

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credits – Economic Impact Analysis
TPG 100 Sabin Hotel LLC Application

Introduction

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (the “Corporation”) may issue Rebuild Rhode Island tax credits to TPG 100 Sabin Hotel LLC (the “Sponsor”), an entity owned by the Procaccianti Companies. The credits would be issued in connection with the Sponsor’s decision to invest in the development of a new, 176-room Residence Inn by Marriott extended-stay hotel. The project would also include the development of 6,000 square feet of third-party retail space. The total cost of the proposed project is estimated to be nearly \$59.8 million.

The Sponsor is requesting:

- A Rebuild Rhode Island tax credit with a gross value of \$100,000;
- A sales and use tax exemption on eligible construction and fit-out costs, valued at nearly \$1.3 million; and
- \$6,000,000 in tax increment financing (TIF).

This analysis was prepared by Appleseed, a consulting firm with more than twenty years of experience in economic impact analysis.

Jobs Analysis

Construction

As shown in Table 1, the Sponsor’s estimate of total project costs is nearly \$59.8 million.

Table 1: Estimated total project cost (in \$ millions)

Component	Estimated cost
Property cost	\$2.5
Construction (hard cost)	\$43.7
Soft costs	\$13.6
Total	\$59.8

After excluding certain costs that for purposes of this analysis do not have a direct, current impact on Rhode Island's economy (such as site acquisition and interest payments), the remaining hard and soft costs total \$55.9 million. Using the IMPLAN input-output modeling system (a modeling tool commonly used in economic impact studies), Appleseed estimates that direct expenditures of \$55.9 million will directly and indirectly generate:

- 383 person-years¹ of work in Rhode Island;
- \$23.0 million in earnings (in 2018 dollars);
- Approximately \$66.1 million in statewide economic output²; and
- A one-time increase of more than \$35.3 million in Rhode Island's GDP.

These impacts are summarized below in Table 2. The project's *direct impact* is the impact of the company's direct spending on design and construction. Its *indirect impact* is the effect of spending by contractors for goods and services (insurance, construction materials, etc) purchased from other Rhode Island businesses.

Table 2: Direct and indirect impact of construction spending (employment in person-years; income, value-added and output in millions of 2018 dollars)

	Employment	Earnings	Value added	Output
Direct Effect	290	\$17.8	\$27.0	\$52.2
Indirect Effect	93	5.2	8.3	13.9
Total Effect	383	\$23.0	\$35.3	\$66.1

In addition to the impacts cited in Table 2, direct expenditures of \$55.9 million would directly and indirectly generate a projected one-time increase of approximately \$1.35 million in taxes paid to the State during construction (a total that excludes approximately \$1.3 million in state sales and use taxes on construction materials for which the Sponsor has requested an exemption). This increase of \$1.35 million would include approximately:

- \$863,000 in state personal income taxes paid by Rhode Island workers employed on the project, or whose jobs are indirectly attributable to the project;
- \$377,000 in state sales taxes paid on those workers' taxable household spending; and
- \$109,000 in state business corporation taxes paid by companies directly or indirectly working on the project.

¹ A person-year is equivalent to the time worked by one person who is employed full-time for a year. For example, it could represent the work of two people who are each employed full-time for six months; or the work of one person who is employed half-time for two years.

² Output is a measure of the total sales by Rhode Island companies (including the "sale" of labor by Rhode Island households) generated by the project.

Most of the activity reflected in Table 2 is expected to occur between the spring of 2017 and the end of 2018. The anticipated wage rates for construction jobs are shown below in Table 3. Anticipated wage rates are the median hourly wage for these occupations in Rhode Island.

Table 3: Anticipated wages during construction

Occupation	RI median hourly wage ³
Architect	\$42.50
Construction manager	\$50.86
Carpenter	\$22.42
Electrician	\$25.26
Plumber	\$24.84
Painter	\$18.69
Laborer	\$18.68

Fringe benefits associated with these jobs are expected to be in accordance with industry norms, with the cost of such benefits generally ranging between 22 and 28 percent of wages. Workers who fill these jobs are expected to be drawn primarily from the Providence-Warwick RI-MA New England City and Town Area (NECTA).

Annual operations

The Sponsor has stated that after the project is completed (expected to occur in 2018), the proposed Residence Inn would employ 30 to 40 people. For purposes of this analysis, Appleseed assumes that the hotel will employ 35.

The Sponsor expects that the proposed 6,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space would be occupied by a restaurant employing 30 people.

Using IMPLAN, Appleseed estimates that the ongoing operations of the proposed hotel and restaurant together would directly and indirectly account for:

- 76 FTE jobs in Rhode Island;
- Nearly \$2.9 million in annual earnings (in 2019 dollars);
- Nearly \$8.4 million in annual statewide economic output; and
- An increase of approximately \$5.2 million in Rhode Island's annual GDP.

³ Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Occupational Employment Statistics, 2016

Table 4: Direct and indirect annual impact of ongoing operations (employment in FTE; income, value-added and output in millions of 2019 dollars)

	Employment	Earnings	Value added	Output
Direct Effect	65	\$2.2	\$4.2	\$6.6
Indirect Effect	11	0.7	1.0	1.8
Total Effect	76	\$2.9	\$5.2	\$8.4

Workers who fill new hotel and restaurant jobs are expected to be drawn primarily from Providence and from other nearby communities.

In addition to the impacts cited in Table 4, ongoing operations at the new Residence Inn would directly and indirectly generate a projected increase of approximately \$937,000 in taxes paid annually to the state. These taxes would include approximately:

- \$769,000 in state sales and hotel taxes paid on room rents and restaurant bills
- \$108,000 in state personal income taxes paid by Rhode Island workers employed directly by the Residence Inn or by the restaurant, or whose jobs are indirectly attributable to those businesses;
- \$47,000 in state sales taxes paid on those workers' taxable household spending; and
- \$13,000 in state business corporation taxes directly or indirectly attributable to hotel and restaurant operations.

Impact

The state fiscal impact of the requested tax credits and sales tax exemption is up to \$7.4 million in foregone state revenues. Direct and indirect economic and fiscal benefits of the proposed project include the estimated increase of \$5.2 million in annual state GDP, the estimated associated job creation, and a gross increase of approximately \$12.6 million in personal income, sales, hotel and business corporation tax revenues during the construction phase and during the twelve years following the completion of the project. These benefits are detailed in the foregoing analysis. In addition to the economic and tax revenue impacts cited above, the proposed project would benefit Rhode Island in several other ways.

- Add new hotel capacity in a segment of the market that is not now well-served in the Downcity area
- Support the Convention Center and the arena by providing a new dining option immediately across the street
- Increase local property tax and hotel tax revenues

Beyond the fiscal impact noted above, there is no anticipated financial exposure to the state. In addition, various features of the program mitigate risk to the state. In particular, the completion

risk (i.e., the risk that the project is not completed) is mitigated by the fact that the tax credits will be payable only upon completion of the development. The risk of project cost overruns is mitigated by the fact that the tax credits and sales and use tax exemption are capped at the amounts set forth above. In addition, if project costs come in lower than anticipated, the tax credits to be paid will be reduced accordingly.