

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 at 11am
Ann Arbor DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Suite 301

Meeting Purpose: The primary meeting purpose is to provide updates on street projects and discuss resolutions to provide support for downtown pilot projects, business access, hand-washing stations, and landscape maintenance in response to the impacts of COVID-19.

1. Introductions & check-in

2. People-Friendly Streets Phase 2

- Share draft goals for discussion at June CIC meeting

3. Pandemic response – Using Streets to support downtown recovery, health, and safety

- Share tactical urbanism overview
- Share recommended pilot approach to install temporary measures that serve community and business need
- Discuss resolutions for approval by the full Board:
 - Resolution to pilot State Street Improvements and separated bike facilities (\$60,000)
 - Resolution to approve funds to partner with local artists and The Arts Alliance on DDA Pilot Projects (\$35,000)
 - Resolution to approve funds to support downtown access and businesses during the time of mandated social distancing (\$50,000)
 - Resolution to approve funds to rent, install, and service temporary hand washing stations downtown (\$25,000)
 - Resolution to approve an amendment to the agreement with Heritage Lawn Care for general ROW Repair Services (\$100,000)

Construction – Informational Update

- Huron improvements
- William Street final pavement markings
- First and Ashley improvements

MEMO

TO: DDA Capital Improvements Committee

FROM: Amber Miller, DDA Capital Projects Manager

DATE: 5.20.2020

REGARDING: Using streets to support downtown recovery, health, and safety

At our April 15th, 2020 meeting, we focused on the role of the DDA in building community resiliency and the need for both short and long-term action to respond and recover. Even as we combat the effects of the pandemic, we acknowledged that we must not lose sight of our pledge to address other urgent crises as well, including climate change, equity, and safe access. Today, we aim to build on that discussion by sharing a package of recommendations that enables the DDA to support downtown during pandemic recovery while also supporting our other goals. These recommendations align with DDA values and purpose and provide staff with the flexibility to respond quickly as needs change, while building toward long-term community objectives and downtown resiliency.

Cities across the country are having this same discussion; responding quickly with flexible, scalable programs and tactics. What staff are observing & hearing:

- Increased pressure on streets, sidewalks, and parking spaces to adapt to changing demands, including:
 - Safe biking, walking, and recreation space – particularly space that allows for physical distancing.
 - Safe and convenient business access, including curbside pick-up.
 - Outdoor space for restaurant and retail operations as businesses reopen with decreased capacity, physical distancing requirements, and the desire to make customers feel more comfortable.
- Decreased transit capacity and service as TheRide adapts to the pandemic.
- Decreased traffic and vehicle miles traveled (estimated to be down by 50% or more in Washtenaw County) and increased speeding as a result.

DDA staff worked quickly with our partners (I.E., City staff in Transportation, Police, Fire, and Community Services and the downtown Area Associations, businesses, and the arts community) to discuss issues and opportunities. These discussions and the work of other cities shaped our response and recommendations.

Action Recommended: DDA staff recommend approval of the following Resolutions:

- Resolution to pilot separated bike facilities and improvements on State Street (\$57,000)
- Resolution to approve funds to partner with local artists and The Arts Alliance on DDA Pilot Projects (\$35,000)
- Resolution to approve funds to support downtown access and businesses during the time of mandated social distancing (\$50,000)
- Resolution to approve funds to rent, install, and service temporary hand washing stations downtown (\$25,000)
- Resolution to approve an amendment to the agreement with Heritage Lawn Care for general ROW Repair Services (\$100,000)

DDA Goals: The project meets the following DDA Renewal Plan Principles.

DDA Plan Principles/Goals	Advances Fully	Helps Support	Counter To
Identity			
Infrastructure			
Transportation			
Business Encouragement			
Housing			
Development Partnerships			
Community Services			
Sustainability			

DRAFT

RESOLUTION TO PILOT STATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND SEPARATED BIKE FACILITIES

Whereas, The DDA's Development Plan highlighted identity, infrastructure, and transportation as key strategy areas, and included transformative and strategic street projects as important tools to achieve DDA goals;

Whereas, Over the past weeks DDA and City staff have developed strategies and programs for how downtown streets, sidewalks, and parking lots can be utilized to support economic recovery and build a more resilient community, including supporting physical distancing, encouraging patronage of downtown businesses, and reinforcing core values of safety, mobility, equity, and downtown vitality;

Whereas, In December, 2019 the DDA Board approved a \$10M project budget for People-Friendly Streets Round 2; installing pilot projects now can help address the need for safe biking and walking space and improve access for residents, employees, businesses, and others, while engaging the community and guiding future improvements

Whereas, The cost of pilot project implementation is estimated at \$60,000, which includes expanded seating and sidewalk space on State Street and separated bike lanes installed in and within a ¼ mile of the DDA District to allow for meaningful connections;

Whereas, To support physical distancing and access, these pilots require lane reductions, which would need city council approval prior to implementation;

RESOLVED, The DDA Board approves a pilot project budget of \$60,000, allowing staff to respond quickly and flexibly with City Council approval;

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor DDA Executive Director is authorized to sign the necessary contracts to implement the pilot, not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid from the General Fund (248).

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS TO PARTNER WITH LOCAL ARTISTS AND THE ARTS
ALLIANCE ON DDA PILOT PROJECTS**

Whereas, The DDA's Development Plan highlights identity, infrastructure, and transportation as overarching strategy areas, which include improving safety and economic vitality through pedestrian & bicycle improvements;

Whereas, Over the past weeks DDA and City staff have developed strategies and programs for how downtown streets, sidewalks, and parking lots can be utilized to support economic recovery and build a more resilient community;

Whereas, As part of the DDA's pilot efforts, staff recommend partnering with the Arts Alliance, a non-profit arts organization, to involve local artists and build community during a time when many artists were economically effected by the pandemic and necessary stay at home order;

Whereas, Similar projects have been implemented all-over the Country pre-pandemic, including Spirit Plaza in Detroit, and Smart Growth for America is now encouraging communities to include artists in their rapid response projects;

Whereas, To support local artists while meeting other DDA goals for access, safety, and vibrancy, staff recommend that the DDA provide up to \$35,000 to cover the costs for 4 project installations, including artist time and materials and the Arts Alliance cost to manage the program;

Whereas, The project would provide a living wage to artists, who would be asked to develop design elements for such street elements as including barricades, corner bump outs, bike lanes, and seating areas;

Resolved, The DDA approves spending up to \$35,000 from the General Fund (248) to cover the cost of artist time, materials, and Arts Alliance support.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS TO SUPPORT DOWNTOWN ACCESS AND BUSINESSES
DURING THE TIME OF MANDATED SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Whereas, The DDA's Development Plan highlights identity, infrastructure, and transportation as overarching strategy areas, which include improving safety and economic vitality through pedestrian & bicycle improvements;

Whereas, The DDA has taken action to support downtown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing 143 free pickup/delivery locations, covering the cost of annual sidewalk permits, providing a discount and deferring late payment penalties for monthly parking permit accounts;

Whereas, Over the past weeks DDA and City staff have developed strategies and programs for how downtown streets, sidewalks, and parking lots can be utilized to support economic recovery and build a more resilient community, including supporting physical distancing, encouraging patronage of downtown businesses, and reinforcing core values of safety, mobility, equity, and downtown vitality;

Whereas, A necessary part of these programs will be the use of PVB and Type 3 barricades, and grabber cones to temporarily close streets, repurpose on-street parking spaces;

Whereas, Staff have recommended that the DDA waive all meter bag fees and provide up to \$50,000 total to the four downtown area associations to cover their cost of installing, removing, and renting this equipment during the time of mandated physical distancing and economic recovery and this recommendation is supported by the Capital Improvements Committee;

Resolved, The DDA approves waiving all meter bag fees and spending up to \$50,000, to cover the cost of the downtown area associations installing, removing, and renting barricades and grabber cones to temporarily close streets and repurpose parking spaces.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS TO RENT, INSTALL, AND SERVICE TEMPORARY HAND WASHING/SANTIZING STATIONS DOWNTOWN

Whereas, The DDA's Development Plan highlights identity, infrastructure, and transportation as overarching strategy areas, which include improving safety and economic vitality through pedestrian & bicycle improvements;

Whereas, The DDA has taken action to support downtown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing 143 free pickup/delivery locations, covering the cost of annual sidewalk permits, providing a discount and deferring late payment penalties for monthly parking permit accounts;

Whereas, Over the past weeks DDA, City staff, and the downtown area associations have developed strategies and programs for how downtown streets, sidewalks, and parking lots can be utilized to support economic recovery and build a more resilient community, including supporting physical distancing, encouraging patronage of downtown businesses, and reinforcing core values of safety, mobility, equity, and downtown vitality;

Whereas, To improve safety and comfort as downtown restaurants and retail reopen, with a stronger outdoor presence, staff recommend that the DDA provide up to \$25,000 to rent and install temporary hand washing/sanitizing stations downtown (approx. 6 – 8 stations);

RESOLVED, The DDA approves spending up to \$25,000 to cover the cost of the renting, placing, and servicing temporary hand washing stations downtown. to be paid from the General Fund (248).

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH HERITAGE LAWN CARE FOR GENERAL ROW REPAIR SERVICES

Whereas, The DDA's Development Plan highlights identity, infrastructure, and transportation as overarching strategy areas, which includes improving economic vitality through pedestrian improvements;

Whereas, In May 2017 the DDA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for general ROW repair services, including brick repairs, tree plantings, banner installation, bike parking, and landscape maintenance as needed;

Whereas, The DDA received two responses and selected Heritage Lawn Care based on their proposal response and lower fees and entered into an agreement for FY 18, and subsequent extensions for FY 19 and 20 services;

Whereas, The downtown area associations have experienced significant revenue shortfalls due to the impacts of COVID-19, and they have asked the DDA for assistance this year maintaining the planters and landscaping in their areas as they do not have the funds;

Whereas, To respond to this request as quickly as possible, staff recommend the DDA approve a one-year extension to its contract with Heritage that would also include landscape maintenance in the four commercial areas, and this recommendation is supported by the Capital Improvements Committee;

Resolved, The DDA Board approves an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Heritage Lawn Care not to exceed \$100,000 for 2021 for General ROW Repair Services, including landscape support throughout the four commercial areas; and to be paid from the General Fund (248).

Resolved, The DDA Board authorizes the DDA Board Chair and DDA Director to execute the contract amendment.