



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 1, 2020
To: Interquest Town Center Business Improvement District
Russ Dykstra, Bond Counsel
From: Jon Moellenberg, Tom Wendelin
Re: Update on Interquest Town Center BID Bonds

To follow up on last week's discussion regarding the BID, this memo is offered as market background for the upcoming bond issue.

Globally, coronavirus fears initially caused all risk asset classes to sell off since the number of cases outside of China surged on February 23rd. Since then, global markets experienced selling pressure as investors raise cash from any available source — the flight-to-quality turned into a liquidity event, as funding markets experience significant stress and the bid for risk assets disappeared. Liquidity in the corporate debt market disappeared for many weeks, and the IG (investment grade) index gapped out to the widest level seen since August 2009. Many of those markets, including US equity and bond markets have recovered significantly compared to recent market lows.

Access the Public (Tax-Exempt) Market Upon Stabilization. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States, financial markets have been highly volatile. All asset classes (equities, gold, oil and U.S. Treasuries) experienced sell-offs as investors increasingly looked for opportunities to liquidate. This "liquidity crisis" even impacted the tax-exempt municipal bond market as evidenced by recent record muni fund outflows. Following approximately 60 weeks of consecutive inflows, muni bond funds reached peak outflows of \$13.68 billion in the last week of March.

Over the past few weeks, interest rates and credit spreads for investment grade municipal credits have also returned to more normal levels. States, counties, cities, public utilities and hospitals, school districts and higher ed institutions have successfully sold bonds to raise money for projects and working capital. During the same time period, however, investors have generally avoided the purchase of high yield or non-investment grade bonds. With lower demand comes higher credit spreads, and as a result, credit spreads in the non-investment grade market remain very wide. In fact, because questions remain about the ability of the economy to absorb new construction, particularly new or anticipated construction for retail outlets and office buildings, volume in new issuance of high yield bonds is still down over 90%.

Unlike past years, over the past few months very few Colorado districts have successfully sold bonds for early stage development. During the spring in a normal year, in advance of the heaviest part of construction season investors would see dozens of new special district issues each month. As you can see from the attached table of comparable transactions, new issuance this year is a trickle compared to that more normal flow. For those projects moving forward, the vast majority of commercial developers are proceeding with their own capital, waiting to issue district bonds until the return of demand from institutional investors. For a commercial project in the phase of construction we see at Interquest Town Center BID, the only comparable transaction we have seen recently is the City Center West Commercial Metropolitan District bonds. The rate on those bonds was 7%. Unfortunately there are really not really a lot of comps for Interquest Town Center BID at the present time.

Please contact Tom (303) 595-1211 or Jon at (303) 595-1210 with any additional questions.

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