

# MEMORANDUM

DOWNTOWN  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY



DATE: April 9, 2021

TO: Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Tim Kelly, AICP  
Executive Director

Agenda Item #09  
April 14, 2021  
DDA Meeting

## SUBJECT: FY2022 Budget and Priority Plan

Each year the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) recommends and adopts a one-year budget and five-year priority plan to reflect the priorities for Downtown investment. With the approval of GR Forward in December 2015 as an amendment to the City's Master Plan, the DDA and DGRI have clearly defined objectives and the proposed budgets are built to reflect and implement the community priorities for Downtown. For fiscal year 2022 (FY22), the DDA budgets, which include the local tax increment fund (LTI), non-tax increment fund (NTI), and school tax increment (STI) consist of both new projects from GR Forward and carry forward priorities that span multiple fiscal years.

Among the requests for FY22 are funding to further implement the recommendations from recently completed planning initiatives. Those include the Grand River Governance organizing initiative, the Heartside Quality of Life Implementation Plan, the Disability Advocates of Kent County and Common Notice Report, and the Downtown Streetspace Guidelines. In addition, funding is also recommended to complete and initiate major capital improvements to Downtown public spaces, including Ecliptic at Rosa Parks Circle and Lyon Square.

Carry-forward priorities from previous years include completing Grand River edge infrastructure improvements, implementation of pedestrian and bike infrastructure, continued funding to support retail business attraction, and building on the tremendous success of the World of Winter.

Lastly, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create uncertainty, the unspent portion of the \$1,000,000 that was allocated in FY21 (estimated at \$100,000 as of March 31) will be carried forward into FY22 to continue to provide flexible funding for the ongoing community-wide recovery effort.

When examined by GR Forward goal the breakdown from the LTI and NTI budgets is as follows:

- Goal 1 (Restore the River as the Draw): \$4,595,000



- Goal 2 (Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Home to a Diverse Population): \$1,665,000
- Goal 3 (21<sup>st</sup> Century Mobility Strategy): \$2,270,000
- Goal 4 (Ensure Job Opportunities and Ensure Vitality of the Local Economy) \$535,000
- Goal 5 (Reinvest in Public Space, Culture and Inclusive Programming): \$3,795,000

As in previous years, the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Alliances played an important role in developing the budget. Beginning in January 2021, 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 the recommended DDA FY22 budgets to the City Commission requesting bottom-line appropriation. After receiving City Commission appropriation, the Board will adopt their final annual budget and priority plan at the next scheduled meeting.

**Recommendation: Recommend the FY2022 DDA Budget Summary to the Grand Rapids City Commission and request fund appropriation.**