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MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Yovani Baez-Rose, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

CC: Camilo Espitia, Deputy Director DPD - Ali Carter, Economic Development Director

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL – Cambodia Town TDI

The City of Lowell’s Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is pleased to announce that the City of Lowell has been selected by MassDevelopment to receive a new Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) district designation in Cambodia Town, located within the Lower Highlands neighborhood of Lowell. The three-year TDI program will provide the district with a dedicated TDI Fellow, as well as coordinated technical assistance, grant funding, and strategic support aimed at accelerating economic development and advancing neighborhood revitalization efforts.

During the partnership, the TDI initiative will unite local organizations and businesses around a shared revitalization strategy focused on coordinated marketing, infrastructure upgrades, improved walkability, small business support, stronger connections to Gallagher Terminal and the Hamilton Canal Innovation District, and investments that celebrate Cambodia Town’s cultural identity.

The success of the application and development initiative is tied to the outstanding partnering with stakeholders that are committed to the area, including Cambodia Mutual Assistance Association, Lowell Community Health Center, The Lowell Plan, Boys and Girls Club, Cambodia Town Lowell Inc. and Mosaic of Lowell.

These efforts complement ongoing public investments in the area, including improvements to Clemente Park and traffic-calming and roadway realignment measures at the intersection of Branch and Middlesex Streets. Collectively, these initiatives are expected to enhance safety, accessibility, and overall quality of life for neighborhood residents.

The new designation builds upon the success of the Acre TDI district, which was designated by MassDevelopment in 2022 to promote community investment, strengthen the local business network, and catalyze economic activity along the Upper Merrimack Street corridor.

With its strong cultural heritage, demonstrated commercial demand, and a series of catalytic public investments already underway, Cambodia Town is well positioned to leverage the TDI designation to advance inclusive and sustainable economic growth.