

RESOLUTION 10325

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1.1 MILLION OF FUNDS FROM THE CENTRAL MONTANA AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK TAX INCREMENT FINANCE DISTRICT TO THE CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO CONSTRUCT A STORM DRAIN SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the City of Great Falls Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park was adopted in 2005 as an Industrial Tax Increment Financing District; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park Tax Increment Finance District was created to attract and encourage the location of secondary value-adding industries; and,

WHEREAS, there is a need for public storm water infrastructure improvements within the TIF District in order to support current and future development; and

WHEREAS, there are areas both within and downstream from the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park Tax Increment Finance District that experience surface erosion due to storm water runoff; and

WHEREAS, City of Great Falls Public Works Department's proposed storm drain project will address current surface erosion issues and provide drainage infrastructure to support further private development within the TIF district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA.

Section 1. Approval. The City Commission hereby approves the expenditure of the requested Tax Increment Financing District funds as requested by the City of Great Falls in the amount of \$1,100,000.

Section 2. Findings. Based on representations made to the City Commission to date and taking into consideration all comments received, including those made at a properly noticed Planning Advisory Board meeting duly held on November 12, 2019, the City Commission does hereby make the following findings, determinations, and declarations regarding the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park Tax Increment Financing District, which is hereinafter referred to as the District:

- (a) no persons will be displaced from their housing by the Project or the Infrastructure Improvements;
- (b) the Project and the Infrastructure Improvements substantially satisfy the review criteria of the funding application process and meet the purpose and goals of the Act, the District and Plan;
- (c) the Plan, to include the Project and the Infrastructure Improvements, conforms to the comprehensive plan or parts thereof for the City as a whole;
- (d) the Infrastructure Improvements constitute public improvements in accordance with the Act;
- (e) the Plan, to include the Project and the Infrastructure Improvements, will afford maximum opportunity, consistent with the sound needs of the City, as a whole, for the rehabilitation or redevelopment of the District by private enterprise; and
- (f) a sound and adequate financial program exists for the financing of the Infrastructure Improvements, as more particularly in Section 3 hereof.

Section 3. District Plan. A plan describing existing infrastructure, existing infrastructure deficiencies, and development activities to be undertaken within the District is attached as “Exhibit A.”

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and adoption by the City Commission.

Section 5. Conflict with Other Ordinances and Resolutions. All parts of ordinances and resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, on this 17th day of December 2019.

Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

Sara Sexe, City Attorney

State of Montana)
County of Cascade : ss
City of Great Falls)

I, Lisa Kunz, City Clerk of the City of Great Falls, Montana, do certify that I did post as required by law and as prescribed and directed by the Commission, Resolution 10325 in two conspicuous places within the limits of said City to-wit:

On the Bulletin Board, first floor, Civic Center Building;
On the Great Falls City website

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)



Central Montana Agricultural & Technology Park Expanded Tax Increment Financing Industrial District Plan City of Great Falls, Montana

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The City of Great Falls is committed to fostering the development of secondary, value adding industries, including manufacturing businesses in order to sustain and grow its economy over time. To this end, the City created the Central Montana Agricultural and Technology Park Tax Increment Financing Industrial District (TIFID) on May 17, 2005 per City Ordinance 2911. The base taxable value of the District was established as the taxable value of all real and personal property within the boundaries of the district as of January 1, 2005.

The District boundaries were expanded in December of 2007 (Ordinance 2996) in order to support potential investment in energy generation facilities. Even with this expansion, however, the current district is not large enough to support any additional industrial development and a second boundary adjustment is necessary to accommodate potential growth. This boundary adjustment would enable the City to address critical



Figure 1. Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park

infrastructure deficiencies to recruit new value adding industry and support the growth and retention of existing manufacturing businesses.

The 2005 Great Falls Growth Policy sets forth a series of goals in support of future economic development including the following:

- Diversify the base economy.
- Enhance, strengthen, and expand the existing economic base.

Further, the Growth Policy specifically points to the need to encourage “value added” manufacturing businesses in both agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. Public investments in infrastructure in the expanded Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park TIFID, in support of value adding industry, will include road improvements, sewer and water main extension and storm drainage improvements, enabling the City to meet these critical goals.

Tax Increment Financing will be a key component in a comprehensive funding strategy to address these infrastructure needs and will enable the City of Great Falls to leverage other local, state and federal dollars to achieve its goals.

The City of Great Falls

The population of Great Falls (2011 Census Estimate) is 58,950, showing a slight increase since the 2010 Census, when the population was 58,505 and an increase of over 3% since the 2000 census. The median income for Great Falls in 2011 adjusted dollars is \$42,105, below the state's median of \$44,392 and well below the federal median, which is \$51,484. 27,041 persons are in the Great Falls' civilian labor force including 768 in manufacturing. (American Community Survey 3-year estimate, 2009-2011) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the estimated unemployment rate as of December, 2012 is 5.1%.

Great Falls is located in Cascade County, which is in north-central Montana. The County is bordered on the west by the Rocky Mountains, to the southeast by the Little Belt and Highwood Mountains. Nearly eighty years after the Lewis and Clark Expedition first explored the "great falls of the Missouri" in 1805, Paris Gibson visited the area and envisioned a prosperous community along the mighty river. Within a few years, Gibson and other early settlers designed and built an attractive, well-planned community with broad, tree-lined streets and over 800 acres of parkland. More settlers arrived in Great Falls in the 1890s to join in the growing development of mining, logging, farming, ranching, and hydroelectric power.

During the first half of the 20th century, Great Falls grew into a more diverse, urbanized community. As natural resource-based economic activity declined, it was replaced by the military, manufacturing and service sectors. Today, the qualities that first brought settlers to Great Falls continue to attract new residents, businesses and visitors to the beauty, resources, opportunities, and quality of life offered here (Great Falls Growth Policy).

History of Industrial Development in Great Falls

In its early years, industrial development in the City of Great Falls was generally located along the Missouri River and rail lines within the downtown core, in close proximity to the City's residential neighborhoods. Through the 19th and 20th centuries, as transportation and industrial technologies advanced, industrial development gradually moved towards the outlying areas of the City. These areas typically provided convenient highway and rail access, as well as separation from incompatible residential and retail land uses around the core.

The 2005 Great Falls Growth Policy indicates that approximately 1,868 acres (3.1%) of the City is used for industrial activities. The Growth Policy favors future industrial development to be in the form of industrial park or other campus like patterns, in locations with ease of access by multiple types of transportation, limited environmental impacts and the potential for generating related growth.

Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park Expanded Tax Increment Financing Industrial District

The City of Great Falls intends to expand the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park Tax Increment Financing Industrial District. The base year for the purposes of measuring any incremental value in the new portion of the District will be 2013 and the base value will be calculated as of January 1, 2013.

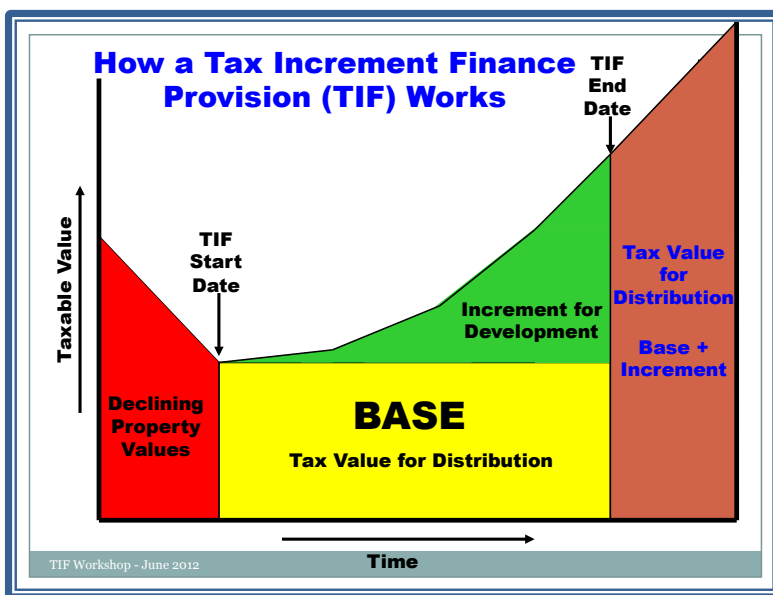


Figure 2. Schematic of Tax Increment Financing

Tax increment financing is a mechanism that allows communities to use new tax dollars resulting from increasing taxable value for reinvestment within the geographic area in which they are derived for a period of 15 years, or up to 40 years if the incremental taxes were pledged to the repayment of a bond. (Figure 2.) Until 1989, tax increments could only be used for rehabilitation efforts within urban renewal areas, which were usually blighted central business districts.

In 1989, the Montana Legislature amended the Montana Urban Renewal Law to enable municipalities to create special industrial districts which could employ tax increment financing to assist in the development and retention of secondary, value-adding industries. In doing so, the Legislature noted that the State of Montana wishes to encourage secondary, value-adding industrial manufacturing that uses Montana timber, mineral, oil and gas, coal and agricultural resources in the production of goods in the state. The legislation recognized that secondary, value-adding industries, in order to be competitive in today's world economy, require expensive infrastructure that is beyond the means of most Montana communities. Senate Bill 472 resulted in Section 7-15-4299 Montana Code Annotated (MCA), originally codified in 1989 and amended in 2007. This law enables communities to assist in industrial development in areas that are deemed to be infrastructure deficient. Tax increment financing may now be used for improvements as defined in 7-15-4288 MCA.

In March of 2008, the Montana Department of Revenue, under its administrative rule making authority, more specifically defined “secondary industries” as those that use mechanical or chemical processes to transform materials or substances into new products in the manner defined as manufacturing in the North American Industry Classification System Manual. These industries engage in the:

- Processing of raw materials, such as minerals, ore, oil, gas, coal, agricultural products, and forestry products; or
- Processing of semi-finished products that are used by the industry as a raw material in further manufacturing.

"Value-added" is defined as an increase in the worth of the raw or semi-finished product that results from a mechanical or chemical transformation and may not be attributable to a mere increase in existing production.

In order to make use of this innovative economic development strategy, the City of Great Falls must adopt an industrial development plan that addresses both the existing and new areas of the District, which defines the specific geographic area within which the tax increment will be measured and reinvested. Further, the plan must outline those activities that the local government intends to undertake in order to successfully develop (or retain) value-adding industrial activity.

2. DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

The expanded TIFID, in its entirety, encompasses an area that is located at the northern edge of the City of Great Falls. The area is surrounded by agricultural land and is bounded by US Highway 87 on the west. The existing portion of the District is home to the Malteurop.



Figure 3. Malteurop

Legal Description

The expansion of the Central Montana District will require an amendment to the TIFID district, which will extend the boundaries of existing district to include:

Lot 1A, Block 1, of the Correctional Plat of the First Amendment to the International Malting Company, LLC Addition. This parcel is 100.00 acres in size according to official plat.

The new district boundary will be described as follows:

All of Lots 2, 4, & 5, Block 1, of the International Malting Company, LLC Addition ...and...All of Lot 1A, Block 1, of the Correctional Plat of the First Amendment to the International Malting Company, LLC Addition, totaling 200.22 acres in size.

This entire district is located in Section 30, Township 21 North, Range 4 East.

Metes and bounds description for the Revised Boundaries of Central Montana Agricultural and Technology Park Tax Increment Industrial District (TIF)

Property situated in Section 30, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, of the Principal Meridian Montana, Cascade County, Montana, described as follows:

Commencing at the East Quarter Corner of said Section 30; thence N89°28'41"W along the east-west mid-section line of said Section 30, a distance of 453.39 feet to the Northwest Corner of the First Broadway Addition to North Great Falls according to the official map on file in the records of Cascade County and Point of Beginning of the industrial tax increment district herein described: thence S00°37'48"W along the west line of said First Broadway Addition to North Great Falls, a distance of 1325.50 feet; thence N89°35'17"W, a distance of 1321.42 feet; thence S00°40'34"W, a distance of 949.63 feet; thence S89°37'42"W, a distance of 1673.41 feet; thence N00°03'09"E, a distance of 615.04 feet; thence N89°48'16"W, a distance of 850.56 feet to the southeasterly right-of-way of US Highway 87, Project Number FAP 149-F (3), according to the as-built right-of-way plans on file in the records of the Montana Department of Transportation; thence northeasterly along said right of way, N25°41'35"E, a distance of 243.87 feet; thence continuing along said right of way, N30°55'54"E, a distance of 131.85 feet; thence continuing along said right of way, N25°44'38"E, a distance of 1017.80 feet; thence continuing along said right of way, N37°01'29"E, a distance of 100.44 feet; thence continuing along said right of way, N28°18'36"E, a distance of 260.81 feet; thence continuing along said right of way, N26°35'47"E, a distance of 452.20 feet; thence continuing along said right of way along a curve with a radius of R=11,400.00 feet for a length of 852.19 feet; thence continuing along said right of way, N30°52'46"E, a distance of 599.71 feet; thence S00°43'23"W, a distance of 253.56 feet; thence S89°33'37"E, a distance of 1322.31 feet; thence S00°47'26"W, a distance of 1322.76 feet; thence S89°28'41"E, a distance of 867.34 feet to the true point of beginning.

All Parcels and Geocodes to be included in the expanded Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park TIFID

Lot 1A, Block 1, Correctional Plat of the First Amendment to the International Malting Company, LLC Addition
County Parcel Number 1029650

Geocode: 02-3139-30-4-03-05-0000

Owner - ADF International, Inc.

Lot 2, Block 1, International Malting Company, LLC Addition

County Parcel Number 1029655

International Malting Company, LLC Addition

Geocode: 02-3139-30-4-03-09-0000

Owner - International Malting Company LLC

Lot 4, Block 1, International Malting Company, LLC Addition

County Parcel Number 1029670

Geocode: 02 3139-30-4-03-03-0000

Owner - DALI LLC

Lot 5, Block 1, International Malting Company, LLC Addition

County Parcel Number 1029675

Geocode: 02-3139-30-4-03-01-0000

Owner - DALI LLC

3. GOALS OF THE CENTRAL MONTANA AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK TIFID

Considerations:

- In preparing the 2005 Great Falls Growth Policy, the staff solicited input and recommendations related to economic development from business people, residents and Neighborhood Council members. Comments received call for a “sustainable” economy that strengthens the community without degrading the high quality of life in the area. Citizens stressed that the overall economic development goal is to establish and expand those sectors of the economy that will employ people in high-paying jobs, support families, and enhance the community. They noted that, in planning for economic growth, industries that can both offer high-paying jobs and enhance the quality of life in the community should be pursued.
- Great Falls is fortunate to be home to many natural amenities and features, none more spectacular than the Missouri River corridor. Industrial development along the river has the potential to negatively impact the beauty of and access to the river currently enjoyed by the citizens of Great Falls. Therefore the City will continue to direct industrial development to specific locations on the urban fringe to protect and enhance the pristine environment along the river and the City’s residential neighborhoods.
- The City of Great Falls is surrounded by prime agricultural land capable of producing large quantities of consistently high quality grains and livestock, critical to the area’s economic base.

Based on these critical considerations, the goals of the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park Tax Increment Financing Industrial District are:

- To foster economic vitality in the City of Great Falls and increase employment opportunities through infrastructure development in support of secondary value-adding industry
- To provide support for industries that preserve the quality of life for all residents
- To help assure that industrial development activities reflect the City of Great Falls’ commitment to the stewardship of its agricultural and natural resources including the Missouri River Corridor and associated restoration, interpretive, recreation and conservation programs currently underway
- To encourage secondary, value adding industries that take advantage of the area’s vast agricultural resources
- To facilitate the investment in a site suitable for industrial development based on its proximity to both rail and highway transportation infrastructure.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS – STATEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENCY

As noted above, the development of secondary, value-adding industries in the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park TIFID will require water and sewer services, transportation upgrades, stormwater collection and treatment and other improvements, depending on the types of industries that locate in the District. A review of the existing infrastructure reveals the following deficiencies:

Roads – As development occurs and traffic increases, access roadways should be paved to reduce dust and frequency of roadway maintenance. Egress routes for the heavy, wide loads should be constructed, based on carefully crafted designs that prevent roadway degradation or damage to any drainage facilities, ensure adequate turning radii, and alleviate any potential safety concerns.

Water and Sewer – There is an existing water transmission main located along the access roadway to Malteurop. There is an existing sanitary sewer trunk main and sewage lift station located on the east side of the Malteurop property adjacent to Black Eagle Road. An extension of the sewer main from this existing lift station, along the north side of the Malteurop property to the northeast corner of the proposed site for ADF, a Canadian steel fabrication company will be required.

Utilities – Telephone, cable, natural gas, fiber optic and electricity are available to the property. However, with the exception of electricity, these services will need to undergo significant upgrade to accommodate District uses. Although these utilities are present, most of the property is not served. Therefore, in addition to upsizing current utility infrastructure, extensions of these facilities may be required to serve individual needs.

Stormwater – The Public Works Department is in the process of reviewing site requirements for stormwater discharge, storage, and conveyances and on-and off-site improvements. The review will consider upstream and downstream properties and future storm drain extensions will be part of the review. As properties are developed, storm water infrastructure requirements will be more accurately determined.

General Improvements

Additional infrastructure and public services deficiencies will be identified over time. For example, emergency services buildings and equipment, site security, transloading and cargo facilities, parking lots, and other improvements and services may be required. 7-15-4288 MCA provides an extensive list of eligible items that may be paid for with tax increment dollars.

5. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN

The City of Great Falls will work with other public entities and private developers to establish an industrial and economic development framework to enable it to target and recruit secondary, value-adding industries. Targeted industries will likely include agri-processing, as Great Falls has a significant competitive advantage over other markets. The City's location within the Golden Triangle region of north-central Montana provides access to a wide-variety of consistently high-quality wheat, barley and other small grains.

Additionally, the proximity to a variety of energy sources, rail transportation and a major highway network enhances the City's potential for general manufacturing, energy generation, steel fabrication and other value adding industries.

Identification of secondary, value-adding industries

A list of industries that could be targeted for development or expansion within the expanded Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park TIFID is presented in Table 1, by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.

NAICS Code	Industry
236210 Industrial Building Construction	This industry comprises establishments primarily responsible for the construction (including new work, additions, alterations, maintenance, and repairs) of industrial buildings (except warehouses). The construction of selected additional structures, whose production processes are similar to those for industrial buildings (e.g., incinerators, cement plants, blast furnaces, and similar non-building structures), is included in this industry. Included in this industry are industrial building general contractors, industrial building for-sale builders, industrial building design-build firms, and industrial building construction management firms.
Sector 23237 Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	<p>The Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction subsector comprises establishments whose primary activity is the construction of entire engineering projects (e.g., highways and dams), and specialty trade contractors, whose primary activity is the production of a specific component for such projects. Specialty trade contractors in Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction generally are performing activities that are specific to heavy and civil engineering construction projects and are not normally performed on buildings. The work performed may include new work, additions, alterations, or maintenance and repairs.</p> <p>Specialty trade activities are classified in this subsector if the skills and equipment present are specific to heavy or civil engineering construction projects. For example, specialized equipment is needed to paint lines on highways. This equipment is not normally used in building applications so the activity is classified in this subsector. Traffic signal installation, while specific to highways, uses much of the same skills and equipment that are needed for electrical work in building projects and is therefore classified in Subsector 238, Specialty Trade Contractors.</p>

	<p>Construction projects involving water resources (e.g., dredging and land drainage) and projects involving open space improvement (e.g., parks and trails) are included in this subsector. Establishments whose primary activity is the subdivision of land into individual building lots usually perform various additional site-improvement activities (e.g., road building and utility line installation) and are included in this subsector.</p> <p>Establishments in this subsector are classified based on the types of structures that they construct. This classification reflects variations in the requirements of the underlying production processes.</p>
32311 Prefabricated Metal Building and Component Manufacturing	This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing prefabricated metal buildings, panels, and sections.
332812 Metal Coating, Engraving (except Jewelry and Silverware), and Allied Services to Manufacturers	This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in one or more of the following: (1) enameling, lacquering, and varnishing metals and metal products; (2) hot dip galvanizing metals and metal products; (3) engraving, chasing, or etching metals and metal products (except jewelry; personal goods carried on or about the person, such as compacts and cigarette cases; precious metal products (except precious plated flatware and other plated ware); and printing plates); (4) powder coating metals and metal products; and (5) providing other metal surfacing services for the trade. Included in this industry are establishments that perform these processes on other materials, such as plastics, in addition to metals.
3112 Grain and Oilseed Milling 311224 Soybean and Other Oilseed Processing	This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in crushing oilseeds and tree nuts, such as soybeans, cottonseeds, linseeds, peanuts, and sunflower seeds. Examples of products produced in these establishments are oilseed oils, cakes, meals, and protein isolates and concentrates.
325193 Ethyl Alcohol Manufacturing	This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing nonpotable ethyl alcohol.
221117 Biomass Electric Power Generation	This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in operating biomass electric power generation facilities. These facilities use biomass (e.g., wood, waste, alcohol fuels) to produce electric energy. The electric energy produced in these establishments is provided to electric power transmission systems or to electric power distribution systems.
221112 Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation	This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in operating fossil fuel powered electric power generation facilities. These facilities use fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, or gas, in internal combustion or combustion turbine conventional steam process to produce electric energy. The electric energy produced in these establishments is provided to electric power transmission systems or to electric power distribution systems.

Further research and analysis will be required to determine which of these industries can be actively recruited based on market conditions and the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park's site's unique position in the market place. Issues such as energy costs related to operations and transportation, distance from markets and overall industry trends, as well as infrastructure requirements will help determine industries to be targeted.

Capital Improvements Planning and Implementation

The City of Great Falls will undertake the necessary planning required to more particularly identify the infrastructure required to support the development of targeted secondary, value-adding industries. This planning effort will address necessary capital improvements and the associated costs. Infrastructure design and development could include roads and other transportation infrastructure such as rail lines, pedestrian ways, sewage pre-treatment, sewer lines, water wells and mains, utilities, street lighting, communication infrastructure such as cell towers and additional fiber cable and buildings.

TIFID Program Criteria

The City of Great Falls will use tax increment financing in conjunction with other funding mechanisms to support the development of secondary value-adding industry within the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park. Infrastructure projects selected for funding will be required to meet certain criteria, based on the goals of this TIFID Plan. Suggested eligibility criteria for reviewing both city-initiated and industry-initiated requests for public infrastructure improvements projects might include the following:

1. The project must be located within the authorized TIFID area.
2. Any developer who wishes to apply for tax increment assistance for the construction of public infrastructure will be asked to enter into an assessment agreement with the local government. An assessment agreement is a document which obligates the developer to pay all property tax obligations for the period during which the tax increment is being used to assist the developer, but no longer than the authorized life of the tax increment provision of the TIFID in which the development is located. This obligation remains in effect, even in the event that the developer closes or moves its facilities. Further, depending on the nature of the assistance, the developer may have to agree to continue to pay taxes at least at the property tax rate which was in effect at the time the agreement is executed, regardless of changes in the tax rate by the State of Montana.

3. Specific criteria which will be used to evaluate applications for assistance will include but are not limited to:
 - a. Job Creation – Developments will be evaluated based upon the number of direct jobs created. Advantage will be given to developments where the wages and benefits for the jobs meet or exceed the current average Great Falls Per Capita Personal Income.
 - b. Taxable Valuation – In most cases, developers who contribute more to the community’s tax base will be eligible for greater assistance.
 - c. Value-adding – Developers must be engaged in “secondary industries”, defined as those industries that use mechanical or chemical processes to transform materials or substances into new products in the manner defined as manufacturing in the North American Industry Classification System Manual. Those developers who make use of Montana’s mineral, agricultural, energy and timber resources will receive preferential treatment compared to those who do not.
 - d. Leverage-Ratios – Tax increment funds may not be used to finance the entire cost of development. Those investments of tax increment financing which result in a larger infusion of private or other public capital will receive preferential treatment compared to those that result in smaller infusion of private or other public capital.

Each project will be analyzed individually to determine the amount of financial assistance available based upon the factors stated above. Final criteria will be approved by the Great Falls City Commission and employed by the staff in reviewing project proposals.

Financing

Once targeted industries and required capital improvements have been more clearly identified, the next step will be to develop the mechanisms to implement the overall TIFID program. Given that private industrial development will generate the property taxes necessary to finance a portion of the infrastructure development, recruitment and infrastructure development must occur hand in hand. It is possible that construction of public infrastructure will be financed through the sale of Tax Increment Bonds in combination with other state and federal funding programs. Tax increment financing mechanisms can include:

- Tax Increment Bonds – Tax increment revenues would be pledged to pay bond principal and interest annually. The size and term of the bond would depend on tax increment revenues available from private sector taxpayers within the TIFID. While Montana law provides that tax increment districts may only be authorized for 15 years, the time period may be extended to coincide with the term of a tax increment bond, but no longer than an additional 25 years. As noted above, it may be necessary for the private taxpayer(s) to enter into an agreement with the City of Great Falls to assure, for the term of the bond, the annual payment of all property taxes due or an equivalent amount if the taxpayer no longer holds property in the district. The amount of tax increment realized each year must be enough to cover all bond payments due, as well as an adequate reserve.
- Annual Tax Increment Appropriations – The City may finance smaller public infrastructure improvements from its annual tax increment receipts by appropriation. Funds available each year would be determined by the size of the annual increment and any prior commitments (such as bond debt service requirements and administrative costs).
- Tax Increment Financing Revolving Loans – The Montana TIF statutes provide for the establishment of loan programs, whereby TIF funds may be loaned for the construction of private infrastructure or other activities in support of the goals of the TIF district. As principal and interest payments are made, the funds may be loaned again, even after the TIF District sunsets.
- Conventional Financing – The City may borrow funds from commercial lending institutions in order to finance public infrastructure improvements. Annual tax increment revenues will pay principal and interest on the loan. A conventional loan agreement will not, however, extend the authorized 15 year time period for a TIFID.

Per 7-15-4291 MCA, The City of Great Falls may enter into agreements with the other affected taxing bodies to remit to such taxing bodies any portion of the annual tax increment not currently required for the payment of the costs listed in 7-15-4288 MCA or pledged to the payment of the principal of premiums, if any, and interest on bonds.

Industry Recruitment

Once the District is established, local staff and resources and/or consultant services could be used to assist in the development of business plans, market studies and general research to recruit secondary, value-adding industries to the TIFID. Once the District starts generating revenue, TIFID funds may be directed to these activities as well.

Partnership Development

The TIFID program will rely on cooperative efforts among the City of Great Falls, TIFID property owners, and economic development organizations to achieve its goal of fostering industrial development. In many cases, these cooperative partners will work jointly on market analyses, business recruitment and capital improvements planning. Also, as noted above, it will be necessary to work with other local, state and federal entities in providing additional financing and matching funds to build industrial infrastructure in the TIFID. Potential partnerships can be forged using a variety of programs and funding mechanisms. A sampling of these includes:

Programs

- The Treasure State Endowment Program (Montana)
- Community Development Block Grant (U.S. Department of Urban Development)
- The Montana Intercap Program
- Economic Development Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce)
- *Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team* (a group of professionals from state, federal, and non-profit organizations that finance, regulate, or provide technical assistance for community water and wastewater systems)
- Community Transportation Enhancement Program – Under 23 USC 133 (d) (2) (Federal Code), 10 percent of the Surface Transportation Program monies are awarded to each state for transportation enhancements.

Funding Mechanisms

- Local mill levies for transportation infrastructure (7-14-4101 MCA)
- Transportation Improvement Authority (7-14-1001, MCA)
- Special Improvement Districts (7-12-4101 MCA)
- Debt Financing – Counties can make use of various kinds of debt financing to fund industrial development projects. These include general obligation bonds, special improvement district bonds and revenue bonds as well as Tax Increment Financing Bonds.
- State Fuel Tax (15-70-101MCA)

6. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

In the near term, the Central Montana Agriculture and Technology Park TIFID will be managed directly by the City of Great Falls. No later than April of each year the City Commission, in conjunction with staff, will prepare an annual TIFID budget and work plan for the following fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th). Each annual work plan will include the following elements:

- Anticipated Increment Revenue for the Year
- Project Priorities and Associated Costs
- Financing Strategies Anticipated
 - Direct Increment Revenue
 - Debt Financing
 - Other Sources of Funding
- Administrative Budget including staff and consulting services

The City Commissioners will review the work plan and determine whether any changes are necessary before setting the budget. Once the budget is set, City staff will be responsible for:

- Developing financing strategies
- Working to maintain the Tax Increment Financing Accounts
- Working with City staff, property owners and developers to identify public infrastructure projects for the future
- Reviewing proposed infrastructure development projects for the future
- Following all local government procurement rules with respect to:
 - Preparing bid and proposal requests
 - Reviewing proposals from engineers, contractors and other vendors
 - Making recommendations to the City Commission regarding contractor selection
- Monitoring projects
- Conducting market analyses, engineering studies and project feasibility analyses

The City Commission may consider the formation of a TIFID Advisory Board to work with the Commission in preparing annual budget and work plans, and in TIFID related economic development activities. The Advisory Board would be comprised of five to seven members, including one member of the City Commission. Meeting schedules, agendas and board governance would be jointly decided by the members and the Commission, and in accordance with Montana’s open meeting laws. Each member of the Advisory Board would serve for two years and may be reappointed. The first appointees to the Advisory Board would be appointed in the following manner, to provide for staggered terms:

- Two to three members for one year
- Two members for two years
- One to two member for three years

Following this initial appointment schedule, all Board members would be appointed for a term of two years.

7. PLAN AMENDMENTS

The plan provides flexibility to accommodate a variety of approaches. However, changes over time may necessitate more formal amendments to the Industrial District Plan. If required, amendments will be made by ordinance.