

## **Ann Arbor Public Market Advisory Commission**

### *Proposal to Study the Closure of a Portion of Detroit Street on High Season Market Saturdays*

Proposal: This is a proposal to study the feasibility, costs and benefits of potentially closing Detroit Street from Catherine Street to Fifth Avenue during Saturday Farmer Market operations (5 a.m. – 4 p.m.) during the “high season” which, for these preliminary purposes, is being defined as May 15 to October 30.

Purpose: Due to increased vendor attendance, the Market has become increasingly congested during the high season making the sidewalks and streets adjacent the market less than ideal for market shoppers, local automobile traffic and pedestrians in the area. The purpose of this proposal is to explore an option for relieving congestion, increasing the market’s vendor capacity, and providing space for additional programming (*e.g.* music, food demonstrations, etc...) by utilizing the closed portion of Detroit Street for market space.

#### Timeline:

##### *January 1 to March 15, 2014:*

- Consult with City Staff to ensure feasibility and capture potential costs
- Consult with DDA
- Consult with City administration to understand necessary process (legislative and/or administrative) to enact closure.

##### *March 15 to May 15, 2014:*

- Discuss and solicit impact from stakeholders, including adjacent businesses, current vendors, potential vendors

*May PMAC Meeting:* Discuss findings and decide whether to proceed further with feasibility study.

*Saturday May 9 and May 16, 2014:* Conduct parking study along the potentially affected area. This would include monitoring usage before 8 a.m., and the number of cars parking along the potentially affected area from 8 a.m. until Market closing. This is not a parking space count, but actually a count of the number of cars who use these spots during this time period. The need for doing this two days may dissipate if May 9<sup>th</sup> is a busy Market day unaffected by weather or other externalities.

*June PMAC Meeting:* Discuss parking study. Consider whether further study or stakeholder consultation is needed and set schedule accordingly. If no further study is warranted, consider potential resolution to conduct a pilot closure during the last half the 2014 “high season” and use results from that during the winter to consider whether to make the closure a permanent fixture of the Market.