



Innovation Districts (Municipal Service Districts)



Posted 09/25/2014
Last Revised 12/31/2014

Timeline

2014 OCTOBER 14
Public Hearing on proposal at City Council meeting

2014 SEPTEMBER 15
Letters mailed to potentially impacted property owners

2014 WINTER/SUMMER
City staff developed proposal and reports

2013 JUNE
Council requests preparation of reports on implementation of Municipal Service Districts.

What's happening now?

After an October 14 public hearing, City Council approved the designation of three new Municipal Service/Innovation Districts. This brings the number of designated districts to four, including the Central Business District which was adopted in 2012. Significant planning, engineering, and design work has already been done for projects in the River Arts District (RAD) and a team is being organized to guide progress on work in this Innovation District. Preliminary design of projects in the South Slope Innovation District is anticipated to begin in 2015. More information on funding strategies for the Innovation Districts will be available as part of the City's budget process starting in March 2015.

Why it's happening

In June 2013, Asheville City Council developed an economic and community development strategy that would allow for significant infrastructure improvements in the city. Three areas were identified that could benefit from this strategy by providing support for redevelopment opportunities: **South Slope Extension, the River Arts District, and the Charlotte Street Corridor**. In order to ensure that those opportunities are realized, the City is planning to invest in urban area revitalization projects, street and sidewalk improvements, drainage projects, and off-street parking facilities within the boundaries of these designated areas. The establishment of these areas as municipal service districts, known locally as Innovation Districts, will allow the City to utilize Special Obligation Bonds to fund improvements. The collateral for this type of bond comes from revenue or taxes that are not levied by the City, such as sales taxes.

Supporting documents

[MSD Report Charlotte Street Corridor](#)
[Map of proposed Charlotte Street Corridor MSD](#)

[MSD Report South Slope](#)
[Map of proposed South Slope Area MSD](#)

[MSD Report River Arts District](#)
[Map of proposed River Arts District MSD](#)

Comments about the Innovation Districts may be submitted to:

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