

A²D² Project Updates

A2D2 projects move to implementation

When City Council approved the A2D2 recommendations in June 2007, it directed City staff to provide an implementation schedule for the changes by September 2007.

Highlights of the schedules being presented to Council on Sept. 24 are outlined below:

Development Process

- * December 2007 - Establish protocol for coordinating approvals (e.g., Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Historic District Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals).
- * January 2008 - Establish protocol that reduces level of detail required on plans for City Planning Commission review, such as engineering and site grading.
- * February 2008 - Establish procedure for early review of projects by Planning Commission.
- * March 2008 - Create and publish detail review process maps

Historic Preservation

- * September 2007 - Incorporate comments on historic district design guidelines, if any, from State Historic Preservation Office.
- * October 2007 - Historic District review and recommendation of final historic district design guidelines.
- * November 2007 - Council consideration of final historic district design guidelines.
- * January 2008 - Staff initiates survey to identify historic and non-historic resources in the Old West Side historic district.

Parking

- * September 2007 - LINK extended evening hours begin.
- * December 2007 - Program recommendations to support alternative transportation use by City employees are presented to City Council.
- * December 2007 - DDA reviews proposal for carsharing program for downtown employees.
- * 2008 - Downtown travel choice services are integrated into the getDowntown program.
- * 2008 - Expand express commuter bus services to outlying communities.

Draft Design Guidelines and standards available for review

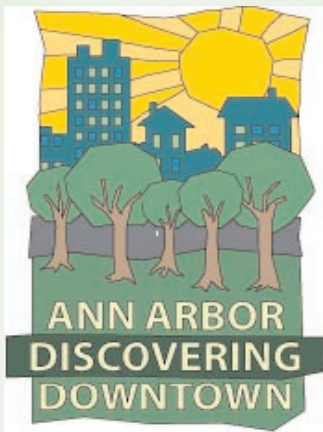
Based on feedback from community workshops in May and July, the consultant team of Winter|RACESTUDIO developed a first draft of design guidelines for downtown development. These guidelines were tested by the community at the third and final workshop on Sept. 6.

A companion piece to the guidelines is a set of standards that outline massing and frontage requirements for new development. These standards are to be proposed incorporated into the downtown zoning recommendations.

Drafts of the guidelines and standards are available for review at www.a2gov.org/a2d2. Comments will be accepted until Sept. 18, 2007, and may be directed to Wendy Rampson, Systems Planning, 100 N. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48107 or wrampson@a2gov.org.

Coming up in October

- Oct. 8 - City Council work-session on Downtown Design Guidelines and Zoning recommendations.
- Oct. 15 - Downtown Design Guidelines & Zoning recommendations to City Council for action.



Realizing the vision for Downtown Ann Arbor

Volume 1 September 2007

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

Visit our Web site

To learn more about the A2D2 project visit:

www.a2gov.org/a2d2