Due to many members of the public wishing to address the committee, public comment was held at the beginning of the meeting, followed by a discussion on the proposed ambassador program.

1. **Public Comment**

Jean Henry spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. She said that Ann Arborites are quite willing and able to be ambassadors for their own community.

Ali Ramlawi spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. He said he supports DDA efforts that are directly tied to the DDA mission but said that if there are safety concerns they are better addressed by the police.

Jeremy Wheeler spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. He said downtown Ann Arbor is already safe and easy and not comparable to Grand Rapids.

Linh Song spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. She said she has deep community ties and encouraged the DDA to empower local residents and volunteers rather than bring in an outside firm.

Joe Malcoun spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. He said he hires people from all over the world who are excited to come to Ann Arbor. Unlike other DDA programs that help him attract employees, he felt an ambassador program would be an embarrassment.

Chip Smith spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. He said he appreciated the work of the DDA but he felt that there has to be a better way to address the issues facing downtown.

Kelly R. spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. She said she sees many downtown business owners and employees serve as ambassadors on a daily basis, and that existing base of downtown supporters should be used rather than bring in outsiders.

Matt Bradish spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. He said the DDA should think about a program to educate people about available services and how to make decisions about giving to panhandlers.
Sanford Bledsoe spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. He said he feels the community is
great already and the idea of the program is insulting.

Mariah C spoke in opposition to the ambassador program. As a downtown employee she sees fellow
employees and citizens serve as ambassadors daily. Issues need to be better defined.

Changming Fan spoke in support of the ambassador program. He said that if local people were hired
the program could be a support to the homeless and jobless.

2. Possible Ambassador Program
Ms. Pollay let audience members know that no vote on the program was scheduled. The previously
passed board resolution only spoke to creating a place in the budget for a program, but requires more
work to be done to shape program details before going back to the board for a vote

Mr. Hewitt said that board members met with Mr. McBride of Block by Block to begin the work shaping
what may become program details. Block by Block was tasked with creating a revised proposal, which
will be reviewed by the Operations Committee.

There were many comments from Committee members responding to what they had heard from
members of the public. They discussed elements to be considered including seasonality. There were
comments about the need to measure the impact of this program, and comments that it isn’t always
possible to quantifiably measure the impact of all programs and projects.

3. New Business none

4. Transportation
a. DDA/AAATA Summit- Mr. Orr reported that the summit was very well attended and very useful.
Areas of focus included planning for the Blake/4th Ave area, enhancing transit options for downtown
employees living east of US-23, the role of Park and Ride lots, and a possible downtown circulator.
Staff from both organizations will work to create a sub-committee to meet more regularly.

b. Greyhound- Ms. Pollay shared that AAATA staff at Blake have begun to gather data on the number
of Greyhound users asking questions of staff at the BTC. This and other data will be useful when
considering how successful this multi-modal experiment has been.

5. Parking
a. County Parking Contract- Ms. Pollay reported that a meeting with County staff had taken place. No
additional information available at this time.

b. Other Parking Updates- Mr. Low shared information on RPS’s online payment portal for monthly
parkers. He also gave an update about snow/ice equipment and products.
c. 5th/William Lot- Ms. Pollay said there had been no response yet regarding the DDA’s resolution.

6. Construction
   a. 4th & William Update- Mr. Splitt said a pre-bid meeting had taken place. The importance of communication with the neighbors and responsiveness was conveyed to prospective bidders.

7. Other
   a. Street Framework Update- Ms. Miller shared that final feedback and comments are being assembled. A draft of the plan should be ready in March.

   b. Future Parking Demand- Ms. Pollay said that DDA staff would begin the process of drafting what a possible parking supply and demand study would look like. Additional discussion of desired data and information will occur at the next Operations Committee meeting.

8. Public Comment
   a. Changming Fan spoke about the City Council discussion regarding homeless camps.

Next meeting- Wednesday February 25th at 11:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.
Susan Pollay, Executive Director