

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:00 am**

Place: Virtual Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/886553908> or by Phone:
1-877-853-5257 (US Toll-free) or 1-929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 886 553/Password: 032456

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Committee Present: Alexandra Dieck, Tyler Kinley, Jessica A.S. Letaw, Molly McFarland

Committee Absent: Micah Bartelme

Other DDA Present: Darren McKinnon, Keith Orr

Absent: Bob Guenzel, Marie Klopff, Rishi Narayan, Phil Weiss

Staff: Susan Pollay, Amber Miller, Maura Thomson, Liz Rolla, Jada Hahlbrock,
Sara McCallum, Kelley Graves

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

Virtual Meeting Guidelines: Ms. McFarland read the virtual meeting guidelines outlining the authority given to municipalities to hold electronic meetings for a period of time during the COVID-19 pandemic to conduct necessary business of public bodies as outlined in Governor Whitmer's Executive Order #2020-15.

Introduction and Check-in: Members of the committee, other board members and Ms. Pollay shared their thoughts and observations of the impact and possible outcomes of the COVID-19 health crisis on the community. All agreed it will be a gradual comeback and that it will be require adjusting to a 'new normal.' Ms. Pollay shared that in conversations with other DDA's across the state, they, like us, are looking for ways to help that are in alignment with our missions to steward downtown and foster resiliency. She noted the A2 DDA's strengths, which include its focus on short and long-term goals, and through its use of its 10-year plan to manage resources. She said in her role she had witnessed the devastating impact of 9/11 and the '08-'09 recession, and in both cases downtown bounced back. She expressed confidence that downtown will come back again, different but, strong. Ms. Miller stated that through this global, national and local crisis, it is important to remember the DDA's role in public improvement.

SmithGroup Presentation: Mr. Doyle and Mr. Kiley discussed how infrastructure investments like those undertaken by the City and the DDA build resilient communities. Resilient communities prepare for, recover from and adapt and grow from crises. These initiatives stimulate the economy, improve and maintain systems that provide critical services, prepare for development, create spaces that provide access to jobs, goods and services and, build and

support the community. Key elements of resilience in street design projects include ensuring equity, building streets that adapt to evolving use patterns and systematic stress, manage carbon emissions, reduce impacts of urban heat island, build strong and flexible infrastructure systems with capacity for managing extreme climate events and, support human health and wellness.

People Friendly Streets Phase 2: Mr. Doyle and Mr. Kiley said that SmithGroup is hearing from their clients that they, like Ann Arbor, are still experiencing the stresses of the crisis but want to focus on how to move forward while being mindful of the health and safety of all involved. This is the time to stay informed, work on project planning and design to be prepared to move forward and be in a position to take advantage of potential additional federal stimulus funding that is currently being discussed. This includes planning for public engagement and data collection and ready to make adjustments as needed to construction schedules as well as short and long term needs for social distancing and the potential impacts on street design.

Ms. Miller reported that the Huron and William Street projects are essential under the Governor's Executive Order and are underway and that the First and Ashley project is slated to begin 5/1. Ms. Rolla reported streetlight, paver installation and tree planting on N. Huron are underway and milling and paving are anticipated to start next week depending on when the asphalt plants open. There are a few punch list items to be completed on Huron. The contractor, Fonson, is able to work more quickly due to the reduced traffic and they are adhering to all safety protocols regarding social distancing. Current timeline is early to mid-May for completion of Huron. Pavement marking on William will be underway once temperatures reach a consistent 50+ degrees and sunny. Mr. McKinnon questioned whether First and Ashley should be delayed; Ms. Miller reported that starting First and Ashley is in alignment with city projects, and that the team will continue to monitor the state orders on what is allowed and will adjust the schedule if necessary. Ms. Pollay agreed, saying that City and MDOT initiatives are moving forward.

Public Comment: None.

The next Capital Improvements Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19 at 11 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director