

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is a BID?**

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a specifically designated area established by a majority agreement of property owners as a special tax assessment district. It authorizes a levy on property tax and an additional assessment on occupational tax certificates.

Georgia Main Street program has strongly recommended that Downtown Washington diversify their contractual program revenues beyond the City's General Fund, and the District stakeholders have shown a desire to fund downtown services above and beyond what the City provides.

### **Who manages the BID?**

The Downtown Development Authority would be the fiscal agent and administrator of the BID. The DDA is legally obligated to reinvest any revenue generated from the Business Improvement District back into downtown via design, economic vitality, and promotions activities. The DDA cannot use BID funds for operating expenses or salaries, or to otherwise replace program budget allocated by the City general fund. Furthermore, the DDA ensures compliance with the BID management plan as originally approved.

### **Which properties are part of the BID?**

All properties zoned Commercial within the downtown district are part of the BID. See attached map of the district.

### **Why is the BID important for my business or property?**

BID funds help downtown by providing a source of special project funding over and above what the city will support.

BID monies fund beautification and specialized maintenance activities. They provide advertising and promotional funds to attract people to downtown by way of activities and events. They support the installation of new infrastructure. They also fund a 50./50 matching façade and signage grant, designed to spur reinvestment in downtown properties, and available to any property within the BID district.

### **Will the BID raise my taxes?**

The proposed BID would levy an additional 4 mills of tax on all contributing commercially zoned properties in the district. Additional collections on most properties would be around \$240 per year. That's an additional \$20 per month on the typical tax bill. See assessed value spreadsheet for details.

The BID raises nearly \$34.053 per year to support downtown. Everyone benefits, and everyone pays.

### **How are assessments collected?**

Assessments are collected through property tax bills and occupational tax certificates.

### **How are BID funds used?**

One hundred percent of the funds collected go towards improvements and enhancements of the Downtown Business District. BID funds are administered by the DDA and will be allocated in the following manner:

Infrastructure, beautification, promotions, design improvements.....	85%
Administrative reserve.....	15%

**How long does BID last?**

The collection period will be from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2035