



**Memorandum**

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Bob Morgan, Interim City Manager  
DATE: August 21, 2009  
SUBJECT: Items for Your Information

**IFYI HIGHLIGHTS**

- Public Meeting on Changes to Downtown Design Manual
- Recycling Pilot Program for Multi-family Housing Communities
- Status of Search for Department Directors
- Review of Economic Stimulus Funding Available and City's Current Status
- Items for Staff Follow-up

**Public Meeting on Changes to Downtown Design Manual**

Over the past few months, City staff has worked closely with the community to find out what it thinks about the future look of downtown. With that input, the City's Planning Department has made a series of potential changes to the Downtown Design & Compatibility Manual, which was originally released in March 2009. The design manual will guide future development in downtown and is the result of more than two years worth of community input.

On **Tuesday, August 25**, the City will hold a public meeting on a revised draft of the Downtown Greensboro Design and Compatibility Manual at **6 pm in the Greensboro Cultural Center's Board Room, 200 N. Davie St.** This meeting is an opportunity for the City to discuss potential changes to the manual and hear feedback on those changes.

The manual seeks to encourage high-quality design and infill as stated in Greensboro's adopted comprehensive plan, Connections 2025. By providing a flexible framework, the manual strives to enhance the city's urban character, promote a variety of design and maintain long-term compatibility.

In addition, the City is recommending that public hearings on the manual be extended to winter 2010 to allow more time for discussion. A copy of the revised Downtown Design and Compatibility Manual can be found on the City's website: [www.greensboro-nc.gov/downtowndesign](http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/downtowndesign). For more information, contact Mary Sertell, Planning Department at 373-4769.

**Recycling Pilot Program for Multi-family Housing Communities**

In November 2008, the City's Field Operations Department began a weekly recycling collection program at 8 multi-family communities. This pilot program was begun in response to requests from multi-family residents. While there are 265 multi-family housing developments in Greensboro, the majority of them do not have any type of active recycling program. This pilot program was undertaken in order to encourage these residents to recycle and to see if 96-gallon recycling containers would be a good way to service these types of communities.

The pilot program consisted of an educational campaign and all residents were provided with recycling information. One 96-gallon recycling container was provided for every 13 units in each development. The containers were clearly marked “recyclables only” and were serviced once each week. The results from this pilot program have been encouraging. From November 2008 to June 2009, more than 13 tons of recyclables were collected from these communities.

In June 2009, Field Operations received an NC Community Waste Reduction and Recycling grant for \$18,917 which will allow the City to continue to provide this recycling service and to expand it to 60 additional multi-family communities – 12 in each Council district. The grant will end June 30, 2010. At that time, the communities will be able to continue the recycling service for \$30.00 per month, if they choose.

#### **Status of Search for Department Directors**

The selection process to fill the current department director vacancies in the Parks & Recreation and Transportation departments are well underway. Separate selection assessment centers will be conducted for both positions during the month of September. Employees from both departments have recently participated in focus group meetings to offer their insights into the selection criteria to be used during the assessment center process. Projected selection dates for the Transportation Director and Parks & Recreation Director positions are September and October, respectively.

#### **Review of Economic Stimulus Funding Available and City’s Current Status**

I asked staff to review all available American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Entitlement and Competitive Grants to ensure the City of Greensboro applies for all possible economic stimulus funding. Attached are the results of their research for your review. For more information about the City of Greensboro’s economic stimulus funding, contact Dan Curry, Acting Housing & Community Development Director at 373-2751.

#### **Items for Staff Follow-up**

After each meeting of the City Council, city staff documents the follow-up actions necessary to respond to Council Members’ requests made during the meeting. Attached is the list of city staff follow-up items generated at the August 18, 2009 City Council Meeting.

**Available Funding Opportunities and City of Greensboro's Current Status**

**American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

***Entitlement Grants***

Type	ARRA Programs	Receiving (Y/N)
Economic & Community Development	Community Development Block Grant	Y
Economic & Community Development	Homelessness Prevention & Re-Housing	Y
Energy	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant**	Y
Public Safety	Byrne Justice	Y
Other	Highway Infrastructure Investment	Y

***Competitive Grants***

Type	ARRA Programs	Applying for (Y/N)	Received (Y/N)	Notes
Economic & Community Development	Neighborhood Stabilization Program	Y		Partnering with the State Division of Community Assistance
Economic & Community Development	Homelessness Prevention & Re-Housing	Y		
Economic & Community Development	Economic Development Admin	N		Waiting for more information on program
Economic & Community Development	Lead Paint Removal	N		Currently receive lead grant which deems City ineligible for another grant
Economic & Community Development	USDA Rural Community Facilities	N		Does not meet criteria
Transportation	Transit Capital Assistance	Y	Y	
Transportation	New Starts	N		Does not meet criteria
Transportation	Airport Improvement	N		Does not meet criteria
Telecommunications	Broadband TOP	Y		Application in Progress- Due Aug 20th
Telecommunications	Rural Utilities Service	N		Does not meet criteria
Energy	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant	Y		
Energy	State Energy Program	Y		
Environmental	Clean Water Grants & Loans	Y	N	
Environmental	USDA Rural Water Grants & Loans	N		Does not meet criteria
Environmental	Diesel Emissions Reductions	Y	N	
Environmental	Electric & Alternative Energy Vehicles	Y		
Public Safety	Community Oriented Policing Services	Y		Did not receive funding in first round
Public Safety	Byrne Justice	Y		
Public Safety	Internet Crimes against Children	Y		
Public Safety	Violence against Women	N		Does not meet criteria
Public Safety	Firefighter Assistance Grants	Y		
Public Safety	Law Enforcement Assistance	N		Does not meet criteria

City of Greensboro  
**Items from City Council for Staff Follow-up**  
From August 18, 2009 City Council Meeting

**City Manager's Office**

1. *Interim City Manager Morgan* requested to include MWBE, young business owners and internet business owners when conducting the survey for the business summit.

**STATUS: In progress.**

2. *Interim City Manager Morgan* asked to incorporate into next year's Council budget deliberations a discussion item regarding the possible reduction of the City's contribution to Downtown Greensboro, Inc.

**STATUS: Planned for FY 10-11 Council Budget Work Sessions.**

**Engineering & Inspections Department**

1. *Dan Reynolds*, Engineering and Inspections, directed to meet with Ben Holder regarding dilapidated structures along Gregory and Union Streets.

**STATUS: In progress.**

**Finance and Administrative Services Department**

1. Staff requested to develop databank of electronic business contact information as an alternative to mailing hard copies of business summit surveys in an effort to correspond electronically with local business owners.

**STATUS: In progress.**

**Legal Department**

1. *City Attorney Terry Wood* to continue researching tax rebates in the Guilford County Commercial Investment Policy with the Institute of Government.

**STATUS: Information packet provided to Council Members on 8/20/09 and item is tentatively scheduled for September 22 Council Briefing Session.**

**Planning Department**

1. *Planning Director Dick Hails* requested to be pro-active in notifying groups impacted by the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) amendments.

**STATUS: In progress.**

2. *Planning Director Dick Hails* requested to forward Councilmember Bellamy-Small the District One zoning changes outlined in the LDO.

**STATUS: Complete.**

3. *Planning Director Dick Hails* requested to assess compliance of signage advertising sexually oriented business on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

**STATUS: In progress.**

City of Greensboro  
**Items from City Council for Staff Follow-up**  
From August 18, 2009 City Council Meeting

**Public Affairs Department**

1. *Public Affairs* staff requested to research inclusion of a citizen concern and comment card in water bills as a means of receiving public input.

**STATUS: Update to be provided in future *IFYI*.**

**Police Department**

1. *Police Department* and Transportation staff requested to report back to Council on the placement of video cameras along High Point Road.

**STATUS: Update to be provided in future *IFYI*.**

**Transportation Department**

1. Police Department and *Transportation* staff requested to report back to Council on the placement of video cameras along High Point Road.

**STATUS: Update to be provided in future *IFYI*.**