

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Attleboro Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business advocacy and economic development organization. It has a diverse membership base of 700 businesses – primarily small and medium size - in the Greater Attleboro Area. The Chamber has developed the following position statement in response to the recent proposal by the Attleboro Redevelopment Authority for the redevelopment of Downtown Attleboro. This policy position is intended to serve as guidelines for the Chamber's Government Affairs efforts and has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Chamber.

September 19, 2006

The Attleboro Area Chamber of Commerce encourages and supports both governmental and private economic initiatives to attract business and improve the quality of life in the Greater Attleboro Area. To this extent, the Chamber supports the redevelopment of downtown Attleboro with the goal of developing an attractive and people-friendly “urban village” that serves as both a residential hamlet and regional center for business, financial institutions, law, government, cultural and educational institutions. The Chamber applauds the Mayor of Attleboro, Attleboro City Council, Attleboro Redevelopment Authority, as well as federal and state officials for their long-range “smart-growth” planning strategies and for their strong community vision for downtown Attleboro.

The Chamber specifically supports and encourages the following aspects of the Downtown Development Plan:

- Development of an intermodal transportation center, incorporating a new parking garage, commuter rail, and GATRA bus terminal.
- Modifications of zoning requirements in the downtown business district that will encourage private investment, the rehabilitation of downtown buildings, and mixed-use development.
- Creation of new public green spaces that will enhance the quality of life in the area.
- Improvements to the physical infrastructure in Downtown Attleboro to support development and create a pleasant environment where people will want to shop, live, work, and eat. This includes streetscape improvements, increased public parking, promotion of the arts and cultural facilities in the downtown, and public signage improvements.
- Redevelopment of the brownfield site on Pearl Street and the expansion of the Cookson Precious Metals manufacturing facility.
- Traffic improvements that will improve safety, alleviate traffic congestion, improve downtown circulation, and enhance access to transit.

The Chamber encourages the City of Attleboro to adopt a final plan that balances the many financial needs of the city, does not place any unreasonable financial burden on local businesses, continues to solicit input from the local business community, and which does not constitute a “taking” of private property without just compensation under the U.S. Constitution.

While this statement is policy as of the effective date of this document, the Chamber reserves the right to adopt changes and make modifications and additions to its policies, and will continue to monitor legislation and issues as they develop. Please contact Jack Lank, President at (508) 222-0801 with any questions regarding this policy position.