

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

**By Gordon**

**Creating an Innovation District Designation.**

Whereas, a number of currently underdeveloped areas in Minneapolis are expected to redevelop as integrated, coordinated districts; and

Whereas, some redevelopment areas will benefit from a district approach to characteristics including but not limited to stormwater, energy, parking, place making, green space, and marketing; and

Whereas, some district systems, including but not limited to energy, parking, stormwater management, and waste management, will benefit from innovative approaches not commonly used in standalone development; and

Whereas, some redevelopment areas will only achieve their maximum potential - the number and quality of jobs, housing units, tax base increase, and more - with a district approach and with the active participation of the City of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, some redevelopment areas have or will form stakeholder collaborations, including property owners, developers, nearby residents and businesses, government, nonprofits, academia, and major institutions, which will help organize development and manage district systems long term; and

Whereas, the redevelopment of districts is often prompted by infrastructure improvements such as transit and streets; and

Whereas, high technology startups and similar businesses benefit from proximity to each other and to major academic institutions; and

Whereas, a district approach to redevelopment is likely to increase the quality and integration of design; and

Whereas, areas near major institutions such as the University of Minnesota stand to benefit from synergistic development; and

Whereas, some redevelopment areas may involve multiple jurisdictions, including but not limited to Hennepin County, the City of Saint Paul, and other neighboring cities; and

Whereas, "Innovation Districts" have been created in more than 80 cities around the world for the purposes of job and housing development;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis will identify and designate Innovation Districts in appropriate redevelopment areas. An Innovation District is an economic development tool that utilizes partnerships with higher education institutions, businesses, and government to fuel job growth and redevelopment in targeted locations, based on the premise that collaboration and productivity result from proximity and therefore job creation and innovation can be fostered through the intentional clustering of businesses, institutions, ideas, and people. This designation can be used for the purposes of planning, fundraising, and marketing and potentially for innovative pilot projects and district systems.

To be appropriate for an Innovation District designation, a redevelopment area should incorporate some or all of the following characteristics:

- Size of 50 acres or larger;
- District approach to systems such as energy, stormwater management, parking, and green space;
- Connected to nearby major institutions;
- Expected mix of housing, employment, and support services;
- Multiple governmental jurisdictions;
- Significant potential benefit to district approach over the existing conditions and what market forces alone would likely deliver;
- Adopted City redevelopment plans;
- Existing formal collaborations pushing to create the district; and
- Possibility of benefitting from regional and state investments and programs.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis will consider investments and partnerships related to Innovation Districts including but not limited to:

- Appropriate City staff participation in planning, organizing, strategizing for, and implementing the area's redevelopment;
- Investments at City standard level in basic infrastructure through the Capital Improvement Plan, with the understanding that this may leverage other sources of funding for more innovative elements of public realm and district systems;
- Technical analysis on a case by case basis in relation to staff workloads and financial commitments, with the understanding that any staff resources or financial commitments that are more than incidental will be brought to the City Council for consideration;
- Support for funding for redevelopment opportunities including housing, business development, infrastructure, and greenspace, particularly those that provide or support affordable housing and/or job creation;
- Communication about the opportunities in this area to a broader audience to attract input, support, and investment;
- Support for using available City funding mechanisms;

- Willingness to change City policies and practices to allow for experimentation and innovation consistent with City goals and the expressed priorities of the district, with the understanding that any specific regulatory or policy changes will be brought to the City Council for consideration; and
- Collaboration with other units of government as needed and appropriate.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis will develop a definition of Innovation Districts to include in the City's Comprehensive Plan update.