

Building a Community Coalition for Economic Development

Purpose: Building upon the DBIDA Strategic Action Plan, discuss the need for an Economic Development Summit involving key stakeholders and secure commitment to participate.

DBIDA Action Plan recognizes four key elements to building an effective economic development coalition

1. Building a coalition among diverse interests
2. Creating a vision for the long term economic development of the community
3. Planning for action
4. Managing for success

A community is composed of many diverse interests, each of which has a stake in the future. These include individuals and groups from the following sectors of the community:

1. Agriculture
2. Banks/Financial institutions
3. Chamber of Commerce
4. Churches
5. Civic organizations
6. Community betterment groups (Dover Main Street)
7. Economic development organizations (DBIDA, SEDC, SBA, etc.)
8. Educational organizations
9. Elderly
10. Health care
11. Industry
12. Local government (City Council, Planning Board, etc)
13. Professionals (attorneys, architects, accountants, etc)
14. Real estate
15. Retail business
16. Transportation (Coast, C&J, Wildcat, Amtrak, B&M)
17. Unions
18. Utility companies (PSNH, Northern Utilities, Verizon, Bayring)
19. Youth

Seek to build coalition via hosting Economic Development Summit

Involve Chamber and Chamber Membership

Purpose of coalition is to take charge of change rather than reacting to it.

Invite stakeholders including Chamber members to meeting facilitated by economic development consultant

Consultant being utilized to keep participants focused on and involved in process, prepare documentation communicating results

Develop consensus to create a realistic vision by balancing community values and traditions against the need for growth and change

Articulate goals and outline steps needed to create change

Present results to City Council emphasizing diversity of support

Secure multi-year commitment for engaging Economic Development professional to work towards achieving vision and goals outlined during Summit

Secure consultant (week of Feb 25th)

Identify and invite stakeholders (week of March 3rd)

Summit to be hosted in March (week of March 17th and/or 24th)

Results prepared and distributed (week of March 31st)

Present to City Council (April 2nd)