



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Climate, Environment & Infrastructure

Councilmember Meeka Owens, Chairperson
Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Jeff Cramerding, Member
Councilmember Seth Walsh, Member

Monday, April 22, 2024

10:00 AM Cincinnati Zoo (Discovery Forest & Education Center), 3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENTATIONS

Net Zero Isn't Good Enough

Mark Fisher - VP - Facilities Planning and Sustainability - Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden

Outside the Enclosure: Partnering with the Zoo for Sustainable Community Change

Tanner Yess - Executive Director - Groundwork Ohio River Valley

AGENDA

- 1.** [202401058](#) **REPORT**, dated 4/17/2024, submitted Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, regarding High Potential City-Owned Properties Along Major Transit Corridor. (Ref. Doc. # 202301025)
Sponsors: City Manager
Attachments: [Report](#)
[Attachment I](#)
[Attachment II](#)
- 2.** [202401204](#) **PRESENTATION**, Submitted by Councilmember Owens, From Mark Fisher, Vice President, Facilities Planning and Sustainability at Cincinnati Zoo, regarding Net Zero Isn't Good Enough
Sponsors: Owens
- 3.** [202401205](#) **PRESENTATION**, Submitted by Councilmember Owens, from Tanner Yess, Executive Director, at Groundwork Ohio River Valley, regarding Outside the Enclosure, Partnering with the Zoo for Sustainable Community Change.
Sponsors: Owens

ADJOURNMENT

April 17, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager

202401058

Subject: Report on High-Potential City-Owned Properties Along Major Transit Corridor

Ref. Doc. #202301025

City Council, at its session on April 12, 2023, referred the following item for review and report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmembers Jeffreys, Owens and Harris, To understand opportunities for further development along or near transit corridors, **WE MOVE** that the Administration report back to Council within ninety days (90) on: An audit of high-potential surface parking and vacant lots owned by the City along or near transit corridors. Recommendations on which among those properties should be candidates for issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop housing, retail, office space, or other development. (STATEMENT ATTACHED).

OVERVIEW

In early 2023, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (“SORTA”) announced plans to create the region’s first bus rapid transit (“BRT”) corridors along Hamilton Avenue and Reading Road. This historic investment in transit has high potential to increase regional connectivity, increase the vibrancy of communities located along the BRT routes, and spur regional economic growth.

At the direction of City Council, the Department of Community and Economic Development (“DCED”) has been exploring ways that the City Administration can encourage growth along major transit corridors. The City of Cincinnati presently owns various surface parking lots and vacant or underutilized parcels located along or near major transit corridors. At City Council’s request, DCED recently completed an audit of all City-owned surface parking lots and vacant parcels along or near these corridors. The goal of this audit was to identify sites with high development potential. The results of the audit can be found in the report below.

DCED recommends that the City issue Requests for Proposals/Qualifications (“RFP/Q”) for the redevelopment of select high-potential sites identified in the audit. These RFP/Qs will seek to attract proposals from qualified developers interested in partnering with the City to

realize its vision of transit oriented development. DCED is seeking a variety of uses, including the development of new housing stock, commercial and office space, and mixed-use property.

DCED further recommends extensive community engagement surrounding the redevelopment of these key parcels throughout the development process.

AUDIT OF HIGH-POTENTIAL SURFACE PARKING AND VACANT LOTS

As per the directive of City Council, DCED conducted an audit of surface parking and vacant or underutilized lots owned by the City along or near major transit corridors. For the purposes of this report, “major transit corridors” are defined as 24-hour Metro bus routes. The scope of this audit was narrowed following discussions with Councilmembers and City leadership. Properties located along or within roughly a block of major transit corridors were included in the audit. Adjacent and adjoining multi-parcel properties were considered single “sites” for the purpose of this audit.

In total, 48 different sites were identified. A full list of the sites can be found in Attachment B. Collectively, these sites represent roughly 73.804 acres of potentially developable land, with an average size of 1.538 acres. The sites had a variety of different zoning designations, which are listed below from most common to least common. Some sites held multiple zoning designations.

- SF-2 – Single Family (8)
- DD – Downtown Development (5)
- RM-1.2 – Residential Multifamily (5)
- PR – Parks and Recreation (4)
- RMX – Residential Mixed (4)
- CC-P – Commercial Community – Pedestrian (4)
- CC-M – Commercial Community – Mixed (3)
- IR – Institutional Residential (3)
- MG – Manufacturing General (3)
- T3N – T3 Neighborhood (2)
- T5MS-O – T5 Main Street – Open (2)
- OL – Office Limited (2)
- CC-A – Commercial Community – Auto (2)
- SF-20 – Single Family (1)
- SF-6 – Single Family (1)
- RM-0.7 – Residential Multifamily (1)
- CN-P – Commercial Neighborhood – Pedestrian (1)
- CG-A – Commercial General (1)

These sites are located across 20 different neighborhoods, including Downtown, Over-the-Rhine, Pendleton, Mount Auburn, Corryville, CUF, Avondale, North Avondale, Bond Hill, Northside, College Hill, Lower Price Hill, East Price Hill, West Price Hill, Westwood, East Westwood, Mount Airy, East Walnut Hills, Oakley, and Madisonville.

IDENTIFICATION OF PROPERTIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

More detailed analysis of the audit revealed several parcels of land with significant potential for development. Properties were assessed on a variety of factors including location, size, current zoning designation, and current market demand. Based upon this assessment, sites were then organized into three “tiers” ranging from most developable to least developable. Properties for which the City has already designated a preferred developer or upon which future redevelopment is already planned were excluded from the tier rankings. DCED’s Tier 1 recommendations focus on properties that align with the City’s long-term development goals and have the capacity to catalyze economic growth along transit corridors. The sites determined to have the highest potential for redevelopment are strategically located in areas with high transit accessibility. A breakdown of the tier rankings can be found below. Site specific tier designations can be found in Attachment B.

- Tier 1 Sites – Most Potential for Redevelopment: 22
- Tier 2 Sites – Redevelopment May be Challenging: 18
- Tier 3 Sites – Highly Unlikely to be Developable: 5
- Excluded – Existing Development Rights or Planned Redevelopment: 3

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ISSUING REQUESTS FOR PROPSAL (RFP/Q)

Tier 1 sites were further analyzed to determine which could be most readily released for RFP/Q to maximize impact. DCED recommends that the City Administration consider the release of RFP/Qs for the redevelopment of the following sites:

- Hughes Street & Schiller Street Properties
- 5103 Kenwood Road
- 3362 Reading Road
- 3916 Reading Road

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC INPUT

As the Administration moves to issue RFP/Qs for these high-potential sites, it is imperative that the City engage with critical neighborhood stakeholders and solicit public input throughout the development process. Community engagement sessions, public forums, and stakeholder meetings will provide opportunities for residents, business owners, and other key stakeholders to share their perspectives and contribute to the decision-making process. By fostering inclusive dialogue and collaboration, the Administration can ensure that development initiatives reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DCED is aware of several federal funding sources available to support transit-oriented development projects. Sites identified in this report and released for future RFP/Qs present the City and qualified developers with an opportunity to leverage historic amounts of federal funding. To encourage utilization of this funding, DCED would like to highlight two federal loan programs:

- US Department of Transportation – Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (“TIFIA”)
 - o TIFIA gives the USDOT up to \$70 billion in lending capacity and can be used to provide transit-oriented development projects located along or within walking distance of transit facilities. The loans offered under TIFIA can be used to finance certain predevelopment costs, construction and rehabilitation costs, and certain interest, reserve, and project carrying costs. Up to 49% of total eligible costs for a transit-oriented development project can be financed by a TIFIA loan.

- US Department of Transportation – Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing (“RRIF”)
 - o The RRIF gives the USDOT \$35 billion in revolving loan authority and can be used to finance economic development, including commercial and residential development. Eligible projects must be physically connected to or within a half mile of a transit station and must be able to demonstrate that the project can generate new revenue for the relevant transit service. Eligible costs under the loan program can include construction and rehabilitation costs, and certain interest, reserve, and project carrying costs. Up to 75% of total eligible costs for a transit-oriented development project can be financed by an RRIF loan.

NEXT STEPS

DCED will proceed with the following steps:

- Initiate the process of seeking leadership approval to pursue the issuance of RFP/Qs for select high-potential properties identified in the audit.
- Engage with stakeholders and seek public input to inform the development process.
- Evaluate proposals submitted in response to RFP/Qs and select preferred developers based on predefined criteria.
- Work closely with select developers to facilitate the implementation of approved projects and monitor progress to ensure compliance with established guidelines and standards.

CONCLUSION

The opportunities to further development along major transit corridors in Cincinnati are abundant, and with strategic planning and collaboration, the City can unlock the full potential of these sites to create vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive communities. DCED looks forward to working closely with the Council and other stakeholders to advance these initiatives and realize our shared vision for the City of Cincinnati.

Attachment A: Statement from Councilmembers Jefferys, Owens, and Harris

Attachment B: List of City-owned Properties located along Major Transit Corridors

Copy: Markiea L. Carter, Director, Department of Community & Economic Development

Attachment A – Motion 202301025

City of Cincinnati



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202301025

Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

March 27, 2023

MOTION

Surface Parking & Economic Development

To understand opportunities for further development along or near transit corridors,¹ WE MOVE that, the Administration report back to Council within ninety days (90) on:

- An audit of high-potential surface parking and vacant lots owned by the City along or near transit corridors.
- Recommendations on which among those properties should be candidates for issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop housing, retail, office space, or other development.

STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati owns multiple surface parking and vacant lots throughout the city. With Metro's historic investment in our community paired with the multi-faceted approach the City is taking to increase housing options, now is an opportune time to reimagine surface parking lots and underutilized vacant lots as a more productive use. Converting these underutilized properties into housing, office space, restaurants, or storefronts can provide more opportunities for small businesses, increase housing options, enhance community vibrancy, and decrease runoff.

Councilmember Mark Jeffreys

¹ For the purposes of this motion, "near transit corridors" should be understood as within .25 miles of any bus route.

Attachment B – List of Properties

Tier 1 Sites

Address	Neighborhood	Parking Lot/Vacant Lot	Department	Zoning	Acreage	
Site 1						
31 Garfield Place	Downtown	Parking Lot	DCED	DD	0.198	
Site 2						
Reedy/E. Court Street Police Lot	Downtown	Parking Lot	CPD/DOE	DD	1.728	
Site 3						
302-320 W. 9th Street	Downtown	Parking Lot/Vacant Building	CMO/DPS	DD	0.767	
Site 4						
Hughes & Schiller Street Properties	Over-the-Rhine/Mt. Auburn	Vacant Lot	DCED/CRC	SF-20; RM-0.7	1.926	
Site 5						
5103 Kenwood Road	Madisonville	Vacant Lot	DOE	T3N	0.211	
Site 6						
3362 Reading Road	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	RM-1.2	1.476	
Site 7						
3916 Reading Road	North Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	CN-P	1.827	
Site 8						
3614 Glenway Avenue	East Price Hill	Vacant Lot	DOE	SF-2	2.666	
3626-3634 Glenway Avenue	East Price Hill	Vacant Lot	MSD	SF-2	0.272	
Site 9						
3420-3422 Ibsen Avenue	Oakley	Vacant Lot	DOE	CG-A	0.191	
Site 10						
3521-3537 Ibsen Avenue	Oakley	Vacant Lot	DOE	RMX	0.584	
Ibsen Avenue Property	Oakley	Vacant Lot	DOE	RMX	0.463	
Site 11						
3620-3622 Madison Road	Oakley	Vacant Lot	DOE	RMX	0.193	
Site 12						
4791 Ridge Avenue	Oakley	Vacant Lot	DOE	CC-P	0.129	
Site 13						
1247 Dewey Avenue	West Price Hill	Vacant Lot	DCED	SF-2	0.126	
Site 14						
1263-1265 Dewey Avenue	West Price Hill	Vacant Lot	DCED	SF-2	0.124	
Site 15						
1125 Wells Street	East Price Hill	Vacant Lot	MSD	SF-2	0.13	
Site 16						
716 State Avenue	Lower Price Hill	Vacant Lot	DCED	CC-M	0.052	
Site 17						
719 State Avenue	Lower Price Hill	Vacant Lot	DOE	CC-M	0.268	
Site 18						
Highland Avenue Property	Mt. Auburn	Vacant Lot	Parks	SF-2	1.64	
Site 19						
Dandridge Street Property	Mt. Auburn	Vacant Lot	Parks	OL	0.502	
Site 20						
2203 Ohio Avenue	CUF	Vacant Lot	Parks	PR	0.549	
Site 21						
Lawn Avenue	Bond Hill	Vacant Lot	CRC	PR	1.757	
Site 22						
1211 Grosebeck Road	College Hill	Vacant Lot	DOE	SF-6	8.855	
1206 Grosebeck Road	College Hill	Vacant Lot	DOE	SF-6	0.876	
					Total Acreage	27.51
					Avg. Acreage	1.2504545

Tier 2 Sites

Address	Neighborhood	Parking Lot/Vacant Lot	Department	Zoning	Acreage
Site 1					
2200-2208 Loth Street	Mt. Auburn	Vacant Lot	DCED	RMX	0.296
2225-2227 Loth Street	Mt. Auburn	Vacant Lot	DCED	RMX	0.105
Site 2					
1523 Madison Road	East Walnut Hills	Parking Lot	DCED	CC-P	0.794
Site 3					
1557 Chase Avenue	Northside	Parking Lot	DCED	CC-P	0.178
4162-4166 Hamilton Avenue	Northside	Parking Lot	DCED	CC-P	0.214
Site 4					
1580-1584 West Fork Road	Northside/Mt. Airy	Vacant Lot	GCWW	SF-2	0.375
Site 5					
2951 Montana Avenue	Westwood	Parking Lot	DCED	T5MS-O	0.096
Site 6					
Queen City Avenue Property	Westwood	Parking Lot/Vacant Lot	Unknown/CRC	IR	5.859
Site 7					
2008 West Fork Road	Mt. Airy	Vacant Lot	DOTe	PR	10.151
Site 8					
2284 Montana Avenue	East Westwood	Vacant Lot	DOTe	OL	3.099
Site 9					
Mallon Avenue/Reading Road Property	Mt. Auburn	Vacant Lot	Parks	SF-2; CC-A	5.79
Site 10					
529-533 Dandridge Street	Pendleton	Vacant Lot	DOTe/DCED	RM-1.2	0.17
Site 11					
537-545 Dandridge Street	Pendleton	Vacant Lot	DOTe	RM-1.2	0.17
Site 12					
530-546 Dandridge Street	Mt. Auburn	Vacant Lot	DOTe	RM-1.2	0.28
Site 13					
23 Mulberry Street	Over-the-Rhine	Vacant Lot	DCED	RM-0.7	0.058
Site 14					
2434 Vine Street	Mount Auburn	Vacant Lot	Unknown	PR	5.186
2438 Vine Street	Mount Auburn	Vacant Lot	DOTe	CC-M	0.027
Site 15					
Reading Road	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	CC-A	0.316
Site 16					
3362 Reading Road	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DOTe	RM-1.2	0.14
Site 17					
3638 Reading Road	Avondale	Vacant Lot	CRC	RM-1.2	0.083
Site 18					
Shillito's West	Downtown	Vacant Building	DCED	DD	0.946
Total Acreage					34.333
Avg. Acreage					1.907389

Tier 3 Sites

Address	Neighborhood	Parking Lot/Vacant Lot	Department	Zoning	Acreage	
Site 1						
601-605 Race Street	Downtown	Land Only	DCED	DD	0.301	
Site 2						
Ludlow Avenue Viaduct Properties	Northside	Parking Lot/Existing Building	Health/DOTE	MG	3.73	
Site 3						
680 Evans Street	Lower Price Hill	Vacant Lot	GCWW	MG	1.86	
Site 4						
3116 Highland Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
3108 Highland Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
3106 Highland Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.014	
300 E. Martin Luther King Drive	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.095	
306 E. Martin Luther King Drive	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.134	
308 E. Martin Luther King Drive	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
310 E. Martin Luther King Drive	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
312 E. Martin Luther King	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
305 Piedmont Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
307 Piedmont Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
309 Piedmont Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
313 Piedmont Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
3107 Burnet Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.062	
3103 Burnet Avenue	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.062	
318 E. Martin Luther King Drive	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.067	
316 E. Martin Luther King Drive	Corryville	Parking Lot	Health	IR	0.061	
Site 5						
Reading Road	Avondale	Parking Lot	DCED	IR	0.035	
					Total Acreage	6.97
					Avg. Acreage	1.394

Non-Applicable Sites

Address	Neighborhood	Parking Lot/Vacant Lot	Department	Zoning	Acreage	
Site 1						
5100-5108 Whetsel Avenue	Madisonville	Vacant Lot	DCED	T5MS-O	0.406	
5910 Sierra Street	Madisonville	Vacant Lot	DCED	T3N	0.101	
5105 Whetsel Avenue	Madisonville	Parking Lot	CRC	T5MS-O	0.283	
5811-5813 Sierra Street	Madisonville	Vacant Lot	DCED	T3N	0.239	
Site 2						
800 Evans Street Properties	Lower Price Hill	Vacant Lot/Existing Building/Parking Lot	DCED/CPD	MG	3.21	
Site 3						
Reading Road	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	CC-P	0.221	
Blair Avenue	Avondale	Existing ROW	DOTE	CC-P	0.084	
Bowman Terrace	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DOTE	CC-P	0.008	
Savoy Place	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	RMX	0.044	
Savoy Place	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	RMX	0.052	
Savoy Place	Avondale	Existing ROW	DOTE	RMX	0.046	
Savoy Place	Avondale	Existing ROW	DOTE	CC-P	0.014	
3112 Savoy Place	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DOTE	RMX	0.126	
3112 Savoy Place	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	RMX	0.063	
3113 Borrman Avenue	Avondale	Vacant Lot	DCED	RMX	0.094	
					Total Acreage	4.991
					Avg. Acreage	1.663667