

A²D² Project Updates

City Council approves A2D2 recommendations

On June 18, City Council approved the recommendations for four of the five A2D2 priority projects. City Council postponed action on the zoning recommendations until its meeting of Aug. 20 to allow further consideration of the recommendations. Highlights include:

Design Guidelines: City Council approved the concept of design guidelines for downtown development. These guidelines will be created through a series of workshops over the next several months (see workshop announcement, below). The consultant team of Winter & Company and RACESTUDIO will prepare a set of downtown design guidelines for consideration by City Council in October 2007.

Historic Preservation: City Council authorized the distribution of the draft historic preservation design guidelines to the State Historic Preservation Office. The Council also authorized a study committee to conduct a survey of the Old West Side Historic District to determine the historic and non-historic properties within the district.

Parking: City Council approved the following parking and transportation principles for the downtown:

- * Parking is one part of a multi-modal transportation approach to providing downtown access and mobility.
- * Seek to accommodate all downtown parking activity within the DDA parking system.
- * Seek the most cost effective means for providing downtown accessibility.
- * Support modes of access that promote efficient land use patterns, environmental sensitivity, non-motorized mobility options, and the community's overall quality of life.
- * The City administration will assume a leading role in defining preferred commuter transportation patterns within Downtown by encouraging alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting among its elected officials and employees.
- * Maintain sufficient parking supply to allow purchase of monthly parking access instrument on demand, or following a waiting period of no more than 30 days.
- * Maintain a formalized process for funding new parking.
- * Maintain a formalized process for determining when new supply is needed.

To implement these principles, a toolbox of actions was identified. Staff from the City and the DDA will develop a schedule for these actions over the summer.

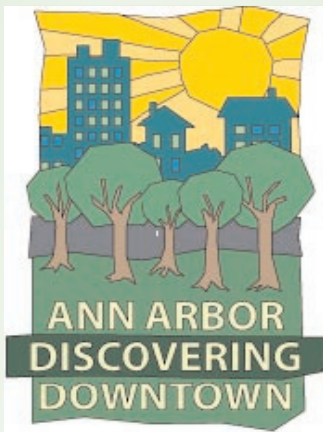
Development Process: City Council approved the procedural changes to the development review process and authorized the purchase of TRAKiT, a workflow management software system. The software will be introduced to the Planning & Development Unit over the next few months and workshops will be scheduled to introduce the changes to the public.

Public workshop:

Urban Design workshop slated for July 26

A second public workshop on urban design is scheduled for Thursday, July 26 from 7 to 9 pm in the Michigan Room of the Michigan League (911 N. University).

Participants will review the proposed character districts and design principles that will provide a framework for the downtown design principles.



Realizing the vision for Downtown Ann Arbor

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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

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To learn more about the A2D2 project visit:

www.a2gov.org/a2d2