



August 2006

Tax Increment Financing Division Newsletter

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- *2005 TIF Reporting: Evaluations and Recommendations*
 - *Entry Level TIF Reporting Workshops*
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Kudos to the TIF authority representatives!! You did an outstanding job of submitting your 2005 TIF reports online this year, while still meeting the August 1 deadline. Of the authorities that submit their own reports, there are only six of the approximately 460 TIF authorities that did not submit their TIF reports by September 1. This is an outstanding performance for the first year of required online filing of annual TIF reports.

Evaluation Responses. The State Auditor is developing a database system that serves all divisions of the office. It is a work-in-progress. We asked you, through our online evaluation form, how filing TIF reports online worked for you and what improvements we need to make. We received 97 evaluation responses, of which 92 rated the online system as being easier and faster, 3 were indifferent as to the choice between online and paper reporting, and 2 rated the online system as causing technical problems and taking longer. Of the 97 evaluation responses, 4 were from consultants who prepare reports for authorities, of which 3 rated the online system as being easier and faster and 1 rated the system as causing technical problems and taking longer.

Recommendations. The four most common recommendations given in your evaluations were (i) including batch uploading (ii) listing the TIF district name, as well as the confirmation number, on the confirmation page, (iii) providing a simple way to add new district, non-district, and pooled reports online, and (iv) conducting entry level TIF reporting workshops. We continue to work on updating our database system. We hope that, by next year, the online system will allow us to include batch uploading and a simple mechanism for representatives to add new district and other reports online.

TIF Reporting Workshops. In response to your request for entry level TIF reporting workshops, we will schedule small roundtable workshops, as needed, in your vicinity this October, November, and early December. If you are interested in attending an all day entry level TIF reporting workshop, please contact Marsha Pattison or Jenna Ofstie at their telephone numbers or email addresses given below.

If you have any questions please contact us:

Arlin Waelti
651-296-7979 Arlin.Waelti@state.mn.us

Kurt Mueller
651-297-3680 Kurt.Mueller@state.mn.us

Lisa McGuire
651-296-9255 Lisa.McGuire@state.mn.us

Robert Pilgrim (Intern)
(651) 282-2386 Robert.Pilgrim@state.mn.us

Suk Shah
651-296-7001 Suk.Shah@state.mn.us

Marsha Pattison
651-296-4716 Marsha.Pattison@state.mn.us

Jenna Ofstie (Intern)
651-297-8342 Jenna.Ofstie@state.mn.us

Auditor Website:
www.auditor.state.mn.us