The Downtown Dover TIF District

What is TIF district? Tax increment financing, commonly referred to as TIF, is the financing of public improvements with incremental taxes created by new construction, expansion, or renovation of a property within a designated district or area. The Dover Downtown TIF District was established to help offset the cost of needed parking infrastructure improvements.

How does a TIF district work? TIF works by using the captured value from new tax revenue in the established district. This “captured value” is the difference between the original assessed value of the district at the time of district adoption, and any increase in assessed value at the end of the year. The captured value is put into a TIF fund separate from the City’s general fund, and is used exclusively for public improvement within the district.

How is a TIF district administered? Once TIF boundaries are established and state statute is formally adopted by the City Council, the governing body of the municipality drafts a development plan and a financing plan. The City Council holds final authority over the established district, who in turn rely on a District Administrator and various city staff to execute the plan. The District Administrator, in Dover, the City Manager or a designee, is also an ex-officio non-voting member of the TIF advisory committee.

What is a TIF District Financing Plan? A TIF Financing Plan is a formal statement of the financial objectives for the retirement of bonds issued as part of improvements within the district. The plan includes: costs associated with the development plan; sources of revenue to finance those costs, including estimates on tax increments; amount of bonded indebtedness to be incurred; the duration of the district’s existence; a statement of the estimated impact of TIF on the assessed values of all taxing jurisdictions in which the district is located.

Can the Development and Financing Plans be changed? Yes, the plans can be amended. Any of the three branches of TIF advisory can recommend changes, but final authority resides with the City Council.

How does the TIF impact SAU or City budgets? The TIF does not impact the operating budget for the City or Schools. The total revenue generated by taxes remains the same, the difference is those funds must be collected solely from non-TIF district properties. The levy itself is not impacted by the TIF.

TIF ADVISORY BOARD OBJECTIVES

- Advise the City Council and District Administrator on the recommended policies and actions for the administration and operation of the District
- Advise the City Council and District Administrator regarding the planning, construction and implementation of the Development Program and the operation and maintenance of the District after the program is completed
- Meet either as determined by the chair of the Board, at the request of the Mayor or the City Manager, but at least at a minimum of quarterly to examine and report to the City Council on the operation and maintenance of the TIF District

For More Information:
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