TDIA members hear recommendations on strategic planning

News

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Members of the Trenton Downtown Improvement Association, on Tuesday night heard a presentation on a strategic plan that has four dozen recommendations.
Michael Hemmer, Associate Airector of the planning group P-G-A-V, said the company s Downtown Strategic Plan for Trenton fit into six general goals.

These include "Developing a downtown incentives plan"' "Developing a steady source of funding", "Improving conditions of the buildings", "Increasing the visibility of downtown as a place for investment", "Continuing street scape improvements", and "Improving the residential neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown Trenton area".

Hemmer recommended when T-D-I-A gets the final strategic plan, it select one of the recommendations, complete it and then publicize it. He showed a sample of a sign in Kirksville that announces a sidewalk project brought to you by the Kirksville DREAM initiative and the Kirksville Downtown Association.

Hemmer also recommends Trenton re-energize its Historic Preservation Commission; develop flexible design guidelines for a façade loan program; encourage a downtown residential market--particularly higher-end rental, but discourage the division of large, older homes into apartments; and encourage a residential maintenance and improvement project.

The planner talked about some financing possibilities, the most feasible for Trenton being a local option economic development sales tax. While it would have to apply throughout the city, Hemmer explained up to 55 percent of the
revenue could be dedicated to DOWNTOWN economic development (the Dream area), with the rest available citywide. The downtown Trenton area has been part of the state designated DREAM Initiative communities since 2007.