



## March 2020 Community Development Update

We want to thank everyone who has participated in conversations about the future of our community and the ways in which we can address some of our most pressing challenges. We have been adding information to our website, and hope you take some time to familiarize yourself with the city's proposals. Please use this site to get involved and provide us your feedback so we can incorporate everyone's ideas, concerns, and suggestions into ongoing discussions.

Online you can find the background of why these ideas are being proposed, such as:

1. **The series of six public budget presentations from 2019.** These presentations identified the need to create new rateables in the City, among other strategies, to address the City's looming \$2.5+ million structural deficit over the next five years. This deficit was created largely from many years of past ad-hoc capital spending without creating the proper revenue sources to support this spending. Adding new rateables will create new sources of revenue and help reduce the burden on existing taxpayers.
2. **The City's prior Settlement Agreement and Affordable Housing Plans.** Navigating the issues related to the plans cost the City's taxpayers nearly \$350,000 since 2015 in legal and professional fees. The 2018 settlement agreement obligated the City to spend millions more to condemn and buy private property, and mandated the city create overlay zones. Objections from community members regarding an overlay zone proposed at the Closson Farmstead, and various subsequent proposed replacement overlay zones, helped inform the current proposal, which minimizes impact to neighborhoods.
3. **Information about the deteriorating condition of some of the most prized historic City-owned facilities,** including itemized preliminary cost estimates for renovation and repairs. We have also included the initial needs assessments performed with city staff and contracted architect, as well as the opportunities available to meet significant present and future community needs with a purpose-built municipal building.

[You can click here to view/download the full "Background" document the City has prepared on prior conversations that have led us to this point in time.](#)

**Information from the Community Development Fair from February 1st and February 10th, You can view or download the PDF documents of:**

1. All the informational panels that were presented
2. All public feedback received
3. The FAQ Letter from Mayor Fahl
4. A sample timeline - "Where are we in the process?"

[Click here to visit the Community Development page and view or download any of the above mentioned documents.](#)

**Ways you can continue to learn more and get involved:**

Getting early feedback from the community is why the City presented plans so early in the design process. Make sure your feedback gets incorporated into the discussions by participating in one of the ways below:

1. Learn more on our website, including a proposed sample timeline
2. Signup for our email list
3. Apply to be on the Community Advisory Team (CAT)
4. Visit the Mayor's Office Hours
5. Attend City Council meetings

[Click here to visit our website and find more ways to stay updated and get involved, including applying for the CAT.](#)

And stay tuned for additional ways to get involved, including: Budget talks with the Business Administrator, and additional dates for interactive fairs.

Again - we can't thank all of the community members enough who have taken time to learn, discuss, and provide feedback. We invite you to participate in this process and look forward to working with you to help create a vision for our city's future.

*City of Lambertville*