



Frequently Asked Questions

*about Downtown Birmingham's Business Improvement District (BID)
and its expansion into Five Points South and The Switch*

downtownbhm.com/about/bid

What is a BID?

A Business Improvement District (BID), like the Downtown Birmingham BID, is enabled by state law and granted by city ordinance after property owners petition for their support. It is a district where property owners formally pool their resources to provide supplemental services that build on basic services provided by the city. Determined with input from property owners, BID services can include security, litter pick-up, graffiti removal, pressure washing, district events, marketing programs, and other special projects. Services are funded by BID property owners via an assessment based on their appraised property values. Think of it as a homeowners' association for a business district. Those extra services make a place more competitive by creating a cleaner, more attractive district and giving it a distinctive identity. The Downtown Birmingham BID Board contracts with REV Birmingham to manage the BID, which has been around in what is now the City Center sub-district since 1995. Since the BID's formation, the City Center has seen increased property values; decreased crime; and a cleaner, friendlier environment for residents, employees, and visitors to enjoy.

What names have the BID been known by?

The legal name of the Downtown BID is the City Center District Management Corporation, sometimes abbreviated as CCDMC. In the program's early years, the BID funded only CAP (City Action Partnership) services, which is the BID's Clean and Safe program. More recently, the BID funded Downtown BHM brand and website development (<https://downtownbhm.com>), and, as new sub-districts have been added to the BID, we have begun saying "Downtown Birmingham BID" to be clearer than CCDMC and to be more inclusive of all districts.

What services do you provide?

BID services, which are determined by a board of property owners, include a district manager who oversees the district and is the go-to person for district questions and problem solving; the CAP Clean and Safe program; district marketing (<https://downtownbhm.com> + @downtownbhm on social media); and special projects approved by the board. CAP services, listed at <https://downtownbhm.com/cap>, include safety patrols, hospitality greetings and directions, homeless outreach services, litter pick-up, graffiti removal, and public space pressure washing.

When do services start in my district?

We are planning to start CAP services in Five Points South and The Switch on July 1, 2024; receiving enough start-up capital by July 1 is essential to keep that schedule on track. Newly-elected Five Points South and Switch board members will be meeting over the coming months to determine priorities and timeframes for additional services.

What are the boundaries for BID / CAP clean and safe services?

CAP provides services through its Clean and Safe program in public areas, not on private property. While CAP ambassadors may come into a building or business within the BID to check in with owners/tenants/stakeholders, CAP does not patrol these areas. This distinction includes open air areas on private property like courtyards or parking decks. You can see the BID service area map, including CAP Clean and Safe services, at <https://downtownbhm.com/about/bid/>. The map at <https://downtownbhm.com/cap> will be updated to include the Five Points South and Switch districts when CAP services begin (target date: July 1, 2024).

How do I request CAP clean & safe services?

After services begin in your area, you may call 205-251-0111 to request CAP services or report district issues (such as graffiti, litter, or panhandling).

How can I pay my invoice?

Payment can be made online via credit card or ACH, or by mailing a check to City Center District Management at P.O. Box 11, Birmingham, AL 35201. To receive an electronic invoice with a link to pay online, please email billing@downtownbhm.com.

Is this payment required?

Per state legislation, every property owner in the BID must pay the annual special assessment. Government, Religious, and Non-Profit properties are exempt from assessment, although many make voluntary contributions. If payment is not received by the due date indicated on the invoice, the legislation allows lates fees, penalties and/or a lien to be placed on the property.

How do you calculate the assessment?

The invoices are billed at 0.3% of the appraised property value provided by Jefferson County at the time of invoicing. For example, if a property is appraised at \$100,000 the assessment amount would be \$300.

Legally, how was I supposed to be notified about BID expansion?

State law requires a public hearing before the City Council. This hearing took place on Dec. 12, 2023. As required, notification of this hearing was mailed on Nov. 22, 2023 to all owners within the district, at the address they have on file with the Jefferson Couty Tax Assessor to receive annual tax bills. Multiple public information sessions and mailings were conducted above and beyond the legal requirements. For a full list and timeline of BID public engagement activity, please visit <https://downtownbhm.com/about/bid/> and find meeting recordings and presentations linked under the heading "New Sub-district Information."

Who approved this expansion?

Birmingham City Council unanimously approved a petition presented by a majority (by property value) of owners in the new Five Points South and Switch BID sub-districts on Dec 12, 2024. This action empowers the Downtown BID Board of Directors to nominate and appoint new board members who own property within the new sub-districts.

How do I get involved?

Check <https://downtownbhm.com/about/bid/> under the "New BID Sub-district Information" tab for a list of upcoming public meetings, and fill out the newsletter sign-up form under the "Stay in Touch" subheading to receive emails with BID updates and more downtown news.