

Memo

To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission

From: Amber Miller, DDA Projects Manager

Regarding: Huron Street Improvement Project

Date: 3.9.2018

On March 7th, 2018 the DDA Board passed a Resolution to Urge Support for Key Huron Transportation Improvement Elements (attached). On March 21st, the project team will present at the Transportation Commission seeking support for these elements.

Background:

The DDA Board approved a project scope and budget for the Huron Street Improvement Project in July, 2016. The project is focused on Huron Street, between Third Street and Division Street, with the goal of transforming the corridor and improving pedestrian safety and comfort. The DDA aims to begin construction in spring 2019, recognizing that Huron Street is owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and any changes will require their review and approval.

The project began with data collection and public outreach to help shape the issues and opportunities to address through the project. Through this we heard from a range of stakeholders, with consistent feedback that people feel vulnerable walking along and crossing Huron and that speeds feel too fast.

City-approved plans, observation and analysis further informed the design process. Over the course of many months, the DDA Capital Improvements Committee tested a range of transportation options and is now recommending an approach that keeps the curb lines in place, with an emphasis on enhanced safety and pedestrian comfort. This approach addresses the feedback and findings and begins to change the dynamics of Huron Street in a transformational way, while being mindful of MDOT requirements and considerations.

The project team met with MDOT on several occasions; MDOT has been a willing and responsive partner, while making their processes and standards clear. MDOT staff shared that they are working toward being more flexible and would consider non-rush hour parking, with Ann Arbor City Council support. As a result, the DDA Capital Improvements Committee directed staff to seek support from the DDA Board, Transportation Commission, and City Council on all key transportation elements, including non-rush hour parking. This support will allow MDOT additional time to review these elements ahead of the development of the final Huron Street design and enable the transportation and streetscape elements to be refined and implemented together. Our analysis indicates that these elements are feasible and beneficial toward meeting the project goals.

March 21st Transportation Commission Meeting:

At the March 21st Transportation Commission Meeting, the project team will share an overview of our current street projects and focus on Huron specifically. A resolution, for Transportation Commission consideration, is attached.

An overview presentation of People Friendly Streets and the Huron Transportation elements can be found here: <http://www.a2dda.org/wp-content/uploads/TransportationCommissionDraftPeopleFriendlyStreetsOverview.pdf>

Additional Huron Street design details can be found here: <http://www.a2dda.org/current-projects/huron-street-design/>