

**Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 12:00 pm**

Place: Virtual Meeting: Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83846924413?pwd=SzUwdHRZczhsdWsyTHlrMnF1WXc4Zz09>
Phone: 877-853-5258 Meeting ID: 838 4692 4413 Passcode: 738453

Time: 12:00 Noon

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Crawford, Bob Guenzel, Tyler Kinley, Marie Klopf, Jessica A.S. Letaw, Molly McFarland, Darren McKinnon

Absent: Micah Bartelme, Alex Dieck, Ji Hye Kim, Jonathan Massey, Rishi Narayan

Staff: Maura Thomson, Interim Executive Director/Communications Manager
Sara McCallum, Deputy Director
Jada Hahlbrock, Parking Services Manager
Kelley Graves, Management Assistant

Others: Mike McKiness/RPS; Chris Simmons/TheRide

Public: Members of the public were on the Zoom meeting but did not identify themselves.

NOTE: As required by the amended OMA, all attending members stated they were attending remotely and were attending from Ann Arbor, except for Mr. McKinnon who was traveling to Jackson County.

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Guenzel moved and Ms. Klopf seconded the motion to approve the meeting agenda.

A consent vote on the motion showed:

Ayes: Crawford, Guenzel, Kinley, Klopf, Letaw, McFarland, McKinnon

Nays: None

Absent: Bartelme, Dieck, Kim, Massey, Narayan

The motion was approved.

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Hugonot-Haber said that the Initiating Committee for the Ann Arbor Community Commons has requested permission to add plants to the planting beds on the Library Lot ahead of its Earth Day celebration. She said the City and the DDA are working on a waiver to allow the Initiating Committee members to work in the lot.

Mr. Mitchell expressed appreciation for the First and Ashley project work being done. He understands that sidewalk improvements initially planned for the 200 block of Ashley had to be removed from the project scope due to unfilled vaults. He has been in communication with the DDA and City staff about lighting options for the block.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Bob Doyle from SmithGroup gave a presentation to the Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council on the next round of People-Friendly Streets projects. Mr. Kaplan said the Council also discussed future topics and how the committee can best serve as an advisor to the DDA.

5. DDA MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

None.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kinley moved and Ms. Klopf seconded the motion to approve the March minutes.

A consent vote on the motion showed:

Ayes: Crawford, Guenzel, Kinley, Klopf, Letaw, McFarland, McKinnon

Nays: None

Absent: Bartelme, Dieck, Kim, Massey, Narayan

The motion was approved.

8A. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE COMMITTEE

FY22 and FY23 Budgets: Ms. Thomson and Ms. McCallum presented the DDA's FY22 and FY23 budgets to City Council on March 22. Council will consider adopting the City's budget, which includes the DDA's budget, in May. The Committee will bring a resolution to adopt the budget to the June Board.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 9 am.

8B. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – AFFORDABLE HOUSING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Partner Updates: The Library is following the mistartmap that tracks the risk of spread of COVID statewide to inform its decision to re-open for browsing and computer use in early summer. Return to full in-person services is tentatively planned for fall. The Planning Commission is discussing revisions to ADU and transit oriented development (T1) standards to encourage more housing supply. The AAATA plans to restore all transit services in August, with the exception of a few under-performing routes. Public engagement presentations on the AAATA's long-range plans are forthcoming.

CM Ramlawi expressed appreciation for the DDA providing barricade funding for the area merchant associations weekend street closures approved by Council. The sidewalk snow removal resolution was moved to the Transportation Commission for further review. The Human Rights Commission released an article on anti-Asian violence and, CM Song reminded all that the City, Human Resource Commission and AAPD are available resources for those in need. The Ann Arbor Housing Commission closed on Lurie Terrace. CM Ramlawi thanked the DDA for its nearly \$1M in financial support for Lurie Terrace.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14 at 9:00 am (DDA only).

8C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

First/Ashley Construction Update: First Street construction near the Kingsley bend includes installation of concrete bike path, curbs, and sidewalk. The contractor is also installing the signal foundations at the Huron/First intersection. Ashley Street work continues at the Huron, Washington, and Liberty corners with the installation of signal foundations, storm sewer, concrete curb, light pole bases, and concrete sidewalks.

People-Friendly Streets Phase II: The Committee held a special meeting receive an update on the projects and the public engagement workshops and provided value-based feedback. The public engagement

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workshops focused on the Division Street improvements and bikeway, the Miller/Catherine Streets' improvements and bikeway, Fourth Avenue and its role in transit support, and the State Street streetscape and watermain project. A full report will be shared at the April CIC meeting.

Ms. Thomson said that the DDA, City staff and the First & Ashley design team are exploring possible sidewalk improvement options, including lighting, for the 200 block of Ashley.

The next Capital Improvements Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21 at 11 am.

8D. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The March Committee meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

The next regular Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28 at 11 am.

8E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Director Search Update: The Committee met with the search firm to review and approve the job description, advertisement, and recruitment brochure. The position will be posted next week. The Committee discussed the process for conducting interviews.

DDA Bylaws/Conflict of Interest (COI): The Committee reviewed the draft revisions to the Conflict of Interest section of the DDA's bylaws. A resolution to adopt the changes will be brought to the Board in May.

The Committee reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

The next Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5 at 11:00 am.

9. NEW BUSINES

Ms. Thomson said the waiver to allow the Initiating Committee of the Ann Arbor Community Commons to add plantings to the Library Lot is near completion. For the safety of all, the Library Lot will be closed to parking for the next two weekends while the Committee completes its gardening work.

10. OTHER AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Crawford moved and Mr. Guenzel seconded the motion to adjourn.

A consent vote on the motion showed:

Ayes: Crawford, Guenzel, Kinley, Klopf, Letaw, McFarland, McKinnon

Nays: None

Absent: Bartelme, Dieck, Kim, Massey, Narayan

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Thomson, Interim Executive Director

ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Place: Virtual Meeting: Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86990617139?pwd=SFdPVG9oMWdYY1I5dJtMkluaEpgQT09>

Phone: 877-853-5257 Meeting ID: 869 9061 7139 Passcode: 952933

Time: 11:00 am

Present: Tyler Kinley, Marie Klopf, Jessica A.S. Letaw, Darren McKinnon, Maura Thomson (ex officio)

Absent: None

Other Board: Bob Guenzel

Staff: Sara McCallum, Kelley Graves

Other: Jaymes Vettraino, Cheryl Orr/GovHR

Public: None

Virtual Guidelines: Ms. Letaw read the guidelines for holding electronic meetings. As required by the amended OMA, all members stated they were attending remotely and were attending from Ann Arbor, except for Mr. McKinnon who was traveling to Jackson County.

Executive Director Search: Mr. Vettraino stated the Executive Director position advertisement, recruitment brochure, and job description reflect input from his and Ms. Orr's interviews with the Board, City Council, DDA staff, and other stakeholders. He appreciated staff's initial review of the documents to ensure they aligned with the DDA's mission, goals, and development plan. The Committee recommended two revisions. The Executive Director position advertisement will be posted next week. Mr. Vettraino reviewed the search timeline and the candidate interview process. The Committee discussed the process for conducting interviews.

DDA Bylaws/Conflict of Interest(COI): There was consensus on the proposed changes to the COI section of the DDA Bylaws. A resolution to amend the Bylaws with updated COI language will be brought to the Board. The DDA attorneys will attend the next Board meeting to answer any questions.

Agenda Review: The Committee reviewed the April board meeting agenda.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Thomson, Interim Executive Director

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Place: Virtual Meeting-Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88983573975?pwd=TXk3TmhhVGJBWnJVRGpIMnUvcHRhdz09>
by phone 1-877-853-5257
Meeting ID: 889 8357 3975 Passcode: 979672

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Committee Present: Micah Bartelme, Bob Guenzel, Tyler Kinley

Committee Absent: Darren McKinnon

Other DDA Present: Tom Crawford, Ji Hye Kim, Jessica A.S. Letaw, Jonathan Massey

Staff: Maura Thomson, Sara McCallum, Kelley Graves

Others: Derek Delacourt/City-Community Services, Jennifer Hall/AAHC, Michael Johnson/SmithGroup

Public: Members of the public were on the Zoom meeting but did not identify themselves.

Virtual Guidelines: Mr. Kinley read the guidelines for holding electronic meetings.

NOTE: As required by the amended OMA, all attending members stated they were attending remotely and were attending from Ann Arbor, except for Mr. Bartelme who attended from Mexico.

415 W. Washington Pre-entitlement Resolution: Mr. Delacourt presented the City's request for funding to conduct pre-entitlement for the City-owned 415 W. Washington site. The DDA previously approved \$75,000 in July 2019 for the community engagement that informed the decision to take this site through the pre-entitlement process. This site has multiple challenges to be considered including it being in the floodway/floodplain, Treeline and Historic District areas, as well as the on-site chimney stack being home to the chimney swifts, protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Mr. Delacourt thinks this is the City's best chance of positioning this site to attract a viable private development partner. Undergoing this type of pre-entitlement process is new to the City. The 350 S. Fifth/Y-Lot is going through this process at this time. Much has been learned by all parties involved that will hopefully, benefit the 415 W. Washington process.

Ms. Hall stated that this site was designated as a low priority for consideration for affordable housing due to multiple site challenges, which excludes it from being eligible for typical affordable housing funding options (LIHTC, HUD, MSHDA). And, so, while the AAHC is the main petitioner of record, and a mixed-use plan, including affordable housing, is not being completely ruled out, it is not a priority consideration in the planning process.

Mr. Delacourt and Mr. Johnson summarized the process moving forward whereby, the project will move through Planning and Council and will be subject to public hearings. Ms. Thomson said that this initiative fits within the DDA's Development Plan goals to develop public land to meet community goals. Capacity was included in the DDA's FY22 budget to accommodate this funding request.

Questions were asked and answered by Committee members and other DDA Board members in attendance. The proposed site plans and spreadsheets developed from the community engagement will be provided. The Committee thanked all involved for their hard work on this initiative to-date. There was consensus to bring the resolution to the Board to grant up to \$195,000 to the City for the pre-entitlement work on 415 W. Washington.

Public Comment: None.

The next Affordable Housing/Economic Development Committee meeting (with Partners) is scheduled for May 12 at 9 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Thomson, Interim Executive Director

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

Place: Virtual Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88955183331?pwd=aEpiT0NiRS9aSlhYQkg5S2hwK2cxdz09>

by Phone: 1-877-853-5257 (Meeting ID: 889 5518 3331 Passcode: 804334)

Time: 11:00 am

Committee Present: Alex Dieck, Tyler Kinley, Jessica A.S. Letaw, Molly McFarland, Darren McKinnon

Committee Absent: Micah Bartelme

Staff: Maura Thomson, Amber Miller, Sara McCallum, Kelley Graves, Liz Rolla

Others Present: Jennifer Hall/AAHC, Forest Yang/TheRide, Oliver Kiley, Bob Doyle/Smith Group, Felipe Uribe, Chris Wall/Wade Trim

Public: Members of the public were on the Zoom meeting but did not identify themselves.

NOTE: As required by the amended OMA, all attending members stated they were attending remotely and doing so from Ann Arbor.

Virtual Meeting Guidelines: Ms. McFarland outlined the guidelines for electronic meetings.

People-Friendly Streets 2: The Committee received an overview of project opportunities, including partnership opportunities with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC) and TheRide. The DDA's role would be to provide project support in the way of infrastructure (e.g., watermain upgrade), sidewalk and streetscape improvements that would reduce AAHC project costs, expanding safety and mobility options, and improving transit access and comfort.

Ms. Hall discussed the 121 E. Catherine and 350 S. Fifth Ave., city-owned sites currently being vetted as affordable housing developments. Extensive community engagement has been conducted. Ms. Miller said the proposed timeline for the DDA to undertake the needed underground/infrastructure work is 2022. It will take the AAHC 12-18 months to complete the City's site plan process and select a development partner. The AAHC would submit its funding request in April 2022, with construction anticipated to begin in 2023. Streetscape work would take place towards the end of construction.

The 350 S. Fifth Ave. site pre-entitlement process is underway. The DDA, City staff, AAHC, TheRide, and the consultant team have spent a great deal of time strategizing the design approach. The optimal approach is two towers; one designated for affordable housing use with tenant services on the first floor and the other a mix of market-rate and affordable housing. Ms. Hall said cultural organization opportunities are being considered for the first floor of both sites due to the significant additional cost and loss of funding sources for AAHC with retail on the first floor of either development site. The DDA's role would be in support of some utility work on 4th Ave ahead of construction and streetscape work, sidewalk widening, creating slow driving zone, etc., in 2023 or later, towards the end of the construction.

The community engagement sessions held in March went well with strong support for low-stress and separated bikeway connections, flexible uses on commercial streets, and improving safety. In addition to the virtual sessions, a mobility and access survey was provided to Baker Commons, Delonis Center and

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Miller Manor residents. The information collected showed the difference in the challenges and barriers faced by the residents compared to the general downtown population.

The PFS 2 project focus will be on State Street, Division Street bikeway, Miller/Catherine, and 4th Avenue. Additional opportunities include South Main, North Main, and 5th and Division 2-way restoration. Curb less street design concepts for State Street are being discussed. The team is preparing for follow-up meetings with the SSAA, the Commission on Disability, Police, and Fire.

Construction Updates: Work continues on First by Kingsley. Concrete being poured this week on the east side, followed by west side. The concrete work on the east side Ashley between Huron and Liberty is near completion with the west side to follow. Paving scheduled for mid-June. Ms. Miller said she is thankful for Board's approval of the request for a project manager to act as liaison with the residents and businesses in the construction area. Mr. Uribe and Mr. Wall from Wade Trim connect directly with the stakeholders to keep them informed and manage their concerns.

Resolutions: There was Committee support for both the resolution to approve payment for railroad signal reconfigurations for the First and Ashley project and, the resolution to purchase Liberty Street replacement streetlights poles. Both resolutions will be brought to the Board.

Vault Grant Program: The vault grant application is being created. The vault owners on State Street will receive a letter soon, followed by one-on-one contacts. All requests above \$10,000 will be brought to the Committee for review.

Bond Dollars Update: Ms. Miller provided an update on the opportunities for the remaining bond dollars that must be spent by February 2022. The opportunities are prioritized first by those in the First and Ashley Street project area, as required by the DDA/City bond agreement. Once the original project is complete, opportunities in other project areas on William and Huron Street as well streetlights on W. Liberty and repairs can be pursued. Those costs outside of the Board-authorized DDA contract amount or over \$25,000 will be brought to the Board for approval.

Public Comment: Mr. Dick Mitchell expressed appreciation for the DDA's work in finding a lighting solution for the Ashley Street area. Festoon lighting is being considered as the best option for those areas where unfilled vaults do not allow for sidewalk improvements. Mr. Mark Hodesh also supports the installation of the festoon lighting. Mr. Bill Kinley said the ongoing sidewalk level drainage issue in the alleyway between Three Chairs and Old Town Restaurant needs to be addressed. This borders public and private property. Ms. Thomson to discuss with Mr. Kinley after the meeting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is May 19 at 11 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Thomson, Interim Executive Director

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

Place: Virtual meeting—Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89385007954?pwd=Rlp3cG05MitSVnJ1Y1FNWmhFc2w2QT09>

Phone: 1-877-853-5257 (Meeting ID: 893 8500 7954 Passcode: 311151)

Time: 11 am

Committee Present: Robert Guenzel, Tyler Kinley, Darren McKinnon

Other DDA Present: Jessica A.S. Letaw, Jonathan Massey

Staff: Jada Hahlbrock, Sara McCallum, Maura Thomson, Kelley Graves

Other Attendees: Mike McKiness/RPS, Chris Simmons/GetDowntown, Jim Corbett, Jon Martens/Walker Consultants

Public: Members of the public were on the Zoom meeting but did not identify themselves.

Parking Operator Contract/Bid Process Update: Messrs. Corbett and Martens from Walker Consultants presented an overview of the Ann Arbor DDA parking operator management agreement, providing recommendations for revisions that they have identified to Ms. Hahlbrock. She will continue working with Walker Consultants to revise the parking operator contract for Committee review and prepare the bid documents with the goal of releasing the RFP in early fall 2021. Questions were asked and answered.

Parking System Financials: Ms. McCallum presented the Parking System financials for March 2021. Monthly actual revenues are on track with projections.

Resolution for get!Downtown FY22 Funding Request: Mr. Simmons' February presentation is included in the packet for reference. Ms. Hahlbrock stated support of getDowntown's go!Pass program is a key component of the DDA's Development Plan to encourage a full menu of transportation options for employees, residents, visitors, and customers. The promotion and marketing, and non-fixed route fares funding requests are an 'up to' amount based on actual ridership. Mr. Simmons said getDowntown is continuing its collaboration with the area associations on maximizing promotion and marketing efforts and dollars. Questions were asked regarding aligning the request with the FY21 projected revenues. Ms. Thomson and Ms. McCallum stated these funds are included in the DDA's FY22 budget. DDA and getDowntown staff will continue to monitor actual figures and bring forward a request for an amendment to the DDA budget should ridership increase beyond projections. The Committee agreed to bring the resolution to the Board.

Parking System Updates: Equipment installation is underway at Ann Ashley. The last installation will be Library Lane. A wrap-up on the project and review of next steps will take place at the May Committee meeting. Annual restoration and maintenance work is underway at Forest. WGI is working on the documents for FY22 work and working on the update to the 20-year maintenance plan to be presented to the Committee summer of 2021.

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Ms. Hahlbrock provided an update on EV charging stations in the parking structures. The previous study of parking structures' electricity capacity was updated in early 2020. Staff will continue to work on adding capacity when and where feasible, using existing electrical capacity due to limited funding.

Ms. Hahlbrock said that Community High School informed the DDA that it is undertaking a construction project and will be closing its parking lot for 18-months to use for staging. An amendment to the parking lease between the Ann Arbor Public Schools and the DDA was signed to return the parking lot to CHS during construction. They will inform us when the lot will be available again for parking.

TheRide is accepting applications for a new Public Advisory Group for its long-range plan project, TheRide 2045. Mr. Simmons provided the link to the application in the packet.

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting: The next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 at 11 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Maura Thomson, Interim Executive Director

Parking & Transportation Report March & April 2021

Parking

Annual Restoration & Maintenance

Planned work at the Forest structure is underway. This work includes waterproofing and concrete work throughout the structure. WGI is working on documents for the FY22 work. The project will be bid this spring and work will get underway July 1st. The focus again this year will be on critical work that cannot be delayed. WGI is also working on an update to the 20-year maintenance plan. When the plan is complete (summer 2021) WGI staff will join DDA staff in presenting this report to the committee.

Parking Equipment

Installation of the new TIBA parking equipment is underway at Ann Ashley. The last installation will be at Library Lane. At the May committee meeting we will wrap up the project by sharing information on the equipment and talking about what is next.

Curb Management

An RFQ for the Curb Management Study will be released this month. We are looking for qualified consultant firms or teams to share best practice, conduct research, perform analysis, and develop recommendations for a curb management assessment and toolkit. The nature of how people and goods get to and from downtown is evolving quickly and we need to have a toolkit in place to manage the curb space as the important public asset it is. COVID-19 and impacts to restaurant and retailer occupancy and service models have only hastened the need for a toolkit to ensure we can respond quickly, equitably, and consistently as requests and needs change. Staff want the toolkit to be both value-driven and practical. We are working with City staff across departments to make certain the outcome fits with other City/DDA initiatives, as well as provides technical and operational elements.

Structure Walks

Annually the DDA and RPS staff walk all the structures and lots as a group. We spent afternoons in March and April walking and our official walks for this year are now complete. Having maintenance, IT, and operational staff all together is a great way to identify concerns or issues. Some items are referred to the engineering firm, others are items that can be addressed by RPS or DDA staff.

Treeline Trail at 415 W Washington Lot

The City Parks department worked to clear vegetation along the east side of the lot. RPS installed a second pedestrian opening at the north end of the lot. Treeline Conservancy members are working on signage and planning for the delivery of the stop blocks that will be used to delineate the trail. Trail is expected to be complete and officially open in May.

Deterrent Fencing

The fence installation at Forest is underway and should be complete by the end of April. Work includes repairs at the roof level and new fencing at three levels below the rooftop.

Meters

RPS meter staff has been working closely with DDA and City staff to implement the weekly street closures as well as the extension of patios into on-street parking spaces. Meter staff has also been busy coordinating meter bags and meter removals as several street and building projects got underway this spring.

Parking System Maintenance & Operations

In early March RPS maintenance worked to clear the last of the snow from lots and structure roof tops. Warmer temperatures will allow maintenance staff to tackle landscaping and painting projects, many of which didn't get addressed last spring due to COVID. RPS operational staff has done a great job juggling multiple contractors in multiple facilities, as well as changes in operations due to construction impacts.



Go!pass Summary – February

Total # of companies in program = 201 (+3)

Total # of active passes (# distributed less deactivations) = 2,226 (-4)

Go!pass Summary – March

Total # of companies in program = 204 (+3)

Total # of active passes (# distributed less deactivations) = 2,238 (+12)

Quarterly go!pass Ridership

Preliminary Ridership

	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
	11,514	12,794	12,503	7,432	7,676	8,188	8,931	10,351
% of prior year	23%	27%	24%	19%	18%	17%	18%	41%
% of system ridership	9.8%	9.6%	10.5%	7.0%	7.7%	7.7%	8.1%	7.9%

Final data applied. March is the first month that begins to compare pandemic months, although it wasn't until mid-March that service changes were implemented. When combined with the increase in lease signs around downtown, the numerous signs of available positions, and

continued concern over shared trips, these numbers continue to be expected. The ability to hire staff for available positions continues to be of concern for downtown businesses, especially restaurant, as well as being able to make late-night trips home. Staff is working with the business associations to make sure that employers are aware of the changes to the NightRide program to make it more responsive as well as efficient, and help their staff understand how to combine using that service with their go!pass.

A reminder that the new go!pass season started in November 2020, which always results in a drop in ridership from October and then rebuilds again in spring.

Commuter Challenge 2021

Staff, after consultation with a number of groups, has chosen to move the 2021 Commuter Challenge from May to September, including the connected Bike to Work Week and Day events. While there will be local bike events on the national May date, given the continued effects of the pandemic and the reopening of services and buildings in August it just made more sense to tie the event into the community re-opening. We anticipate more updates through the summer on planning for the event.

TheRide's Service Recovery Proposal

getDowntown partner TheRide is seeking community input on its Service Recovery Proposal through April 2nd. Full details, including maps and a recorded presentation, are available on the website at TheRide.org.

Of particular note to downtown businesses is an attempt to streamline routes with multiple variations in order to make things simpler for riders. Additionally, effort has been given to resolving on-time performance conflicts to create a more reliable schedule, especially in the PM commute.

Concerning the issues on the overall system design, fleet electrification, and Bus Rapid Transit on the Washtenaw Avenue corridor, they were not a part of this process. This Recovery Proposal is simply designed to bring back full service levels to support the community's recovery. Growth and community design issues will be dealt with in an upcoming long-range planning process later this year.

TheRide Public Advisory Group

TheRide is accepting applications for a new Public Advisory Group to advise the project staff and consultants on its long-range plan project, TheRide 2045. Applications are being accepted through May 5. Not all applications will be accepted. Interested individuals should visit the project website at <https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>.

Other Activities

getDowntown staff is available for those businesses looking for assistance in navigating transportation options for their employees. Contact info@getdowntown.org to request assistance, as staff is remaining on a work-from-home status until at least May 2021.