



ARPA Projects List

rev. 03/08/22

Preamble

In order to have an open and clear process for discussing, sharing, and reviewing project ideas for ARPA funding, the town created a draft list of priority projects and a month-long process of public input to discuss those projects and solicit feedback.

DRAFT PRIORITY LIST

The Draft Priority List put projects into two large categories; **Economic Development** and **Infrastructure / Town Projects**. Projects in those categories were sub divided into “tiers” that indicated the project eligibility based on the following criteria:

- Eligible for ARPA Funding
- Project Readiness
- Community Impact
- Stakeholders at the Table
- Clear Role for the Town
- Whether or Not the Project Could be Funded Using Other Sources.

PUBLIC INPUT

The public input process began with a presentation of the Draft Priority List which included recommendations by White and Burke and an explanation of the tier system for categorizing projects. The goal was to allow the public to comment on the draft list, to inform the Town of new details about projects that might affect how it was categorized, and to get new ideas for projects. A two week public comment period and a followup presentation of those comments was completed. A total of one hundred and thirty-four comments were received.

Next Steps

Staff was charged with two action items.

1. Staff was directed to work on the “Tier 1” items that had been outlined in the draft document.
2. Staff was asked to revisit the ARPA Draft Projects Priority List based on what we learned from the public outreach process and to provide a new list to the board moving forward. **The rest of this document is that “new list” that was requested as a result of this process.**

CURRENT ARPA PROJECTS

At the direction of the Select Board and based on the most recent information available, the projects in this list are currently being pursued by Town staff, and if feasible, the expenditure of ARPA funds is actively being considered. Projects on this list may be removed as additional information becomes available.

- Benn High (former Middle School) / Gymnasium / Senior Center & Programming / Youth Housing and/or other possible services such as social services offices.
- Willow Park Playground Replacement
- Skate Park / Outdoor Skating Rink (synthetic ice)
- County Street / Benmont Avenue Sewer Line Upgrades
- South St./Union St. Stormwater Management Improvements
- Premium Pay/Benefits to Eligible Workers
- Digitization of Town Records - APPROVED 2/14/22

Recommend Moving From Current ARPA List:

After review Town Staff have recommended that the following projects not continue to be actively considered for the expenditure of ARPA funds:

- Downtown Market
REASON: Other sources of funding available.
- Putnam Block Phase II
REASON: Timing and other sources of funding available.
- Capitalization of the Revolving Loan Fund
REASON: Complicated eligibility issues. Only loan subsidy is eligible.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Projects in this list are not currently being considered for ARPA funding due to one or more reasons including; may be funded by other sources, project cost exceeds total available ARPA funds, no clear role for the town, not all stakeholders at the table, limited community impact, no clear project specified, project will not be ready in time to expend ARA funds before deadline. Projects in this list may move to being actively considered for ARPA funding as we learn more about a project, stakeholders appear, a project is specified, or other criteria for ARPA funding are met. Work on the these projects may be ongoing, but currently the expenditure of ARPA funds is not actively being considered.

- Downtown Food Market
- Putnam Block Phase 2
- Capitalization of Revolving Loan Program
- Improvements to Downtown Streetscape, Infrastructure, and Facades
- Catamount School (Bennington Sports Center)
- Public Sanitation Facility / Youth Housing (**New to list**)
- Downtown Hardware Store
- Energizer
- Everett Estate (former SVC Campus)
- Funding for “Pathways” Services for Homeless (**New to list**)
- Affordable Housing Options for Homeless
- Purchase by Municipality of Blighted Properties
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Infrastructure
- Highway Department Bridges
- Police Department - 4-run Kennel and Vehicle Impound Yard
- Police Training - fire fighter certification
- Water Department Infrastructure
- Police Equipment Purchases and Upgrades
- Ninja Trail
- Corkscrew Trail (**New to list**)
- Benmont Avenue Bike/Ped Improvements
- Sidewalk Repairs / Improvements
- Expansion / Connection of Local Pathways
- Mt. Anthony Summit Trail and Lookout
- Public Arts Projects
- Expanding Services at Bennington Free Clinic / Schools
- Armory Building
- Renovations & Upgrades to Recreation Center Facility
- Air Quality and HVAC Improvements to Town facilities
- Blacksmith Shop Exterior Renovation
- Computer Hardware Upgrade
- Main Server Upgrade
- Bus and Car Share Expansion

All of these projects are important but are not currently being considered for ARPA funding.

Projects listed here may be done using other funding sources, need further work to be project ready, or do not have a clear role for the Town.

As projects evolve, some may move to being actively considered for ARPA Funding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Being listed here DOES NOT MEAN the project won't happen.

It merely means that the project is not being actively considered for ARPA funding; it could be funded from other sources if it is a viable project, or may be developed in the future.