

ALASKA

NORTHERN OPPORTUNITY

Alaska’s Economic Strategy

Southeast Conference Annual Meeting
September 19, 2017



So what is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy?

- Reviews economic and demographic conditions
- Evaluates state's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
- Uses an inclusive, public process to gather input
- Sets a goals, objectives, and action steps for coming 5 years
- Includes clear metrics and benchmarks
- Includes resiliency planning component



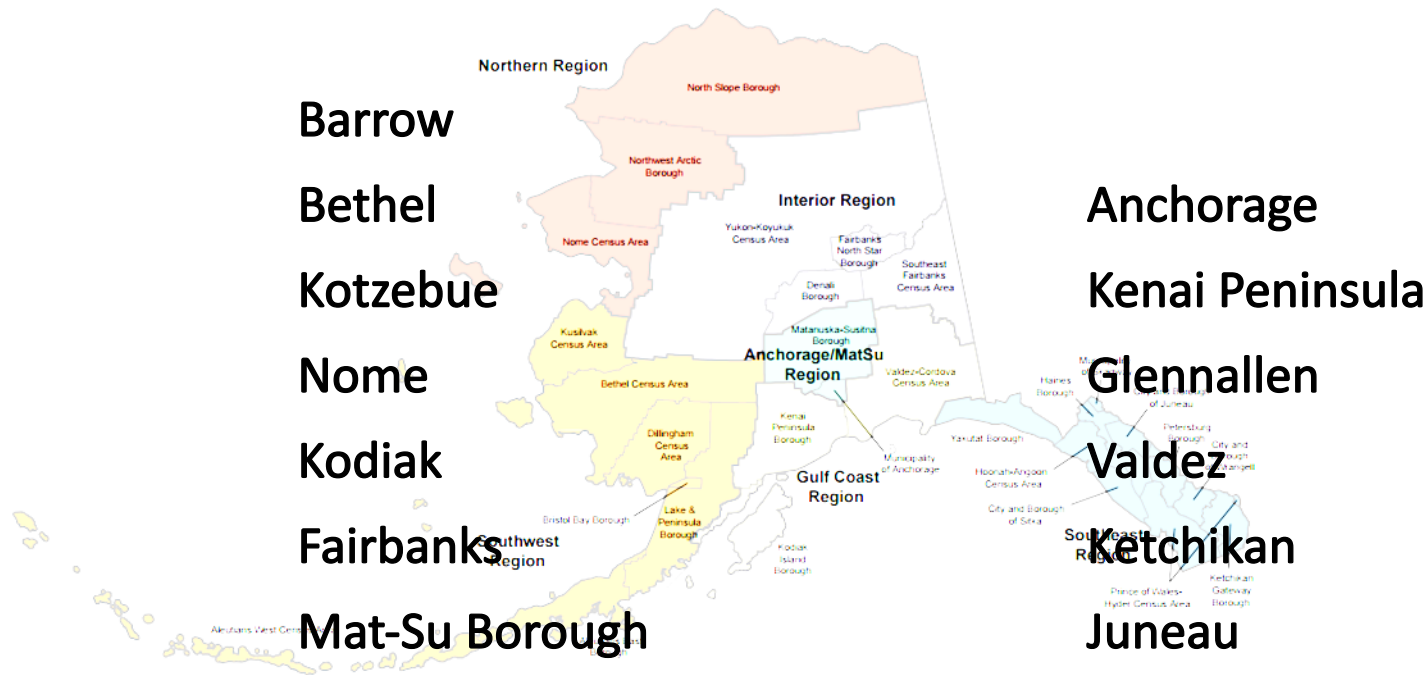
Regional Strategies:

- Almost every region of the state has some level of economic strategy.
- This project has been built with key components of these of regional strategies in mind.
- Southeast Conference has a CEDS that is highly regarded on a national level.





Who We Heard From: Community Forums



Who We Heard From: Business Forums and Surveys

- Seafood Industry
- Oil and Gas Industry
- Visitor Industry
- Mining Industry
- Entrepreneurial and Business Start-Up Sector
- Telecom Industry
- Alaska Native Corporations
- Agriculture Industry
- Timber Industry



What We Heard – In Six Goal Areas

- Business Development
 - Cultivate a resilient business climate that supports growth and expansion of existing and emerging industries.
- Finance and Investment
 - Maximize the productive use of capital for Alaska business expansion.
- Economic Development Infrastructure
 - Build the transportation, energy and technological foundations for economic growth.
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 - Position Alaska to thrive in a technologically advanced global economy.
- Economic Development Capacity Building
 - Strengthen the ability of Alaska organizations to execute economic development initiatives that create jobs and investment.
- Quality of Life
 - Improve the attractiveness and livability of Alaska communities to attract and retain a quality workforce and set the foundations for economic well-being.



Business Development

Sustain and grow the timber and forest products industry in Alaska:

- Promote and support the wood product manufacturing industry
- Improve access to sustainable timber resources and inventories in Southeast Alaska
- Support local timber industry specific workforce development programs and potential apprenticeships.
- Maintain existing timber industry infrastructure
- Grow biomass use in Alaska by 10 percent



Business Development

Grow the impact of Alaska's visitor industry in existing regions and market segments, and increase the impact of the industry to Alaska communities

- Increase sustainable growth in emerging visitor industry segments: Cultural Tourism, Eco Tourism, Geo Tourism, Adventure Tourism, and Arctic Tourism
- Increase statewide cruise guests by 10 percent.
- Increase peak season capacity by maximizing utilization of existing infrastructure, and new infrastructure investment.



Business Development

Maximize opportunities in all aspects of the Alaska Maritime Sector:

- Position Alaska shipyards to benefit from the increased demand for ship restoration and new builds as the Alaska based fleet ages and requires replacement and refurbishment.
- Continue to develop the maritime industry support sector workforce by implementation of the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan.
- Increase the use of existing regional repair and maintenance facilities for local vessel needs.
- Identify opportunities that take advantage of the increasing traffic through the Northwest Passage and increased resource development for the benefit of the maritime sector.



Business Development – Other Areas

- Oil and Gas
- Seafood Industry
- Import Substitution
- Workforce Development Opportunities



Finance and Investment

Assess needs and new sources of capital in Alaska

- Conduct a formal assessment of capital availability for businesses at all stages of development in Alaska.

Expand the use, availability and knowledge of microfinance and crowdfunding

- Expand public awareness of allowable uses of crowdfunding under recent legislation through promotional channels: web content, news media, and speaking engagements.
- Use international microfinance models to increase capital for small businesses in rural Alaska not eligible for traditional financing.

Systematically attract and increase foreign direct investment



Economic Development

Infrastructure

- Improve access to statewide broadband
 - Update and implement key provisions from the Alaska Broadband Taskforce report.
 - Utilize potential development projects in rural Alaska to feed surrounding community needs.

Encourage improvement and development of intermodal hubs and ports

- Improve port access and infrastructure in major Alaska shipping hubs.
- Expand development of port facilities in western Alaska that facilitate future opportunities related to increased arctic shipping and business opportunities.

Reduce the energy cost burden on Alaska businesses and households



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Increase the pipeline of bankable start-up companies in Alaska by 10%

- Deploy funds from the 49th State Angel Fund
- Extend entrepreneurship events like Startup Weekend and One Million Cups to communities statewide – including rural hubs.
- Continue to develop Launch:Alaska into a world-class accelerator.

Position Alaska workers and firms to thrive within global trends of automation, robotics, and other disruptive technologies

- Assess the industries in Alaska most likely to be immediately impacted by, automation (oilfield example).
- Identify workers with potential to be attracted to Alaska and can utilize existing Alaska infrastructure to take advantage the changing trend.



Economic Development Capacity

Building

Create new statewide coordination mechanisms for economic and business development

- Convene statewide business leaders to gauge desire for new statewide business development group or entity that remains consistent through political changes.
- Assess the potential for different statewide economic development models, such as business roundtables, public-private partnerships, state corporations, and others.



Quality of Life

Improve community development foundations that influence economic development

- Utilize Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) Live.Work.Play Initiative’s matrix as a template to identify key livability issues in Alaska communities.
- Assess options for reducing the cost of health insurance for individuals and firms.
- Assess variables that affect worker well-being, such as education, community safety, recreation, and housing; use these to define metrics.
- Expand and promote recreational access to public lands.
- Improve the quality and availability of housing throughout the state to reduce costs and alleviate overcrowding.

The draft report is here:
northernopportunity.com

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