

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 **Time:** 11:00am **Length:** 15 Minutes

Presentation Title: Clackamas County Economic Development Commission (EDC) 2011 Committee Reports
Priority Recommendations

Department: Business and Community Services – Business and Economic Development

Staff: Catherine Comer, Manager, Business & Economic Development; Gary Barth, Director Business and Community Services

POLICY QUESTION

There is no policy decision required.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

In November 2011, the EDC presented a report of recommendations to the BCC following a yearlong project of EDC Committees which focused on four areas in order to provide the BCC a list of recommendations from the business perspective:

- Clackamas Industrial Area
- Government Camp
- McLoughlin Corridor
- Clackamas County Agriculture Investment Strategy

Based on the characteristics of the area, a list of recommendations was developed that includes topics ranging from transportation, infrastructure, workforce, community amenities, and many others. The recommendations represent issues that the EDC believes need to be addressed in order to support economic development in the key focus areas.

In January, 2012, the EDC was asked to prioritize their recommendations. Attached are the Priorities

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Does the BCC have any feedback on the EDC priority reports?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Provide direction to EDC and/or staff in addressing the priorities.
2. Request additional feedback from the EDC on the four key areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff respectfully recommends that the BCC accept the EDC final committee priority reports and direct staff to continue to work on projects that would help realize these goals or seek solutions to issues.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Catherine Comer 503-742-4303.or
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Based on feedback requested at the EDC meeting these are the priorities of the 2011 Final Recommendations:

Clackamas Industrial Area

- Evaluate development/redevelopment opportunities for employment land.
- Continue to focus on transportation improvements.
- Focus on business retention/expansion.
- Market the current business development tools to existing businesses (e.g.: Enterprise Zone).
- Distribute a business survey in order to gather feedback from a broad range of business leaders.

Government Camp

- Engage the Forest Service and ODOT in discussions to help reduce the obstacles that restrict the ability for the community to develop.
- The necessary infrastructure is in place within the community. Support opportunities to build-out area.
- Seek economic development opportunities between the three main ski areas: Skibowl, Timberline and Mt. Hood Meadows.

McLoughlin Corridor

- Focus on streetscapes and beautification. Cross Streets, areas and hubs need to be identified better. The sense is that there is too much cement and not enough thriving.
- An identity goal should happen first to get the business community interested in participating. Currently there is a lack of cohesive vision by leaders, the business community and property owners. There are many groups weighing in on the topic, and it would increase participation and lessen confusion to bring all of these groups to the same table under one name.
- Identify innovative transportation linkages. Currently the area is an "island" with very poor east-west connections.
- There should be hubs for the County to look at working on one hub at a time. Look at grants such as the \$5M sustainable cities grant.

Agricultural Investment Plan

- Marketplace Recognition and Positioning. Certain agriculture clusters in Clackamas County – such as shade trees, flowering shrubs, and Christmas trees – stand out as national leaders. The county can work with strategic partners to assist businesses in accessing markets in order to enhance the position of Clackamas County's agricultural businesses in the nation and global economy.
- Workforce Development. Agriculture businesses and the county's various agriculture clusters cannot function and survive without a well-trained and available workforce.
- Business Development. Focus on supporting small businesses by addressing specific needs, such as access to financing or technical and professional services. Improve survival rate of small farms by partnering with local educational institutions, professional societies and industry groups to provide structured training and support.