



2024 Statement of Purpose & Budget

Presented to the Executive Committee
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Approved by the Board of Directors
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BID STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1109 creates a financial tool that allows a municipality to levy a special assessment on property owners within a defined Business Improvement District (BID) upon petition of those property owners. The property owners in the BID district then use the assessment resources to maintain and enhance their business environment.

Property owners join with a municipality to create a BID in order to establish a strong organizational structure where individual concerns, as well as group goals can be addressed. Property owners maintain a direct role within the district, coordinating the use of funds from the pooled assessment, and implementing plans for the development, operation, maintenance and promotion of the BID area.

The Harbor Centre concept formed in 1990 was developed to utilize the historic strengths of the City - the lakefront, riverfront, and downtown. The concept recognizes the need for a coordinated development and marketing approach for the central part of Sheboygan. The concept coordinates and integrates public and private development, traffic and pedestrian circulation, parking, signage, lighting, and landscaping.

The Harbor Centre concept recognizes the individual identity of the downtown, riverfront, and lakefront and builds on the assets of each area. The BID is an important tool that will assist in the implementation of the Harbor Centre Master Plan, Sheboygan's Downtown Districts Plan, and any subsequent plans that impact or include the BID. Further, the BID will foster a positive image for the businesses within Harbor Centre and for the businesses within Harbor Centre and for the community as a whole. A prosperous central area (Harbor Centre) is as important as good schools, good parks, and good roads.

The BID funds will be used to support community and member-driven events and activities taking place in the district, provide streetscape beautification and enhancement, and support investments in the infrastructure and functionality of the district.

BID BENEFICIARIES

The BID program is designed so that it benefits all business interests within the district.

RETAILERS: Money generated through the BID assessment is used to support programs that enhance the business climate in the Harbor Centre.

A comprehensive support program reinforces the existing promotional programs and supports members in creating new programs. Retailers benefit from promotions, traffic and a feeling of vitality created in the central area.

Retail establishments located in the Harbor Centre benefit from the improvements to the physical environment made possible through the organization of the BID. The overall effect of an attractive, clean, active district reflects positively on the businesses and improves each customer's experience.

SERVICES PROVIDERS: Service providers benefit from the proposed promotional activities as some of these events enhance the service industry as well.

Service providers located in the Harbor Centre benefit from the improvements to the physical environment made possible through the organization of the BID. The overall effect of an attractive, clean, active district reflects positively on the businesses and improves each customer's experience.

INDUSTRIAL FIRMS: Industrial firms located in the Harbor Centre benefit from the improvements to the physical environment made possible through the organization of the BID. The overall effect of an attractive, clean, active business reflects positively on a corporate image.

In addition, BID promotional events will provide a source of recreation and entertainment for employees before and after work and during lunch breaks.

PROPERTY OWNERS: Property owners benefit from the BID. Promotional and design programs increase the vitality in the area which, in turn, results in increased property values. Programs that bring increased interest and traffic to the area that are created and supported by the BID impact owners of vacant properties by increasing desirability of the district and exposing the public to available properties.

BID BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will manage the Business Improvement District. The Board will meet on a regular basis and will establish an executive committee to oversee the day-to-day activities of the BID. The Board will implement the operating plan and prepare annual reports on the district. The Board will also conduct an annual review and make necessary changes.

The Board shall consist of 12 members in size for two year staggered terms and are composed of five business agents, representing owners of commercial businesses in the district; six property owners, one at large member and one government member, representing the City of Sheboygan, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council of the City of Sheboygan.

Board members should be representative of different areas within the district, including representation from a mix of business types. In addition, the Board may choose to have non-voting members representing co-beneficial partner organizations such as the Visit Sheboygan and Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation.

BID GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **MARKETING.** The BID will continue marketing efforts through social media, promotional assistance for key events, and the creation of promotional assets (i.e. destination itineraries, maps, photography). These elements will assist with marketing the BID to Sheboygan residents and visitors throughout the year.
2. **EVENTS.** The BID will support key, collaborative, seasonal events to assist with coordination. Coordination includes working with BID business and other resources such as the City of Sheboygan Department of Public Works to plan for and execute events. Opportunities to connect with or expand existing events will be explored to leverage foot traffic and impact throughout the BID.
3. **COMMUNICATION.** The BID will continue creating transparent operations and communication with BID members to expand awareness, increase member engagement, and improve two-way communication between BID members and the Board of Directors and its committees.
4. **PARTNERSHIPS.** The BID aims to create synergy and efficiency through the enhancement of mutually beneficial connections with key local organizations, such as Visit Sheboygan, the City of Sheboygan, the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce, Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation and others. These partnerships will help maximize resources, support the efficiency and effectiveness of these organizations, and will connect BID members to external opportunities to learn and grow.
5. **PLACEMAKING.** The BID will work to create a beautiful and enticing business district through supporting infrastructure and beautification efforts, and continuing to develop plans to improve the physical appearance and connectivity of the BID. Placemaking efforts will increase vibrancy by creating a welcoming atmosphere that connects locals and visitors to the BID.
6. **ADVOCACY.** The BID will connect with members to identify opportunities for processes or policies (e.g. outdoor seating). The BID will advocate for its members with partners such as the City of Sheboygan to advance or implement these processes or policies. Accountability will be part of committee and Board meetings to ensure progress.

BID SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AND EXEMPTIONS

The activities proposed in this operating plan will be funded through annual special assessments. Assessments to meet the BID budget will be levied against each property within the district based on its most recent assessed value. Those properties which are used for commercial purposes and those used exclusively for manufacturing will be eligible for assessment.

The proposed BID assessment is \$2.78 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The property owners on leased City land will be assessed on the basis of the assessed value of their improvements on the property. In addition, the following minimums and maximums will apply

- a.) BID fee would be a minimum of \$250.00
- b.) BID fee would be a maximum of \$8,000.00

Real property used exclusively for residential purposes will not be assessed as required by Wisconsin Statute 66.1109. Properties which are exempt for paying property taxes such as public utilities, non-profit organizations, religious institutions, and governmental bodies are also exempt from the special assessment.

BID OPERATING BUDGET

January - December 2024		
Income		
Income	Special Assessments	\$180,000
Total Income		\$180,000
Expenses		
Operations	Staff; Rent; Accounting; Website; Printing	\$72,000
Event/Marketing Support	Event Marketing; General Marketing; Social media; Promotions	\$42,000
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	\$1,000
Major District Investments/ Enhancements	Major District Projects; Summer Decorations; Winter Decorations	\$65,000
Total Expenses		\$180,000