



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – May 9, 2018

### Agenda Item 5

#### Work Session

Discussion of Pending Grant Applications

#### Recommended Council Action

Review and discuss pending applications

#### Context with Key Issues

This Work Session is intended to provide the Council with information on several pending competitive State grant applications being developed to advance the following projects. (The TPSS Co-op has also been encouraged to apply for two of the State grants.) Applications are due Wednesday, May 16, 2018 and require support from the City Council.

- Transportation Alternatives Program (SHA): Design for the reconfiguration of the Takoma Junction intersection and preliminary soil testing and environmental assessment
- Community Legacy & National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (Maryland DHCD): Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School for the rehabilitation of 6530 New Hampshire Avenue
- Strategic Demolition Funding (Maryland DHCD): Neighborhood Development Company for the demolition of 7221 Carroll Avenue

The Council will consider the approval of Resolutions authorizing the submission of each of the applications on Wednesday, May 16.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides funding for projects that enhance the cultural, aesthetic, historic, and environmental aspects of the intermodal transportation system. To complement ongoing revitalization and development efforts at the Takoma Junction, and recognizing the limitations of the intersection configuration, staff proposes applying for TAP funding for the redesign of the intersection at Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenues. The TAP program requires a minimum 20% cash match of the project costs. The City would seek additional funding for construction costs following the completion of 100% design documents including plans, specifications and estimates for construction. The City has successfully applied for two TAP funded projects which are currently under construction: the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project and the Flower Avenue Green Street Project.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has announced three grant opportunities this month. The Community Legacy grant is a comprehensive planning-based program designed to implement community-wide revitalization strategies. Funding priorities include projects which have a strategic economic impact, demonstrate evidence of other funding commitments, and are clearly part of an ongoing revitalization effort. The National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund was established to provide grants to assist in predevelopment activities for commercial and residential development, including site acquisition, land assembly, architecture and engineering, and site development in designated areas of the state. Lastly, the Strategic Demolition

Fund program seeks to improve the economic vitality of underutilized or vacant sites to improve economic vitality in communities within the state. Eligible projects include the demolition of derelict structures, site acquisition, land assembly to create redevelopment sized parcels, site development, and construction level engineering designs.

Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School will be applying for funding through the Community Legacy Grant or National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund for the rehabilitation of 6530 New Hampshire Avenue and the relocation of its operations.

Neighborhood Development Company will be applying for Strategic Demolition Funding for the demolition of 7221 Carroll Avenue to advance the pending Takoma Junction redevelopment project.

### **Council Priority**

Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

An anticipated benefit of TAP funding for Takoma Junction intersection redesign and the eventual construction of the identified design is a reduction in carbon emissions from idling vehicles as well as improved conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling through the area.

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

The TAP Application requires a minimum 20% cash match of the project's anticipated design costs. The FY20 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget includes \$350,000 in funding for the Takoma Junction, a portion of which would be used to satisfy the match requirement for the intersection redesign.

The Community Legacy, National Capital Strategic Economic Development, and Strategic Demolition grants do not require a match from the City.

### **Racial Equity Impact of Action**

The proposed TAP and Strategic Demolition projects are located in the center of the City; 57% of the residents of Takoma Park are people of color. Of 464 businesses in Takoma Park, 139 are identified as minority-owned businesses (US Census Bureau, 2015). Improvements to circulation paths in the Takoma Junction will allow for easier and safer pedestrian and bicycle access to the south side of Ethan Allen Avenue, making it the area more accessible for the residents living in the apartment complexes along Maple and Lee Avenues to shop, eat, and enjoy the public spaces created by the proposed development. A majority of these residents are people of color.

### **Attachments and Links**

- [TAP Process Manual](#)
- [Community Legacy Grant Program](#)
- [National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund](#)
- [Strategic Demolition Fund](#)