

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:00 am**

Place: Virtual Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574796798> or by Phone:
1-877-853-5257 (US Toll-free)
Meeting ID: 895 7479 6798 Password: 148715

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Committee Absent: Micah Bartelme, Alexandra Dieck

Other DDA Present: Darren McKinnon, Keith Orr

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

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

Others Present: Bob Doyle, Oliver Kiley/SmithGroup
Megan McCarty-Graham, Addie Weber/Toole Design Group

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

Virtual Meeting Guidelines: Ms. Letaw 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 #2020-75.

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.

People Friendly Streets Phase 2: Mr. Kiley and Ms. Miller shared recommendations focused on enabling the DDA to support downtown during the pandemic recovery while also supporting its short and long-term goals and values. Based on research both locally and nationwide, staff has observed an increase in demand for adaptable street, sidewalk and parking space options including safe biking, walking, and recreation space. Also, continued curbside pick-up for businesses and expanded outdoor space as businesses reopen with decreased capacity, physical distancing requirements, and making customers feel more comfortable. Behavior changes are impacting public transit systems, like TheRide, that are adapting routes and capacity to accommodate distancing requirements. Vehicle travel is down by 50% in many areas including Washtenaw County. There is increased bike and pedestrian traffic encroachment into roadways. Ms. McCarty-Graham explained how communities are utilizing an enhanced “E” Plan approach for project design and implementation that incorporates the

original decades old design model of Engineering, Education and Enforcement with the more current methodology of Ethics, Equity and Empathy. Mr. Kiley added that Evaluation and Encouragement have also been added to the design and implementation to the PFS Phase 2 recommendations allowing for quicker responses and adapting streets to meet the changing environment.

Pandemic Response: Staff have been focused on a tactical urbanism approach to develop short-term, low-cost, quick-build interventions to support community and business needs. These interventions could fall into one or more of four categories-Demonstrations, Pilot, Interim Design and Full Installation. The process would include testing and evaluation, flexible response and, the opportunity to build awareness and understanding. The outcomes will help inform whether a project needs to be modified, enhanced, discontinued or warrants consideration for full implementation. Mr. Doyle stated that these intervention recommendations are informed by elements of the City's plan and the DDA's Design Manual. The advantage of a tactical urbanism approach is the opportunity to get a more immediate assessment of user experience.

Ms. Thomson and Ms. Miller reported that the DDA has been working the past few weeks with City staff and the area merchant associations to develop a street reopening plan with focus on safety to run through August 30th. The City received a Homeland Security grant last year and purchased PVB barriers, like the ones used by U of M. These barriers are more portable and offer more flexible response to business requests. These barriers replace the old jersey barriers. U of M has agreed to store the barriers for the City and place them when and where needed for a fee.

Resolutions for Review: Ms. Miller presented five (5) resolutions to the Committee related to the DDA's pandemic response. The resolutions include piloting separated bike facilities and State Street improvements, partnering with The Arts Alliance to hire artists to create artwork to delineate social distancing spaces on the sidewalks, funding PVB barrier drop-offs and pick-ups for local businesses and, funding for rental, installation and service of temporary hand washing stations. The fifth resolution amends the Heritage Lawn Care agreement for general ROW repair services, extending it into FY21 to support the landscape and maintenance in the four merchant association sectors. Questions were asked and answered about temporary vs. permanent initiatives, communicating the plan to Council ahead of time to gain support. There was consensus by the Committee to bring all five resolutions to the Board.

Projects Updates: Ms. Miller reported that Huron Street milling and paving are expected to be finished between today and tomorrow and the project will be complete. Final pavement marking on William Street will be underway once the rain clears. Ms. Miller reported that all First and Ashley watermains tests passed. Conduit work between Washington and Liberty will begin next week, followed by water and sewer work.

Public Comment: Mr. Adam Oxner said he likes the proposed bike lane ideas, especially where there are gaps in the bike network. He agrees with reaching out to Council ahead of time on the street reopening plan. He thinks it aligns well with the City's climate emergency plan.

The next Capital Improvements Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, June 17 at 11 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director