

**Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7 pm**  
**Zoom link:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86790118554?pwd=cms0OXhjMGErTm9aaGJyS1cvVyswUT09>**

The Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council, which works to advise the DDA and City Council about issues and opportunities that affect downtown livability, met over Zoom on January 4, 2022. The meeting was attended by nine downtown and near-downtown residents, including two potential new members of the CAC.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a lively and informative discussion of the Main St. water main replacement planned for 2023, with Vaughn Martin from Wade Trim presenting public engagement information.

The CAC's interest in this project, aside from the long-needed improvements to vital downtown infrastructure, is the potential for streetscape improvements that have great potential to impact downtown livability, as experiences of recent Covid summers have proved.

Some meeting participants were surprised and disappointed to learn that in fact there are *no* permanent streetscape improvements planned — it's just not part of the project — and view this as a missed opportunity. Acknowledging some of the complex issues involved, notably the nearly universal presence of sidewalk vaults that must be addressed before any major streetscape improvement can be implemented, we learned that even cosmetic improvements, like curbless streets that are friendlier to pedestrians and non-motorized forms of transportation, are off the table.

The CAC will continue to discuss the important role that Main St. plays in our community: to businesses, to downtown residents, and to all of the users of Ann Arbor's most important thoroughfare, and we hope to engage the DDA in this conversation as it matures.

The Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council wishes the board members and staff of the Downtown Development Association a happy and fruitful new year. See you next month!

Submitted by: Peter Honeyman