

MEMORANDUM

DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY



DATE: May 4, 2018

TO: Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Tim Kelly, AICP
President & CEO

SUBJECT: FY19 Budget and Priority Plan

Agenda Item #11
May 9, 2018
DDA Meeting

Each year the DDA recommends and adopts a one-year budget and 5-year priority plan to reflect the priorities for Downtown investment. With GR Forward now an approved amendment to the City’s Master Plan, DGRI has clearly defined objectives and continues to work diligently to ensure its budgets reflect the plan’s recommendations. The budgets, which include the local tax increment fund (LTI), non-tax increment fund (NTI), school tax increment (STI) and Bond Proceeds Fund (BPF), consist of both new projects from GR Forward and carry forward priorities that span multiple fiscal years.

New projects include planning for the management of future River Corridor improvements, new lighting for Division Avenue, the re-design of Fulton Street and Calder Plaza, support for the initiation of bike share, construction funding for Lyon Square, and designs for the conversion of one-way streets to two way, including Ottawa and Ionia Avenue. Carry-forward priorities from previous years include improved bus shelters for the DASH system, funding to grow the supply of affordable housing, and support for the Grand River restoration. When examined by GR Forward goal the breakdown is as follows:

- Goal 1 (Restore the River as the Draw): \$1,713,000
- Goal 2 (Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Home to a Diverse Population): \$2,210,000
- Goal 3 (21st Century Mobility Strategy): \$1,915,000
- Goal 4 (Ensure Job Opportunities and Ensure Vitality of the Local Economy) \$175,000
- Goal 5 (Reinvest in Public Space, Culture and Inclusive Programming): \$2,411,000

In addition, there are 14 projects and initiatives that cut across multiple or all goals and include items such as diversity and inclusion programming, GR Forward implementation communications, speaker series events, and administration.



As in previous years, the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Alliances played an important role in developing the budget. Beginning in February 2018, staff began soliciting input from the five goal Alliances charged with advising on projects and priorities. This 3-month, iterative process culminated in all five Alliances tendering recommendations to the three fiduciary Boards of DGRI (DDA, DID, and MNTIFA) regarding their ambitions for the coming fiscal year. The attached budget narrative provides additional detail on the various priorities that emerged during that process.

Following a recommendation from the DDA Board, DGRI staff will present each of the fiduciary Boards' recommended budgets to the City Commission on May 22, 2018, requesting bottom-line appropriation. After receiving City Commission appropriation, the fiduciary Boards will each adopt their final annual budgets and priority plans at their next scheduled meetings.

Recommendation: Recommend the FY2019 DDA Budget Summary to the Grand Rapids City Commission and request fund appropriation.