



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Indianapolis Seeks Developer for Whistler Plaza Improvements at Historic City Market

August 15, 2025

Indianapolis, IN – Today, the City of Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) issued a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) to identify a qualified developer to lead improvements to Whistler Plaza.

Earlier this year, DMD unveiled a conceptual plan for a revitalized Whistler Plaza. The proposed improvements aim to transform the plaza into a unique and welcoming public space in the heart of downtown Indianapolis by enhancing the experience for residents, visitors, and workers alike. The design envisions the exposure of the historic catacombs, preserved archways, new plantings, an observation deck with railing, hardscaped seating areas, and accessibility enhancements.

"Our approach is grounded in preserving what's special about City Market while making bold moves to meet today's economic realities," said DMD Director Megan Vukusich. "This RFQ/P reflects our commitment to working with a developer who can help us realize the vision for Whistler Plaza and do so in partnership with surrounding redevelopment efforts."

Improvements to Whistler Plaza represent a key component of Phase 1 of the broader City Market redevelopment effort. The Indianapolis City Market closed operations on March 1, 2024, due to redevelopment and operational challenges, but the site remains a key foundational element of Downtown Indianapolis and the City's [Downtown Resiliency Strategy](#).

The long-term goal is to reposition the City Market campus, including Whistler Plaza and the surrounding block, for success and sustainability. The new design of the plaza will capitalize on the site's unique historic features and prime location along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Once the project enters Phase 2, efforts will focus on the selection of a market operator. The updated design and future business model for the market house will be reviewed and approved by the City Market Corporation before any redevelopment work begins.

The City previously issued an RFP in 2022, which resulted in a design scoping agreement but not a final public-private partnership for the City Market redevelopment. With this new RFQ/P, the City is seeking a Build Operate Transfer Developer to take the project from vision to reality. The City intends to execute a new public-private agreement by early 2026, with a goal of completing construction by Q1 2028. A revised construction timeline will be finalized in collaboration with the selected developer.

Whistler Plaza improvements will be coordinated with other major projects on the block, including the Gold Building office conversion, emphasizing the City's continued support for transformative mixed-use redevelopment downtown.

For more information about the RFQ/P or to view the concept design, visit [this website](#).

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CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Metropolitan Development works to shape the city's identity by strengthening people and places, building upon our history, and fostering visionary development. The DMD team envisions Indianapolis as a growing, vibrant, and beautiful city where people and businesses thrive in an inclusive, world-class community.

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