

Agenda Item #7
Lane Economic Committee
January 28, 2008

Discuss 2008 workplan item to develop an economic development issue list

Purpose

- Generate a regional approach to problem solving
- Solicit funding from federal and state resources
- Solicit other assistance from federal and state resources
- Provide input to the prioritization of economic development resources
- Determine highest priority issues
- Determine issues on which we can have a local influence and develop a realistic plan to address those issues

Process

- Study one or more issues at each LEC meeting
- Invite expert speakers
- Determine top issues
- Share results with other interested economic development organizations

Questions for LEC discussion

- Is this an appropriate workplan?
- What obstacles could prevent successful completion of this workplan?
- What issues should be added or removed from the draft issues list?

Issue List – Barriers to Economic Development in the Region - Draft

Workforce issues

- Lack of available workforce
- Lack of skilled workforce
- Inability of schools to graduate students with the skills which are needed by business

Government regulation issues

- Rigid and overlapping federal and state regulations
- Dis-incenting and contradicting impact of certain local regulations and development code
- Restrictive impact of urban growth boundaries

Economic Development toolbox issues

- Limited availability of developable industrial lands
- Insufficient tools such as enterprise zones and urban renewal areas
- Inability to retain and attract growing businesses
- Insufficient non-financial support for new entrepreneurs

Financing issues

- Insufficient access to capital for small and medium size businesses
- Absence of a strong local microloan program
- Insufficient venture capital

Infrastructure issues

- Insufficient highway transportation infrastructure
- Insufficient water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure
- Lack of affordable infrastructure financing
- Limited air transportation out of Eugene airport

Rural community issues

- Inability of rural communities to attract industry
- Absence of technical assistance for rural communities

Cost issues

- High costs for fuel
- High cost of education
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of new living-wage jobs

Organizational issues

- Inefficient use of available economic development resources
- Lack of economic development resources
- Lack of coordination among existing economic development organizations
- Absence of a local economic development plan

Political issues

- Lack of consensus among elected officials regarding economic development goals
- Lack of a consistent message from elected officials
- Inability of elected officials and administrative staff to understand and implement what is needed and wanted by the small business community