

**PRESS RELEASE**

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

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**City Moving Forward with Selection of Master Plan Consultant**

Portsmouth has taken the next step forward in updating the City's Master Plan by moving ahead with its consultant selection process. In response to a recent Request for Qualifications, twelve consultant teams submitted information about their firms for the City's consideration. This week, the selection committee, comprised of City staff and Planning Board representatives, met to determine which of the twelve teams had the best qualifications to do the work. Four consultant teams have now been asked to submit full proposals. The lead firms for the four consultant teams are Taintor & Associates, Inc. of Newburyport, MA, Urban Strategies, Inc. of Toronto, Daylor Consulting Group, Inc. of Braintree, MA, and The Cecil Group, Inc. of Boston, MA.

Later this month, City staff and Planning Board members will meet with the four consultant teams to answer any questions they may have and provide them with information regarding current City projects. Following this, the four consultants will be asked to submit full proposals for consideration, and some or all of the firms will be interviewed by the selection committee. The City plans to have a consultant team on board, and work on the Master Plan underway by the end of the year. Development of the new Master Plan is expected to be a two-year process, with significant opportunities for input from residents, businesses, local organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Community master plans, which are the responsibility of the Planning Board, serve as important policy guides for municipalities. Portsmouth's Master Plan will be a key document in making sound local decisions about future development, transportation infrastructure needs, environmental protection and community facilities. The current Master Plan was developed in the early 1990s.