

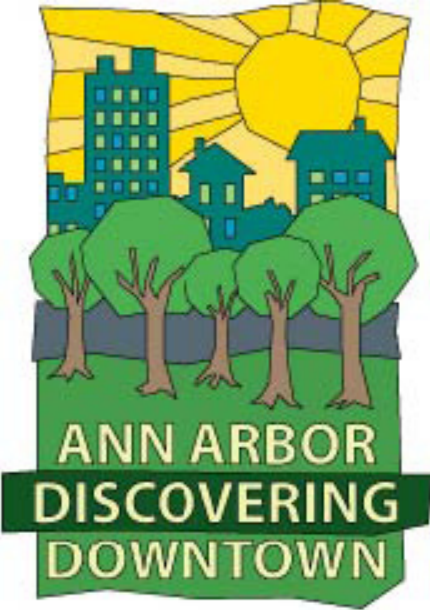
A²D² Project Updates

In the several months since the December newsletter, significant behind-the-scenes progress has been made to move forward implementation of the A²D² recommendations. The next several months will bring code amendments to be considered by the Planning Commission and City Council and new processes to be incorporated into the city's permitting and parking areas. Check the A²D² website regularly for updates.

Zoning and design drafts reaching completion

Over the past three months, city staff and the Planning Commission have drafted new downtown zoning districts and regulations to implement the A2D2 recommendations. Properties in the downtown are proposed to be rezoned to the newly created D1 (core) or D2 (interface) districts, in addition to one of eight character overlay districts. The amendments add design review to the site plan approval process.

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**Realizing the vision for
Downtown Ann Arbor**
Volume 2 April 2008

Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown (A2D2) was initiated by City Council to implement the Recommended Vision and Policy Framework for Downtown, better known as the "Calthorpe Report."

High priority projects:

- * Create special overlay zoning for the downtown that identifies areas of similar character
- * Incorporate a set of essential design guidelines
- * Streamline the development proposal process
- * Work with the Historic District Commission to clarify criteria for development
- * Pursue a comprehensive parking strategy for the downtown

Mark your calendar:

Steering Committee Meeting,
Monday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m. (6th
Floor Conference Room, City Hall)

www.a2gov.org/a2d2

Open houses on zoning, design and master plan changes to be held May 1

*Two public open houses on the proposed changes will be held on **May 1, 2008** at the Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Each session will start with a short presentation on the zoning map and ordinance changes proposed, followed by informal meetings with city staff. Opportunities for comment will be provided.*

Other opportunities for review and comment:

Website: Full texts of the proposed code amendments and an address look-up to review proposed changes for specific properties will be posted starting April 30, 2008 on the A2D2 website at www.a2gov.org/a2d2.

Individual Conferences: Property owners may schedule an appointment with City staff to discuss the proposed zoning changes during May 2-7, 2008. Please contact Wendy Rampson at (734) 994-2802 or wrampson@a2gov.org for an appointment.

Public Hearing: The City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Council Chamber, Second Floor, Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Municipal Building (City Hall), at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning and design - continued from previous page

Supporting amendments to the Downtown Plan also have been drafted and are being distributed for review and comment.

A variety of opportunities for review and comment on the changes are scheduled over the next few weeks (see box). The draft amendments will be posted on www.a2gov.org/a2d2 by April 30.

For more information, contact **Wendy Rampson** at **734.994.2802** or wrampson@a2gov.org.

Historic district design guidelines reviewed, OWS survey begins

The consultant for the downtown design guidelines project, Winter & Company, was hired in January to format and create graphics for the draft historic district guidelines to complement the draft downtown design guidelines. The final draft is now complete and has been forwarded to the Historic District Commission and State Historic Preservation Office for review. The HDC is scheduled to take action on the guidelines in May.

Staff has begun a survey of the Old West Side district to determine which properties are contributing resources. Photographs of OWS properties will be taken during April and May as a first step in this process.

Transit and parking innovations move forward as we 'lead by example'

AATA is initiating express subscription bus service with a guaranteed ride home program to Chelsea and a pilot program for late-night employee transit service. In addition, AATA is working with the City to conduct a preliminary analysis for a intercept park and ride lot at Plymouth Road and US-23.

City staff is working with the getDowntown program to develop a "Lead by Example" commuter choice plan for City employees based in the downtown.

The DDA has identified action steps for the next 12-18 months toward implementation of the A²D² recommendations. Highlights include:

CREATING COMMUTER OPTIONS:

- * Sponsor Zip Car program for downtown employee and resident use
- * Marketing overnight/off-peak monthly parking permit to downtown evening workers
- * Identification of rideshare vehicle preferential parking at several parking structures

PROVIDE PARKING PATRONS WITH MORE CHOICES:

- * Study revenue impacts of converting to debit account permit payment system
- * Investigate AVI card options for hourly patrons
- * Explore extending meter enforcement into the evening hour

VARIABLE PRICING:

- * Begin installation of pay-by-space parking kiosks

In addition, the DDA recently hired a consultant to begin design of an underground parking structure on the city-owned Library lot to increase the supply of parking available in the Midtown area.

New development tracking software installed, training continues for staff

The Planning and Development Services Unit has installed a new development tracking software program and is in the process of in-house testing. Over the next month City staff will be trained on the use of the system including the use of new wireless technology for inserting inspection results in the field.

The system will be implemented for all city units involved in the development review and permitting process and is scheduled to "go-live" May 29. The executive team for the system will be making a number of presentations to various interested organizations over the next 45 days.

**Details of A²D²
implementation activities
are available at:**

a2gov.org/a2d2