

GDAP subcommittee review process of PIAC submissions

The [Public Improvement Advisory Committee](#) (“PIAC”) consists of 13 persons appointed by the Kansas City, Missouri City Council (2 from each of the 6 council districts and one from the Mayor). PIAC is responsible for soliciting capital projects from residents and businesses to improve public property (park facilities, public buildings, bridges, streets/alleys, monuments/fountains, curbs/sidewalks, gutters/storm drains, street lights/signs, etc.). PIAC receives annual funding requests exceeding 5 times PIAC’s yearly capital budget. Approximately 35% of this capital budget is divided evenly among the 6 council districts. Kansas City’s greater downtown area is located in two of the districts.

Recognizing that the health of the larger Kansas City community is linked to the health and vibrancy of its greater downtown, it was the resolve of the City Council of Kansas City, Missouri to establish goals to improve and maintain greater downtown. A [Greater Downtown Area Plan](#) (“GDAP”) was adopted, establishing goals of creating a walkable downtown, doubling the population, increasing employment in downtown, and retaining and promoting the authenticity of the downtown neighborhoods in a sustainable manner. The City engaged the [Downtown Council](#) to assist in implementing the GDAP which places an emphasis on capital improvement projects that enhance the health and environment of downtown’s neighborhoods, catalyze economic development, and improve the connectivity between downtown neighborhoods and between greater downtown and the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Understanding that infrastructure and green space projects are essential in creating a vibrant downtown, and appreciating the fact that limited funds exist to plan and implement capital improvement projects, the Downtown Council formed a subcommittee (“GDAP subcommittee”) to help PIAC solicit and prioritize GDAP projects. A process was established to review and score projects located within the [GDAP boundaries](#) (encompassing 14 neighborhoods), as well as community projects which directly impact the greater downtown area. The boundaries established by the GDAP are Woodland Avenue to the East, 31st Street to the South, Stateline to the West and North Kansas City to the North.

The GDAP subcommittee assigns a score to each GDAP project based upon the extent a proposed project furthers the 5 goals of the Greater Downtown Area Plan. In addition to the 5 GDAP goals, the subcommittee also considers other contributing criteria such as the impact of the project relative to the project’s cost, whether the project advances or compliments a current or previous project, and to what extent the proposed project is leveraged with other funds or resources. GDAP projects and subcommittee internal scores are reviewed by the Downtown Council Infrastructure and Open Space committee. The committee’s recommendations are then reviewed by the GDAP Implementation committee. A list and explanation of GDAP projects supported by these committees is presented to Kansas City, Missouri PIAC representatives and City Council members for consideration. PIAC and City Council members may consider the subcommittee’s review, along with information presented at public hearings and other factors, in deciding which PIAC projects, inside and outside the GDAP, should be approved for funding.

The GDAP subcommittee coordinates its efforts with City and PIAC staff to communicate with downtown neighborhood associations in soliciting GDAP project requests. Website communications notify potential applicants that proposed public improvement projects must be submitted to PIAC prior to August 31st. Such communications will explain that projects within the greater downtown area which are submitted to PIAC will be reviewed by the GDAP subcommittee to help PIAC determine the extent a proposed greater downtown project furthers the goals set forth in the GDAP. Any support given to a GDAP project will depend upon the degree in which the submittal addresses the goals and vision of the GDAP.

The GDAP subcommittee’s review and scoring of GDAP projects is based on 7 criteria which reflect the goals of the Greater Downtown Area Plan. Given the number of projects submitted and the need to provide decision makers with an objective means of comparing projects within the GDAP, the

subcommittee will rely on information presented in the application in assigning a project score. GDAP factors that are considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

Creating a Walkable Downtown – How does the proposed project promote the goal of having walking as the primary mode of transportation? Does it encourage or compliment pedestrian activity? Does the proposed project establish or maintain pedestrian infrastructure such as sidewalks and streetscape enhancements? How does the project improve a public space to enhance the pedestrian experience? Is the project located along a major downtown or GDAP neighborhood corridor? Will the project improve access to transportation alternatives such as biking and streetcar traffic that may compliment or encourage walking?

Double the Downtown Population – How does the proposed project attract and retain residents in greater downtown? Does the project improve public education? Does it create inviting public spaces and streetscapes and encourage private investment? Will the project compliment and support future growth? Will it promote mixed income housing and account for the homeless and disadvantaged population?

Increase Employment Downtown – How does the proposed project promote downtown and leverage the unique qualities of downtown? Will the project attract new businesses by incentivizing private investment and development? Does the project create or compliment development strategies in the greater downtown neighborhoods? Does the project support or improve a core public service need?

Retain and Promote Safe, Authentic Neighborhoods – How does the proposed project maintain the safety and unique character of downtown's neighborhoods? In what manner does the project leverage the social and cultural attributes of a particular downtown neighborhood? Is the project located near a neighborhood gateway and will it generate activity downtown? Does the project improve or maintain public infrastructure or protect/rehabilitate iconic features and historic buildings? How is art incorporated into the project?

Promote Sustainability – How does the proposed project incorporate sustainable practices and enhance the social, economic and environmental attributes of greater downtown? Does it incorporate environmental design principles that reduce long term maintenance costs? Does the project use green storm water management strategies or promote greywater reuse? Does the project incorporate renewable energy sources or sustainable materials?

Project Cost Impact/ Leverage of funds – Given the money requested for a proposed project, what is the relative impact of the dollars spent on the project in achieving the GDAP goals? What are the reasonably foreseeable benefits produced by a project? Will the project provide the most "bang for the buck"? Does the project have matching or additional funds from other public or private sources and to what extent is that additional funding source dependent on securing PIAC funds? Are there any "in kind" donations or contributions being provided?

Advancement or compliment of current or previous projects – Recognizing the importance of finishing impactful projects, does the proposed projects advance or compliment current or previous projects? Can the project be divided into separate sub-projects for funding and construction purposes?