



Expression of Interest Feedback Report

Applicant Organization: **Town of Winchendon**

Document ID: **EXP-FY22-Winchendon-Winchendon-00122**

Submission Date: **3/31/2021**

Thank you for submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Community One Stop for Growth. We are excited to partner with you in the pursuit of opportunities to achieve economic growth for your organization and/or community.

Your submission has been reviewed by the One Stop Team, which includes representatives from EOHED, DHCD, MassDevelopment, and other state partner agencies as deemed necessary. This report summarizes the team's collective review of your EOI, and provides feedback and comments intended to assist you in the decision, and preparation, to submit your Full Application(s) for consideration in the current funding round.

ECONOMIC GROWTH GOALS: In Section 2 of the EOI, the applicant was asked to outline its overall economic growth goals and efforts to date. The following comments are related to this section.

- The goals outlined for economic growth are well-stated. These will be important to highlight in the Full Application(s). Please note that these responses will be auto-filled into the Full Application(s), and there will be an opportunity to update and further elaborate on them.
- The information provided in this section includes goals and ideas that may evolve into interesting projects that the applicant may want to submit for consideration in the future. The team looks forward to seeing such applications when you are ready to pursue these opportunities.
- In terms of economic development and housing best practices, the team commends the community for using a wide range of tools/strategies to support and advance its economic development goals.

PRIORITY PROJECTS: The following feedback is on the specific projects submitted in Section 3 of the EOI, which provided the applicant an opportunity to outline up to five (5) priority project and/or initiative ideas.

- **Railroad Street Water Line Project:**
 - Based on the description, the team confirms that this project is eligible and would fit in the Infrastructure category.
 - However, the project should be only submitted in the Infrastructure category if/when it is ready to leverage and support imminent private development. Without specific housing, commercial, and/or mixed-use development and economic impact this project is not likely to be successful in a Full Application.

- Carefully review the guidelines for the [MassWorks Infrastructure Program](#) for details about how this type of application would be evaluated.
 - To be competitive in the Infrastructure category, the project will need to be advanced in design and permitting, in addition to identifying a leveraged private development that is imminent. The Full Application will require details about shovel readiness, scope of construction work, timeline, etc., for both the public infrastructure projects and the specific private development.
 - Finally, if submitted in a Full Application, this project would get a second look from the Rural and Small Town Development Fund grant program. See the “Overall Note on Projects” section for additional information.
- **Whitney Pond Dam Repairs Project:**
 - Unfortunately, this project is not eligible for any of the funding sources currently available in the One Stop.
- **Blair Sq. Redesign Project:**
 - Based on the description, the team confirms that this project is eligible and would fit in the Predevelopment and Permitting and may also fit in the Infrastructure category in the future.
 - However, please note that grant funding in these categories is meant to support an applicant’s efforts to bring new private development that will result in direct economic impact/benefits to the community.
 - Carefully review the guidelines for the [MassWorks Infrastructure Program](#) for details about how this type of application would be evaluated. The applicant should consider updating its traffic data to be included in the application.
 - This application, if submitted in the Full Application would get a second look from the [Rural and Small Town Development Fund](#) program, see details in “Overall Notes on Project” section of this Feedback Report for detail.
- **Winchendon Water Supply Study Project:**
 - Unfortunately, as described, this project would not be a fit in the selected category.
 - However, given that this community is designated as a Small Town and/or Rural Community, it is eligible to submit this project in the “Special Project” category in the Full Application. Carefully review the guidelines for the [Rural and Small Town Development Fund](#) for details about how this type of project would be evaluated. See the “Overall Note on Projects” section for additional information.
- **Zoning Rewrite Assistance Project:**
 - Based on the description, the team confirms that this project is eligible and would fit in the Planning and Zoning category.

- Carefully review the guidelines for the [Community Planning Grants](#) for information on how this type of project would be evaluated.
- In the Full Application, the focus should be on the implementation and scope of this project. Specifically, outlining the intended goals over the next fiscal year. The application should be for a discrete project, and the maximum award in this category is \$75,000. Include any matching funds that can be contributed to this process.
- **Referral:** The team encourages the applicant to explore the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs through [Planning and Assistance Grants](#), as it may be able to support components of your project.
- **Overall Notes on Projects:**
 - The municipality qualifies for the [Special Project in a Small Town or Rural Community](#) category in the One Stop. As such, the town is eligible to submit a project(s), which may not clearly fit in the continuum, for special consideration. Please see the [Notice of Funding Availability](#) for details. Nevertheless, small/rural towns are encouraged to submit their projects in any of the appropriate categories where it may fit and will also receive priority consideration.

The One Stop Team will notify the agencies about any referrals. However, a referral does not give the project any special consideration or guarantee of funding from these other sources. It will be up to the applicant to follow up with the referenced resource(s) and to comply with the required guidelines and process for any programs outside of the One Stop.

In conclusion, the guidance provided above is intended to help a prospective applicant decide if they will submit a Full Application(s) to the One Stop and to provide guidance for how to strengthen such submission(s). This advice is not meant as a promise or guarantee that an application will be successful. Eligible applicants are expected to review and adhere to the posted guidelines for the programs in the corresponding categories in which they plan to submit. All applications will be reviewed and/or scored on a competitive basis.

If you need clarification and/or have questions about this feedback, you may request a meeting with a member of the One-Stop team by emailing onestop@mass.gov. Please note in the Subject line: “Expression of Interest Meeting Request”.

The Full Application is currently available. You may start to draft/save it at any time. However, please note that applications can only be submitted between May 3, 2021 and June 4, 2021.