

Department of Planning and Zoning

149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
Telephone: (802) 865-7188
(802) 865-7195 (FAX)
(802) 865-7142 (TTY)
www.burlingtonVT.gov/pz

David E. White, AICP, Director
Ken Lerner, Assistant Director
Sandrine Thibault, AICP, Comprehensive Planner
Jay Appleton, Senior IT/GIS Programmer
Scott Gustin, AICP, Senior Planner
Mary O'Neil, AICP, Senior Planner
Nic Anderson, Planning & Zoning Clerk
Elsie Tillotson, Administrative Assistant



MEMORANDUM

TO: Joan Shannon, City Council President
Burlington City Councilors
Mayor Miro Weinberger

FROM: Sandrine Thibault, AICP, Comprehensive Planner

DATE: Monday, September 16, 2013

RE: Municipal Planning Grant Authorization to apply

Please find attached a resolution authorizing the Department of Planning & Zoning to apply for a Municipal Planning Grant from the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development (DEHCD). The application deadline is September 30, 2013.

This application will seek funding for a planBTV-South End planning process, which is anticipated to be similar to the downtown & waterfront plan process recently completed by the city. Working with businesses and residents, the City wishes to develop a detailed master plan that outlines future development, infrastructure, greenspace, and circulation needs and opportunities for this portion of the city.

Several activities are already taking place in the South End and staff strongly believes there is a need for a concerted planning effort and community dialogue.

The planning process will place an emphasis on a community conversation to find ways to promote and improve mixed uses and quality urban design, affordable and workforce housing, transportation and parking management, and the quality and capacity of public infrastructure. The project is intended to address the following problems and barriers to success:

- lack of a coherent and shared vision for the development of the south end district
- lack of available information/education regarding economic impact of the south end – particularly for local property owners/tax-payers
- lack of available information/education regarding the state and needs of public infrastructure necessary to support existing and future development
- lack of specificity of development regulations with regard to urban design objectives and standards which facilitates public opposition to new development and appeals of local regulatory decisions.
- risk of flight of expanding business to suburbs in search of larger spaces, lower costs and easier access.
- lack of workforce housing opportunities for young professionals, singles, couples and empty-nesters
- extremely tight and expensive real estate market
- limited available supply of parking
- traffic congestion through very limited access points into and out of the area

A scope of work and budget are currently being developed by staff and we anticipate sharing it with the City Council later this fall. Planning staff is available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.