

Boundary Guidance

For communities participating in the Utah Main Street, the boundaries or primary focus area of the organization must be that of a traditional downtown or neighborhood commercial district. A “traditional downtown” or “traditional neighborhood commercial district” is typically defined as a large cluster of commercial parcels containing buildings of historical or architectural significance. The area must have been zoned, planned, built, or used for commercial purposes for more than 50 years. This area must be:

- A traditional central business district and center for socio-economic interaction.
- Characterized by a cohesive core of historic or older commercial and mixed-use buildings that represent the community’s architectural heritage. It may also include compatible in-fill development.
- Have a sufficient mass of businesses, buildings, and density to be effective.
- Typically arranged with most of the buildings side-by-side and fronting the sidewalk along a main street with intersecting side streets.
- Compact, easily walkable, and pedestrian-oriented.

In general, districts containing newer commercial development that is low-density and automobile-oriented (e.g., sprawl), strip malls, and enclosed shopping/entertainment centers will not qualify for designation unless they are fully integrated into the fabric of a traditional “Main Street district.”

