

2017 CEDS Review and Focus Group November 30, 2017

Participants:

Dewey Cave, Ann Simon, MRCOG
Antoinette Vigil, Sandoval County, Economic Development
Randy Trask, Albuquerque Bernalillo Trade Alliance
Yvonne McPheeters, Accion
Annemarie Henton, Albuquerque Economic Development
John Freisinger, Innovate ABQ
Steven Tomita, City of Belen, Economic Development
Marcos Gonzales, Bernalillo County, Economic Development
Belinda Garland, Torrance County

Introduction: Ann Simon and Dewey Cave welcomed the partners to the MRCOG and explained the purpose of the meeting, to check in on the status of the 2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Ann began by asking participants to give a sense of where they are seeing growth in the region, where they are seeing declines, and what, if any, program success they want to share.

A discussion ensued about the need for more accurate data measures and how such data could be used to attract new economic activity in the region. More precise data would include type and location of rail lines; understanding the strengths of our workforce by knowing the number of technicians or trades people; the topics and fields of study of PhD candidates, and what is being researched; types of technologies being deployed and companies being developed. This, the group discussed, would lead to understanding the regional niche, or business proposition, rather than listing ten focus areas that thin out our resources.

The group discussed the value of being good at and known for one or two things and going after that market share. R&D and Testing Labs, Government Contracting were mentioned as key economic drivers.*

The group felt that a listing or mapping of infrastructure and other assets would also be helpful. Ann agreed to work with her partners at the Metro New Mexico Development Alliance to see how some of this data could be captured on its web site (www.ingenuitycentral.org), and how the site might become a data repository for partners within the region, rather than just being marketed to those outside New Mexico.

Ann tasked the group with providing the MRCOG with a list of data needs which she will integrate into an asset map and into the CEDS.

Finally, the group acknowledged and was extremely interested in results from the [Transportation and Logistics Hub Study](#) which outlined ways to leverage the region's trade gateways (air, highway, and rail) to position the region as a center for global technology business investment. The group was especially

interested in the findings that the requirement for most tech production sectors include a ready and skilled labor force, a friendly regulatory environment and extremely well-developed supply chain connectivity. The study pointed out that emerging and high-value technology hubs will compete well if they have assembled a comprehensive product that meets the future needs of global corporate executive and supply chain managers, including a modern and ready property product, customized skills development, collaborative research, and an integrated transportation and logistics capacity.

The group felt like we had already begun to identify some of those assets and by further fleshing them out we would be in a good position to compete in a global technology market.

The MRCOG in partnership with its member governments and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Trade Alliance will work to identify and map key assets, assemble the necessary data, and work with partners to implement the recommendations of the Hub Study. This work will strengthen the regional economy and could position it for global technology business investment.

*R&D and Testing Labs make up nearly half of all technology jobs in New Mexico (CompTIA 2017). Trade, Transportation and Utilities make up the largest employment sector in the MRCOG region (2015 NM Workforce Solutions data) followed closely by Education and Healthcare. Computer and electronic products make up the largest category of exports. Bernalillo County's largest private employment sector in 2017 was Health Care followed by Retail Trade and Food Service (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Department of Workforce Solutions).

Mini Map: Data Sources for labor market, economic impact, jobs, skills, and candidates

www.mrcog-nm.gov

<http://bber.unm.edu/bernalillo>

<http://abqprogressreport.sks.com/>

<https://www.jobs.state.nm.us/vosnet/lmi/default.aspx?pu=1&plang=E> .

www.ingenuitycentral.org

[Workforce Solutions monthly data](#)

[City Alive](#)

[Talent Neuron](#)

[Chmura](#)

REMI—Economic Modeling tool at MRCOG