



Declarations of Cooperation

Introduction:

In an effort to curb the decline and deterioration of the Uptown neighborhood, the City of Pittsburgh, along with a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the corridor, has launched a collaborative effort to revitalize Uptown while applying the EcoDistricts Approach to district-scale development. Additionally, this project will focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, catering to the goal of creating an EcoInnovation District within the corridor. EcoDistricts are considered a new model of public and private partnership emphasizing innovation through sustainability, economic viability, and ecological sensitivity. Through the cooperation of the various stakeholders defined below, Uptown will transform from its deteriorated state into a state of the art model for neighborhood development, leading the way for future neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and the world.

Brief Description of the EcoInnovation District:

The Uptown EcoInnovation District is a community committed to advancing sustainability by targeting eight performance areas: community identity, health and well-being, habitat and ecosystem, access and mobility, appropriate development, energy, water, and materials management. Uptown is a place where people come together to set goals, define projects, engage in collaborative efforts, and raise the bar for sustainable practices that are mutually beneficial to residents, businesses and visitors.

Background:

The Uptown neighborhood of Pittsburgh presents unique conditions that serve to simultaneously inspire and frustrate those who see its true potential. While strategically located between the economically vibrant Downtown and Oakland areas (and across the river from the thriving South Side), the neighborhood has seen levels of disinvestment and deterioration that are not befitting such a well-connected neighborhood.

Commitments:

The commitments represented below form a public statement of intent to participate in the project, to strive to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to collaborate with

other team members in promoting the success of the project. All team members acknowledge that the best solutions depend upon cooperation by all entities at the table. Accordingly, they recognize that each party has a unique perspective and contribution to make, and legitimate interests that need to be taken into account for the project's success. They also recognize that continued collaboration is necessary to achieve that success and have therefore agreed to create and maintain a self-governing collaborative structure that will ensure the project's completion and fulfillment of ongoing support needs.

This Declaration of Cooperation, while not a binding legal contract, is evidence to and a statement of the good faith and commitment of the undersigned parties. The undersigned parties to this Declaration of Cooperation have, through a collaborative process, agreed and pledged their cooperation to the findings and actions listed under their names:

StartUptown:

StartUptown's mission is to connect people, programs and place to create an equitable community of residents, workers and entrepreneurs. Our vision is for the EcoInnovation District to become a vibrant neighborhood providing economic opportunity for all.

StartUptown actively participated with the community to define the vision for the Uptown EcoInnovation District plan. We enthusiastically support the Uptown EcoInnovation District plan and are eager to participate in the implementation of the plan. We want to be the voice for equitable economic development in the district.

Much of StartUptown's current activities are envisioned in the plan. For example, we currently provide flexible workspace for startups and freelancers. We aggressively recruit new businesses to locate/relocate in the corridor. We have hosted Urban Innovation 21 activities designed to connect disadvantaged youth to the innovation economy. StartUptown has and will continue to seek to collaborate with a wide range of partners in the district including: Uptown Partners, Duquesne University, Remake Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Urban Innovation 21, and McAuley Ministries. The range of projects and programs that StartUptown coordinates and supports will evolve over time.

StartUptown is explicitly committing to adopt the following 4 action items from the Uptown EcoInnovation District plan:

1. Connect startups with flexible workspaces to meet their needs
2. Invite disadvantaged youth to participate in the innovation economy
3. Create an annual West Oakland/Uptown job fair with local businesses
4. Attract new retail and commercial tenants

All of us at StartUptown are eager to get to work on implementing the plan with all the community partners.

C. Tad Hale
Executive Director

Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh:

Uptown Partners is a community-based organization of residents, institutions and business owners-- working together to build a vibrant, resilient and just Uptown neighborhood.

We achieve our goals through an action plan that ensures a clean, safe, green environment while pursuing equitable neighborhood development; rebuilding a mixed-income population by reclaiming vacant, blighted properties and encouraging new residential housing opportunities, supporting existing residents through advocacy and resource linkages; attracting new neighborhood retail and innovative entrepreneurship opportunities, while supporting existing business owners; fostering green, quality design in all development projects; and creating a healthy environment where the arts flourish and are integrated into the urban landscape. A key role throughout, is a commitment to the neighborhood to provide robust outreach and inclusive engagement in all matters affecting the community. All stated goals are embraced in the EcoInnovation District plan, determined by a robust and transparent community-driven process.

Specific Listing of EcoInnovation District action items to support the EcoInnovation District

- Oversee and manage the Uptown EcoInnovation District (EID), setting baseline metrics where appropriate and partnering with stakeholders to identify and achieve target goals,
- Work with the City and URA to coordinate acquisition of key tax-delinquent properties that advance EID goals, and ensure a healthy balance of affordable housing,
- Create a Housing Advocate position to bolster residential security for vulnerable Uptown homeowners and renters as the market evolves,
- Expand institutional partnerships to advance EID performance areas of health, mobility, business development, and infrastructure improvements that serve all,
- Partner with our adjacent neighbors, especially West Oakland and the Hill District to strengthen shared geography for quality of life enhancements, economic development opportunities, storm water management and transit,
- Support innovation partners such as StartUptown and Made Right Here to achieve their goals of providing opportunities to attract innovative businesses into Uptown workspaces, and provide outreach to our underserved population to bolster financial security through job training and entrepreneurship,
- Collaborate with environmental organizations to advance critical green initiatives.

Jeanne McNutt
Executive Director

The remainder of the declarations are in the form of letters from each partner organization.

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 26, 2017

Mr. Ray Gastil, Director
Department of City Planning
City of Pittsburgh
200 Ross Street, Fourth Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE: Uptown EcoInnovation District
Declaration of Cooperation

Dear Mr. Gastil:

Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) commends the City of Pittsburgh on the completion of its Uptown EcoInnovation District (EID) planning process. It was our pleasure to serve as a stakeholder in this groundbreaking effort to create a plan for Uptown and West Oakland that addresses the needs of existing residents, focuses on healing and restoring the natural environment, and sets the stage for new jobs and opportunities.

ACED's primary role in the planning process was to support the City's and County's efforts to implement a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project along the corridor extending from Downtown Pittsburgh through the Uptown, Oakland, and East End neighborhoods. The EID process has been instrumental in obtaining residents' and stakeholders' input regarding preferred BRT alignments, street treatments, and amenities. In addition, it has provided the forum for exploring and evaluating a variety of funding mechanisms for components of the BRT project, including value capture from a transit revitalization district.

With the conclusion of the EcoInnovation District planning process, it is an excellent time to re-pledge our cooperation on the implementation of its many BRT, mobility, and economic development recommendations. The plan will be invaluable as the City and its partners pursue these important initiatives. ACED is excited by the prospects of long-range benefits that will be realized for Uptown and West Oakland residents and visitors.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Hurley
Director

AO/mac



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Uptown Eco-Innovation Partners:

Eco-Innovation District Partner: Duquesne University

Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit is a Catholic university founded by members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, the Spiritans, and sustained through a partnership of laity and religious.

Duquesne serves God by serving students through:

- Commitment to excellence in liberal and professional education
- Profound concern for moral and spiritual values
- Maintaining an ecumenical atmosphere open to diversity
- Service to the Church, the community, the nation, and the world
- Attentiveness to global concerns

The mission of Duquesne University calls for service of others by persons with consciences sensitive to the needs of society. Service exists at the core of the University's Catholic and Spiritan identity. The spirit of service manifests itself in a variety of academic and co-curricular activities. The majority of our students, as well as a large segment of our faculty and staff, are involved in community engagement and service, making Duquesne a leader among American universities in its commitment to serving its community.

Specific listing of Eco-Innovation District relevant action items to support the Eco-Innovation District:

- Duquesne University will be the convener/venue for the group of district stakeholders (Eco-Innovation District Task Force) that is charged with coordinating different initiatives and driving strategies forward.
- Through Duquesne's Center for Engaged Teaching and Research, Duquesne will create a robust partnership between the University and adjacent neighborhoods by exploring the possibility of:
 - Creating a sustainability hub that would serve as a portal facilitating engagement between communities and the University.
 - Establishing a Center for Community Health and Well-Being that would coordinate existing University efforts under one platform to improve community health.
 - Developing "University-Community Alliances" that allow community stakeholders and university partners to form and nurture mutually beneficial relationships.

Represented By:

Mary Ellen Solomon

Assistant Vice President for Executive Affairs

7/7/17
Date



DAVID I. DONAHOE
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Direct Phone: 412.566.5186
Direct Fax: 412.566.5111

June 5, 2017

Mr. Derek Dauphin, Senior Planner
Department of City Planning
City of Pittsburgh
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Re: Uptown EcoInnovation District

Dear Mr. Dauphin:

The commitment represented below outlines Port Authority of Allegheny County's intent to participate in the implementation of the Uptown EcoInnovation District (EID) project, to strive to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to collaborate with other team members in promoting the success of the project. Port Authority acknowledges that the best solutions depend upon cooperation by all entities at the table. Accordingly, it recognizes that each party has a unique perspective and contribution to make, and legitimate interests that need to be taken into account for the project's success. It also recognizes that continued collaboration is necessary to achieve that success and has therefore agreed to create and maintain a self-governing collaborative structure that will ensure the project's completion and fulfillment of ongoing support needs.

Its participation in the Uptown EID Declaration of Cooperation is a statement of the good faith and commitment of the Port Authority to support the following findings and actions:

Port Authority of Allegheny County delivers outstanding transportation services that connect people to life. It does this by improving the quality of transit service and engaging new riders, increasing the efficiency of the system, and stabilizing funding to allow for needed capital investment and plan for expansion.

As a member of the Uptown EID core team and a planning partner of the prospective BRT project, Port Authority is committed to the success of the EID, and transit and transit-oriented development as critical components of future growth in Uptown. Port Authority will support the EID through the following action items:

- Continue dialogue with planning partners (i.e. Uptown Partners, City Planning, etc.) to ensure that transit is considered an integral part of community planning in the EID and that transit service is responsive to community and public needs.
- Uphold the development of transit-rider-supportive infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.) in the EID, especially to improve safety and encourage new users.

- Participate in planning and policy formation to facilitate high-quality transit-oriented development in the EID.
- Strive to apply EID goals to Port Authority operations within the EID where possible.

Port Authority looks forward to continuing to be a partner on this effort. Any questions or concerns regarding this letter or future efforts should be directed to Breen Masciotra, TOD Project Manager.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Donahoe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David L. Donahoe
Interim Chief Executive Officer

/dmw

Derek Dauphin, Senior Planner
City of Pittsburgh
Department of City Planning
200 Ross St, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

August 3, 2017

RE: EcoDistrict Support for the Pittsburgh Uptown Ecolnnovation District

Dear Mr. Dauphin,

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) is writing to express our support for the Uptown Ecolnnovation District (EID). The Uptown EID aligns with the Green First goals of the PWSA as they relate to innovative, green stormwater infrastructure. The PWSA City-Wide Green First Plan identifies a strategic approach to managing our combined sewer overflows (CSOs) while offering ancillary benefits including localized street flooding reductions and increased opportunities to enhance the public realm.

The Uptown EID initiative is located in the M-05 and M-19 sewersheds, as defined by the points of connection to the interceptor sewers leading to the ALCOSAN treatment plant. The M-19 sewershed is one of PWSA's top 6 priority sewersheds for green infrastructure implementation; it contributes 146 MG of CSO in a typical year. The City-Wide Green First plan outlines a way to maximize triple bottom line benefits associated with required infrastructure investments. These goals align with ongoing community planning efforts of the Uptown EID to integrate green stormwater infrastructure with transportation infrastructure investments and use site specific projects as catalysts for stormwater control at the neighborhood level.

PWSA actions specifically supporting the EcoDistrict include:

- helping to update District Zoning to encourage the implementation of green stormwater infrastructure on new development and redevelopment sites,
- working with EID to develop plans for a stormwater park at MLK Field, and
- working with EID to develop plans for the Tustin Shared Street Green Infrastructure Project.

The Tustin Street and MLK Field green infrastructure projects are both located in the M-19 sewershed. The EID's stormwater collection goal is to capture runoff from at least 27 impervious acres along the Uptown and West Oakland corridor. The Tustin Street and MLK Field projects will collectively manage 19.4 impervious acres, helping support PWSA's goal of managing 65.5 impervious acres in the M-19 sewershed.

PWSA looks forward to working together with our Uptown EcoInnovation District partners to achieve these stormwater management goals.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Weimar, PE, BCEE
Interim Executive Director
Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
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200 Ross Street
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June 20, 2017

Ray Gastil, Director
Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA, 15219

RE: Uptown EcoInnovation District

Dear Mr. ~~Gastil~~: *Ray*

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is pleased to submit this letter sharing our support of the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning's Uptown EcoInnovation District (EID) plan.

The EID is a critical component to advance the City's efforts to improve quality of life for Uptown's residents and businesses at the neighborhood level. Although strategically located between the economically vibrant Downtown and Oakland areas, Uptown has experienced decades of deterioration, abandonment and severe declines in property values. Implementing the vision and goals of the Uptown EID is anticipated to be a catalyst for new, equitable, and sustainable development in the neighborhood. The EID also addresses locally-identified environmental issues such as improving air quality, reducing stormwater runoff, and adopting sustainable energy solutions for Uptown. The plan also provided a forum for Uptown residents to participate in the vision-planning process for their neighborhood, empowering the community to take control of its future.

The URA acted as a partner during the EID planning and drafting process. Throughout the process, the URA remained in contact with City of Pittsburgh staff, community organizations, and local non-profits regarding the plan and proposed outcomes. The final deliverables reflect an exciting prospect that can potentially have long-range benefits for the Uptown neighborhood and the city as a whole.

On behalf of the URA, I would like to express support for the Uptown EID, and a commitment to achieving the overarching goals of the document. We look forward to working with City Planning and Uptown residents in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert Rubinstein
Executive Director