

PRESENTATION TO
TOWN OF CANTON, MASSACHUSETTS

District Improvement Financing
("DIF")

An Infrastructure Bond Financing Program

November 5, 2014



UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc.

Program Overview

- MGL Chapter 40Q “District Improvement Financing” was passed in 2003 and amended in 2011 and 2012.
- Municipality sets a District and agrees to use new incremental property taxes to fund the public infrastructure for the District.
- If borrowing for improvements, Municipality issues debt to be supported by incremental taxes from new growth that would not happen without infrastructure investment.
- Bonds issued by Municipality should be General Obligation backed by the full faith and credit of the Municipality for stronger credit rating and lower interest rates.
- Commonwealth approval no longer required.



What Types of Public Infrastructure can be Funded?

- Roadways and intersections.
- Water & waste water facilities and related lines.
- Transportation facilities such as train stations, bus depots, etc.
- Seawalls, docks, wharves, bridges, culverts, tunnels.
- Streetscape, sidewalks, electric lines, street lights.
- Parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities.
- Parking garages.
- Brownfield mitigation.
- Soft and financing costs.

Infrastructure can be in or, in support of, the District. It must be owned or conveyed to a public entity to be eligible.



DIF Process

- Standard Process

- Municipality sets District , holds local public hearings and obtains local approvals. Requires Town meeting approval.

- District approval has 2 parts; a setting of baseline assessments and a financing plan.

- Municipality can set a District without the financing plan if a municipality wishes to obtain recognition of a district to set the tax level. If borrowing, a financial plan can be approved at the same time or subsequently.

- Borrowing for financing will require Town meeting approval by 2/3rds vote.

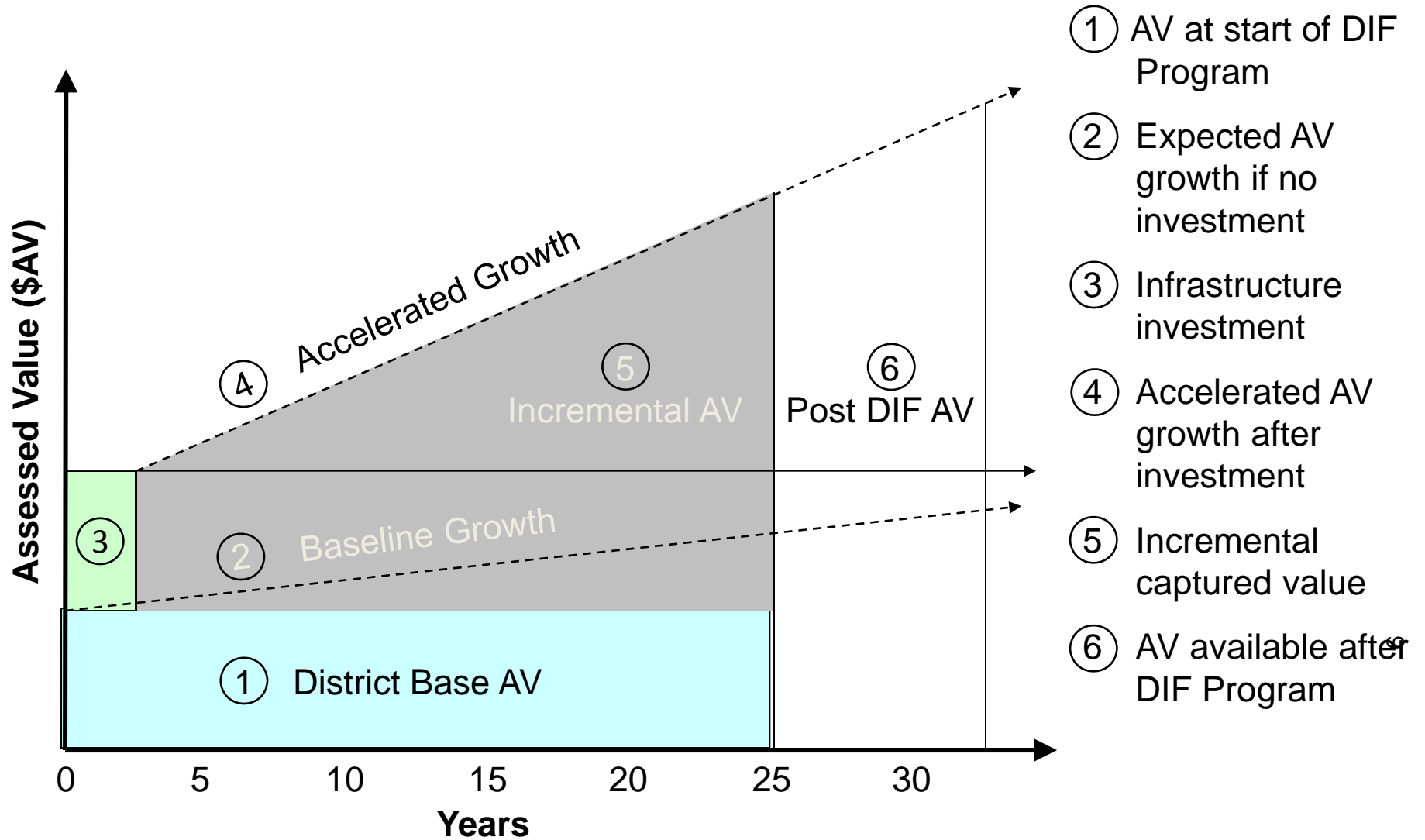


DIF Benefits

- Benefits
 - Borrowing is not included in municipality's debt limits.
 - Municipality has flexibility to segregate debt service from general funds and employ debt structures that would not otherwise be available as financing terms are negotiable. For example:
 - Delay principal payments up to 5 years
 - Capitalized Interest
 - No new taxes are levied because the District and the DIF do not reduce or redirect existing property tax revenues.



DIF Mechanics



MITIGATION OF RISKS

- Developer does not complete project and no revenues generated to support debt service on infrastructure financing
 - Municipality can require developer finance infrastructure improvements and convey to Municipality once sufficient revenues generated to support debt service
 - Memorandum of Agreement structured between Developer and Municipality stating benchmarks for phasing of construction, revenue generation and Municipal financing of improvements

