

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2008

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**Community Meeting to Review Conceptual Designs for Proposed
S. Fifth Avenue Underground Parking Structure (Library Lot)
May 21, 2008 at 7pm at DDA offices, 150 S. Fifth Avenue**

Ann Arbor, MI – All are invited to a Community Meeting to review and provide feedback on conceptual designs for a proposed underground parking structure on S. Fifth Avenue between William and Liberty. This meeting will be held on May 21, 2008 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the offices of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), 150 S. Fifth Ave, Suite 301 Ann Arbor MI 48104.

In February 2008 City Council directed the DDA to design and construct an underground parking garage under the South Fifth Avenue lot with at least 500 parking spaces, subject to approval by the City Council of the project site plan. In March 2008 the DDA selected the design team for this project, including Carl Walker, Inc., Luckenbach/Ziegelman Architects, Douglas Kelbaugh, AIA, Beckett & Raeder, Inc., Alexander Resources, Midwestern Consultants, Berbiglia Associates.

The design team is working to ensure that the conceptual designs for the future parking structure address the elements of highest value to Ann Arbor residents. A recent survey of Ann Arbor residents shows that those elements include safety and security in the structure, an environmentally friendly design, ease of entrance and exits, and highly accessible pedestrian links to the Main, Liberty and State Street areas. Examples of creatively designed, welcoming, light filled underground structures can be found on the DDA website. (www.A2DDA.org)

The DDA treats parking as part of an overall transportation system and invites citizens to learn more about the 2007 Comprehensive Downtown Parking Study as well as the significant work of the DDA supporting alternative modes of transportation downtown by visiting their website at www.A2DDA.org. The DDA sees an increase in parking for motor vehicles and increased access to alternative transportation methods as interdependent aspects of support for a vibrant, active downtown area.

When constructed these additional downtown parking spaces could greatly reduce the waiting list for monthly parking permits and would allow a significant increase in hourly parking spaces that will be accessible for downtown workers, residents and customers of the State Street, Liberty Street and Main Street areas.

Input on this proposed structure can also be provided by emailing the DDA at: dda@a2dda.org.

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