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Urban Planning Project
Student Instruction Sheet

Welcome urban planning team!

The city of Summerville just received a budget of 400 million dollars (we will call this a budget of 1.0) to improve, empower, and “green” downtown. The city is asking different urban planning teams to come up with a proposal on how the city should spend the money. Your urban planning group will figure out what to spend the money on, create a new map (poster board) and present this plan to the city council. The city council will then decide which team will receive the winning bid (and receive an A+).

Your teams goals are (not in any order though!):

- 1) To empower the endemic downtown area
- 2) Save the city money
- 3) Increase pedestrian traffic
- 4) “Green” downtown
- 5) Increase the future fiscal business infrastructure

About the map:

Each box with an “I” in it symbolizes approximately 50 homes

Each building with a “G” in it symbolizes an abandoned government-owned building.

Z-1 is the bail-bond and or “adult” zone

A little history about Summerville:

In the 1940s through the 60’s Summerville had a thriving downtown community. Movie theatres were always packed, locally-owned businesses paved Main Street, good paying warehouse jobs were abundant, and huge beautiful green trees lined Main Street. But with the advent of the cheap automobile, everyone moved out of the city and into the suburbs creating an urban sprawl. The city was left with abandoned buildings, dead trees and landscapes, unhealthy air and water, and very few well-paying jobs. Those that could not afford to sprawl out into the suburbs were left behind in the inner city. And with fewer resources, they became even poorer.

Every section of downtown is zoned.

In area A-1 (north of Burger street, west of Main) this is the most endemic neighborhood in all of Summerville. There is a high domestic crime rate, reportedly heavy drug use, 25% of all homes are boarded up and abandoned, glass and metal litter the streets and there are high rates of homelessness.

A-2 (North of Burger street, east of Main) has a high police call-in rate near the low-income apartments. This area used to be a high-end subdivision with fancy fountains and million dollar homes. Although the homes' property values are now low, the occupancy rate is near 100%.

B-2 (South of Burger, North of Front, east of Main) has a huge old a banded warehouse area littered with toxic debris.

C-1 (south of Front, west of Main) is named the "red light" district. This area has a prostitution rate unlike anywhere else in the city. Illegal drug manufacturing and selling are keystone problems to this area littered with pornographic bars and stores. The occupancy rate is relatively high due to the constant transient rate.

What can your team do?

The Summerville Preservation Society located in A-2 has some complaints and suggestions for your new map. The intersection of Elex and Burger is inadequate for the residents of this area. There have been 5 fatalities, 102 auto accidents, and 16 pedestrian injuries in the past 4 years. A pedestrian walkway or bridge across the street would be acceptable. A tunnel or walkway here will cost your team 1/16 of your budget.

The Downtown Authority would like a new Main street. The government owned buildings off Main Street are in good structural standing and this group would like these historical structures renewed, so they can be zoned. Renewal of all of these buildings will cost your team ¼ of your budget. You then can come up with your own zoning codes.

The NFL would like the field in B-2. They say this would increase jobs in the area especially the retail shops located in C-2. The NFL asks you spend ½ of your budget on building a park system around the new stadium, then the NFL will call this their new home.

The businesses in C-2 would like their unlimited zoning privileges to be left how it is. If your team leaves C-2 zoning alone, the small business alliance of C-2 will increase your budget by 1/8.

Although there are no committees complaining about the conditions of life in A-1, this is the most endemic area of town. Broken glass, old cars, asbestos, and pothole infested roads plague this area. A full clean up of A-1 will cost ½ of your team's budget.

A new public transportation plan has been introduced by the department of transportation. This includes a light rail which runs on magnetic power (which has no air or sound pollution), three solar-powered buses, and funds for a new bicycle lane on Main Street. This plan will cost your team ¼ of the budget.

A city wide recycling program includes buying all recycled materials for all outside structures, a city wide bin clean up program with two trucks, and a new paperless program for city employees. This program will save the city money in paper and waste disposal. This will cost your team 1/64 of your budget.

Trees will lower the carbon and level ozone in the air. 10 mature trees will cost your team 1/64 of your budget.

High Tech Enterprise would like the city to donate the block of land in B-2 to their company. In return, High Tech will build a vocational center in A-1 (to train future employees in computers) and provide funds for one park in B-2.

The upper Retail Authority suggests a new parking structure (garage) in A-2 where city employees and the prison employees can park, which will increase business on Main Street. A new garage will cost your team 1/8 of their budget.

The Christian Church Alliance would like your team to re-zone C-1 to limit the Z-I zoning. If you do not re-zone, the Church group will picket Main Street each Sunday until it is re-zoned.

There are no parks in downtown. Each park comes with 4 mature trees, a nature path, a playground, a soccer field, restrooms, and a maintenance crew. Each park will cost 1/16 of your team's budget.

New solar panels and new solar heaters can be installed in all government owned buildings which would cut the energy bills in half. This would cost 1/32 of your team's budget.

New watering systems for the city including new high energy-low water toilets and gray water systems will save the city millions a year in water cost. This system will cost 1/32 of your team's budget.

The city would like your team to update the side walks along Front Street and Burger Street. They currently are not up to compliance code for the American Disability Act. This will cost your team 1/16 of your budget.

The teachers union and the police department would like better lighting around the schools. This will cost your team 1/32 of your budget.

The department of disease control would like a full clean up of the sewer problem in B-2. When it rains, the sewer overflows with raw sewage on to the roads in B-2 for hours. A full clean up will cost your team 1/5 of your budget.

Residents of C-1 would like a new elementary school for their children. Their children have to walk to A-2 now, and that school is overcrowded. A new school will cost your team 1/3 of your budget.

The police union would like a new budget for 10 new officers. This will cost your team 1/8 of your budget.

The condo association in C-2 would like funds for a new parkway. This will cost your team ¼ of their budget.

The Downtown association would like a new Main street with stones and bricks. This will cost your team ¼ of their budget.

Summerville Preservation, The Church group, and the Teachers union would like you your team

to close Elex in B-2 and create a super-park with skate ramps, jogging trails, and ponds. This super green belt park will cost your team $\frac{1}{4}$ of their budget.

Replacing all street lights with solar powered CFL's would cut city maintenance cost by 20% yearly. This would cost $\frac{1}{16}$ of your team's budget.

The teachers union would like more money for the teachers' salary. The new proposed salary hike will cost your team $\frac{1}{8}$ of your budget.

A full toxic clean up of all areas in A-2, B-1, and B-2 will cost your team $\frac{1}{4}$ of your budget.

The following groups are voting on your presentation. The number of votes each group holds is in parentheses.

Teachers Union (4)

Police Union (2)

Willow Springs (A-1) (1)

Summerville Preservation Society (A-2) (2)

Local Business Partners Alliance (C-1) (2)

Church (2)

High Tech Enterprise (1)

NFL (0)

Sisco Properties (condos in C-2) (1)

Department of Transportation (3)

Department of Corrections (1)

Environmental groups (4)

State and county Board (4)