



# Downtown Durham Blueprint 2035

## Information Session

9/19/23 1:00 PM

### INTRODUCTION

Downtown Durham, Inc. was founded in 1993. In 2000, the organization completed a master plan, and has revamped it twice since then. DDI decided it was time to develop a new plan and look at where we are currently, as well as challenges and opportunities. We are looking for a robust community engagement process, taking into consideration that Durham is going through several planning processes.

### SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

**Q** - Has a budget for the project been established?

**A** - No more than \$300,000

**Q** - Will the information/Q&A session be hosted virtually?

**A** - Virtually only.

**Q** - What is the relationship of DDI, the City and Durham County, and how will these entities work together if/when during the adoption process?

**A**- DDI is the lead on this, with support from the city and County. City and County Managers serve on the Blueprint steering committee and will provide insight, input, and feedback during steering committee meetings. The final document will be presented to the city and county and approved as official planning documents by each.

**Q** - Does DDI have a minimum DBE percentage requirement?

**A** – No.

**Q** - In reviewing the RFP, it is clear what the boundaries for downtown Durham are but there is quite a bit of conversation around Hayti. Should there be a tie-in beyond Highway 147 that takes into consideration the Hayti community?

**A** - The downtown Durham district is the map we provided, but we are interested in exploring beyond the boundaries, looking at those connections that expand the boundary.

**Q** - Are there other neighborhoods that are of particular focus as we design an approach?

**A** - The Hayti community is the most obvious. Work is beginning on how to connect. Hayti used to be a part of the downtown but was disconnected as part of urban renewal. There are residential neighborhoods to the north and east of the downtown, and to the west is Duke East Campus. We can explore what that looks like - where we would ask for the consultant to reach into the communities.

**Q** - Will you share the list of people who were sent the proposal?

**A** - No, but we can share the contact information for anyone on the call who would like to connect. \*

**Q** - Speak to the depth that is expected around transportation. Is a specialist needed? How deep are you looking to go?

**A** - This will give us guidance on the things we need to dive into. There are significant challenges like Hayti and the downtown loop. The consultant can identify and give guidance as to how we can be a safe, walkable community. The expectation is the document would lead to other studies that would delve further into how we meet those challenges. This becomes a living document that we would continue to bring this forward each year with the steering committee.

**Q** - What degree of upward engagement are you assuming would be necessary?

**A** - We were intentional about having the city and county managers on the steering committee. We expect to meet with the steering committee regularly, likely quarterly. There will be a final presentation to the city and county. They are funders, so should they ask for more frequency, we would accommodate.

**Q** - Are you anticipating their [city and county] vote?

**A** - Yes. And DDI will keep them updated during the process.

**Q** - The advisory board is the one body you are presenting to regularly? How are you interfacing with them?

**A** - The city and county are strong partners. My assumption is that presentations would be made to the steering committee and probably DDI's board of directors. The consultant will be interfacing with the steering committee and DDI staff.

\* Firms who are interested in providing their contact information to be shared with other firms may email Anna Branly at [anna@downtowndurham.com](mailto:anna@downtowndurham.com)