



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 6, 2014
To: Burlington City Council
From: Peter Owens, CEDO Director
cc: Nick Warner, Nate Wildfire
RE: EPA Community Wide Assessment Grant

PO

The Burlington Community and Economic Development Office will soon be submitting a "Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant" proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This grant would provide funding for the environmental assessment of properties in the south end of the City, targeted on former industrial areas on the Pine Street corridor. The funding would provide grant support for Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments to private landowners, ascertaining specific soil, groundwater, and building materials conditions as sites are being prepared for renovation and redevelopment. The studies would be performed by qualified environmental contractors with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation oversight. This funding would also support archeological and historic analyses as needed to responsibly conduct assessments, and provide some funds for staff time and administrative costs.

This grant application is part of an overall strategy now being implemented by multiple public and private partners. Building on the work and intensive community process performed by the Railyard Enterprise Project and EPA's Area-Wide Planning Program, the intention is to provide direct support for multiple efforts in the Pine Street corridor to renovate properties, create a new street network, and increase pedestrian and green space opportunities.

Since 1997, the City of Burlington has been engaged in a comprehensive effort to redevelop brownfield (contaminated) properties. Since then, EPA has provided \$700,000 in direct funds to the City, most of which has been utilized to fund assessments on privately owned sites. With over \$6 million in development leveraged, four EPA "Success Stories" cited, along with national recognition for our program, we are hopeful that our application will be funded so we can expand the inventory redeveloped brownfields in Burlington.

For any questions or a copy of this application (which will be submitted January 22nd), please contact Nick Warner at the Community Economic Development Office at (802) 865-7173 or: nwarner@burlingtonvt.gov.