

MEMORANDUM

DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY



DATE: January 9, 2019

TO: Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Hank Kelley, City of Grand Rapids Transportation Planning & Programs Supervisor

SUBJECT: Downtown Transit Stop Improvements

Agenda Item #07
January 9, 2019
DDA Meeting

The Mobile GR & Parking Services Department in partnership with Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc. (DGRI) and The Rapid are implementing improved transit stops throughout downtown. This investment is consistent with the GR Forward Plan, the draft Downtown Streetspace Guidelines, and the prioritization of transit in the City's Vital Streets Plan, among other guiding documents.

The DDA investment, along with \$250,000 in funding from The Rapid and \$750,000 in funding from Mobile GR capital funding resulted in the approval of a \$1,500,000 contract ceiling by the Grand Rapids City Commission on December 4th, 2018 for use over a three-year period to upgrade transit stops city-wide. The contracts were awarded to Duo-Guard – a Michigan company with many years in the business of producing transit amenities like shelters and benches, along with Grand Rapids based Conceptual Site Furnishings – the current manufacturer for The Rapid transit benches.

Mobile GR continues to engage in numerous and ongoing discussions related to the project between department planning staff and staff at DGRI and The Rapid, in addition to the Mobile GR Commission. The project components were presented to the DGRI Goal 3 Alliance committee for information and feedback on the following dates:

- May 25, 2018
- July 23, 2018
- November 28, 2018
- December 19, 2018

The below stop selection factors were presented to the Goal 3 Alliance for consideration in December, along with a [map](#) showing stop locations and average daily boardings (ADB) within the DDA. As a result of these discussions, some factors were included for consideration, the logic for others was validated, and some factors were re-arranged. For example, sensitive locations and disability boardings were prioritized over other demographic factors under "Ridership Factors" due to the low number of census tracts within the DDA boundaries and therefore limited information that would provide.



Ridership Factors

- Average Daily Boarding
- Sensitive locations (senior living, hospitals, etc.)
- Average (or total) ADA Fare type boardings
- Likely Transfer Points
- Serves multiple routes
- Demographic and Socioeconomic data (Census)
 - Disability population, Older adult population, No-car households, Non-white households, Low-income households
 - Population or employment density
- Proximity to Park and Ride opportunities (primarily DASH)
- Major points of interest / activity generation

Physical Factors

- Physical space is available in ROW without obstructing clearance for pedestrians
 - or Building owner is amenable to a mounted overhang
- Concrete surface is available to install a shelter
- No conflicts with heated sidewalks
- Shelter installation would not obstruct road clearance (2 ft. set-back from curb)
- Shelter would not block traffic and building sightlines
- Site is or can be made ADA compliant
- Site is on public property or has willing private partner
- Project overlaps with COGR Capital Improvement project (in particular roadway reconstruction projects)

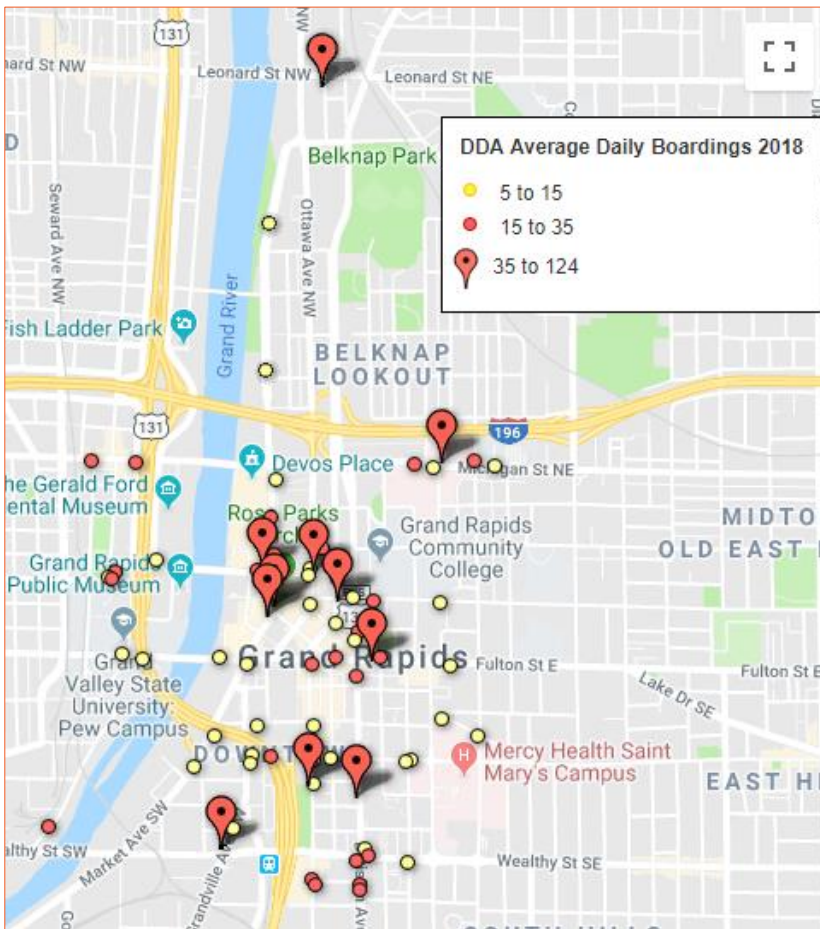
The cost for one shelter is approximately \$10,000; other improvements include minor concrete work to ensure accessibility in boarding zones and to properly install amenities. Typical ridership thresholds for shelters in other communities begin at 30 ADB. A lower threshold will apply to the DDA given that only 36 locations within the DDA boundaries exceed 15 ADB.

The shelters, along with ultimate maintenance responsibility, will belong to the City of Grand Rapids via the Mobile GR and Parking Services Department. For the downtown stops Mobile GR is in discussions with DGRI to partner on basic maintenance (snow removal, trash removal) through the Downtown Ambassadors Program. Additional maintenance (e.g. structural repair, periodic power-washing) is intended to be managed through City resources and contracts. Mobile GR and The Rapid staff are actively working to produce maintenance level of service guidelines for all stop amenities purchased and sited through this program.

Recommendation: Approve Funding for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in transit improvements with the Mobile GR & Parking Services Department.



Full-size Proposed Shelter (additional amenities not pictured - e.g. solar lighting, ad panel, branding, trash can etc.)



DASH and The Rapid Downtown Transit Stops without Existing Shelters, by Average Daily Boardings (2018 ridership data)