



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Celebrating 30 Years ~ 1983-2013

Communication

Date: October 16, 2013

To: Burlington City Council

From: Nathan Wildfire, CEDO

Subject: **Public Investment Action Plan (PIAP) Check-in**

By the time you read this memo, the final PIAP proposals will be in! It has been a few months since my last update and I wanted to review both where we've come from since our kick-off last February and what's next in the process.

As of June 4th, 29 concept proposals were advanced by the Public Investment Team to move on the final Request for Proposals (RFP) round of the Public Investment Action Plan. (All concept proposals, with online and Open House comments from the public, can be found here: <http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo/piap.aspx?t=s>.) On July 22, 2013, the final RFP (which included input from many City departments and final editing from the Public Investment Team) was released to the 29 finalists. Between July 22 and October 17th CEDO staff had meetings with all concept proposers hoping to advance their project through the RFP stage. These meetings focused on a review of eligibility for Tax Increment Financing (TIF), likely regulatory hurdles each project might face, and a review of progress since initial concept proposals were received in April. Subsequently, many projects chose to combine their efforts, several dropped out entirely, and others chose to pursue their project goals through other funding means.

As the 90 day RFP period continued, many projects received technical assistance from not just CEDO staff, but also other departments, including BCA, DPW, Parks and Recreation, our City Attorney's office, and others.

Moving forward, all projects will be again posted online for public viewing and comment. Open Houses are again being scheduled so that the public can see hard copies of the proposals and make comments. All of these comments will then be received by the Public Investment Team to assist in their evaluation of the received proposals. The Public Investment Team will review the proposals and score them, based on the scoring criteria presented in the RFP. (See attached RFP, and stay-tuned for the scheduling of the public presentations and review of the proposals by the Public Investment Team.)

The Public Investment Team review and recommendations will assist the Mayor in preparing a slate of projects to go before City Council in January. City Council will vote whether or not to go before the voters on Town Meeting Day, 2014. Between the Public Investment Team's recommendations and the January Council vote, it is expected that all projects on the project slate will continue to refine their projects based on input from various regulatory bodies and committees that play a role on the Waterfront, and recommendations from the Public Investment Team and staff.

The amount of collaboration between the public and private sectors throughout this process has been inspiring. So many people have participated, whether as project proposers, consultants and advisors to proposers, or to give public comments on concepts. Others have given input to the process through memos from various committees. The process has taken in public comments at neighborhood planning associations, committees that play a role on the Waterfront, and partnerships with the universities and Burlington High School. It is also important to note the countless hours contributed by the Public Investment Team to both refining our process and to reviewing the proposals.

Based on the great outcomes so far, staff welcomes continued input into this ever-evolving process.

For more information on PIAP in general, please visit: <http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Public-Investment-Action-Plan/> or contact Nathan Wildfire at nwildfire@burlingtonvt.gov.

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