

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FISCAL ANALYSIS

ZONING, NEIGHBORHOODS & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JANUARY 8, 2008

Item 17, File #071125

File Number 071125 is a resolution authorizing the transfer and expenditure of \$50,000 from the Department of City Development's Advance Planning Fund capital account for the purpose of preparing an amendment to the Downtown Plan.

Background

1. The Advance Planning Fund is a capital account in the Department of City Development's Budget that pays for costs relating to DCD's comprehensive planning efforts, including consultant fees.
2. The 2007 and 2008 Budgets provide \$175,000 and \$200,000, respectively, for the Advance Planning Fund. The increased funding for 2008 reflects funding needs for a planned \$50,000 update to the City's Downtown Plan. In 2008, the Advance Planning Fund will also fund preparation of the remaining comprehensive area plans, including plans for the Near North, West and Southwest areas of the city.
3. State law requires that the City of Milwaukee prepare a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010.
4. The City's comprehensive plan consists of several comprehensive area plans, including the Downtown Plan prepared by DCD and adopted by the City Plan Commission in 1999.
5. The Department of City Development is recommending that an amendment to the Downtown Plan be prepared to update the 1999 plan in a manner that builds on the momentum of the plan and identifies new catalytic projects and strategic initiatives.
6. The preparation of comprehensive area plans requires technical assistance provided by outside consultants as well as funding for those consultant services.
7. The preparation of a Downtown Plan update is estimated to cost between \$75,000 and \$150,000, of which \$50,000 will come from City funds, namely the Advance Planning Fund. DCD will work with local elected officials and community partners to identify additional private funds to augment the City funds designated for preparation of comprehensive area plans.

Discussion

1. Funds cannot be expended from the Advance Planning Fund unless they are transferred to project-specific subaccounts.

2. This resolution authorizes the transfer of \$50,000 from the Advance Planning Fund to a DCD project subaccount established to support preparation of a Downtown Plan amendment.
3. The Department of City Development has prepared an “Update Report” for the Downtown Plan that recommends development of an amendment to the Plan. A copy of the Update Report is attached to the file for Common Council review.
4. This resolution also directs DCD to prepare the amendment to the Downtown Plan and to enter into such consultant contracts as are necessary to prepare and complete the amendment. In addition, it directs the Commissioner of City Development to enter into a Cooperation Agreement between the City, the Redevelopment Authority and BID No. 21 relating to assistance, coordination and funding of the Downtown Plan amendment by these three entities. A copy of the Cooperation Agreement is attached to this Common Council file.

Fiscal Impact

The impact of this resolution will be a reduction of the balance in the Advance Planning Fund by \$50,000.

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