

Listening Sessions

Observations from the four regional sessions, Nov 12-13, 2020

Shared Top Priorities, County-wide

- Workforce/Affordable Housing
- Broadband Development

Regional Priorities

North County

Primary

- Available and affordable childcare
- Workforce development (training)
- Recruit remote workers

Secondary

- Attract tech industry
- Tourism attraction development (rainy day activities)
- Develop public open space

Central County

Primary

- Workforce development (training)
- Workforce attraction and retention
- Update infrastructure
- Capitalize and develop the blue economy
- Bring in commercial air service

Secondary

- Port infrastructure updates

South County

Primary

- Workforce attraction and retention
- Increase economic diversity

Secondary

- Better/more south county parking (including boat trailers)
- Improve Eckman Lake
- Environmentally sustainable tourism
- Reduce wage barriers for workforce housing

East County

Primary

- Increase economic diversity
- New hotel
- Planning grants available to organizations

Secondary

- Marine tech school in Toledo
- Maintain transportation infrastructure
- Support local emergency services

Other Key Themes

- Coordination of efforts (less duplication)
- Grow outdoor recreation opportunities and assets
- Extend tourism season
- Attract remote workers

Thoughts from an Economic Development Practitioner

Listening sessions from regional stakeholders provide essential feedback on priorities, challenges and opportunities in our region. They also help to create buy-in and a sense that we're all working on the same team. These sessions should be held at least every two years (perhaps as a part of a county-wide economic summit).

But these elected and appointed officials are not always experts on economic development – nor should they be. We also need to look at priorities, challenges and opportunities through the lens of professional, experienced economic development practitioners – then, taken together, we can develop a successful course into the future.

Additional Priorities the EDALC Sees for Lincoln County

- Economic Development Strategic Planning
 - Local plan of work focusing on increasing economic vitality and resiliency
 - Participate in development and management of regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Management and renewal of our local Enterprise Zone
 - EDALC's Executive Director currently serve as the zone administrator
- Develop and implement a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program
- Business attraction
 - Business, remote worker and lifestyle entrepreneur attraction
 - Special focus on tech and small manufacturing recruitment and startups
- Business development
 - Help businesses access local and regional capital-access programs
 - Foster the growth of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem
 - Tourism entrepreneurship
 - Childcare entrepreneurship
 - Develop and operate a Lincoln County business incubator
 - Co-working facility
 - Shared-use entrepreneurial kitchen
- Site promotion
 - Lincoln County manager for BusinessOregon's OregonProspecter

- As needed coordination of responses to site selector inquiries
- Support and provide technical assistance for projects in the county (such as Toledo's port and arts district, Waldport's industrial park, Blue Economy, etc.)
- Local economic data
 - Economic Vitality Report Card
 - Update of 2014 Lincoln County economy report
- Coordinate efforts and disseminate information with stakeholders
 - Local and regional governmental units
 - State partners
 - Local stakeholders (SBDC, YBEF, NW Coastal Housing, etc.)
 - Regional economic development organizations

Potential Local and Regional Stakeholders

Possible Funding Support

- Lincoln County
- Lincoln City
- City of Newport
- City of Toledo
- City of Waldport
- Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians (this would take time to develop)
- Lincoln County business community
- Samaritan Health Centers
- Communities that might have a hard time support economic development financially
 - Depoe Bay
 - Siletz
 - Yachats

Other Support (in-kind, technical assistance, etc.)

- Association of Oregon Counties
- Cascades West Council of Governments
 - Economic Development District
- State of Oregon
 - BusinessOregon
 - Regional Solutions Team
- OregonRAIN
- Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation (perhaps project-specific funding)
- Oregon Coast Community College
 - Small Business Development Center
- Oregon State University
 - Hatfield Marine Science Center
 - OSU Accelerator
 - Extension

- RARE Program
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Local Ports (Alsea, Depoe Bay, Newport, Toledo)
- Lincoln County School District
- Northwest Oregon Works
- Foundry Collective
- Travel Oregon
 - Oregon Coast Visitors Association (perhaps project-specific funding)