

THE WESTSIDE TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Applications for Westside TAD funding are currently not being accepted. The Application will be posted on The Atlanta Development Authority website once the application period has commenced.

THE ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Atlanta Development Authority (“ADA”) is a public body corporate and politic and an instrumentality of the City of Atlanta (the “City”) created to promote the revitalization and growth of the City. It represents a consolidation of the City’s economic and community development efforts in real estate, finance, marketing and employment, for the purpose of providing a focal point for improving Atlanta’s neighborhoods and the quality of life for all of its citizens. ADA is the cornerstone of an overall effort to provide economic and redevelopment services in a more effective and efficient manner.

TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICTS

Also known as Tax Increment Financing (“TIF”), Tax Allocation Financing is a redevelopment and financing tool by which governments can provide financial assistance to eligible public and private redevelopment efforts within an officially designated area or tax allocation district (“TAD”). Increases in property tax revenues, which are generated primarily from new investment in the district, are allocated to pay infrastructure costs or certain private development costs within the TAD. This is primarily done through the issuance of Tax Allocation District Bonds.

THE WESTSIDE TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICT

In an effort to promote positive development around Centennial Olympic Park and the surrounding communities, ADA developed the Westside Redevelopment Plan & Tax Allocation Bond District. The Westside Redevelopment Plan is a compilation of all of the following efforts: English Avenue Redevelopment Plan, Master Plan for Vine City/Ashby, MLK Redevelopment Plan, Revitalization Plan for the Fairlie Poplar District, Centennial Olympic Park Area SPI Development Policies, the 1995 ULI Centennial Olympic Park Study, and the Simpson Road Redevelopment Plan.

In 1998 the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, and the Atlanta School Board passed resolutions creating the Westside Tax Allocation District, establishing ADA as the City’s Redevelopment Agent and, in the case of the County and School Board, consenting to the inclusion of their respective portions of all ad valorem tax increments created within the District and the application of those tax increments to pay certain qualified redevelopment costs. As Redevelopment Agent, ADA is responsible for promoting positive development within the Westside TAD and administering the TAD financing process.

The Westside TAD covers 1,451 acres. There are three distinct subareas within the TAD:

1. The Neighborhood Subarea includes the historic neighborhoods of Vine City and English Avenue.
2. Downtown portion of the TAD has been subdivide into two subareas:
 - a. The Centennial Olympic Park (“COP”) Subarea includes the property surrounding Centennial Olympic Park.
 - b. The Southern Subarea includes portions of the Fairlie Poplar District, the South Central Business District, the railroad gulch and Castleberry Hill.

Developments within these three subareas of the Westside TAD are eligible for TAD funding. A map of the Westside TAD boundaries and subareas is attached. The district falls within Neighborhood Planning Units M and L.

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

A. ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENTS

TAD funding is available to developments in the Westside TAD that support the goals and objectives of the Westside Redevelopment Plan which anticipates the following land uses:

Transportation:

- Creation of new and improved linkages between the CBD, Georgia Tech, Atlanta University and adjoining neighborhoods
- Parking improvements to support private/public redevelopment
- Improved pedestrian environments
- Maximized access to MARTA and future commuter rail

Community Environment:

- Improved quality of life for residents and businesses
- Completed facilities to increase tourism
- Improved public parks and plazas
- A better overall atmosphere and environment, including greater public safety

Economic Incentives:

- Overcome impediments to development and increase investments in the area.
- An additional financing vehicle to assist in redevelopment efforts
- Increased tax base
- Assembly of land and air rights to accomplish redevelopment and community revitalization
- Increased employment through job retention and creation
- Public improvements including streetscaping, streets and sewers, and greenway trails to support public/private redevelopment efforts.

Land Uses are intended to generate meaningful community revitalization through a blending of diverse yet compatible uses. Land uses established by the plan include:

- Neighborhood Residential: public, private, market rate, affordable and senior housing
- Mixed Use Development: commercial, residential, retail and entertainment
- Community Services: retail, schools, childcare, public safety facilities
- Others: Hotels, corporate offices and headquarters, art and cultural facilities

B. WESTSIDE TAD NEIGHBORHOOD FUND

The Westside Redevelopment Plan also established a "Neighborhood Fund".

The Neighborhood Fund is a mechanism to help promote redevelopment in the Vine City and English Avenue Neighborhoods. Redevelopment potential for the Downtown area of the Westside TAD was perceived as greater than the potential for redevelopment in the Neighborhood area of the district. In order to promote a more equitable redevelopment future, the Westside Redevelopment Plan provided the Neighborhood area of the TAD with an additional funding source, the Westside TAD Neighborhood Fund.

The Neighborhood Fund is supported by TAD Bond proceeds derived from project increments created in the COP and Southern Subareas of the TAD. When a tax allocation bond issue has been sold, 20% of the bond proceeds supported by COP and Southern project tax increments are deposited in the Westside TAD Neighborhood Fund. One hundred percent of the net bond proceeds supported by Neighborhood project tax increments are allocated to the respective Neighborhood project. Projects within the Neighborhood area of the TAD are eligible to apply for bond proceeds, Neighborhood Fund financing or

both. As is the case when applying for Westside TAD bond proceeds, projects applying for monies from the Neighborhood Fund must meet the goals and objectives of the Westside Redevelopment Plan.

C. PUBLIC PURPOSE PROJECT FUND

The Public Purpose Project Fund was established to help finance projects that serve a public purpose, such as: streetscape improvements, transportation projects, affordable housing and other economic development projects. Although these initiatives may not generate new property tax revenues, they are likely to increase property values on adjacent sites and improve the overall quality of life in the TAD.

The Public Purpose Project Fund is supported by TAD Bond proceeds derived from project increments created in the COP Subarea of the TAD, as defined on the attached map. When tax allocation bonds have been sold, up to 20% of the bond proceeds supported by COP project tax increments are deposited in the Public Purpose Project Fund (in addition to the 20% of bond proceeds allocated to the Neighborhood Fund).

D. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Increasing the supply of affordable housing is a major objective for the City of Atlanta. TAD applications for residential projects that include an affordability component, e.g. twenty percent (20%) of new housing units, will be looked on more favorably.

E. KEY POLICY COMPONENTS

- Approved projects must be consistent with goals and objectives of the applicable redevelopment plan(s).
- The optimal use of public dollars will be sought. Projects proposed for inclusion in bond issues and used for bond sizing will be assessed for their economic viability, based in part on current and near term market demand and likely product absorption. Projects based largely on speculative office space, and other high-risk uses, will be less favorably received unless the project would meet a clear public purpose goal.
- We will strive to limit TAD funding to those projects that would not be economically feasible without public subsidy. The existence of a project within a TAD does not automatically entitle the developer to receive TAD proceeds. Bond issues will be sized using projects that are reasonably projected to generate a net increase in the tax base. Projects receiving bond proceeds may include the foregoing, as well as projects contributing to various public purpose goals and infrastructure improvements consistent with the redevelopment plan. The amount of funding granted to a specific project may reflect an allocation of less than 100% of the projected tax increment generated by that project a) in order to address public purpose goals b) based on the assessment of financial need made by ADA and c) other factors as determined by ADA.
- Developer equity, including but not limited to land value and cash at risk, will be invested in the project before TAD funding is made available
- Unless a specific exception is granted by ADA, TAD funding approval should be obtained before start of construction on qualified projects. Unless a specific exception is granted by ADA, TAD funds are disbursed to developers as taxable value is created.
- Developers will use best efforts to comply with the City's Equal Business Opportunity Program¹ with respect to the participation of minority business enterprises, female enterprises, disadvantaged business enterprises and business enterprises located within the City of Atlanta, in all business opportunities which relate to the Project.
- Developer shall comply with the City's First Source Job Policy², with respect to the hiring and training of low-income City of Atlanta residents, as administered by the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency.

¹ Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta, Part Two Article X, Division 12

² Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta, Part Two Article XI, Division 1

WESTSIDE TAD FINANCING PROCESS

The Westside Tax Allocation District financing process includes, but is not limited to, the following steps:

1. In order to determine eligibility of a project for TAD financing, interested applicants shall:
 - a. Contact ADA to arrange an initial meeting to discuss the viability of your proposed project.
Call:
Amanda Rhein
Senior Project Manager – Tax Allocation Districts
Atlanta Development Authority
(404) 614-8282
 - b. Complete the Westside TAD Application and package in a 3-ring binder with a complete electronic copy of the Application on a CD with content, tabs, formatting and order of data identical to that of the hard copy Application. One copy of the completed application shall be submitted to The Atlanta Development Authority, accompanied by the non-refundable application fee.
2. Upon receipt of an application, ADA staff will review the application for content and completeness. Incomplete applications will not be processed. (An application will be considered received only when it is complete and the application fee has been paid.) ADA reserves the right to select and employ third party consultants to assist in the analysis and review of the proposed project, its financing and the associated tax increment. The applicant shall pay the cost of such ADA consultants, whether or not the project is constructed.
3. After the application has been reviewed for consistency with City goals, and received an initial favorable evaluation, ADA staff will convene a meeting of either the Westside TAD Downtown Advisory Board or the Westside TAD Neighborhood Advisory Board (“Advisory Board”), depending on the location of the Project. Developers are required to attend and present to the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board’s role is to give a recommendation to the ADA Board, which has the authority to approve projects for Tax Allocation District Financing. The Advisory Board will either recommend TAD funding to support a project or decline the project. (Note: The ADA Board has the authority to approve projects that have not been recommended by the Advisory Board.)

If the project is not recommended for TAD funding by the Advisory Board, the Developer may: (1) request that the project be considered by the ADA Board without Advisory Committee support, (2) modify the project and resubmit it to the Advisory Committee at a later date or (3) withdraw the project.

4. After the Advisory Committee issues a recommendation, ADA staff will place the project on the next appropriate ADA Board Meeting Agenda. The Developer will be notified when ADA’s Board will consider their project for funding. Developers are required to attend the ADA Board Meeting and be prepared to answer questions from the Board members regarding their project.
5. Upon approval for TAD funding by the ADA Board, the project will be earmarked for inclusion in the next Westside Tax Allocation Bond Issue. (TAD funds are generally derived from selling Tax Allocation Bonds).
6. When the total value of funding for approved projects is large enough to support a bond issue (at least \$10 million), ADA staff will bundle that project with other approved projects to be included in a Westside Tax Allocation Bond Issue. Projects earmarked for a bond issue will undergo rigorous review by Bond Underwriters and Bond Counsel. Associated due diligence includes real estate valuation, market absorption analysis and feasibility studies. Developers of approved projects will be

required to enter into a "Development Agreement" with the City of Atlanta as part of the Tax Allocation Bond Issue. The "Development Agreement" outlines the relationship between the Developer, ADA, and the City. It also details disbursement of Tax Allocation Bond proceeds.

7. Upon completion of all bond documents, ADA and the City's Finance Department will submit the completed bond documents for City Council approval.
8. Following City Council approval, Tax Allocation Bonds will be sold and net bond proceeds will be distributed to Developers pursuant to their respective "Development Agreement".
9. Application Expiration due to Project Delay: If construction is not commenced within six (6) months of the date of bond issuance the Application may be declared null and void. In this case, a new application and payment of the application fee would be required to reconsider the transaction at a later date.
10. Material Project Changes: The amount and timing of TAD proceeds may change if the underlying deal and/or associated sponsorship materially changes, regardless of whether the original transaction has already been approved by the ADA Board. At ADA's option, a new application, along with an application fee, may be required to reconsider a significantly different transaction.

FEES AND CHARGES

A. APPLICATION FEE

The greater of (a) ten basis points (.10%) of the total amount of the gross estimated total TAD bonds applied for or (b) \$2,500, is payable to The Atlanta Development Authority when the Application is submitted to ADA. Any application submitted without full application fee is deemed incomplete. The application fee is non-refundable.

B. COMMITMENT FEE

The greater of (a) fifteen basis points (.15%) or (b) \$15,000. Payable one time upon The Atlanta Development Authority Board of Directors approval of the project.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

The present value, discounted at a rate of four percent (4%) of the greater of (a) 20 basis points (.20%) of the gross principal amount of each project's pro rata share of the outstanding bonds for the life of the bonds, or (b) \$5,000 annually. This Administrative Fee is payable in two installments: the first year's Administrative Fee is due at financial closing and the balance is payable upon the first disbursement of funds from bond proceeds.

D. DUE DILIGENCE AND LEGAL DEPOSIT

A deposit of \$20,000 is required upon The Atlanta Development Authority Board of Directors approval of the project to cover costs incurred by ADA associated with due diligence and drafting of the Development Agreement. The Due Diligence and Legal Deposit will be returned to the applicant at financial closing and these costs will be payable by the applicant from its share of TAD Bond proceeds.

E. BOND COST OF ISSUANCE

Includes, but is not limited to bond counsel fees, bond underwriter fees, trustee fees, trustee and underwriter counsel fees, bond printing, bond validation and publication costs, and ADA's financial advisor, if any. These costs, along with an approved applicant's share of any capitalized interest and required reserve funds, shall be paid pro rata by such applicant from its share of TAD Bond proceeds.

Note: ADA reserves the right to waive some or all fees and charges incurred by non-profit entities.

Westside TAD Subareas

