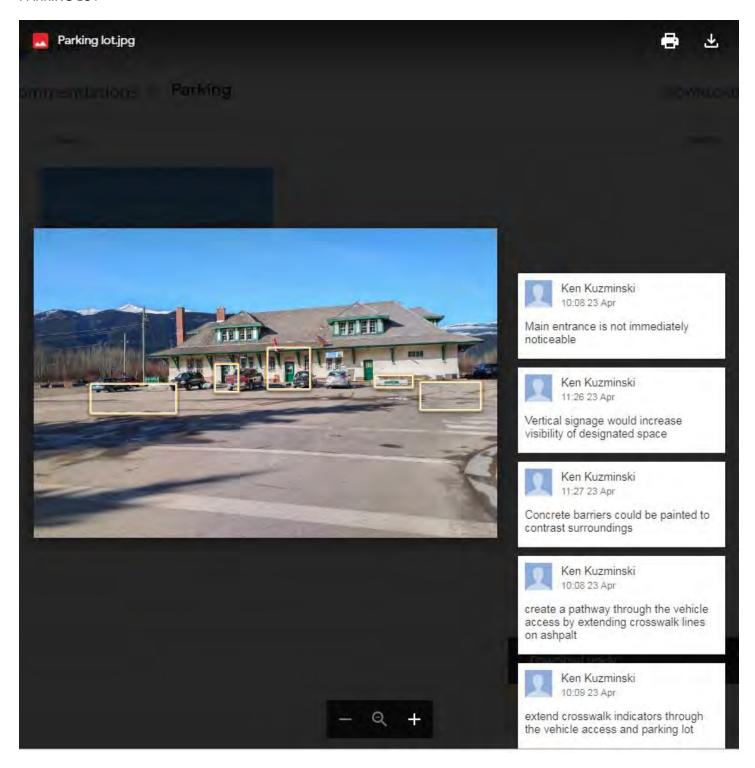
LOBBY INFORMATION – Information Desk



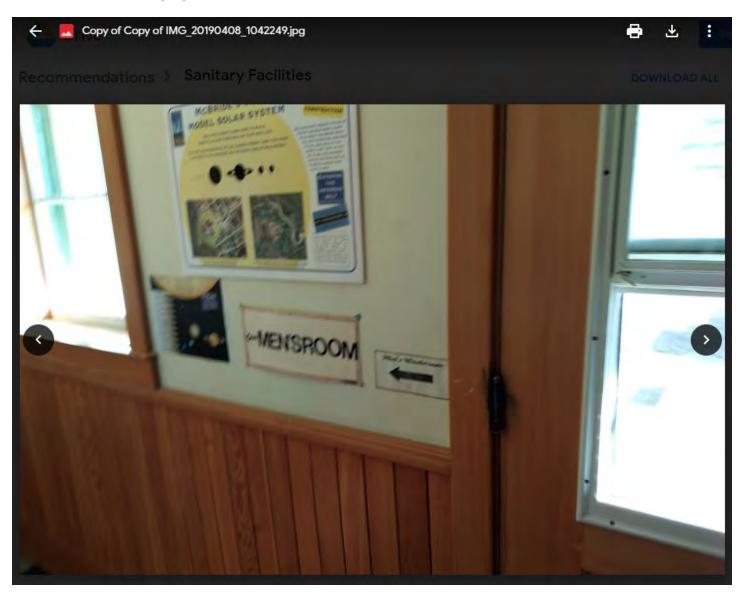
LOBBY INFORMATION – Information Desk Work Space



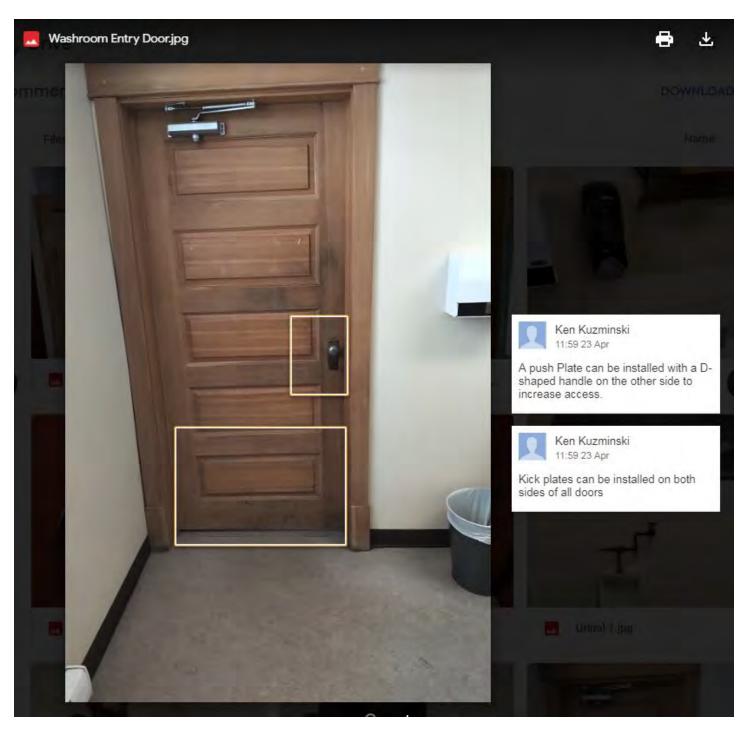
PARKING LOT



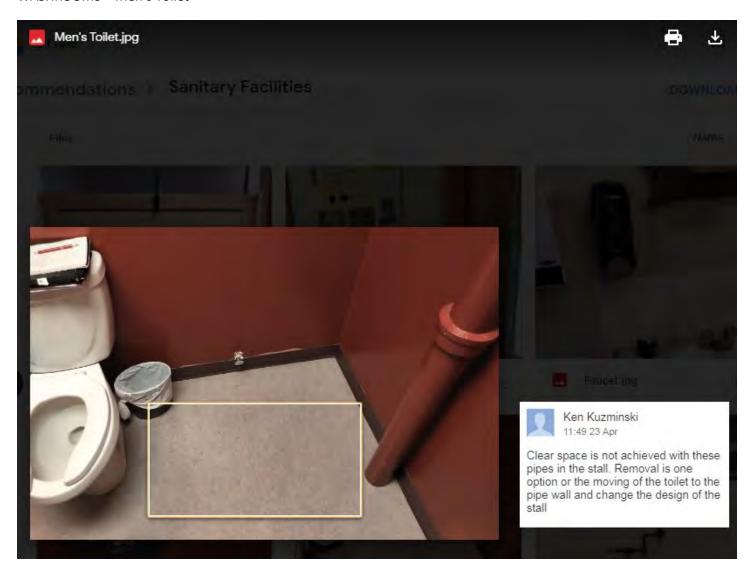
WASHROOMS – Men's signage



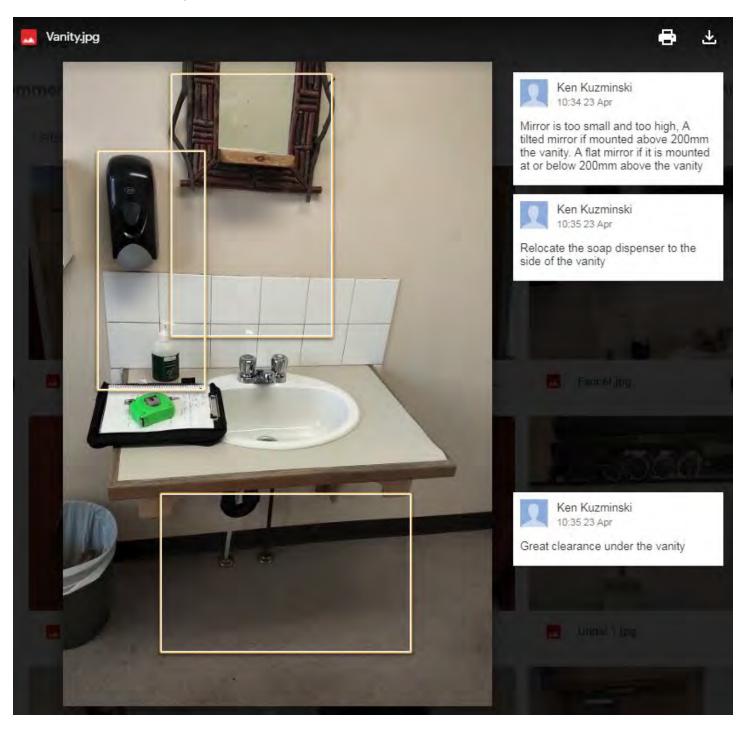
WASHROOM – Men's room door



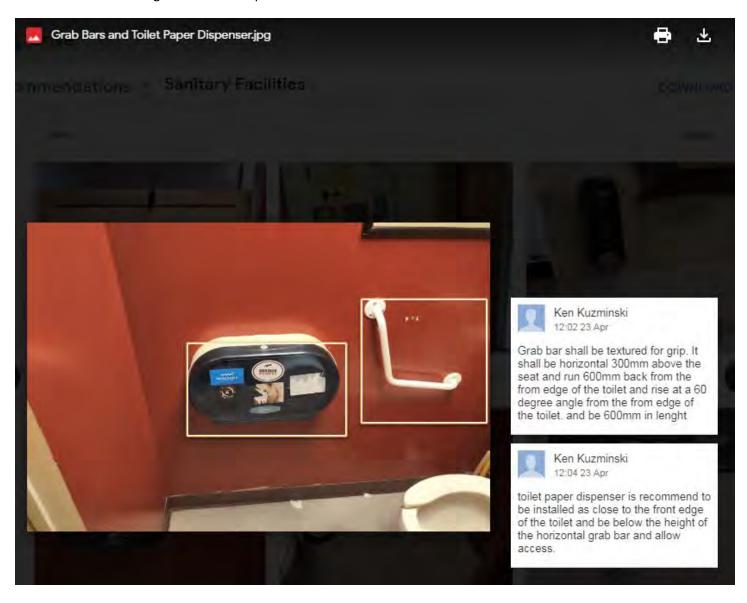
WASHROOMS - Men's Toilet



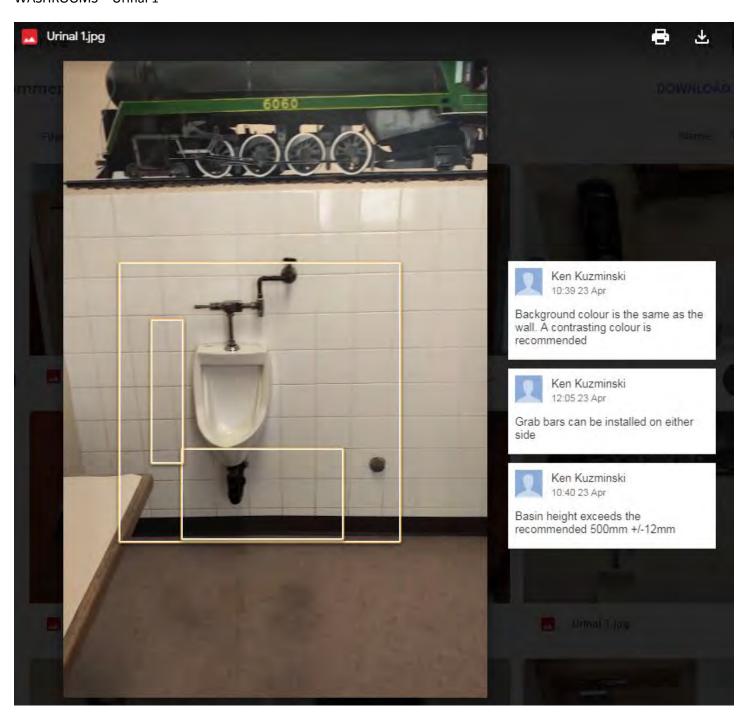
WASHROOMS - Men's Vanity



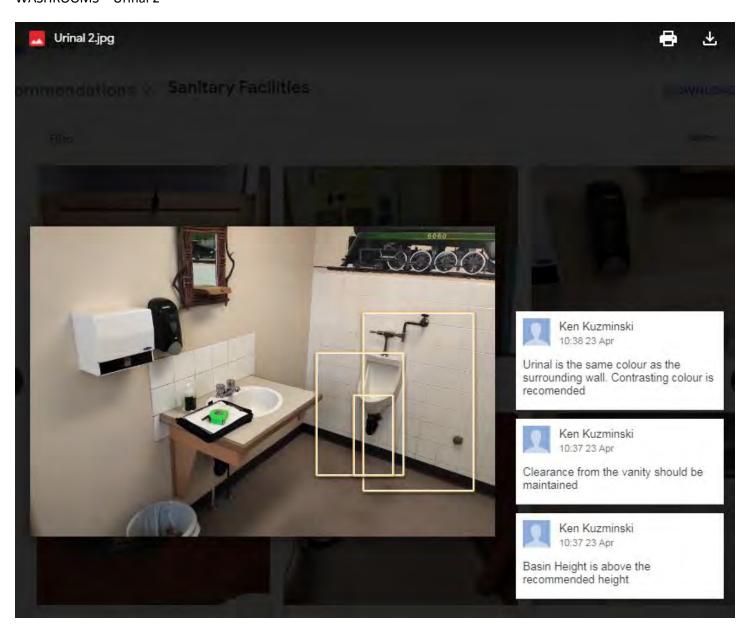
WASHROOMS – Men's grab bars and dispenser



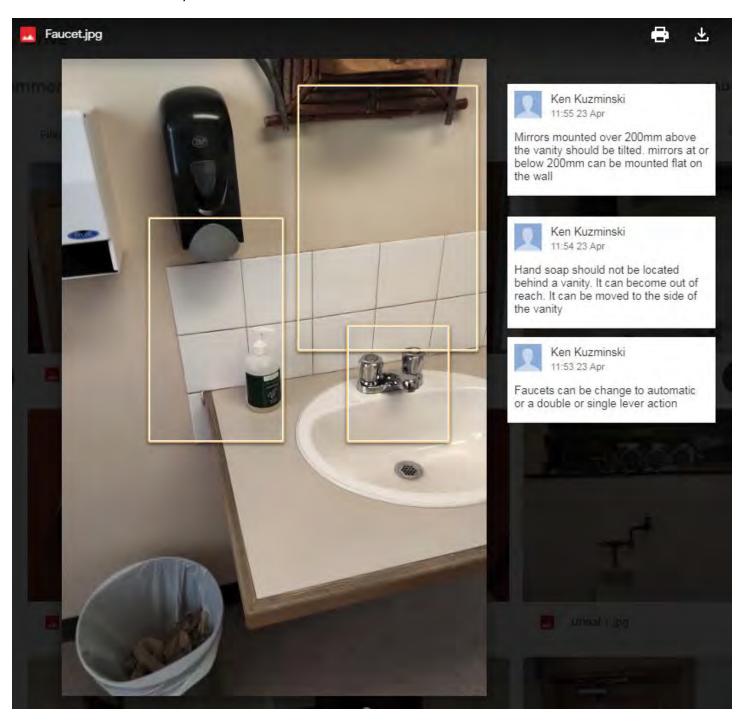
WASHROOMS - Urinal 1



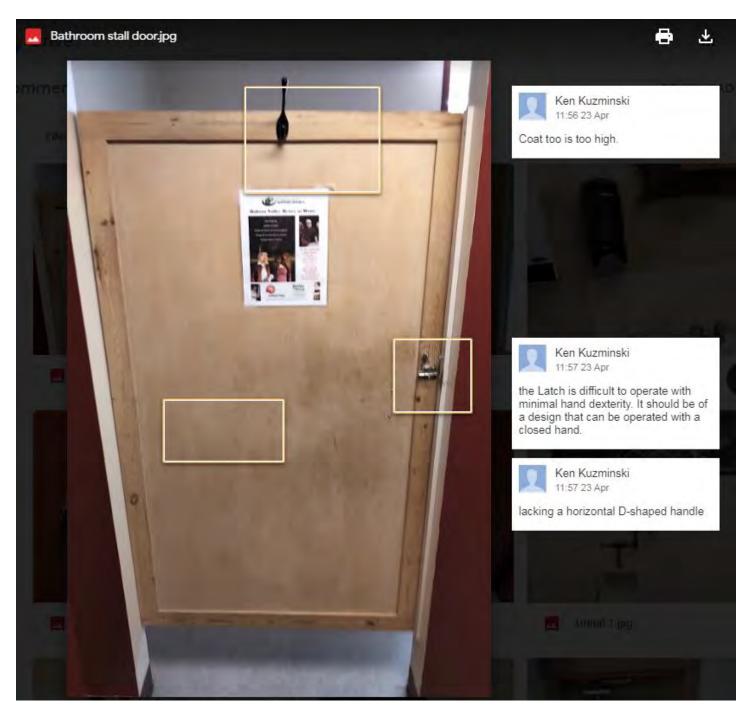
WASHROOMS - Urinal 2



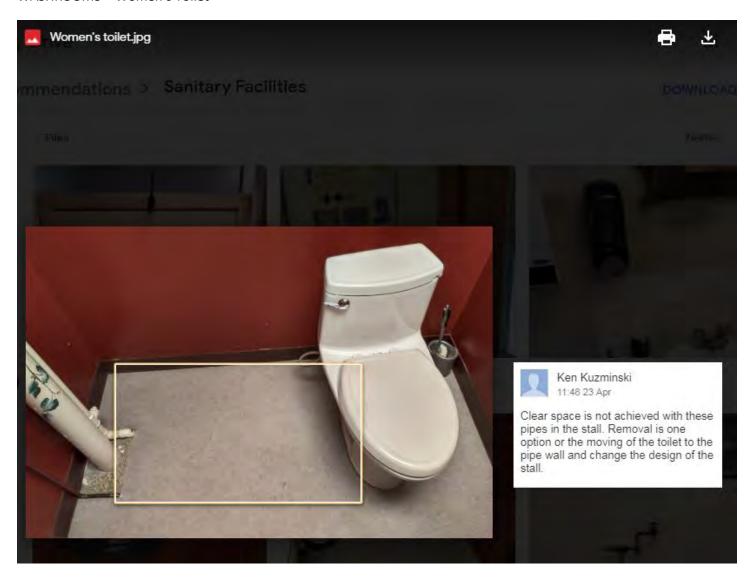
WASHROOMS – Men's Vanity



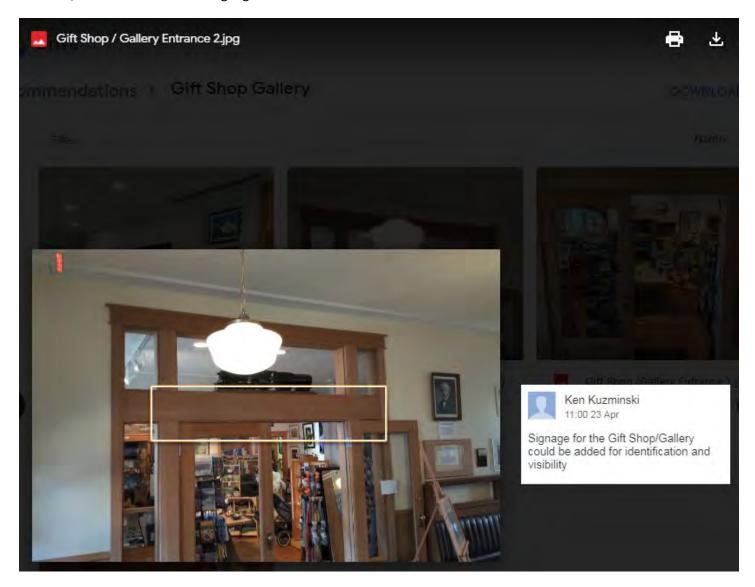
WASHROOMS - Women's stall door



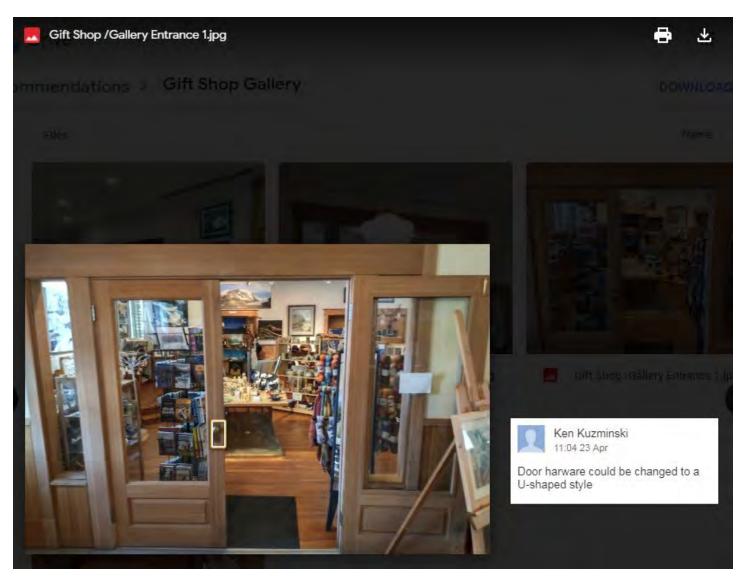
WASHROOMS - Women's Toilet



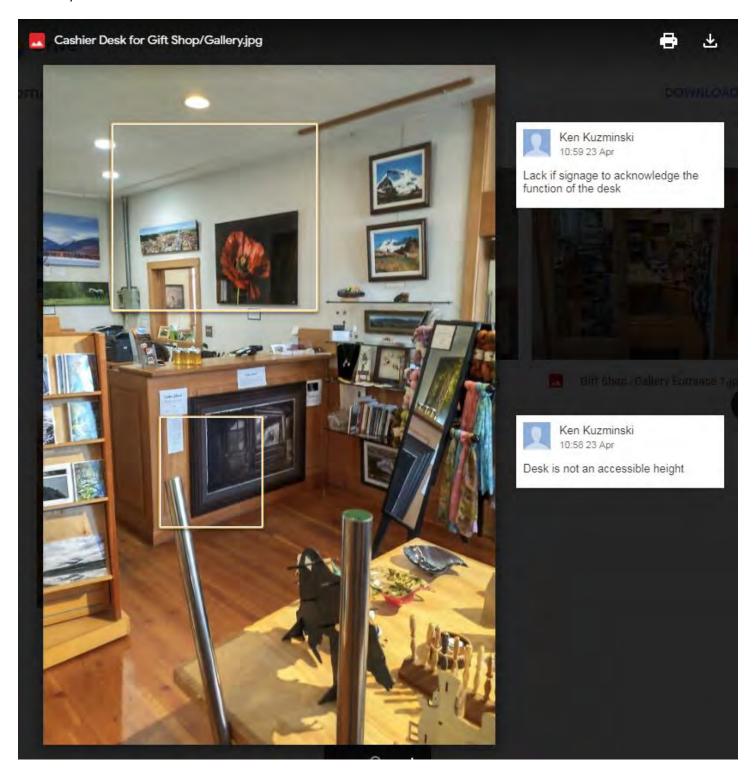
GALLERY/GIFT SHOP – Entrance Signage



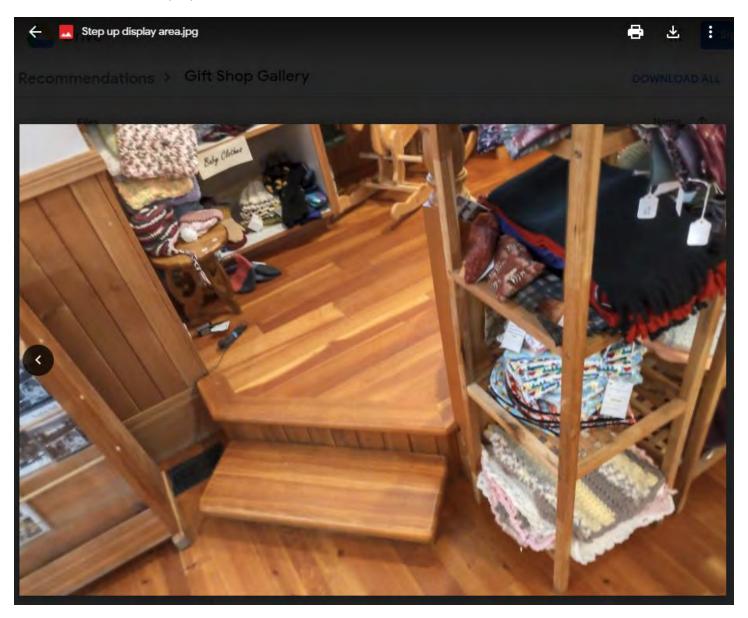
GALLERY/GIFT SHOP – Entrance



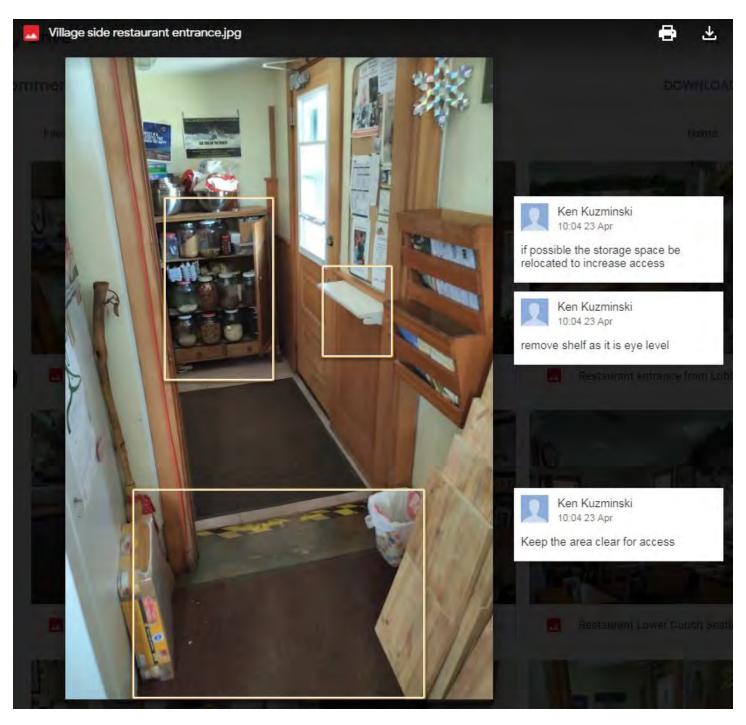
GALLERY/GIFT SHOP – Cashier Desk



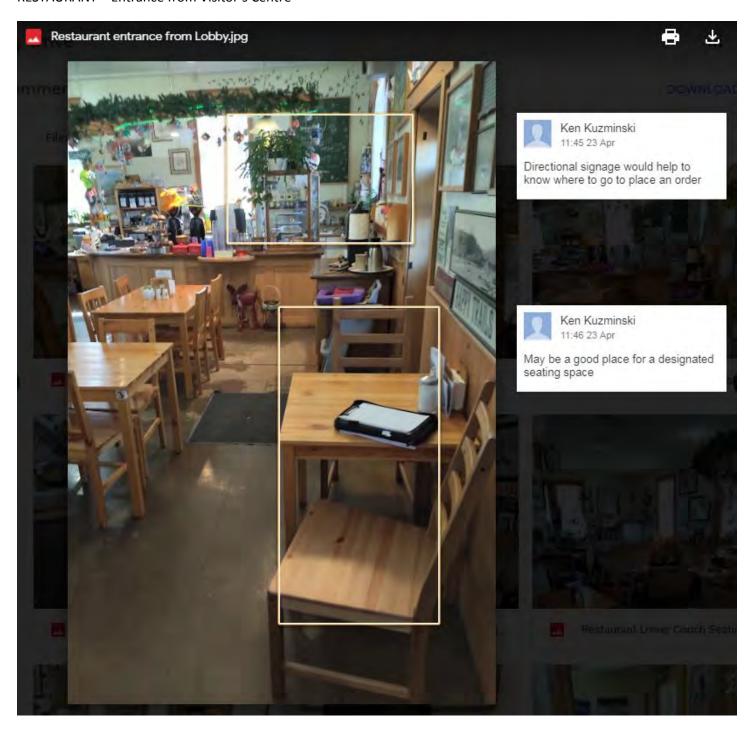
GALLERY/GIFT SHOP – Step-Up Access



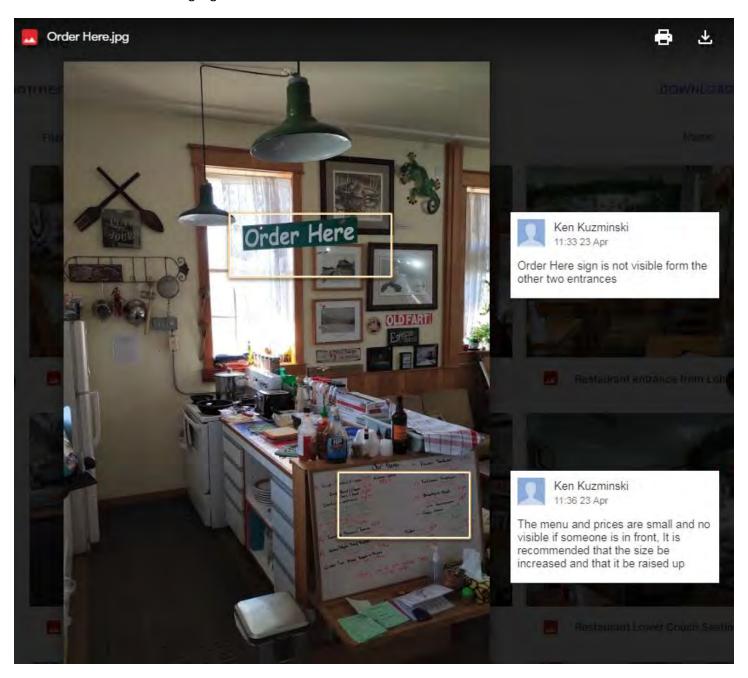
RESTAURANT – Entrance from Main St.



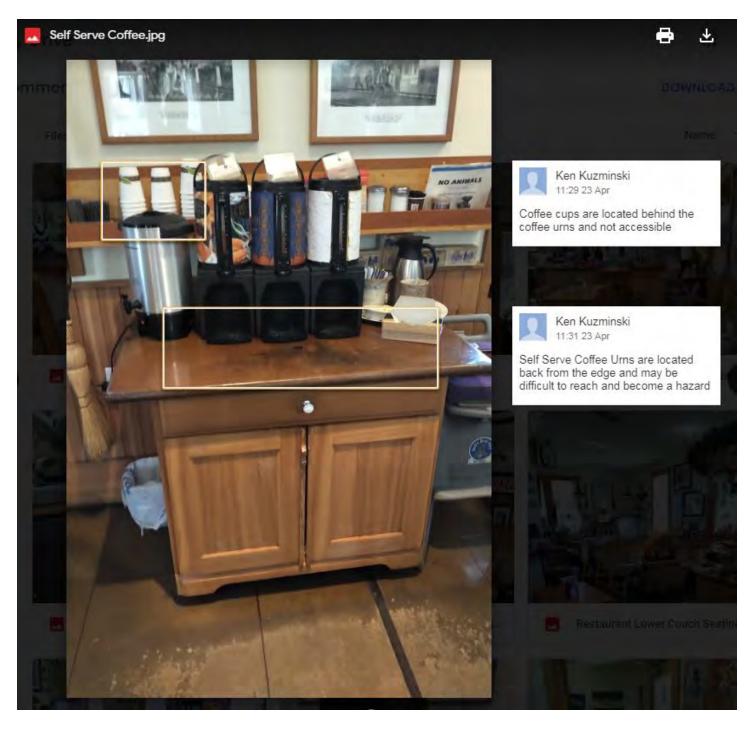
RESTAURANT – Entrance from Visitor's Centre



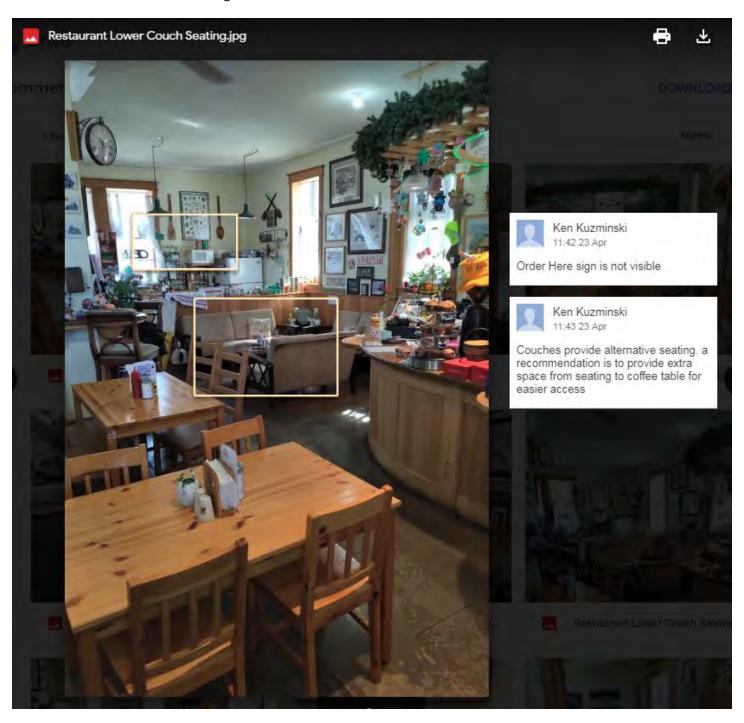
RESTAURANT – Order Here Signage



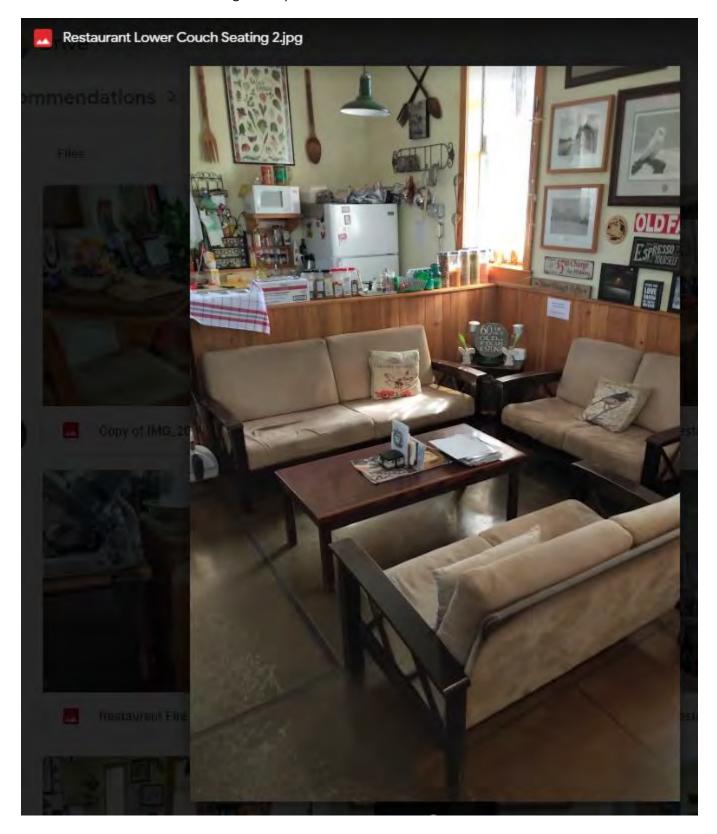
RESTAURANT – Self-Serve Coffee



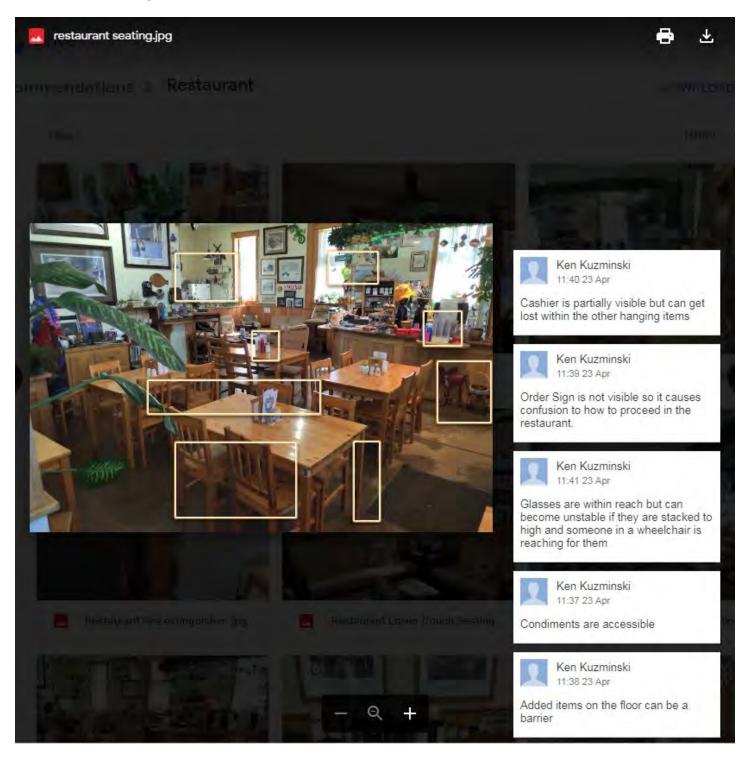
RESTAURANT – Lower Couch Seating



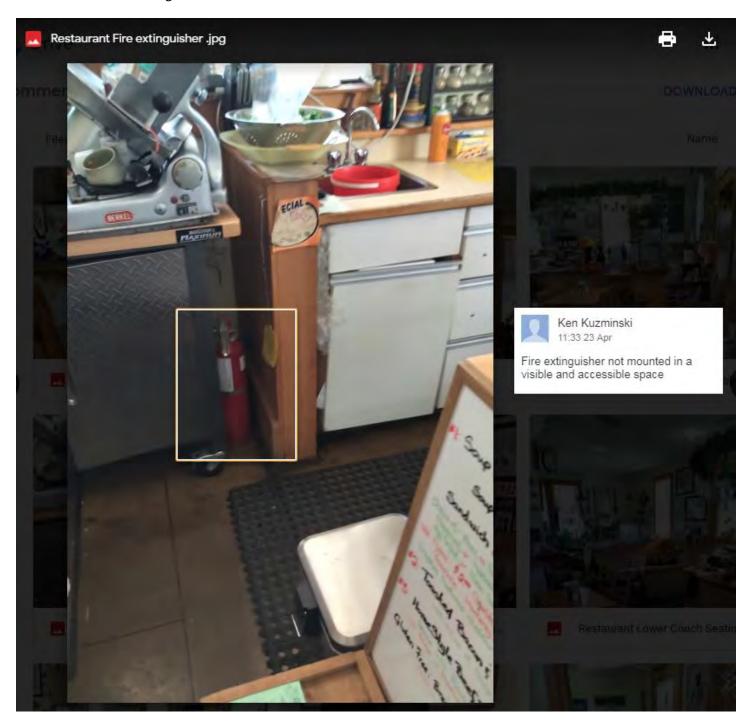
RESTAURANT – Lower Couch Seating close up



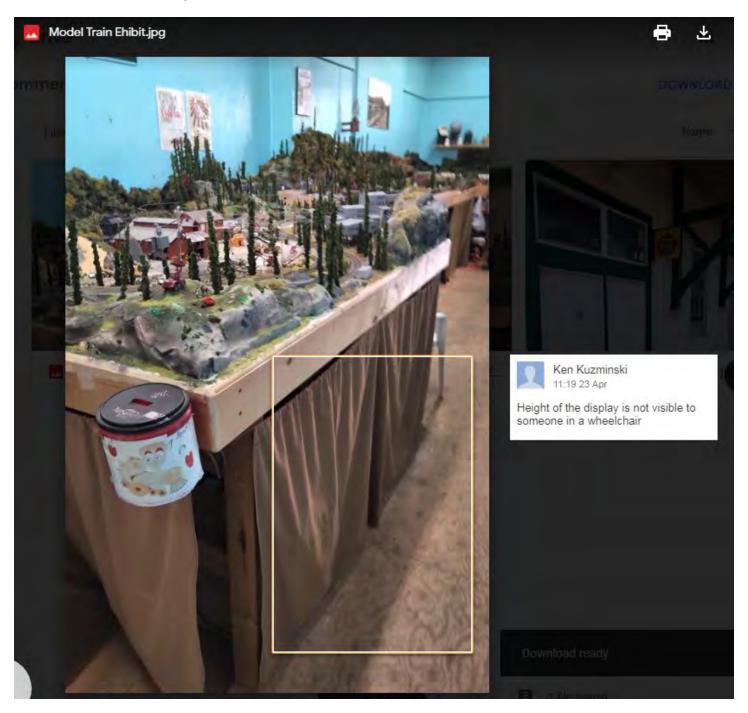
RESTAURANT – Seating



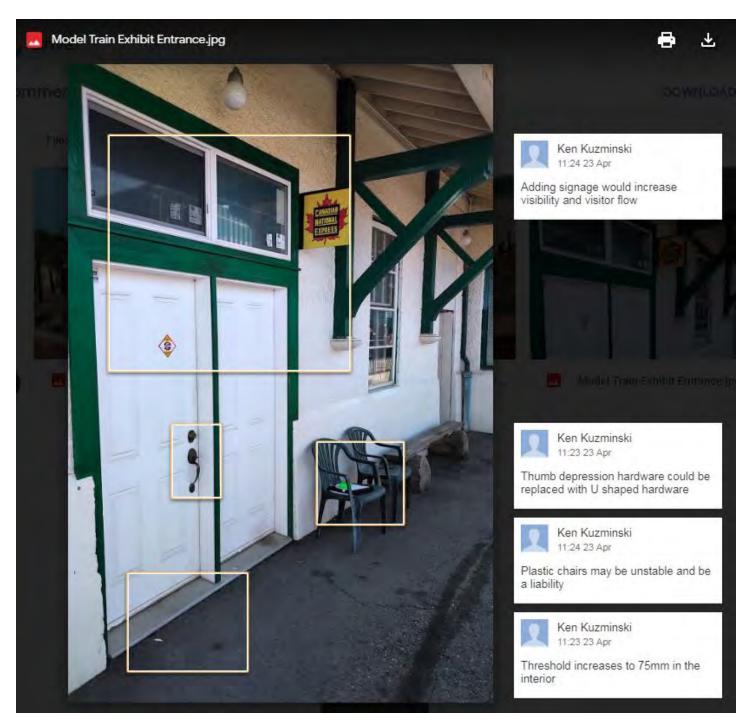
RESTAURANT – Fire Extinguisher



MODEL TRAIN EXHIBIT – Height of Exhibit



MODEL TRAIN EXHIBIT – Exterior Entrance



MODEL TRAIN EXHIBIT – Entrance (Interior)

