



## *A2 DDA Seeks Increased Community Input: Adds Bicycle Parking Request Form to its Website*

For immediate Release: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Contact: Susan Pollay | (734)994-6697| [spollay@a2dda.org](mailto:spollay@a2dda.org)

In pursuit of a vibrant Downtown, the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority (A2DDA) continues to support an ever-growing menu of transportation options, annually installing and maintaining bicycle parking in the [DDA area](#) as a part of their effort. To increase citizen involvement and better target the needs of bicyclists coming to the downtown, the DDA added a [bicycle parking request form](#) to its website, following the lead of great bicycling cities like Portland and Chicago.

In previous years, the A2DDA and getDowntown Program partnered to determine new bicycle parking locations based on general feedback from citizens and business owners who contacted them throughout the year. "I often hear requests from businesses and employees about where to put more bike parking. This form will hopefully reach a larger cycling audience than those we have heard from in the past, and give us a more systematic way to determine need," said getDowntown Program Director Nancy Shore.

The online form has choices to request a bicycle hoop location, on-street rack location, and bicycle hoop replacement or relocation. Through a new partnership with the City of Ann Arbor Police Department, the form also allows the public to report abandoned bikes for removal, which the DDA believes will decrease the amount of time abandoned bikes linger in the Downtown. In addition to adding new locations, the DDA wants to ensure existing bicycle parking meets the needs of the community; the option to request hoop replacement or relocation helps ensure this if, for example, the hoop itself becomes damaged or was previously installed in the location of a new sidewalk café.

"We are hoping that with the availability of this form, citizens will become more aware of the role they can play in shaping amenities in their downtown," said DDA Executive Director Susan Pollay. "While we won't be able to meet all new bicycle parking requests, this will give us a better sense of where to focus our resources and indicate if we need to make additional investments, like adding another on-street rack to our system for example."

This is the latest in a number of DDA initiatives to support a multi-modal transportation system that meets the needs of residents while attracting new visitors, residents, and businesses to the Downtown. The DDA plays a significant role in sustainable transportation programs by providing 90% of the cost for the go!pass for 6,000 downtown employees, annual support for the getDowntown Program and pedestrian and bicycle improvements. In 2009, the DDA sponsored [Downtown Zipcars](#), undertook its annual installation of several dozen [bike hoops](#), and purchased 5 [on-street bike racks](#), which through a public feedback process proved to have a great deal of community support. In 2010, the DDA will continue bicycle and sustainable initiatives - including installing bicycle parking with community input on locations and design, adding bike lanes to [Fifth Avenue and Division](#), and releasing a Downtown Bicycle Map complete with rules of the road and street safety designations.

You can find additional information on DDA programs and provide comments to the DDA by going to the DDA's website: [www.a2dda.org](http://www.a2dda.org)

# # #