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TO: Chairman, John Zebrowski & Commissioners
FROM: Himanshu Shah, Executive Director
DATE: November 14th, 2024
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

1. SAMS Registration for FTA Grant

The registration process for the System for Award Management (SAMS) has been successfully completed as part of the ongoing application for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant. As far as we are aware, all required documentation, including financial statements and compliance certifications, has now been submitted to the FTA. We are currently awaiting their review and the subsequent processing of our application. We anticipate receiving updates from the FTA in the coming months and will keep the team informed of any progress.

2. Riverton Project Update

Significant progress continues at the Riverton site, with the construction of the Bass Pro Shop advancing on schedule. Foundational work is on going and vertical construction has begun. Additionally, Chick-fil-A and QuikChek are expected to submit their permit applications to the Borough in the near future. This marks an important step forward as these developments are key components of the overall project, contributing to the site's retail mix and customer draw.

3. Arsenal/Hercules Project Update

There is a Resolution recommending to the Borough Council, amendments to the Hercules Redevelopment Plan included in tonight's meeting. The amendments focus on designating the "Red Roadway Route" as the connection between Cheesequake Road and Jerneemill Road. This amendment is a critical element of the overall redevelopment of the site and aims to enhance traffic flow and accessibility in the area. Discussions have involved coordination with multiple stakeholders, from Hercules, Trammel Crowe, and SERA and they have reached consensus with these amendments.

4. Brownfield Redevelopment Area (BDA) Update

The scheduled meeting to discuss the ongoing initiatives within the Brownfield Redevelopment Area (BDA) has been postponed to December due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts among key stakeholders. Despite this delay, all necessary documentation and preparatory materials have been compiled, ensuring that we can proceed efficiently once the new meeting date is confirmed. This upcoming session will be pivotal in finalizing plans for site remediation and redevelopment strategies moving forward.

5. GIS System Update

SERA has requested CME do an update to the Borough Geographic Information System (GIS) to include additional data layers and information. To facilitate ongoing access and utilization of this upgraded system, SERA will be acquiring three user licenses. This investment will allow key team members to fully leverage the GIS capabilities for project analysis and decision-making.

6. Area in Need of Redevelopment Update

The recommendations for the Sunshine Biscuit Site to be studied as a possible Area in Need of Redevelopment by the Planning Board, as approved by the SERA Commissioners, have been finalized and are set to be presented to the Planning Board. The presentation is scheduled for the Planning Board's first meeting in January. Additionally, on tonight's agenda is a resolution to amend the previous recommendation to the Planning Board that the mini mall area on Route 9 and Ernston Road be studied as a possible Area in Need of Redevelopment, to also include 3 parcels across Ernston Road. This adjustment will support our strategic development initiatives, aimed at revitalizing key sections of the Borough.