



## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

**AGENDA DATE:** February 28, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consider adopting a resolution authorizing the City to make application to the Minnesota Dept. of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Development Partnership grant program for the GREDA Downtown Planning Project.

**PREPARED BY:** Rob Mattei, Director of Community Development

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Out of concern over declining investment and activity in the downtown, GREDA, together with the Downtown Business Association, Chamber of Commerce and others in 2006, led a community driven effort supported by a planning consultant to gather input and prepare a *Downtown Redevelopment Masterplan*.

The City Comprehensive Plan, updated in 2020, reflects the community's continued desire to strengthen the downtown as "the heart of the community". While the community has been reasonably successful in promoting and securing investment in the downtown since the *Downtown Redevelopment Masterplan* adoption, there is a strong desire to build upon those successes in light of the current state of and plans for our community, changes in the retail environment, evolving consumer preferences, and increasing mobility options.

GREDA will be seeking the services of a consultant group to lead a planning process that features active public participation to combine local knowledge and leadership with professional expertise and guidance. GREDA's intent is to provide residents, corporate citizens and new investors with a downtown plan that articulates a vision for the short and long-term improvements to the public and private realm that fosters additional investment and enhances downtown Grand Rapids as a more livable, walkable and thriving urban center.

The total budget for this planning project is \$80,000. A 20,000-grant request to the MN IRRR Development Partnership grant program will be submitted with this resolution. Also committed to the project funding is a GREDA sponsored request to the Blandin Foundation for \$40,000.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Make a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the City to make application to the Minnesota Dept. of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Development Partnership grant program for the GREDA Downtown Planning Project.