

**City of Ann Arbor
Comprehensive Organics Management Plan
Commercial Advisory Committee
December 14, 2016 Meeting Summary**

Participant List – see Attachment #1

- 1. Project Update** – Christina Gomes (City of Ann Arbor Systems Planning Unit) thanked the participants for attending the meeting and noted that the project was on schedule to complete in January as well as performing within budget.
- 2. Presentation of Video of Nov 2 Meeting** - Charlie Fleetham (Project Innovations Public Engagement Facilitator) played the highlights video of the November 2, 2016 Commercial Advisory Committee meeting. The feedback was positive and the video will be loaded on the project website.
- 3. Consulting Perspective on November 2 Meeting Exercise** - Christina Seibert (CB&I Project Manager) provided her insights on the results of the November 2 brainstorming exercises (see attached slides). Breakout discussions were conducted, and discussion highpoints are noted below:
 - The city needs a much clearer statement regarding its “Zero Waste” vision...what is the city really prepared to do to achieve it?
 - We would like more knowledge on how to waste less food – before it can even go to compost. How do we connect restaurant customers to the composting process? It is relatively easy to control waste in a kitchen, but much harder to do so in the dining room.
 - Establishing a composting culture and providing training throughout the city will be required for any significant expansion of composting collection.
 - Number One Fear – all compostable cups / serviceware look the same! It will be very difficult for drivers to discern different types of serviceware and determine if they are compostable and have the proper certification.
 - Without new procurement standards regarding compostables, it will be very difficult to segregate the waste stream in places where people eat. Note – Michigan legislators recently banned communities from legislating local plastic bag bans and other containers (SB 853).
 - How does Seattle enforce mandatory organic waste collection ... through “garbage police” and an escalating enforcement policy that starts with education and concludes with fines.
 - If the city expands collection, can the composting facility handle the volume? (Response from WeCare representative was positive ... the facility has expanded its marketing program and could handle significantly more volume.)
- 4. Downtown Alleys Program** – Ryan Doty (City of Ann Arbor Systems Planning Unit) provided an update on the Downtown Alley Program (see attached). Highlights included:
 - The project is focused on alleys within the DDA boundaries.
 - Community involvement has been significant ... over 50 participants in a day long alley tour.
 - Alley space challenges are significant, especially in the winter. If businesses don’t shovel, trucks can’t navigate in the alleys.
- 5. Preliminary Review of Plan Recommendations** – Christina Seibert highlighted the recommendations that are emerging as the planning process nears a conclusion:
 - a) Promote source reduction through education and outreach.
 - b) Implement expanded collection service on a voluntary basis.

- c) If voluntary program is overwhelmingly successful, move to mandatory program that includes a food based ordinance.
- d) Prior to developing an ordinance, it will be essential to develop a realistic and effective enforcement policy.

Feedback from Committee:

- I support immediate mandatory collection for the largest producers.
- The plan should harness the power of Ann Arbor people who want to do the right thing.
- The plan needs a much bigger education component!
- Make sure you link the plan with a comprehensive plan to manage the alleys.
- Don't hold back progress while you negotiate waste hauling contracts.
- Ann Arbor needs to brand its composting program ... now and into the future.
- **Based on individual poll, overall support on a 1 to 5 scale: 3.7**

What specific topic should the final report address:

- Alley management.
- Lead with the mandatory (don't start voluntary... will take too long).
- Be creative with your educational recommendations ... how will we change behavior?
- Address climate change and the impact on organic waste management.
- Identify the pivot point for our City to become a national leader.

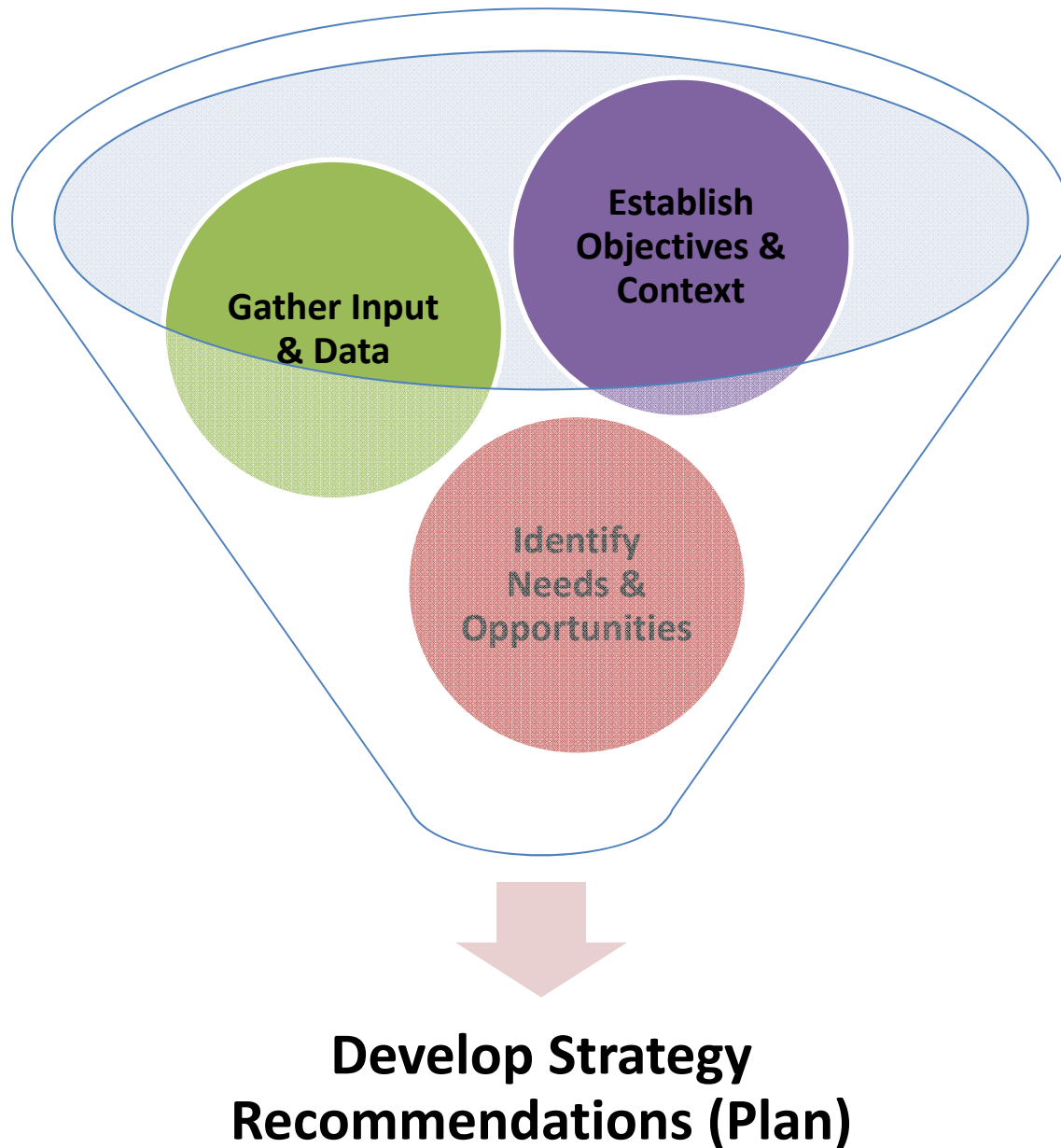
- 6. **Summary of Residential Survey** – Christina Seibert provided a high-level review of results of the resident survey, which indicated significant resident satisfaction with current services and high awareness of the option to place food waste in a compost cart. It is also indicated that about 70% of residents are not willing to pay more for collection to expand the program to winter months. The full survey results and report will be shared at the next meeting.
- 7. **Wrap Up** – Christina Gomes thanked the participants for attending the meeting and noted that the final meeting will occur Wednesday, January 25th from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the Wheeler Center.

Attachment 1 - Participant List



Last	First	Organization	Email
Artley	Tracy	U of M DPW	artleyt@umich.edu
Bowman	Noelle	Washtenaw County	bowmann@ewashtenaw.org
Burman	Aaron	Llamasoft	aaronrburman@gmail.com
Butynski	Dan	We Care Organics	dbutynski@wecareorganics.com
Conaway	Brian	Waste Management	bconaway@wm.com
Gomes	Christina	A2 Systems Planning	cgomes@a2gov.org
Doty	Ryan	A2 Systems Planning	rdoty@a2gov.org
Hall	Jennifer	Zingermans	jhall@zingermans.com
Lignell	Kirk	Recycle Ann Arbor	klignell@recycleannarbor.org
Moran	Sam	UM DPW/Waste Management	smoran@umich.edu
Sample	Kathy	Argus Farm Stop	kathy@argusfarmstop.com
Sheldon	Kimberly	Main Street Ventures	ksheldon@msventures.net
Thomson	Maura	Main Street Area Association	maura@mainstreetannarbor.org
Wreford	Sebastian	Food Gatherers	sebastian@foodgatherers.org
Wright	Jan	ICPJ	janwrigh@umich.edu

Approach to the Plan



City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Organics Management Plan



Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Cost Impacts to Generators to Divert More Organics

	On-Site Segregation of Organics from Waste Stream	Collection / Removal of Organics and Trash	Procurement / Purchasing Practices / Habits
 Cost Increases	Service Changes Energy Unpackaging of Materials Collection Containers (Inside) Storage Space Collection Containers (Outside) Employee Training Education Compostable Can Liners Food Serviceware	Property Redesign or Reconfiguration to Create Space Service Charge for Pickup Collection Containers (Outside) Shared Users Additional Staff	Service Oversight / Contract Administration Compostable Serviceware Compostable Can Liners
OR + -	Food Donation		
Cost Decreases 	Tax Benefit	Trash Quantity Reduced / Service Reduced Food Donation	Reduce Food Packages Improved Purchasing Practices to Reduce Food Loss Incentives for Business

Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Cost Impacts to Collectors and Processors to Divert More Organics

	Collection from Generators	Transportation to Destination Facility	Destination Facility (Compost Facility, Landfill, Etc.)
 Cost Increases	Multiple Visits to Generator Collection Containers Source Separation Contamination Waste Material Types Education	Trucks Vehicle Maintenance Multiple Visits to Generator Labor / Drivers Service Frequency	Operating - Turning Compost Piles Early Change in Technology / Indoor Operation Contamination Potential Noxious Odors Increased Liability Staging / Initial Handling Permitting & Compliance Waste & Material Type / Composition
OR + -	Tipping Fees	Haul Distance / Time	
 Cost Decreases			End Product (Compost) Sales Compost Delivery Food Not Purchased Because Recovered Increased Waste Disposal Costs

Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Alley “Blue Sky” Brainstorming

Big-picture redesign:

- “Big Dig” / underground storage
- Facility within buildings for sorting, etc.
- Pedestrian
- Consolidate or “hub” in central location
- Urban goats & pigs
- Lighting

Incentives:

- Adopt-An-Alley program
- Alley user cooperation
- Alley “captain” - reduced cost in bill for service
- “Pretty Alley” contests
- Tax credit for “neat” alleys

Cleaning:

- Design for easy cleaning
- Assessment to businesses for cleaning
- Regular cleaning schedule
- Alley clean-up days /events

Enforcement / funding:

- Community standards tickets
- Capital improvement funds / standard
- “Community Values” fund
- Alley app (e.g., NextDoor)
- Illegal dumping



Trash/recycling/organics collection:

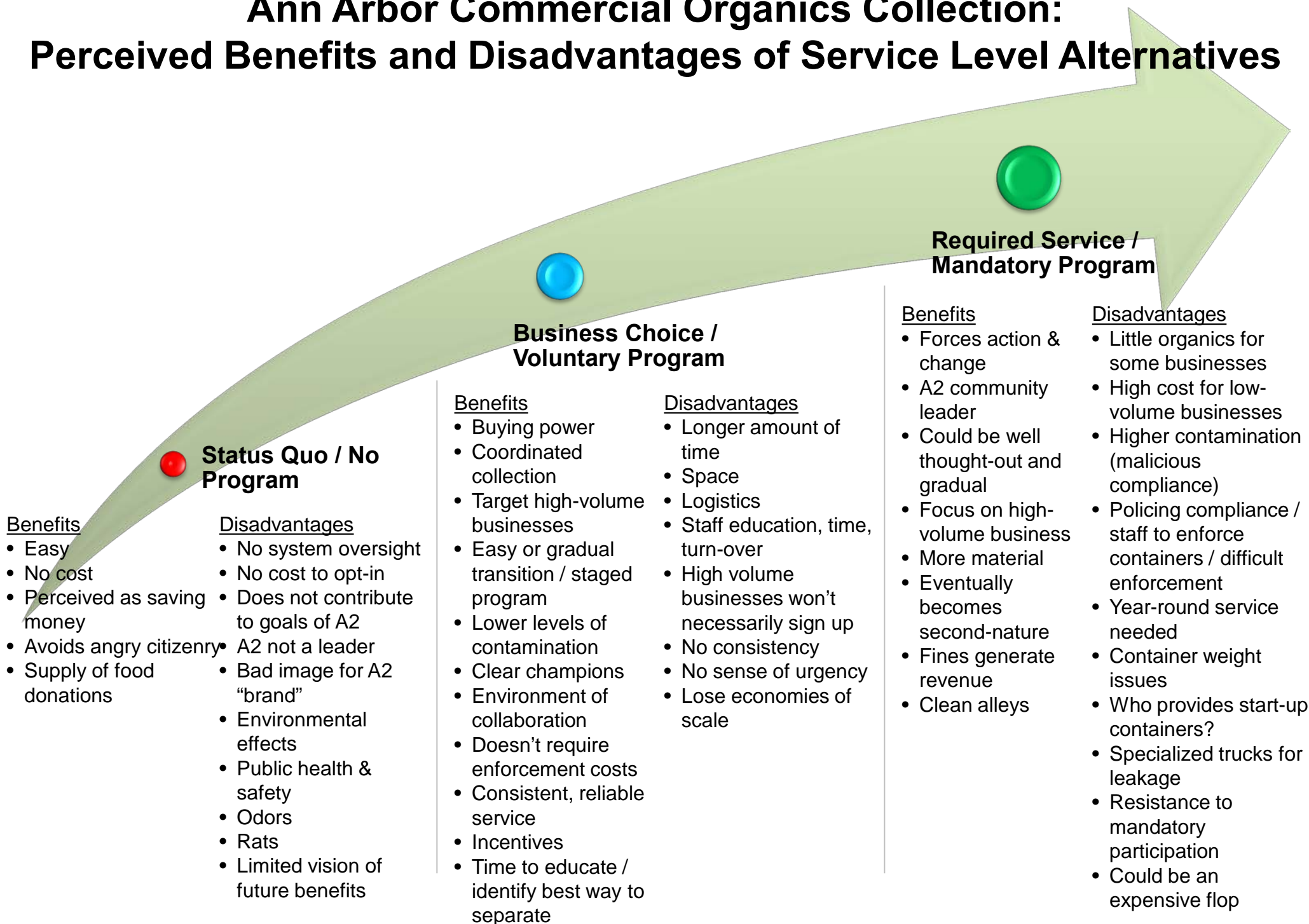
- Smaller or standardized container size & frequent service
- Shared containers - everyone must pay their share
- Container selection size & access
- Just-in-time pick-up
- Pick-up at night
- 24-hour compactor repair service

Alley management / oversight:

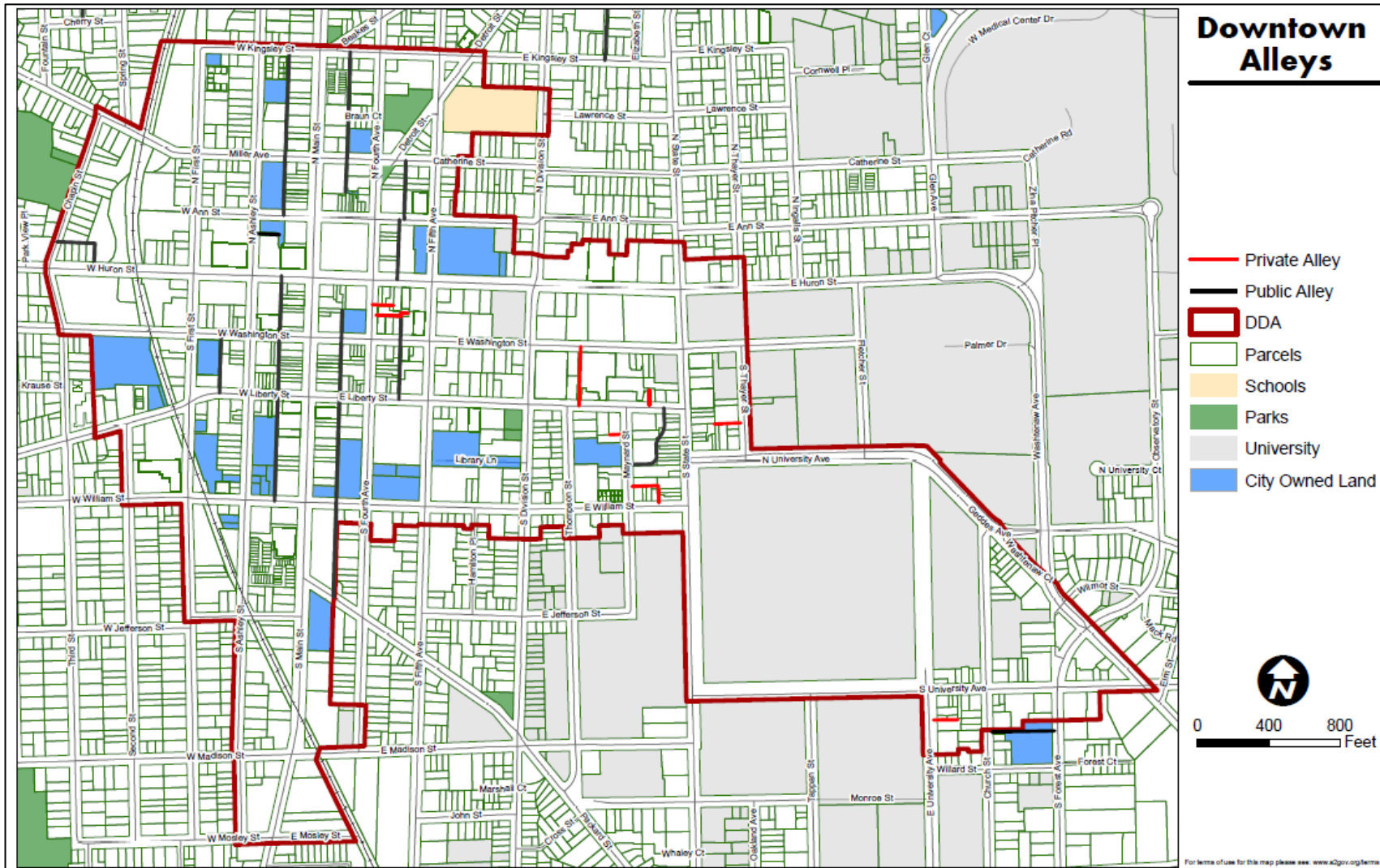
- One group or person in charge of alley enforcement
- Alley parking not to interfere with delivery trucks & trash collection
- One group for oversight
- Ownership of alleys needs to be clearly defined



Ann Arbor Commercial Organics Collection: Perceived Benefits and Disadvantages of Service Level Alternatives



DOWNTOWN ALLEYS PROGRAM



Purpose

- ▶ Improve operations in alleys
 - Services
 - Atmosphere
- ▶ Address issues
 - Waste management
 - Maintenance
 - Water quality
 - Safety



E. William Alley

Staff Workgroup

- Kayla Coleman - Project Manager, Systems Planning Analyst
- Ryan Doty - Solid Waste Assistant
- Christina Gomes - Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator
- Jennifer Lawson - Water Quality Manager
- Molly Maciejewski - Public Works Manager
- Amber Miller - Planner, Downtown Development Authority
- Tracy Pennington - Public Works Supervisor
- Cresson Slotten - Systems Planning Manager



Church Street Alley

Stakeholders

City Staff

- Attorney's Office
- Communications
- Customer Service
- Public Works
- Finance
- Planning and Development
- Project Management, Traffic Engineering
- Safety Services and Community Standards
- Systems Planning

Downtown Community

- Merchant associations
- Neighborhood groups
- Restaurants
- Retail
- Property Management
- Residents

Service Providers, Non-profits and Public agencies

- Waste, Recycling and Organics collection
- Grease collection services
- Service and Delivery Vehicles
- Other utility/service providers
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Washtenaw County Office of Environmental Health
- Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission
- City Commissions

Project Timeline



NOTE: This draft project timeline is an estimate. Subject to change.

Existing Issues and Challenges

Cleanliness/maintenance



Bell Tower Alley

Cleanliness/maintenance



West Side of S. Main St. 300 block



E. William Alley

Unauthorized dumping/abandoned items



West Side of S. Main St. 300 block



Ant/Red Hawk Alley

Parking and delivery vehicle challenges



Bell Tower Alley



Ant/Red Hawk Alley



East Side of S. Main St. 300 block

Grease container
cleanliness/leakage

Stormwater issues



City Center Alley



East Side of S. Main St. 300 block



E. William Alley

Container overflow and appropriate use/practices



E. William Alley



Red Hawk/Ant Alley



Michigan Theater Alley

Alley Tour

- ▶ 50+ public attendees
- ▶ 10 staff
- ▶ 13 alleys visited



Existing Issues and Challenges

Public Input De-brief

- ▶ Cleanliness
- ▶ Capacity
- ▶ Public vs. Private ownership
- ▶ Enforcement
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Access/Parking
- ▶ Communication barriers
- ▶ Illegal Dumping
- ▶ Fats, Oils, & Greases



Next steps

- ▶ Issue prioritization and potential solutions
- ▶ Recommended alternatives
- ▶ Implementation of pilot programs
- ▶ For more information, please visit a2gov.org/alleys