My name is Allan Walker. Thank you for receiving my comments and for your time advising and governing the use of TIF investments in accordance with the Adopted Rules.

I would like to confirm that I am a local business owner within the Downtown Burlington TIF district. I am also submitting these comments as a resident, homeowner, and parent with children entering our public school system.

My concern is not specific to this project alone, but to the precedent that may be set if a district is permitted to treat increment of investment earnings as discretionary or “found” funds, rather than as restricted revenues that would otherwise flow to the statewide Education Fund.

Under Rules 801 and 718, debt and related expenditures must be authorized for specific purposes as warned to the voters. The voter notice did not include the traffic-mitigation expenditure, nor the grant-matching.

As presented, this request seeks approval for a preferred (not necessary) non-capital expenditure that was chosen despite the existence of a viable, voter-approved, no-cost option that would have allowed the project to proceed as originally planned. As I read the Adopted Rules, they were written specifically to prevent this type of use of increment or investment earnings.

I appreciate the time of both VEPC and the ACCD attorney in investigating and considering my comments.

Thank you.