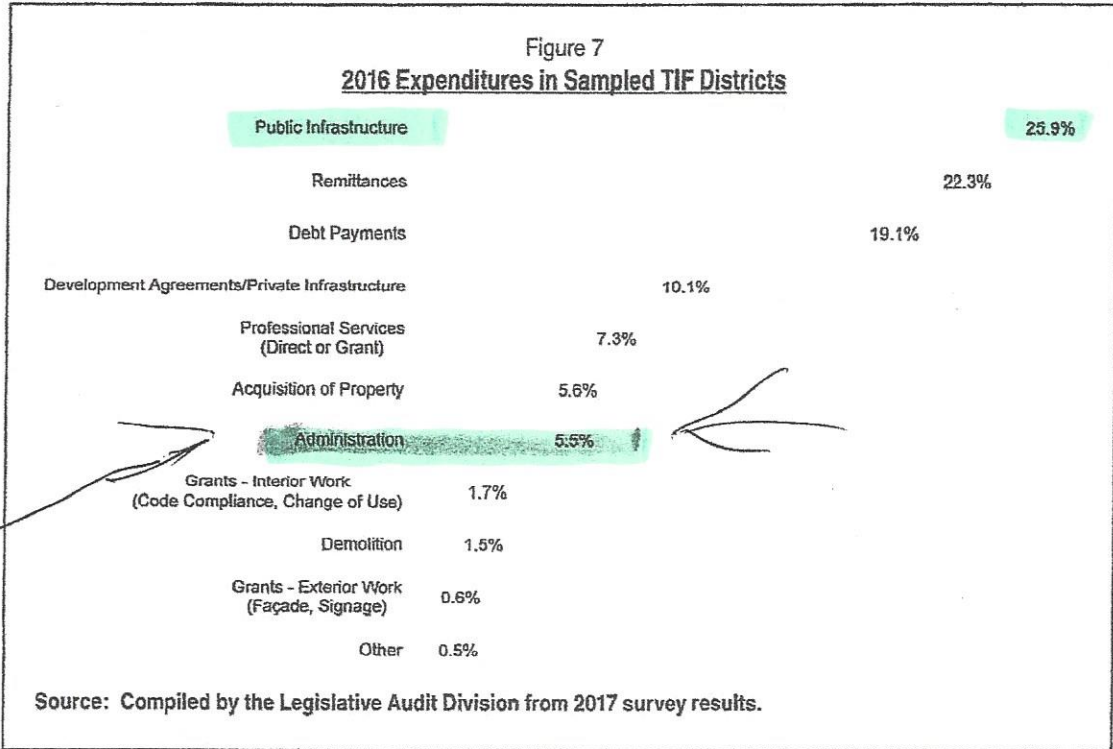


combat blight and infrastructure deficiencies, mainly through a combination of public infrastructure projects and grants. Figure 7 shows these expenditures by category.



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As shown, a majority of TIF districts used funds to pay for public infrastructure. Approximately 34 percent of all expenditures relate to public and private infrastructure work, such as for roads and utilities. Another 19 percent are used to pay debt service issued for major infrastructure projects. The next largest use of funds was for remittances, with 22 percent of all expenditures paid back to affected taxing jurisdictions. Though some TIF districts, particularly those in historic areas, provided grants to private property owners for projects such as façade work, code compliance, or property change-of-use updates, the overall volume of these expenditures were low relative to other projects. Expenditures labeled as "other" did not fit in any of the other categories. For example, \$25,000 of this category was from a downtown TIF district to pay a portion of the salary for a police officer hired to patrol only the downtown area. Other expenses included a park maintenance program, maintenance for a public garage, the purchase of barricades and event signs, and a contribution to help pay for the maintenance of a train horn quiet zone in a downtown area. Though these expenses do not meet the specific costs allowed to be paid by TIF in §7-15-4288, MCA, they are included in the local urban renewal plan, and they relate to broad statutory goals in the Urban Renewal Law such as increasing public safety.