

Purpose and Benefits of Priority Development Sites

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 43D was signed into law in August 2006; the law offers communities a tool for targeted economic development - Priority Development Sites, and a related Expedited Permitting Program. Expedited Permitting as described in Chapter 43D was approved by Franklin's Town Council on November 19, 2008. Since that time the State's Interagency Permitting Board approved three large priority development sites within the Town of Franklin.

Potential benefits to owners of parcels within Franklin's designated priority development sites, as well as the Town in general, are substantial and include the following:

Expedited Permitting. Chapter 43D's Expedited Permitting Program enables a community to provide guaranteed 180-day local permitting decisions on commercial and industrial development projects that are located on parcels that have been designated as a priority development site. The Town of Franklin has a transparent and efficient municipal permitting process for our priority development sites. Please contact the Town's Municipal Point of Contact for additional information related to Franklin's expedited permitting program.

Marketing of Priority Development Site Parcels. The priority development site designation increases visibility of the Town of Franklin's pro-business environment, our priority development sites, and our available industrially zoned manufacturing, warehouse and office space. The State will work with the Town and the owners of parcels within priority development sites to aggressively market the priority development site and related properties.

Priority Consideration for State Assistance. Designation of priority development sites enables Franklin and related development projects to take advantage of various State programs, including the following:

- Priority consideration for infrastructure related Massachusetts grant programs, including community development action grants (CDAG), and public works economic development grants (PWED);
- Brownfields remediation assistance;
- Priority consideration for other State resources such as quasi-public development financing and training programs;
- Technical assistance provided by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Please contact the Town's Municipal Point of Contact for additional information.