



2018 Community Meeting Recap for Miles City

This document is a summary of the 2018 CEDS community meetings. These meetings were designed to discuss local findings and incorporate them into the five-year CEDS document created by SEMDC, and to get community feedback as to what the current state of the community is, how things have changed from last year, and what projects are priorities to be completed for the following year(s).

This year was especially important to host a community meeting because of how the impacts from the decline in natural resource development has had on the community. There will be many impacts on communities in southeastern Montana, and the goal is to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The decrease in Bakken activity as well as the pending threat to coal have drawn some negative impacts recently. The more communities understand the impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcomes will be.

This document summarizes the thoughts, ideas, and projects discussed at the community meeting.

Miles City CEDS Meeting 2018

Group Discussion

Rather than perform a typical Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats assessments, SEMDC led the group through the exercise by having them first examine the results of last years' meeting and then adding or modifying the information already developed. The lists below are what the group as a whole developed.

Strengths

Medical Hub	Economic and Business Diversity
Financial/Banking Hub	Food/Restaurant options
County Seat	Education Hub
Clean air/Attractive/Healthy Living	Good quality of Life
Transportation (rail/hwy/crossroads)	WAPA
Schools: Community College (education offered pre-k through college)	Strong Ag economy, ag clusters, and Natural Resource Base
Fort Keogh	Rivers and plenty of outdoor recreation
Good paying jobs through Gov't	Some Land growth potential
Largest Hospital between Billings and Dickinson	Great telecommunications – IT and fiber are great
Events – Bucking horse sale/car show	Farmers Market
Good, caring, hardworking people	Culture / symphony/art center/range riders
Strong volunteerism	Active Leadership community
Historic/Community/Buildings	Strong Sports support
Grain terminal	Economic Development Center
Good roads and access	Increase in Truck Traffic
Auto parts/Ag Support	3 car dealerships – more variety
Hotel that can host small conventions	VA Facility and site
Strong Church Community	Events Facility/Agri Sports Complex
Improved City/County relations	Trucking services expanded
Strong Chamber of Commerce, established popular events	Critical Care Facility/Air Transport Service for emergency situations
Government Service Center - USDA	Legislative representation
Good working relationships between groups and businesses	Potential Opportunity For Downtown Development
Eastern Montana Industries	HS Softball Field Improvements
Food Bank/Soup Kitchen	Council on Aging/Aging Hub
Law Enforcement/Fire Protection	New generation of business professionals
Potential and promise in our region	Upgrade of Broadus Interchange in works
Quantity/Quality of Non-Profits	Leadership Miles City Program
Retail Development Growth/Hub	Additional retail stores/specialty stores
State Employees Medical Clinic Added	Airport Improvements – Runway, Hangars
Community Health Center	TIF District/Opportunity Zone

Housing Diversity and Housing Authority	Historic buildings and funding to maintain them
Professional Services	Town and Country Club
CCMC Flood Control Project	Strong Western Cultural Heritage
Milestown Group and Improvements They have done	Strategically located between Wright, WY and Sidney, MT for locating oil service industry
New Detention Center	New Construction Group in Town
Daily Newspaper – Radio Stations	Access to National Corporations in community
Ag Advancement Center built	City adopted Long Range Transportation Plan
Hockey Building	Rocks Program
Affordable housing projects	MCC Heavy Equipment program
MCC workforce training programs	Community Vision and Proactive Attitude
Stockman Bank Hub	Low crime rate
Cell Phone coverage	Active service groups (civic groups)
Livestock Sales Barn - New	Lodging – just the right amount of rooms
Tourism into community	Interstate Proximity
New Community Foundation	Regional Employers (Private and Public)
Active Youth Groups	Malt Festival
Water/Sewer Capacity study completed	Hospital – offer services from birth to hospice
Dialysis Care/Expanded Cancer Care	Livestock Pavilion Complex at Fairgrounds
West End Improvement Efforts	Live Music Events
Parks and Park Improvement Efforts	Improvements to West End Lease Situation
Improved Signage and Trail System	EMS/Ambulance/Equipment
Pipeline Activity	SBDC Office in Miles City at MCC
New MCC Programs/Enrollment Up	MCC Collaborations with CDKC and Power \$\$
Stable Economic Base	Events Center Opportunity at Fairgrounds
AHEC Center	

Concerns

Labor Pool Limited – All Sectors	Parking concerns downtown
Bakken economic traffic decreasing; employment opportunities also down	Water/sewer infrastructure needs upgrade, difficult to meet regulations /mandates
Lack of measure of success tool	Lack of available rail offloading sites
Concern with annexation	Lack of clinical site to accommodate MCC
Money generated in eastern MT going to western MT	Workforce development not funded by the University System yet is in high demand.
Increased rail traffic creates need for additional overpass, quiet zones, and safe crossings.	Southgate Subdivision has only one exit in and out with numerous homes located there. May be safety issue.
Demand on Emergency services and security would increase with more	Lack of workforce – unemployment low - cannibalize each other for labor
Concern that the money will leave as older generation leaves	Single Family moderately priced homes in limited supply

Low Income Housing availability	Lack of Cell Phone service outside of town
DNRC/water rights	EPA/Water Quality mandates
Lack Mental Health Services to serve all needs	More and more potential employees unable to pass drug tests
Shoe/Clothing Retailers	Increase in truck traffic, impacts on roads
Doctor/Healthcare recruitment	VA Site – Future options ?
FEMA flood insurance increase and rates	Lack of activities for the entire family when they are not at work or school
School Special Education Staff recruitment difficult	Lack of marketing effort to bring back younger generation
Ag commodity prices low for grain	Industry Growth impacting infrastructure
Lack of Public Transportation	Flooding in underpass
No Grocery Store on North Side	Loss of Colstrip
No taxi cabs after 9pm	Transportation for disabled limited
Lack passenger air service	Lack of economic/community development
Low wages	County Roads – Cost, Maintenance, Quality
MDU Electric rates increasing	Federal government budgets are decreasing
Prevailing wage rates have increased to compete with oil jobs	Difficult to attract/recruit new people and hard to
Statewide Tax Structure – Future??	Not much entertainment for younger children
Fire Dept. Building/Needed \$\$ to repair	Proximity to Interstate
Police Dept. Building/Needed \$\$	EMS Service Regulations/Avail Personnel
Fairgrounds loss of building	Low pay base affects recruitment for jobs
Website Updates County/City	Rural Broadband and Cell Service Reliability
Round A Bout Project Impacts	Pipeline Activity
Childcare Availability	MCC/State Funding Concerns
Tax Base Limited	Need for downtown development and diversity
	No City CIP

Working Groups

In this second activity, the group was asked to discuss projects that would assist in addressing some of the weaknesses or needs in the community. At the end of the identification of meaningful projects, the group was given three stickers and asked to vote for specific projects. They were allowed to place their stickers as they chose with one sticker by three various projects or all their stickers by a particular project.

Economy

VA Complex

County continues to work toward a solution on whether to accept ownership of the VA Complex. This could potentially impact businesses and groups currently located there. Additionally,

location of current VA services could be impacted in near future.

Event/Convention Center

Work toward establishing an Event/Convention Center at the fairgrounds capable of holding an event for approximately 1,000 persons. This would supplement existing tourism efforts as well as create a whole new avenue of events Miles City could host.

Westend Development

Continue to work with the City of Miles City toward industrial development on the west end of Miles City. Also support tourism efforts and beautification efforts to make that entrance to Miles City more inviting.

TIF/Opportunity Zone

Explore opportunities to utilize TIF or Opportunity Zone program to enhance downtown area further.

Proposed Economic Projects (Those receiving votes)

Event/Convention Center - 4 Votes

VA Complex - 6 votes

Housing

MCC Housing Needs

Establish additional housing for MCC as their enrollment is expanding. Needs for married student housing as well.

Workforce Housing

Support efforts to establish affordable/workforce housing.

Proposed Housing Projects (Those receiving votes)

No votes

Quality of Life

Public Transportation Program

Continue to establish public transportation program and offer transportation to other areas to seniors and those in need of public transportation.

Marketing of Miles City (Tourism, Entrepreneurs, Businesses, potential young residents)

Support efforts to market Miles City to potential businesses, entrepreneurs and potential

young residents. Continue to market tourism. Work toward improving overall content management of various key organizations such as City, County, Economic Development. Choose one marketing theme and promote Miles City in a united effort.

Centra Expansion

Expand the Centra to create more availability for various activities to the public and make more availability for sports at MCC. This could serve for additional youth type programs and make more times available for public use.

Proposed Quality of Life Projects (Those receiving votes)

Marketing of Miles City – 5 Votes

Services and Infrastructure

CCMC Flood Control Project

Miles City continues to struggle with matters associated with the existing levee which is not certified, and the floodplain. Section 205 funding has been obtained and a steering committee with sub committees continues to pursue this project with the first phase being a feasibility study to be conducted by the Corp of Engineers.

Airport Improvements

Continue to support efforts to improve the airport infrastructure.

City CIP

Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) are becoming necessary to point competitively for infrastructure type grants. Assist City in obtaining funding to complete a CIP.

School Building Upgrades

All school buildings including the college are in need of continual maintenance and capital improvement projects. Support necessary funding to continue to maintain infrastructure.

Fire Building/Police Building

The fire department building is facing condemnation of a portion of it and funding to replace it is necessary. The police department is also looking to find a permanent location and may be locating at the old Garberson Clinic.

Tussler Bridge

Tussler bridge is in need of significant repair. Commissioners are seeking funding to accomplish this project.

Proposed Services and Infrastructure Projects (Those receiving votes)

Police/Fire Buildings – 6 Votes

CCMC Flood Control – 3 Votes

School Building Upgrades – 1 Vote

CIP – 1 Vote

Airport Improvements – 1 Vote