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Building Bentonville Team Works Together to Develop Temporary Downtown Parking Solutions

Bentonville, AR, February 22, 2008 – Clear signage pointing to public lots, temporary downtown parking areas, a public parking outreach campaign and requests for support are just a few steps the City of Bentonville and its downtown partners are taking to ensure parking challenges are addressed during the Downtown Square Renovation Project.

“The entire Building Bentonville team – City of Bentonville, Downtown Bentonville, Inc. Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce and the Bentonville Convention and Visitors Bureau – are working together to facilitate solutions to our current and future downtown parking challenges,” said Mayor Bob McCaslin.

Businesses and private property owners are also being encouraged to help. “We recognize all will experience some level of inconvenience during construction. Please keep in mind we are asking for your help in the spirit of cooperation for our neighboring businesses to support the entirety of downtown,” added Mayor McCaslin.

The City is specifically making efforts to improve available parking. They have set aside an area for construction parking just north of the Community Development building at 305 SW A Street for the construction workers in order to not absorb public parking spaces and established a temporary agreement with a private parking lot for city employees to park during construction. The City is also considering the installation of a temporary parking lot for business employees.

“We appreciate the level of understanding and support the Mayor and City staff is providing the downtown community during this exciting transition,” Daniel Hintz, Executive Director of Downtown Bentonville, Inc. said.

The City has created a special page on their site for all things related to the Downtown Renovation Project. Go to www.bentonville.com and select Downtown Square Renovation under “Events.” The web site displays illustrations of what the square will look like after renovation. It also includes parking information, press releases, construction plans, phasing plans, detours and closures, and contact information, as well as photos of the square before, during, and (eventually) after construction. Information is also provided at the Downtown Bentonville, Inc. site at www.downtownbentonville.org.

Over the next several weeks, additional efforts to improve parking and signage will also be evident. Public parking signs will be installed on all parking lots, as well as directional signage to guide people to

those lots. Information kiosks will also be provided on the four corners of the Downtown Square with parking maps and project plans – including a check list of completed project phases.

The Mayor and the Building Bentonville team is requesting support from downtown businesses. The group is asking that downtown employees park in free public parking lots located throughout the downtown area. The curb parking is vital to the ongoing health of downtown Bentonville's retail and restaurants. The City and Downtown Bentonville, Inc. is providing parking maps to post in offices and storefronts. These entities also want to remind everyone to respect the multiple private parking lots in the district, as violators may be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

