



Stadium Plan, Tax Breaks Are In Place; Now It's Time For The Private Sector

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Cool Cities program seems to be learning from experience, judging by its \$100,000 grant to Lansing's Stadium District project.

Private developer Pat Gillespie's plan for a mixed-use structure for housing and retail across from Oldsmobile Park is exciting for downtown, in and of itself. But it's also exciting to see the state using Cool Cities funds to properly enhance what must remain local efforts.

The \$100,000 grant announced last week will be focused heavily on improving the walk ability near Gillespie's project and signage to brand the area as the Stadium District. Good. Only public entities are best equipped to deal with signage questions. A grant does not a success make, however.

The key for Lansing to have a Stadium District is in the private sector - with developers such as Gillespie willing to invest, and with residents and newcomers willing to live, play and shop there.

Last month the city of Lansing granted Gillespie a \$1 million tax package - something he said was vital to his project. Now comes the state's dollars.

Clearly, the public sector is invested in Gillespie's particular project and in the potential for the area just east of downtown.

Now it's time for the other half of the equation - additional private investors to join Gillespie to make this area of the city really cool!