

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2016
City Council Workroom / City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. 7:00 pm

Members Present: Joan French, Don Duquette, Ray Detter

Visitors Present: Christine Crockett, Doug Kelbaugh, Nate Stevens

Members Absent: Jim Kern, Sue Kern, Kathleen Nolan, Marsha Chamberlin, John Chamberlin

Last night's meeting of the Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council was devoted to a casual discussion of a range of downtown issues—particularly future transportation opportunities. As you know, the CAC strongly supports the DDA's efforts in development of the Get Downtown Program and Parking/Transportation/Demand Management Options. In relation to transportation, some of us attended the recent public meetings on the possibility of an Ann Arbor "Connector". Some of us also attended recent meetings of the S. E. Michigan Regional Transit Authority at both the David Whitney Building in downtown Detroit and the Shinola building here in Ann Arbor. We are excited by the prospects.

We also briefly discussed the history of transportation in Ann Arbor and the Downtown Ann Arbor Historical Street Exhibit Program's plan to dedicate two new Historical Street Exhibits next week, April 13th. Two historical plaques are being placed on the façade of the Art Moderne Greyhound Bus Station that was built on West Huron in 1940. One exhibit celebrates the history of the movement from electric interurbans to buses-- like Greyhound, Shortway, and Blue Goose. At first, the buses used the old interurban station. The other exhibit tells the story "Ann Arbor's New "Streamlined" Bus Depot", built in 1940.

The first interurban in the state had linked Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti in 1891. Junius Beal, UM Regent and one of the main stockholder, explained that it was greatly helped by the fact that "Ann Arbor had 3,000 boys and not enough girls; Ypsilanti had 1,000 girls at the Normal College (now EMU) and not enough boys."

DDA members are invited to attend the celebration and dedication of these two new transportation exhibits on the history of interurban trains and inter-city bus transportation in Ann Arbor. Please join us on Wednesday, April 13th at 4:00 p.m. in the lobby of the new Residence Inn by Marriott at West Huron and North Ashley for snacks and drinks. The Celebration will be followed at 5:00 p.m. by a dedication in front of the new exhibits located nearby on the restored Greyhound Bus Station façade. Mayor Christopher Taylor will lead a list of speakers focusing brief remarks on the historic and future plans for transportation in Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan.