



# City of Madison TIF Goals, Objectives, and Process

## **TIF Policy Committee:**

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a governmental finance tool that the City of Madison uses to provide funds to construct public infrastructure, promote development opportunities and expand the future tax base. The City of Madison seeks to use TIF to enhance the built environment in concert with adopted plans and to strengthen the City's economic foundation in an equitable manner. The City seeks a policy that is both competitive and flexible.

## **SECTION 1: TIF GOALS**

Madison's goals for the use of TIF include:

1. Growing the property tax base
2. Fostering the creation and retention of family-supporting jobs and jobs that offer career ladders toward family-supporting jobs
3. Encouraging adaptive re-use of obsolete or deteriorating property
4. Encouraging urban in-fill projects that increase (or decrease where appropriate) density consistent with the City comprehensive plan
5. Assisting in the revitalization of historic or architecturally significant or deteriorated buildings
6. Creating a range of housing options and specifically encouraging the development of workforce and affordable housing
7. Enhancing transportation options by making it easier to walk, bike, use mass-transit, or employ other shared transit options
8. Promoting superior design, building materials, and sustainability features in the built environment

## **SECTION 2: INELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **2.1 Luxury Housing**

Luxury housing is ineligible for TIF assistance. "Luxury housing" is defined as housing with rents at or above 100% of the current market rent. Market rate housing projects will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be considered for assistance to the degree they demonstrate a financial gap and promote the City's TIF goals articulated above.

### **2.2 Student Housing**

Student housing, defined as multi-unit residential structures, whether publicly or privately owned, that are leased whole or in part to students attending post-secondary educational institutions, shall not be funded with TIF except if it has a significant affordable component.

### **2.3 Speculative Office Development**

Commercial projects will be expected to secure one or more anchor tenants consistent with commercial lending standards.

### **2.4 Tenant-Shifting Office Development**

The City may consider providing TIF to retain an employer within the City or to accommodate an employer's expansion. The City will seek to avoid providing TIF to relocate an employer within the City.

## **SECTION 3: TIF PROCESS**

### **3.1 TIF Application Process**

- 1) **Capital Budget TIF Application Deadline.**
  - a. To the extent that Economic Development Division staff is able to anticipate projects expected in the upcoming calendar year that require city funds, staff will request Capital Budget allocations for pipeline projects. Developers are encouraged to make staff aware of upcoming projects prior to key Capital Budget deadlines. Typically these deadlines are:  

City Staff Capital Budget Requests - mid-June  
Executive Budget – Released in early September  
Budget Adoption – early November
  - b. Developers should be aware that other City TIF funding not included in the Capital Budget will require an extra-majority vote to adopt a budget amendment.
- 2) **TIF Application Without an Existing TID.** Projects located outside of an existing TID could receive TIF support through the creation of a new TID, or by amending the boundary of a nearby TID to bring the project into that TID. The City of Madison requires approximately five (5) months to create or amend a TID. TIF law requires that all districts be either created or amended by September 30 of each year in order to be certified for that year. Developers seeking TIF assistance for development on a parcel or parcels that is not located in a TID boundary, and requires either amendment or creation of a TID as part of their request for TIF assistance should ideally apply for TIF and land use approvals by April 15. Applications for TIF after April 15 will be considered, but may bear additional risk for the developer because a TID may not be created in time.
- 3) **Application Process.** When an application for TIF assistance is received, Staff shall notify the Alder where the project is located by providing the initial TIF application to that Alder. The TIF application shall be submitted to the TIF Coordinator. The TIF Coordinator, in consultation with appropriate City Staff, shall review the TIF application based upon the City's adopted TIF Underwriting Policy and the adopted TIF Goals, Objectives, and Process.
- 4) **TIF Team.** The Director of the Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development (or the Director of Economic Development as the Department Director's designee) shall convene a staff TIF Team as necessary. The staff TIF Team shall be comprised of representatives from the Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development (including the TIF Coordinator), the Finance Department, the City Attorney's Office, and other staff as appropriate. For each project, the team shall collaborate to develop a TIF recommendation to the Mayor and the Common Council.
- 5) **Application Fee.** The Application Fee is set per Madison General Ordinance \_\_XX\_\_.
- 6) **Term Sheet.** Staff shall provide developer and the district Alder with a term sheet indicating the loan terms, conditions and applicable ordinances required by the City of Madison for providing TIF assistance. Staff shall draft a funding resolution for introduction and referral to the Board of Estimates that incorporates the terms and conditions found therein. If Staff is unable to come to agreement with developer, Staff may request that the Board of Estimates convene into closed session to provide additional guidance on how to proceed relative to the areas of disagreement.
- 7) **Board of Estimates Staff Report.** Staff shall draft a written report of its recommendation to the Board of Estimates. This report shall include the following:
  - a. The amount of TIF requested
  - b. The type of project: Redevelopment, Affordable Housing or Jobs Project
  - c. Whether or not a gap has been identified by TIF staff through gap analysis (if not, indicate that Jobs Project gap analysis waiver is requested)

- d. The effect of an anticipated tax credit application upon the project (if applicable), and the effect of proposed TIF Loan on the project's score for tax credits given known previous successful scores
- e. The estimated value and projected increment created by the project
- f. The financial health and age of the TID
- g. Compliance with TIF Underwriting Policy
- h. If applicable:
  - i. Quantity of living-wage jobs created and/or retained
  - ii. Quantity of affordable housing units and level of affordability
- i. The amount of TIF (if any) recommended
- j. A general statement of comments or issues concerning the project

Staff shall provide updates to the district Alder during the drafting of said report. Said report shall be made available to the public and attached to the Authorizing Resolution as an electronic document.

### **3.2 Creation or Amendment of TIDs**

The City will consider creation or amendment of a TIF district according to the following guidelines:

- 1) **TIF Generators.** The proposed TIF district has economic "generators", i.e., at least one private development project that generates increment to finance TIF district costs, including a sufficient amount of public infrastructure improvements. The economic generators project must have an incremental value at completion of at least \$3 million to cover the typical costs of establishing a TIF district.

### **3.3 TIF Policy Review and Update**

- 1) The TIF Underwriting Policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 2) The TIF Goals, Objectives, and Process shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 3) TIF Staff will provide the Board of Estimates with a quarterly update on current and pending TIF projects during closed session.