

# Appendix D: Clark County Economic Development Action Plan

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Clark County identified three primary economic development strategies for the next 5 to 10 years. The strategies are:

1. Identify, assess and maintain nodes of growth for economic development;
2. Reduce regulatory barriers and constraints that inhibit economic development;
3. Increase the county's capacity to support and participate in economic development.

Each strategy is supported by action items. In some cases the action items support more than one strategy. Action items that support more than one Strategy are identified with a \*\*.

1. Identify, assess and maintain nodes of growth for economic development (such as Focused Public Investment Areas (FPIAs)).

Clark County may take one or a combination of the following steps to enhance high priority focused public investment areas identified through the Plan update process:

- a) Participate in regional land inventory and assessment (ongoing)
  - b) Foster and convene open communication with regional economic development stakeholders (such as utilities providers, ports, cities, education and workforce development) (ongoing)
  - c) Create zoning designations, developer agreements, or other tools that protect designated areas of focused public investment from fragmented growth or unplanned residential and commercial growth. (ongoing)
  - d) Evaluate development of a fee-in-lieu program for wetland and habitat mitigation. (Yr 1-5)\*\*
  - e) Investigate the use of planned action SEPA, regional general permits and other tools in subarea planning (Yr 1-5)
  - f) Develop a process of site certification for prequalification of sites, and a process for encouraging landowners to use the process. (Yr 1-7)\*\*
  - g) Review and continuously improve streamlined process for major economic developments. (ongoing)\*\*
  - h) Review the concurrency program to develop approaches that protect trips for industrial and employment center uses. (Yr 1-5)\*\*
  - i) Establish a dedicated administrative funding source for the county's use in economic development programs and activities. (Yr 1-5)\*\*
2. Reduce regulatory barriers and constraints that inhibit economic development. The importance of this action is positive differentiation. Like businesses, Clark County competes in a marketplace and must be just as responsive to market changes.
    - a) Review and continuously improve streamlined process for major economic developments. (ongoing)\*\*
    - b) Continue deployment and implementation of e-permitting focused on assisting commercial and industrial growth. (Yr. 1-5)
    - c) Establish fast-tracked development processes to assist small businesses and startups in renovating, expanding, and relocating businesses. Assist small businesses and startups in

- locating local, regional, state and federal resources and programs relevant to their needs (Yr.1-5)
- d) Review the concurrency program to develop approaches that protect trips for industrial and employment center uses. (Yr. 1-5)\*\*
  - e) Investigate the use of planned action SEPA, regional general permits and other tools in subarea planning (Yr 1-5)
  - f) Develop a process of site certification for prequalification of sites, and a process for encouraging landowners to use the process. (Yr 1-7)\*\*
3. Increase the capacity of county government to support and participate in economic development.
- a) Implement the county's REET-based discretionary loan fund to support economic development initiatives, grow the fund to a meaningful amount, and leverage that resource on a revolving basis. (Yr 1-5)\*\*
  - b) Establish a dedicated administrative funding source for the county's use in economic development programs and activities. (Yr 1-5)\*\*

| Performance Measures -- Economic Development           |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
|--|-------------|-----------|----------|-----|----------|---------------------|----------|-------|--|
| Measurable   | Period From | Period To | Quantity | YTD | % Change | Since Plan Adoption | % Change | Notes |  |
| Permit processing days for industrial permits          |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| Permit processing days for commercial permits          |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| Employment land and acreage that was pre-qualified     |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| Ind./Comm. permits processed via e-permitting          |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| All jobs created for which county processed the permit |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| KBE jobs created for which county processed the permit |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| Jobs created due to E.D. REET fund loans               |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| Other: _____   |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |
| Other: _____   |             |           |          |     |          |                     |          |       |  |