

# TIF REPORT: VEPC RESPONSE

The purpose of tax increment financing districts is to provide revenues for improvements that serve the district and related costs, which will stimulate development or redevelopment within the district, provide for employment opportunities, improve and broaden the tax base, or enhance the general economic vitality of the municipality, the region, or the State.

# VERMONT TIF PROCESS



## VERMONT TIF LOCATION CRITERIA 2 OF 3:

Compact,  
high density, or  
in existing industrial area

Approved growth center  
Designated downtown  
Designated village center  
New town center  
Neighborhood  
development area

Economically distressed:  
80% of median income  
1% > unemployment  
80% of residential sales  
price

# VERMONT TIF PROJECT CRITERIA

## 3 OF 5:

Compact,  
High density, or  
in existing industrial area

Approved growth center  
Designated downtown  
Designated village center  
New town center  
Neighborhood  
development area

Economically distressed:  
80% of median income  
1% > unemployment  
80% of residential sales  
price

clearly requires  
substantial  
public  
investment

at least one  
new or  
expanded  
business within  
the district

includes new or  
rehabilitated  
affordable  
housing

enhanced  
transportation  
flow or  
improved public  
transit

remediation and  
redevelopment  
of a brownfield

# VERMONT TIF ADDITIONAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

infrastructure  
nexus

increment  
proportionality

financial &  
market viability

statutory  
purpose

but-for

Approved growth center

Com  
High de  
in existing in

ally distressed:  
median income  
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remediation and  
redevelopment  
of a brownfield

infrastructure  
nexus

increment  
proportionality

financial &  
market viability

statutory  
purpose

but-for

## VERMONT TIF CRITERIA: BENNINGTON

Compact,  
High density, or  
in existing industrial area

Approved growth center  
Designated downtown  
Designated village center  
New town center  
Neighborhood  
development area

Economically distressed:  
80% of median income  
1% > unemployment  
80% of residential sales  
price

clearly requires  
substantial  
public  
investment

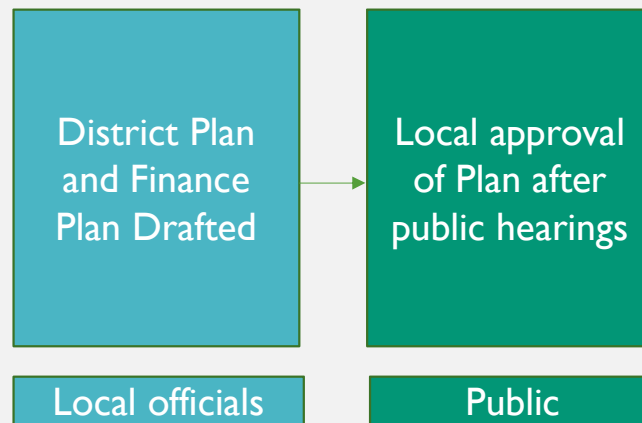
at least one  
new or  
expanded  
business within  
the district

includes new or  
rehabilitated  
affordable  
housing

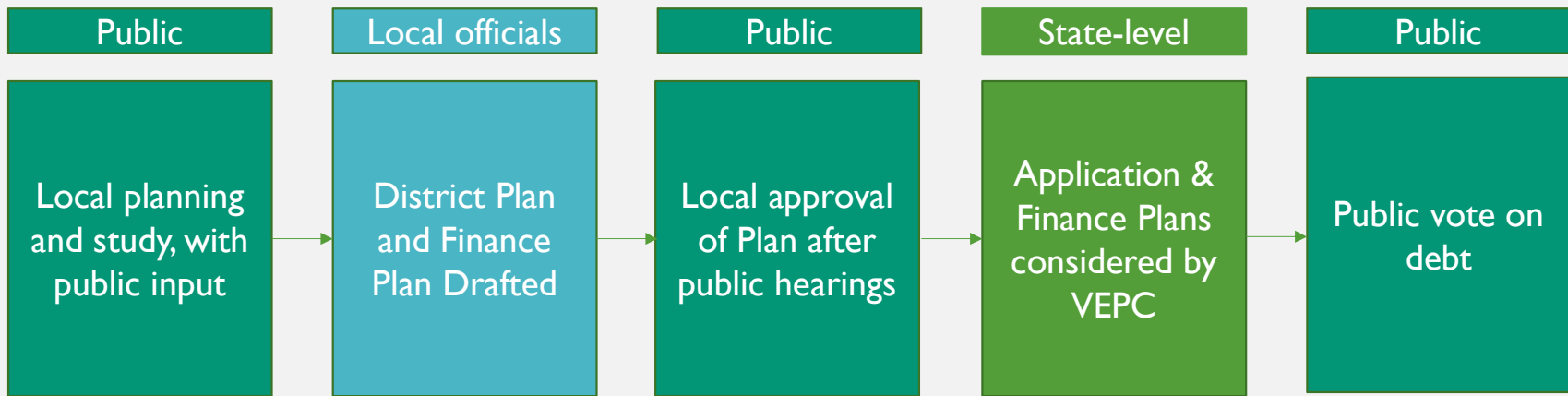
Enhanced  
transportation  
flow or  
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remediation and  
redevelopment  
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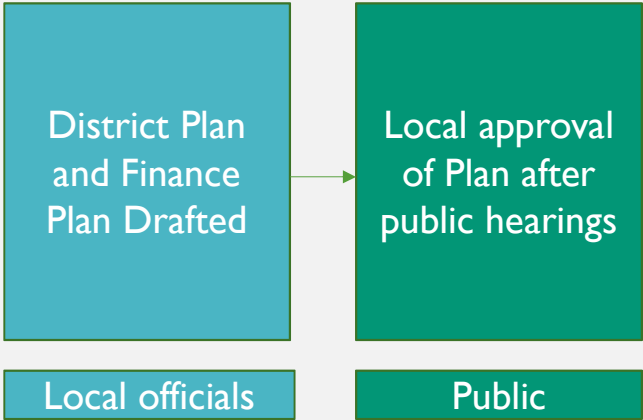
# ILLINOIS TIF PROCESS







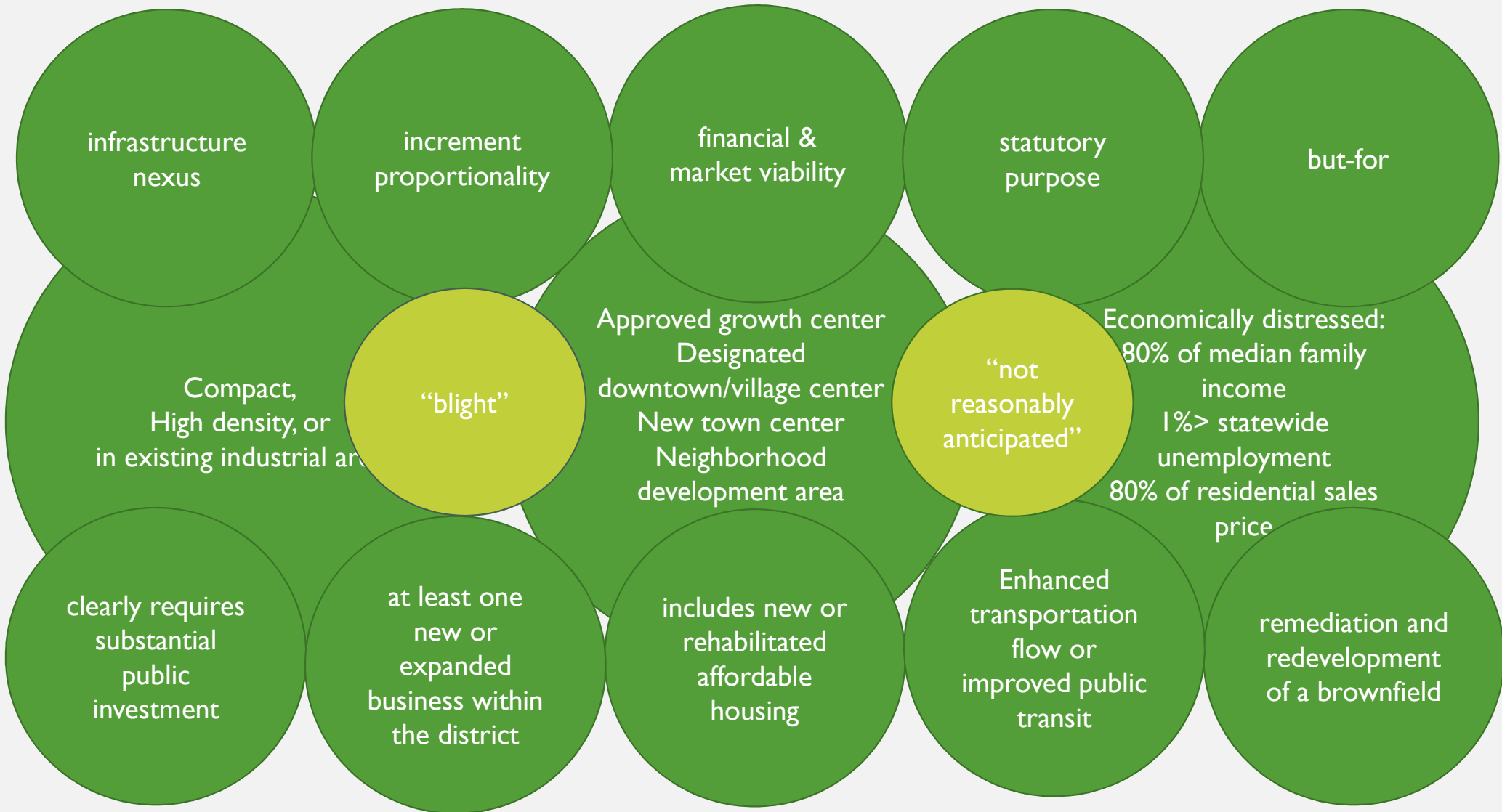
## TIF PROCESS COMPARISON

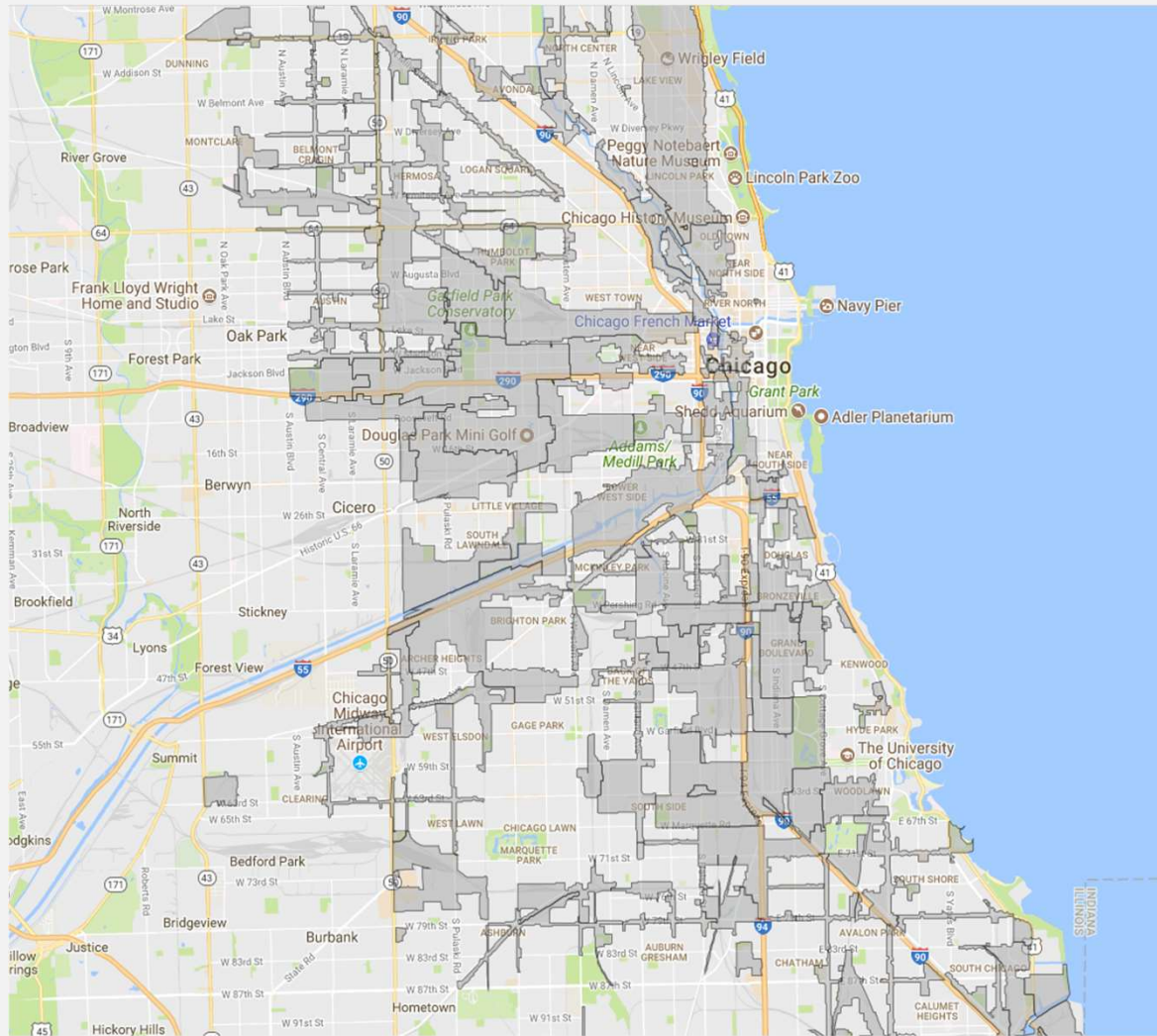


## ILLINOIS TIF APPROVAL CRITERIA

“blight”

“not  
reasonably  
anticipated”



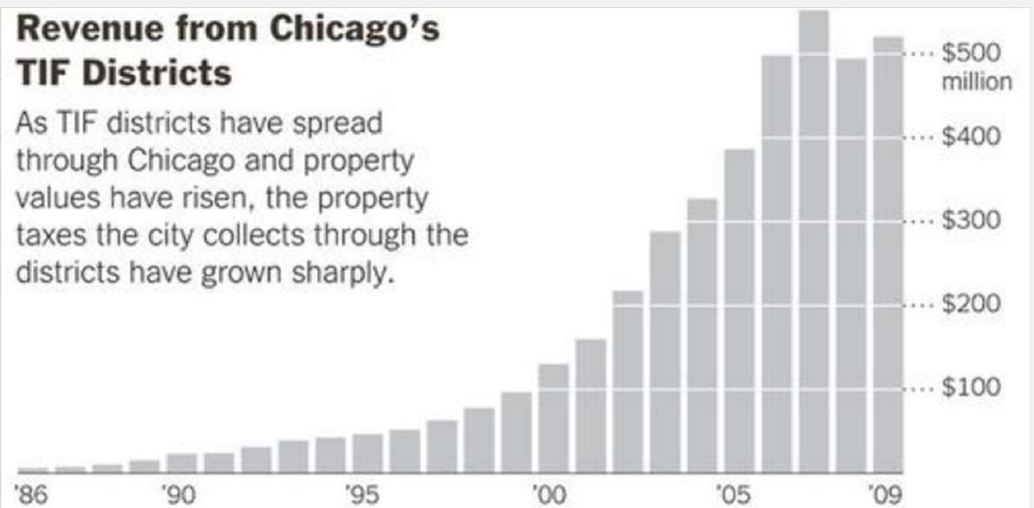


# PRIVATE BENEFICIARIES OF TIF IN CHICAGO

- Hyatt Hotel -\$5,200,000
- K-Mart -\$3,700,000
- Quaker Oats -\$13,000,000
- Sears -\$13,700,000
- United Airlines -\$32,000,000
- Sara Lee -\$5,000,000
- Wrigley -\$15,000,000
- Home Depot -\$8,000,000
- Keebler – \$2,000,000
- Jewel/Osco – \$9,600,000
- Target -\$9,900,000
- UPS – \$11,300,000

## Revenue from Chicago's TIF Districts

As TIF districts have spread through Chicago and property values have risen, the property taxes the city collects through the districts have grown sharply.



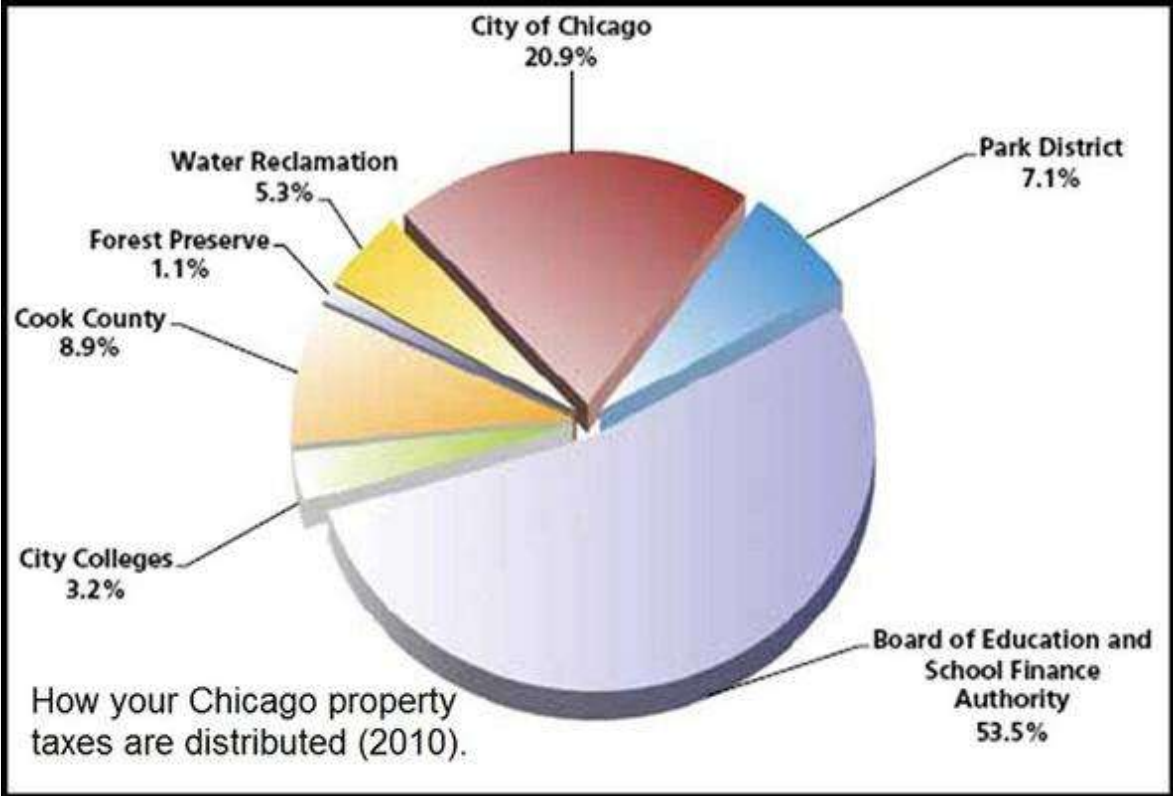
## How dollars were spent

About half of the \$1.69 billion of TIF program revenues the city spent between 2002 and late 2010 went to infrastructure and public facilities.



Sources: Cook County Clerk; CNC analysis; Chicago Department of Finance

CHICAGO NEWS COOPERATIVE



## CHICAGO NAVY PIER

\$55 million used for “redeveloping” high-rent,  
least blighted area of city

TIF funds had been raised through a collecting  
increment on a hotel project at McCormick  
Place





## STATE OF TIF THEORY, CIRCA 2006

### OBSERVED TIF PROBLEMS

- At best, moves money around (“demand substitution”); at worst, takes money from challenged areas to fund sprawl or private developments
- Used by communities to raise or spend revenue for any purpose, causing proliferation
- Used by communities to compete against each other or shelter revenue from state

### UNDERLYING CAUSES

- Perverse incentives to drive revenue up or protect revenue
- Local governments self-certify with no external, disinterested check
- Vague policy goals



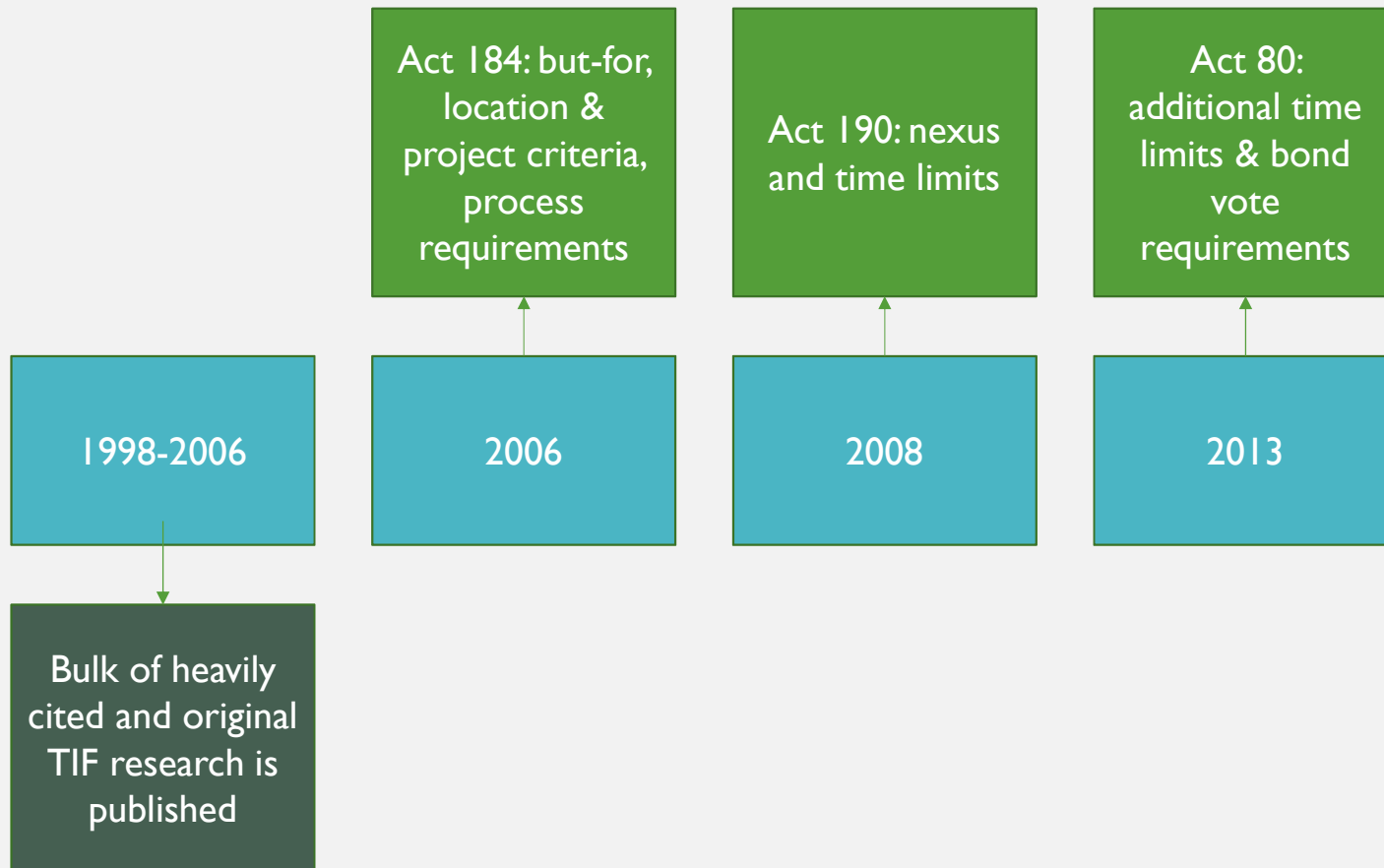
# VERMONT SOLUTIONS

## TIF BEST PRACTICES

- TIF should be temporary and fixed (both in time and geographically)
- A 'but-for' requirement should be instituted
- Financing plans should be required
- Strict use criteria for TIF
- Public hearings and public votes

## VERMONT SOLUTIONS, 2006-2013

- 20 year limit, 10 year borrowing period, 5 year automatic sunset
- But-for requirement, with VEPC review
- Financing plans required
- Strict location and project criteria
- Public hearings and public votes



Chicago uses TIF to spend money on anything City Hall wants

Chicago uses TIF to shelter revenue from other intended recipients

TIFs proliferate in Chicago and Illinois

Academic study of Illinois concludes that "Targeted areas gain from TIF at the expense of non-target areas"

Academic study of Illinois concludes that TIF does not result in growth

Advocacy group cites on academic finding to recommend policy best practices

Vermont adopts recommended best practices

JFO relies on academic finding to create model assuming demand substitution

JFO relies on academic finding to reach conclusions discounting growth from TIF

<b>Table A2: Historical Growth Rates of Vermont's Grand List</b>			
	<b>Average Annual Growth Rate Over The Past...</b>		
	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>	<b>20 Years</b>
<b>Addison</b>	0.1%	3.6%	4.3%
<b>Bennington</b>	-1.7%	1.9%	3.5%
<b>Caledonia</b>	-0.4%	3.5%	3.6%
<b>Chittenden</b>	1.9%	3.6%	4.7%
<b>Essex</b>	-1.7%	2.7%	2.6%
<b>Franklin</b>	1.3%	3.4%	4.3%
<b>Grand Isle</b>	-0.4%	3.5%	4.8%
<b>Lamoille</b>	-1.0%	3.1%	5.1%
<b>Orange</b>	-0.7%	2.9%	3.7%
<b>Orleans</b>	0.6%	4.3%	4.6%
<b>Rutland</b>	-2.5%	1.5%	2.9%
<b>Washington</b>	0.2%	3.4%	4.3%
<b>Windham</b>	-0.1%	2.4%	3.1%
<b>Windsor</b>	-1.6%	1.8%	4.1%
<b>Statewide Average</b>	-0.1%	2.9%	4.0%

Source: Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review Annual Reports

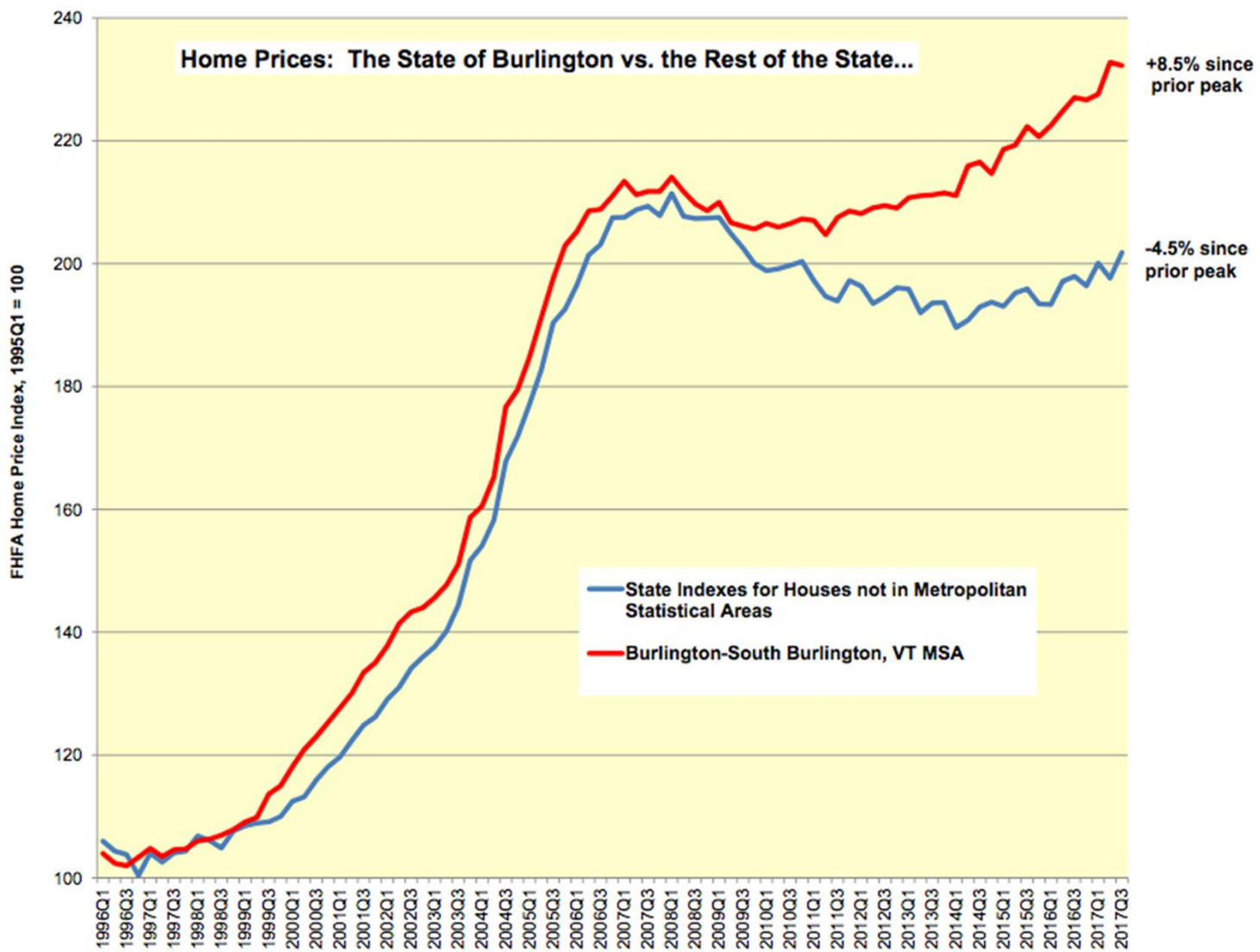
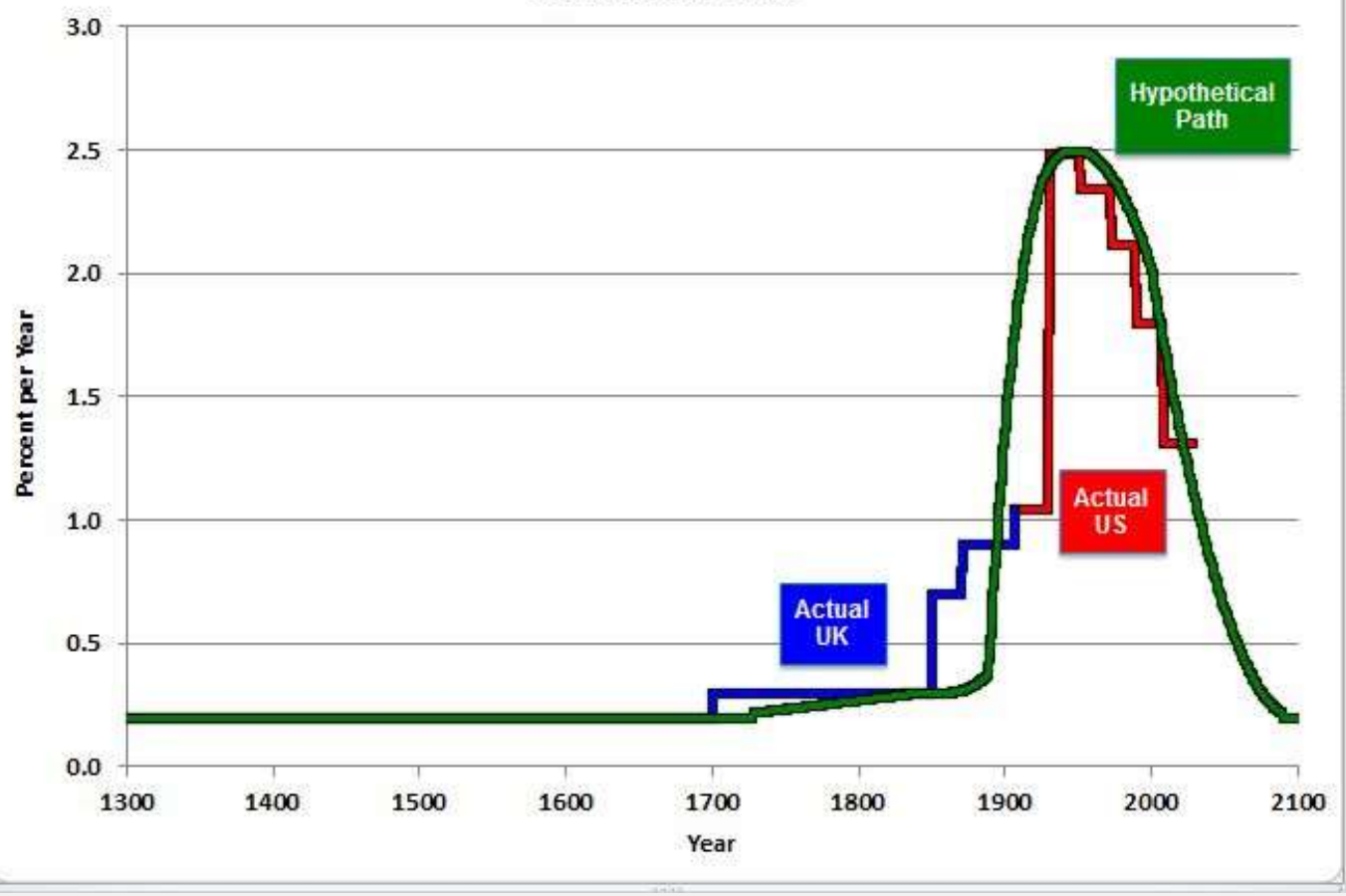


Figure 2: Growth in Real GDP per Capita, 1300-2100, with Actual and Hypothetical Paths



<b>Table 10: Comparisons of TIF District Revenue Sources, as of end-2016</b>							
	<b>Barre</b>	<b>Burlington Waterfront</b>	<b>Hartford</b>	<b>Milton North South</b>	<b>Milton Town Core</b>	<b>St. Albans</b>	<b>Winooski</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$3,196,859	\$24,942,271	\$286,885	\$534,157	\$1,240,065	\$2,239,799	\$83,275,710
<b>of which: TIF Revenue</b>	\$313,299	\$22,231,913	\$48,938	\$529,549	\$1,240,065	\$1,464,589	\$11,707,609
<b>of which: Non-TIF Revenue</b>	\$2,883,560	\$2,710,358	\$237,947	\$4,608	0	\$775,210	\$71,568,101
<b>Percentage Non-TIF Revenue</b>	90.20%	10.87%	82.94%	0.86%	0.00%	34.61%	85.94%
<b>Percentage TIF Revenue</b>	9.80%	89.13%	17.06%	99.14%	100.00%	65.39%	14.06%

Note: Data for South Burlington and Downtown were unavailable

Source: Individual TIF district annual reports

## 24 V.S.A. § 1892

(f) The report shall include:

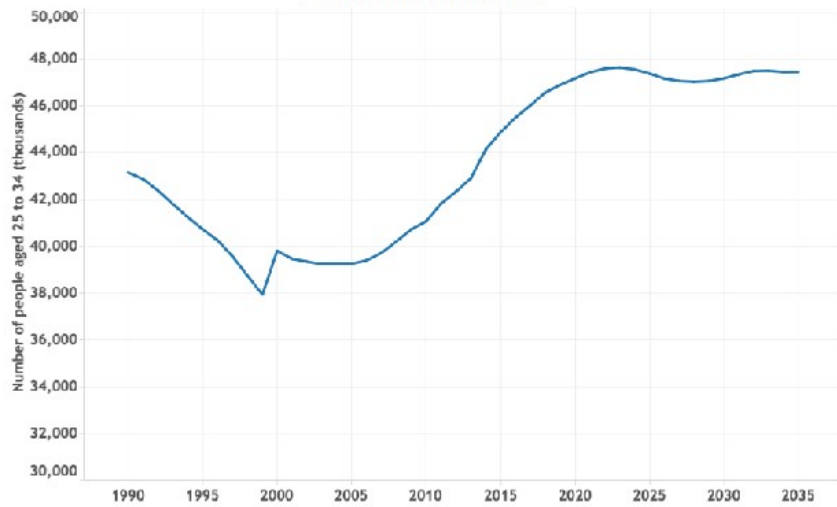
- (1) a recommendation for a sustainable statewide capacity level for TIFs or comparable economic development tools and relevant permitting criteria;
- (2) the positive and negative impacts on the State's fiscal health of TIFs and other tools, including the General Fund and Education Fund;
- (3) the economic development impacts on the State of TIFs and other tools, both positive and negative;
- (4) the mechanics for ensuring geographic diversity of TIFs or other tools throughout the State; and
- (5) the parameters of TIFs and other tools in other states.



**Table 11: Alternative Downtown Infrastructure Development Tools**

<b>Financing Tool</b>	<b>What is it?</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>U.S. Examples</b>
<b>Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS)</b>	Multiple development projects submitted by citizens via request for proposals. Funded by a limited term sales tax increase.	Projects are funded without debt and are citizen-driven.	State restrictions on sales tax uses	Oklahoma City
<b>Tax Credits or Abatements</b>	Exemptions on local or state taxes for development.	Versatile and varied. Can be used for many types of projects	Companies may divest once the credits end. Discontent over preferential treatment. Difficult to evaluate	Washington D.C. Baton Rouge, LA Tucson, AZ
<b>Business Improvement Districts (BID)</b>	Property owners in a specific area vote to initiate and manage supplemental services via a common area based on an assessment formula	Citizen-driven. Has been shown to increase property values in New York City	Smaller BIDs are unlikely to make a major impact on overall economic development in a city	Philadelphia New York City Denver Madison, WI San Diego
<b>Public Private Partnerships (PPP)</b>	Contractual agreement between public agency and a private partner to support construction, development, ongoing operations and/or maintenance of a public asset or function	Potential reduction in operating or construction costs. Can be used for many types of public projects or functions	Some PPPs can be complex and require constant monitoring	30 states have some form of PPP legislation. However, more than half of all PPP projects have occurred in only 8 states
<b>Revolving Loan Funds (RLF)</b>	Provides at or below market rate financing to fund projects in downtown areas or for specific developments	Provides competitive interest rates and flexible terms versus conventional lending. Lowers overall risk for other participating partners.	Loans must be able to generate enough of a return to replenish the fund. Requires an initial amount of capital.	Georgia: Downtown Development RLF Minneapolis, Two Percent RLF
<b>Gap Financing</b>	Funds that fill a gap in traditional funding for business, entrepreneurial or commercial real estate development projects.	Flexible; many types of development projects/costs are eligible. Reduces overall risk for other development partners	Gaps in financing may be large. Incentive for other partners to reduce their funding share.	Florida Municipal Loan Council
<b>Infrastructure Bank</b>	Assists public and private entities in the construction or redevelopment of transit facilities	Low rate, fixed-term loans at favorable terms.	Has not yet been fully proven as an effective tool for municipalities	Chicago
<b>Targeted matching grants</b>	State provides a matching grant to the municipality for use in building infrastructure.	State has a clear understanding of the cost of the program.	Subject to an annual appropriation, which could change with government priorities. May favor towns with higher capacity to complete grant applications.	

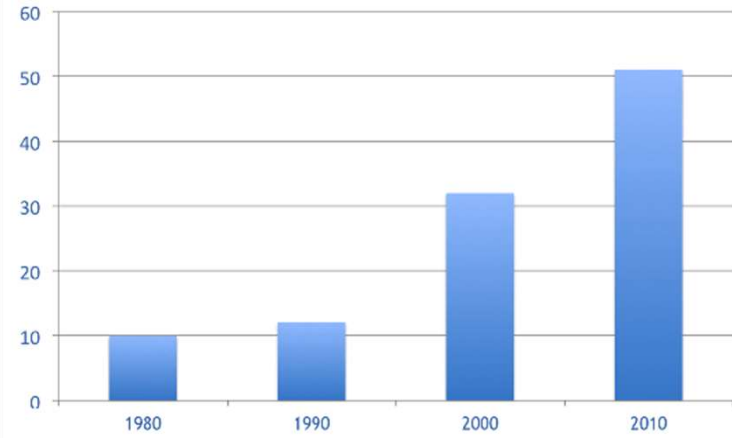
### Plateau: Millennial



Source: US Census

CityObservatory

### Relative preferences of 25-34 year-olds for close-in neighborhoods



CityObservatory