1. Roll Call
   Sava Lelcaj Farah, Bob Guenzel, Marie Klopf, Howard Lazarus, Joan Lowenstein, Darren McKinnon, Al McWilliams, John Mouat, Rishi Narayan, Keith Orr, John Splitt, Phil Weiss

2. Public Hearing on Proposed Parking Rate Changes

3. Approval of the Board Meeting Agenda

4. Audience Participation (4 people maximum, 4 minutes each)
   1.
   2.
   3.
   4.

5. Reports from City Boards and Commissions
   · Ray Detter, Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council

6. DDA Members Communications

7. Executive Director Communications

8. Approval of Minutes: December meeting minutes

9. Subcommittee Reports
   A. Capital Improvements Committee – J. Mouat
      · Huron Street Improvements Project – status
      · Fifth/Detroit project - status
      · First/Ashley/William project - status
      · Next meeting: Wednesday, January 24 at 11am

   B. Operations Committee – J. Splitt, K. Orr
      · Monthly Parking and Transportation Report
      · Ann Ashley expansion - status
      · Solar carport project update
      · Next Committee meeting: Wednesday, January 31 at 11am

   C. Finance Committee – M. Klopf
      · Next Committee meeting: February 1, 2018 at 1:00 pm.
D. Partnerships/Economic Development Committee – J. Lowenstein
   · Next Committee meeting: Wednesday, January 10 at 9am

E. Executive Committee – P. Weiss, M. Klopf, D. McKinnon, J. Lowenstein, R. Narayan
   · Next Committee meeting: Wednesday, February 7 at 11am

9. New Business

10. Other Audience Participation (4 minutes each)

11. Adjournment
Place: DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Suite 301, Ann Arbor, 48104
Time: 11:03 a.m.
Present: Phil Weiss, Marie Klopf, Darren McKinnon, Joan Lowenstein, Susan Pollay (ex officio)
Absent: Rishi Narayan (ex officio)
Others: none

Committee actions and discussions

Agenda Review. The group reviewed the November DDA monthly meeting agenda. Ms. Pollay noted that no public speakers had signed up yet to speak. Ms. Pollay also noted that Mr. Morehouse had been asked to present the details of the proposed parking rate change plan. A public hearing would be held on the proposed rate change in January, and a board vote in February, with rate changes going into effect in April.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.
Susan Pollay, Executive Director
**Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

**Place:**  DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Suite 301, Ann Arbor, 48104  
**Time:**  Mr. Weiss called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### 1. ROLL CALL

| Present:               | Marie Klopf, Howard Lazarus, Joan Lowenstein, Darren McKinnon, John Mouat, Rishi Narayan, Keith Orr, John Splitt, Phil Weiss |
| Absent:               | Bob Guenzel, Sava Lelcaj-Farah, Al McWilliams |
| Staff:                | Susan Pollay, Executive Director  
Joseph Morehouse, Deputy Director  
Jada Hahlbrock, Manager of Parking Services  
Patti Wheeler, Management Assistant  
Liz Rolla, DDA Project Manager  
Lauren Groves, DDA Intern |
| Audience:             | Ray Detter, Downtown Citizens Advisory Council  
Maura Thomson, MSAA  
Chris Simmons, Get!Downtown  
Frances Todoro, State Street District  
Dave Orfield, RPS  
Maggie Ladd, South University Area Association  
Douglas Allen, Peter Allen & Associates  
David Konkle |

### 2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Mouat moved and Mr. McKinnon supported approving the meeting agenda.

A vote on the motion to approve the agenda showed:

- **AYES:** Klopf, Lazarus, Lowenstein, McKinnon, Mouat, Narayan, Orr, Splitt, Weiss
- **NAYS:** none
- **ABSENT:** Guenzel, Lelcaj-Farah, McWilliams

The motion was approved.

### 3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

### 4. REPORTS FROM CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council. The CAC did not hold a meeting in December.

### 5. DDA MEMBERS COMMUNICATIONS

None.
6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Pollay reported the State Theatre marquee for which the DDA had provided a grant was completed; she noted it was both lovely and more energy-efficient. She reported that after considering candidates, she had hired Maura Thomson as the DDA’s Communication Manager. She noted the 2018 DDA Board and Committee meeting dates were in the packet.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mouat moved and Mr. Narayan supported approval of the November 2017 DDA meeting minutes.

A vote on the motion showed:
AYES: Klopf, Lazarus, Lowenstein, McKinnon, Mouat, Narayan, Orr, Splitt, Weiss
NAYS: none
ABSENT: Guenzel, Lelcaj-Farah, McWilliams

The motion was approved.

8. A. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Rate Changes. Mr. Splitt said the Operations and Finance committees are working together to propose rate changes. Mr. Morehouse explained the recommended plan; questions were asked and answered. A public hearing will be held at the January 3rd meeting so the DDA can hear comments on the proposed rates, and the DDA may vote on rates at the February meeting.

Monthly Parking & Transportation Report. Mr. Splitt asked for questions; there were none.

Rooftop Fencing. Mr. Splitt stated work was completed, and remaining project funds will be used to add lower-level fencing.

Lot Decommissioning. Mr. Splitt said Republic Parking did an excellent job with the transition closing the 1st & Huron and 5th & Huron lots. He stated the lots are temporarily being operated by the owner during the time the City conducts a zoning review.

Mr. Orr moved and Mr. Narayan supported the following resolution.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SELECTION OF NOVA CONSULTANTS, INC. TO INSTALL A SOLAR ELECTRIC CARPORT AT THE FOURTH & CATHERINE PARKING LOT

Whereas, The DDA embraces sustainability projects as a way to meet its mission

Whereas, In October 2017 the DDA approved $50,000 as a project budget for a solar electric installation at the 4th & Catherine parking lot which would include panels atop a carport over parking spaces in the northwest corner of the lot containing EV chargers;
Whereas, The DDA distributed an RFP for this equipment and three responses were received, which were vetted by a selection committee of DDA and City staff, and NOVA Consultants, Inc. were recommended for approval;

Whereas, NOVA provided a fixed price of $40,000 to fabricate and install this equipment;

Whereas, NOVA also offered a lease arrangement in which the car canopy and PV system would be owned by NOVA also at a cost of $40,000, but any operating and maintenance costs would be eliminated;

Whereas, The Operations Committee recommends approval of NOVA to install the solar electric carport at the 4th & Catherine lot, and also recommends this equipment be purchased, not leased;

RESOLVED, The DDA authorizes a contract with NOVA Consultants, Inc. for $40,000 for the purchase and installation of this equipment.

A vote on the resolution showed:
AYES: Klopf, Lazarus, Lowenstein, McKinnon, Mouat, Narayan, Orr, Splitt, Weiss
NAYS: none
ABSENT: Guenzel, Lelcaj-Farah, McWilliams

The resolution was approved.

Ann Ashley Expansion. Mr. Orr stated the project scope will include rooftop fencing, designing a future commercial build out at the southwest corner of the structure, and making provisions for new electric vehicle units. He said the design team has been asked to make a recommendation for the design of these added floors, and to change the lights in the garage to LED.

Circulator feasibility study. Mr. Orr said DDA staff will meet with AAATA staff to discuss the potential to pilot changes to Route 21 next year while N. 5th Ave is closed for road reconstruction. This idea was a recommendation from the circulator feasibility study.

The next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for December 27 at 11:00 am.

8. B. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monthly Expenses. Ms. Klopf said the committee reviewed the October expense reports.

Parking Rate Changes. Ms. Klopf noted the Frequently Asked Questions document in the board packet and asked that this be shared with the public.

Cancelling December Meeting. Ms. Klopf stated the December committee meeting is cancelled, and given the oddness of the January month, the next meeting will be February 1st.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1 at 1:00 pm
8. C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
Ms. Lowenstein said updates were provided and the Committee discussed what role the DDA could play given the increased security demands being placed on downtown events.

The next Partnerships Committee meeting will take place December 13 at 9:00 am

8. D. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
Huron Street Improvements update. Mr. Mouat said that in pursuit of goals to improve the street, the Committee continues to consider potential traffic changes, and at this meeting the committee looked at 6 different lane configurations. The most feasible options may be enhancing the existing five-lanes or reducing to four lanes between Main and 5th Avenue. The committee asked for more information about potential streetscape improvements and how modifying lanes on Huron might either support or work against traffic changes on First and Ashley Streets.

First/Ashley/William. Mr. Mouat stated the January committee meeting will be moved to January 24, at which time the consultant team will lead a kick-off for the projects.

5th & Detroit. Mr. Mouat stated the project is out to bid, and that bids are due back January 11.

The next Capital Improvements Committee meeting will be held December 20 at 11:00 am.

7. E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Mr. Weiss said that the Committee reviewed the board meeting agenda.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be January 3 at 11:00 am

8. NEW BUSINESS
None.

9. OTHER AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
None.

10. ADJOURNMENT
There being no other business, Mr. Orr moved and Mr. Narayan supported a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weiss declared the meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director
Committee Business

City Sign Ordinance – Mr. Cheng and City consultants Jill Bahm and Rod Arroyo from Giffels Webster gave an overview of the project underway to examine potential changes to the sign ordinance. The process will include the “Picture This” online public-facing feedback platform, and an update information page on the City’s website. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Cheng asked members of the Committee to provide feedback on the current ordinance.

Housing Affordability – Ms. Pollay shared statistics from a recent Ann Arbor News story noting that the number of students at UM continues to grow and is now 46,000+. Although there are many positives to this, she noted this as a contributor to the complex issue of housing affordability.

Event Security Precautions – Ms. Lowenstein explained concerns from event organizers regarding the growing cost and complexity of providing security for downtown events. Questions were asked and answered. The discussion ended with a consensus that the DDA might be able to help by facilitating a discussion about this topic with interested parties.

Public Comment

Mr. Detter provided an update various developments. He said he welcomed the conversation this morning and commented on the various agenda topics.

Next Meeting

The next Partnerships Committee meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2018 at 9:00 am. with partners.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.
Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, DDA Executive Director
Huron Street. Ms. Miller explained the purpose of the meeting which was for the committee to decide between moving forward with an enhanced five-lane option or take time to gather more information to more fully explore a four-lane option with no turns at Fourth Ave. Smith Group JJR and Wade Trim reps presented information about both options. This included suggesting how streetscape improvements could be used to transform Huron, and this also included information that more traffic data and analysis would be needed before it was clear the four lane option would be feasible. Questions were asked and answered. Committee members were polled, and the group consensus was to continue with the five lane option, although there were still reservations that transformative improvements would be supported by MDOT. Staff said the next step would be to engage with the public about the design of the improvements.

South University. Ms. Rolla said street light changes were being changed out, and trees would be replaced in the spring. She said that as she was aware of information about the private development she was sharing this with the neighborhood in hopes of easing confusion.

5th & Detroit. Ms. Rolla said bids are due January 11, and four contractors attended a pre-bid meeting.

1st/Ashley/William. Ms. Miller said the CIC meeting on January 24 is the kick-off for these projects. She encouraged committee members to attend.

Public Comment. Mr. Detter asked the committee to look at surrounding projects already in the works when discussing the future of Huron street.

Next Meeting: The Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 24, 2017 at 11:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.
Susan Pollay, Executive Director
Parking & Transportation Report December 2017

Parking Operations

Special Events in December
12/1 Midnight Madness and Kindlefest
12/15 A2SO Holiday Pops Concert at Hill Auditorium
12/17 UM Winter Commencement

Special Event Meter Bag Fee Waivers in December
12/1 Kindlefest $260

Meters
Use of the epark Ann Arbor mobile app continues to grow. In November there were 33,020 transactions totaling $78,367.00 in revenue. There are about 35,000 users of the app.

In December, the meter department saw a slight increase in batteries needing replacements. This is typical with the colder weather and darker days. When the batteries don’t receive enough sunlight to charge using the solar panels, they need to be swapped out. Batteries are then recharged at the meter shop and most can be reused 75-100 times.

City/DDA Parking Enforcement Committee
The Committee met on December 14th. Community Standards and Republic Parking staff shared updates including winter weather considerations, staff training and the proposed parking rate changes.

The next Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 18th.

Tally Hall Condominium Meeting
DDA and Condominium management staff met on December 12th. A draft budget for 2018 was reviewed. At the January meeting, actuals for 2017 will be reviewed and reconciled. The new management company has been very proactive and has worked to resolve some long-standing issues.

First & Washington Condominium Meeting
No meeting was scheduled in December. The condominium is not yet in place.

Parking System Maintenance
Republic’s maintenance department had 4 snow events to deal with in the last month. All went smoothly and the snow was cleared in the desired time frames. All facility stairwells were given one last wash down.
by the end of November.

Parking Equipment

4th & William Equipment
The new revenue control equipment is tentatively scheduled for installation in February. DDA and RPS staff are working to get the location prepped for installation, as well as creating a plan for communicating with monthly and hourly parkers about the new equipment.

Elevators
There were 7 elevator calls for service in the last month. They were located at:
2 - Ann & Ashley South
1 - 4th & William Alley
2 - Maynard Alley
1 – Maynard Main
1 – 4th & Washington

Equipment
The Lane Operational Efficiency number for November was 99.96 percent. Across all 50 entry/exit lanes there was only 644 minutes of downtime for the month. This downtime includes preventative maintenance and emergency repairs.

Parking Construction
Ann Ashley Expansion
DDA staff held a preliminary meeting with project engineers and architects to discuss the project scope. Meetings will be scheduled with City staff in the next few weeks to discuss expectations for design development and process for approvals so the project timeline can be refined.

4th & Catherine Solar Pilot Project
DDA and NOVA staff met to discuss the contract and project schedule. Fabrication of the carport structure will take a few months. The goal is to aim for installation in March, with a ‘grand opening’ celebration in conjunction with Earth Day in April.

Structure Fencing
Temporary fence installation at the roof levels was completed at the end of November. A bid for permanent fencing for the next two levels down in each of the six structures will be released this month and it is expected that this next phase of work will get underway in January.

Transportation

Go!pass Summary

Go!pass Outreach
Go!pass Coordinator Bulletin sent to 539 recipients on 12/12/17

- 2016-2017 - Renewal orders received to date: 401 companies
- 2016-2017 - New orders received to date: 23 companies
- 2017-2018 - Renewal orders received to date: 386 companies
- 2017-2018 - New orders received to date: 23 companies

New go!pass companies for Nov-Dec 2017-2018
- ABM Building Maintenance & Facilities Services
- Ann Arbor State Bank
2015-2016 – Go!pass sales as of 12/19/2015: 5,852 passes ordered by 426 organizations (8/2015-12/2015)
2016-2017 - Go!pass sales as of 12/19/2016: 5,641 passes ordered by 425 organizations (8/2016-12/2016)
2017-2018 - Go!pass sales as of 12/19/2017: 5,352 passes ordered by 409 organizations (8/2017-12/2017)

Quarterly ridership will be reported in January.

**Bike Parking**
Current rentals good till 3/31/18
- Bike Locker Rentals as of 12/19/17: 12 rentals of 16 available lockers (75%)
- Maynard Bike House Rentals as of 12/19/17: 13 rentals of 28 spaces (46%)
- Ann Ashley Bike House Rentals as of 12/19/17: 40 rentals of 27 spaces (148%)

Of the customers that were impacted by the removal of bike lockers at 5th and Huron, 2 are receiving pro-rated refunds and 1 is making arrangements to move to a different location. As Board members become aware of opportunities to place bike lockers with new development, we would appreciate a heads-up to the getDowntown or DDA staff.

**Other Activities**
“Conquer the Cold Commuter Challenge” starts 1/1/18. To date, 205 people have registered, and many are practicing logging commutes. Even if you only plan on walking, biking, carpooling, vanpooling, or taking the bus to work once during the month of January, we would encourage anyone to sign up for the challenge and participate. We are also finalizing some commuter training and mixer events, to be announced at the start of the challenge.
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<th>Current Rate</th>
<th>2018 Proposed</th>
<th>2019 Proposed</th>
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Parking Rate Changes FAQ

**How is the public parking system funded?**
Nearly every cost associated with the Ann Arbor public parking system is paid for by parking patrons who pay to park at a parking meter, in a public lot, or in a structure. These revenues are used by the DDA to operate the parking facilities, pay for structure and lot repairs and ongoing maintenance, and most parking structure debt service costs. In addition, 20% of parking revenues are provided to the City which helps enable it to provide services for residents.

**Why are parking rates being increased?**
There are a few reasons to increase parking rates. The costs to run the public parking system continually increase despite significant efforts to contain costs. Parking enhancements are being made to improve the customer experience. Just in the past couple years this has included doubling the number of epark stations that make it possible to use credit cards and adding a new stair and two high speed elevators to the Fourth & William garage. The DDA also recently upgraded its Epark app, and is absorbing user credit card costs rather than pass this along to patrons. And the DDA will be undertaking an expansion of the Ann Ashley parking structure to provide additional parking spaces for downtown visitors, customers, clients, employees, and residents.

Finally, the DDA has a goal to manage the ever-increasing demands on the public parking system as effectively as possible, and parking rates are an important management tool to help it achieve this goal.

**When were the last times parking rates were increased?**
2012: Structure, surface lots, and meter hourly rates were increased by $0.10/hr and permit rates were increased by $5/month.

2015: surface lot and meter hourly rates were increased by $0.10/hr; standard monthly rate increased by $10/mo, and premium monthly rates increased by $25/mo. Structure hourly rate stayed the same.

**What is the recommended timeline for adopting new parking rates?**
October & November: Discussion of possible rate changes at committee and board meetings

November 13, 2017: City Council/DDA work session review possible rate changes

December 6, 2017: Slate of possible rate changes presented at DDA board meeting

January 3, 2018: Public hearing about rate changes. Public feedback can also be emailed to dda@a2dda.org or relayed by phone: (734) 994-6697.

January 2018: Committees review rate changes.
February 7, 2018: DDA board votes on rate changes
April 2, 2018: Rate changes go into effect

Note: in addition to the public hearing, there is time set aside at all DDA committee and board meetings for members of the public to share their comments.
Why present multiple years of rate changes at once?
By presenting rate changes as a 5-year plan, it will make it easier for parking system users to plan for these changes.

What are the strategies behind this set of rate changes
The proposed parking rate changes keeps the hourly rate in the parking structures at $1.20/hour throughout the course of this plan. The last time this rate was changed was in 2012, and the plan proposes to keep this rate unchanged going forward.

This is a multi-year plan with small annual rate changes. In the past parking rate changes were less predictable. Over time this multi-year plan is intended to lessen the cost difference between paying to park in the garages by the hour versus paying to park using a monthly permit. Also, it is intended that over time the cost to park in the garages versus parking at a meter will become even more attractive, as the hourly rate in the parking structures will remain the same.
**Comments from the Public about the Proposed Parking Rate Changes**

**Distribution of Information:**
- The four downtown Area Associations to share with their members
- The downtown Citizens Advisory Council to share with their members
- Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce to share with their members
- Ryan Stanton, Ann Arbor News
- Posters placed in the display cases in all the parking garages
- Information placed on the DDA website

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The most important part of the changes to me would be to include an easy way to pay for every parking space e.g. credit cards, as very few people carry $4 + in change. The stations that have been set-up are great, now change over the rest of the coin only parking meters!

Thanks

John Schaefer

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To the DDA,

If you change the open air parking lots to parking structures, I (and many others) will limit my trips into downtown Ann Arbor for shopping. Parking structures are unsafe for women and the small parking spaces leave cars open to damage from others (dents, scratches) and theft.

I have lived in Ann Arbor, worked in Ann Arbor and visited Ann Arbor for over 40 years. Parking rates have steadily gone up the last 5 years. Routinely on my trips to Ann Arbor from the Brighton area, I park in the open air lots. My favorite is the lot behind Gratzi (the old Klines Department Store). It is safe, the attendants are very cordial and it is centrally located for shopping, dining and everyones favorite “Sonic Lunch” concerts.

I do not mind paying extra to park in open air spots including on the street at meters. If you change the last open air parking lots to structures I will curtail my trips to Ann Arbor. Or shop only at the malls where parking besides being “free” is open air.

It is very sad to see the changes to downtown Ann Arbor. Too many pricey condos and apartments that overshadow the quaint Ann Arbor from my ’70s college days.

Realize you are trying to generate more money for Ann Arbor, but if you make it unsafe/unfriendly for visitors and people who work in Ann Arbor, you will be defeating your purpose of generating more funds.
Email Comments from the Public About Proposed Parking Rate Changes
January 2018

Seems like there should be a way to get the University of Michigan to pay more of a fair share for Ann Arbor development and infrastructure since they enjoy all of the benefits of the downtown especially during football season.

Sincerely,
Christine Keller

Dear DDA,

Are you going to extend the enforcement hours on the meters to 8 or 9pm? It would be very welcome! I live near downtown, and if I am going to a friend’s house for dinner I might like to stop downtown to get a little something from Cherry Republic or Himalayan Bazzar to bring as a hostess gift, but all of the meter spots are full with people parking for free. I do not want to drive to the 4th level of the structure to pop into a store for a quick gift, so I drive to Plum Market even if it is out of my way.

The spaces on the street should be for short visits and should turn over regularly, not filled with people who park at 5:30pm, pay for 30 minutes, and occupy the space all evening, blocking out those who want to stop for something quick.

Spaces on the street should be more expensive than the structure, you pay a little extra for the convenience. It should not be free while the structure costs money.

Thank you for you consideration.

Dawn

Dawn Tilbury

I just read the MLive article. I think the proposed parking rate changes are reasonable and supportable. It’s logical to continue to make the structured, longer term parking the most affordable and the metered parking the most expensive, to encourage turn-over. While I’m happy (as a citizen) that the meters stop after 6:00 PM, but as a planner I do think the meters should have to be fed into the evenings, since downtown is packed with drivers. It won’t drive anyone away, really. We’re too popular!

Karen Hart
I am very opposed to the increase in parking rates proposed by the DDA. Our on-street parking rates are already extremely high and I am embarrassed when I have out-of-town visitors come to Ann Arbor and need to park. This seems like a direct result of selling the parking spaces for the Library Lot development and the need to add to the Ann-Ashely lot - so now the taxpayers are paying for that development over and over.

These types of changes are killing our downtown businesses - the only businesses that are doing well are restaurants. We have become a downtown of restaurants, mostly expensive restaurants, devoid of a diversity of brick and mortar shops that add vibrancy to our downtown. I have little reason to go downtown anymore and paying these exorbitant prices for on-street parking will enforce that.

This rate increase also supports the DDA opinion and position (and likely that of City Council) that people should park in parking structures no matter what individuals want or need to do. Again this is not a publicly driven need, rather a top-down directive. I understand the need for structures but people should not be penalized for parking on the street.

The sad thing is that I have lost confidence that public opinion will change the outcome.

Catherine Riseng

Hello Susan,
Just read the MLive article: the parking rate changes make sense to me 🤷‍♀️
Veena Kulkarni-Rankin

I’m writing to object to the proposed rate hikes for on-street parking in downtown Ann Arbor. $2.20 an hour? That is outrageous. I try to shop local, but if a rate increase goes into effect, I will no longer come downtown to shop.
Siri Gottlieb
SIRI GOTTLIEB, JD, LMSW

To Whom it May Concern,
Please be advised that you are driving people away from the downtown area! If you want a thriving and prosperous retail area you need to reduce rates, not increase them.

The perfect example is downtown Plymouth, MI. They provide free parking on the street, free parking in the surface lots, free parking in the structures. This is a very welcoming situation and Plymouth's downtown area is booming.
What you are helping to create here in Ann Arbor is a "big city" environment where not only do you get ripped off for parking, (not to even mention the city's parking ticket enforcement) but everything else is also becoming artificially high in price.

I understand that the DDA is really controlled by the city council, but you all asked for comments, so.......... Please pass on to those responsible for creating your charter.
Sincerely,
Greg
Gregory K. Grambeau

The parking rate increase to $1.70 and above is ridiculous, I think. We’re not Chicago or Manhattan. But with that said the rate increase is ok, I think, as long as parking remains free after 6:00 pm.
Best, Jane
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Jane DeLancey
DeLANCEY DESIGN
Ann Arbor, MI

I find the parking rates downtown quite a hindrance to business downtown. I think it will drive even more people away.

Sandy Schopbach

I have just read the proposed parking rate changes and think they are a bad idea. If the DDDA wants people to come to downtown and spend their money, they should not raise asking rates. It just doesn’t make sense. Rates in Ann Arbor are high enough. Why raise rates at the meters if rates at the parking garages will remain unchanged? Also, I heard that we will lose the parking lot at the corner of Ashley and Huron, making it even harder to find parking downtown. Please, do not raise rates.
Thank you.
Barbara Torretti

My name is Randee Vance. I am writing to expressed my opposition to the proposed rate hike for parking in the city. I live and work in Ann Arbor, and I am responsible for paying my own parking. As it stands now, I can barely afford to go to work. We are also unable to find employees because nobody can afford parking. I effectively make more than $1.50 less an hour because I have to pay for parking. I already pay between $25 and $55 a week for parking. The people who work in the city and keep the economy going are being punished every time the
rates are raised. People still have to work here. If another dollar is deducted from my hourly pay I will have to quit my job of 6 years. Continuously raising the rates will ruin the working class people of the city. Please keep in mind we are not all students and retirees. And not all of us live on the bus line.

Thank you.
Randee Vance

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Dear DDA,

I like the idea of increasing the parking rates for people parking on the street.

Are you also going to change the hours of enforcement? I'd like to see the street parking rates enforced from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm.

The later enforcement time at night helps ensure people that are coming downtown at 5:30 pm will go to a structure. It will also help keep some street parking spots open for people coming home for work and want to make a quick stop to pick up food for dinner.

I would also start the enforcement of the meters later in the morning for similar reasons.

thanks

Brooks Curtis

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I live in Scio Township and love downtown Ann Arbor. I have to say though the parking makes me not want to visit my fair city. For starters, the fees are outrageous so I choose to walk into downtown from the side streets. But what is even more frustrating is the lack of functionality with the meters. More times than not the meters choose to not accept my credit card or coins. I know you have the app but it seems pretty crazy I have to download an app to park. I miss the good old fashioned meters that did not break down with the frequency of the ones we have now. It just means I seek restaurants that are out of the city purview and amazon for my shopping. Your parking implementation hinders business development for our fair city.

Melanie Hoff

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DDA:
I have been a resident of the Ann Arbor area for 8-1/2 years. One of the things I rarely do is venture downtown, due in part to the cost of parking. Why would I want to spend $3 to shop at the Farmer’s Market for $10 worth of baked goods or flowers?

Ann Arbor should consult with the City of Birmingham, MI. In Birmingham, two conditions must be met to park free:

1. Park in a parking garage
2. Stay less than two hours

This policy is a boon to local merchants. Residents have no barrier to make short trips to the city for shopping or quick dining.

Ann Arbor, in contrast, loses downtown merchants regularly and is slowly turning into concrete canyons with all the high rises being built in the city center.

Sincerely,
Lance Simpson

I often park at the meters downtown because I am usually not there more than 2 hours. Every time you increase the rate, it is a disincentive for me to shop/eat downtown and an incentive for me to shop/eat at Briarwood, Arborland and in Saline.

Cynthia Radcliffe

Thank you for asking for the public’s feedback on the potential rate increase. I encourage you to keep the existing rates with no further increase at this time.

Over the past several years many visitors to Ann Arbor have commented to me that they are surprised by the high parking meter and parking garage rates. An example from just last week: we had our company’s holiday luncheon at a downtown restaurant. My coworkers in my car (who live in Pinckney, Plymouth & Redford) were struck by the high fee when we exited the parking garage. (I live in Ann Arbor.)

While I value the good work that the DDA does for the continuation of a vibrant downtown I have always been disappointed by the high parking fees. It’s an additional cost when one is already spending money for dinner/shopping and it sends an unfriendly message to residents & visitors alike.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on my thoughts.

Susan Kellam