



## 2020 Community Survey Recap for the Town of Broadus

This document is a summary of the 2020 CEDS community surveys. These surveys were designed to ascertain local findings for the five-year CEDS document being 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 it was especially important to seek community feedback because of the COVID impacts on our region. SEMDC is working with citizens and communities to find ways to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The more individuals in each community understand economic change and 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.

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# Broadus CEDS Survey 2020

## Group Discussion

The first activity in this community survey was to review previous meeting recaps and record strengths and weaknesses of the community. This was a way to begin looking at the various aspects that enhance or hinder this community.

## Strengths

Eating establishments	Dedicated EMS Non Profit
Expanded physical therapy services	Financial institution located in town
Newer airport	Variety of churches
Wildlife fence	Fairground Facilities
Airport Cardtrol for Fueling	Golf course
Many natural resources	Pool
Ag-based economy	Belle Creek Oil Field
Clean air/water/etc.	Some access to the arts
Largest Coal Deposit in the World	Recycling
Nursing home (provides about 58 jobs)	Public transportation for all
Strong Ethics	Retail
Good schools and great school staff	Crossroads on highways 59 and 212
Volunteerism is strong	Town square/New Sidewalks
Land available if maximized	Abundant wildlife
Denbury company	Museum Facility
Massage Therapy Services	Community Foundation
New Lodging Options/Community Conference Room	Grocery Store
Clinic/Staff	Floodplain remapping completed/Decreased properties in floodplain
Outdoor Recreation	Electricians
Agricultural Economy	Strong Local Core Businesses
Library	Physical Therapy Services
Pharmacy	Funeral Home
Veterinarians (4)	Contractors
Rest Stop/Visitors Center	Close to Custer National Forest/Recreation
New Safety Lights at "T" near golf course	Now have a rep for SE MT Tourism
Improved Website Maintenance	Chamber Improvement/Seminars/Website
Trails System Grant Award	School Community Development Council \$\$
Pre School (2)	Outfitters/Hunting Economy
County Yards/Pick up for Sale Barns	Medical Staff
Major wastewater upgrades in process	Integrated Healthcare Program
Community Garden Program	Fitness Trail System

Ambulance and EMT Personnel	Broadus Volunteer Fire Department
New physical therapy center downtown	New Lights at "T" for safety
Grocery Store upgrades/New Products	Improved store front appearances downtown
New Healthcare Advisory Board appointed by Commissioners	Community Integrated Healthcare Program

## Concerns

Aging Infrastructure	Trying to be everything to everybody
Primary Businesses OK/Secondary businesses decreasing	Lack of handicapped access (clinic)
Great school staff, but worried about how to replace them with quality staff when they leave/retire	Would like to see an increase in population
Difficult to keep/find quality people to work	Disjointed Healthcare Groups
"Brain drain"	Difficult to find recreation
Passive feeling towards the planning for energy developments	Cost of upcoming upgrades to town sewer system
Lack of "service-based" workers	Limited lots for development
Lack of service type workers to existing competition from other employers	Lack of diverse job opportunities and higher wage jobs
Predator Concerns/Affecting Ag and Hunting	Several Brownfields sites/inability to resolve
Lack of services/recreation/quality housing	Staffing \$\$ for Visitor Center/Lack of promotion for tourism and Warrior Trail
Retention/Recruitment of Skilled Labor (Healthcare, Teachers, HVAC, Plumber)	Stability of Eating Establishments
Cell Phone Service/Coverage	FEMA Flood Insurance Changes (subsidies)
Critical Access Hospital Feasibility Questions	No Doctor In The Entire County
EMS Staffing/Volunteers/Training	Nursing Home Facility (Costs?)
Future of Ambulance Service	Safety concerns and needed crosswalks flashing signs on Hwy 212, Silver Sage, Park
Cell Service difficult in Broadus	\$\$ for Preschool Needs
Small Pool for Labor Force	Costs for Road Maintenance
Cost of Utilities (Electric)	Large Amount of Houses on Market
Vacant Commercial Buildings	Land that is available does not have water/sewer services
Lack of opportunities for college graduates/no jobs to return to	Mental Health Services/Availability at School Additional services
Highway Signage	No local bank that does housing loans
Fairground Maintenance – Arena/Bleachers	Dependent on Federal \$ and oil revenues
Assisted living options for lower income persons	Ag based economy
Little promotion of vocational training or entrepreneurialism	Walking trail structure in town lacking/Need more improvements
Old houses/buildings	No job development
Messy properties on entrances to community	Small Business Transition

Lack of Emergency Services and Equipment	Large number of rentals available
School Transportation \$\$ cut	No independent living units for elderly
Lack of Industry	School population decrease
Substance Abuse High/Few Programs to help	Broadband Capacity
Medicare Reimbursement Rates create challenges at Nursing Home	Massage Therapy services available but not dependable for scheduling
Denbury announced bankruptcy and had significant layoffs	Lack of awareness of community website and promotion of the community
Cost of housing as compared to average wages in the community	Employees facing customers are not good stewards for the community
Internet Quality/Cell Phone coverage poor in town	Rest Stop/Visitors Center located too far outside of town
Amount of coal seam fires that are started annually	Pressures from COVID on healthcare workers and businesses

## Working Groups

In this second activity, we asked the group to discuss important potential projects keeping in mind Housing, the Economy, Quality of Life, and Essential Services/Infrastructure. After the projects were discussed, we came back as a group to review each issue. Each person was given three stickers which they would use to vote on certain projects they deemed more important. They could put all three stickers on one project, or one sticker on each project. This prioritization of projects provides SEMDC and the community an idea of what the priorities are.

## Economy/Housing

### ***Historical Museum***

Continue to encourage the operation of the historical museum. It creates an attraction to assist with people stopping and taking in our community.

### ***Senior Housing and Housing Rehabilitation Project***

Work with CDBG Housing to establish a senior and rehabilitation project for lower income homes. Also encourage the development of independent living units.

### ***Signage/Internet Presence***

Establish more signage for town to create welcoming atmosphere and make services and information more accessible via internet.

### **Proposed Economy/Housing Projects Receiving Votes**

Senior Housing – 7

Historical Museum – 4

Signage Internet - 2

# Quality of Life

## ***Trail System***

Create a trail system to encourage exercise programs, better health and mental clarity for residents. Add crosswalks on Hwy 212 to increase safety. Repave existing trail in areas where it is degrading.

## ***Mental Health/Chemical Addiction Services***

Establish more access to mental health and in particular information about chemical addiction services.

## ***Integrated Healthcare Vehicle***

Purchase vehicle to be utilized for Integrated Healthcare program.

## ***Pre-School***

Continue to encourage further development of pre-school services in the community.

## ***Ambulance***

At present ambulance for community is a 2 wheel drive only. There is a strong need for 4 wheel drive due to weather conditions of southeastern Montana.

## ***Medical Services Feasibility Study and Plan***

Establish a working group to look into the possible establishment of a Critical Access Hospital where Emergency Services, clinic, physical therapy, and nursing home could be located.

## ***Backflow Restrictor in Water Line, Powder River Manor***

Install backflow restrictor in water line at Powder River Manor to insure high quality water source.

## **Proposed Quality of Life Projects Receiving Votes**

Ambulance – 11 Votes

Medical Feasibility Study/Plan – 8 Votes

Mental Health – 7 Votes

Integrated Healthcare Vehicle – 4 Votes

Trail System – 3 Votes

PreSchool – 2 Votes

## Services and Infrastructure

### ***Next Gen 911***

Move toward becoming compliant with Next Gen 911 standards

### ***Lagoon/Sewer System Upgrades***

The Town of Broadus is facing some mandates they must comply with which may take some upgrades to the sewage lagoons as well as the sewer system.

### ***Storage Structure for Fire Department Trucks***

New storage structures are needed to house fire trucks and keep them in good repair.

### ***Fairgrounds Improvement***

Work on arena and bleachers to maintain and improve fairground facility.

### ***Ranch Creek Rd***

Work toward the submission of a second FLAP grant to assist with the upgrades for Ranch Creek Rd near Belle Creek, MT.

### ***Bridge Disaster Project***

Moorhead Bridge, Horse Creek Bridge, Little Pilgrim Creek Crossing, and Little Powder Bridge are all part of a disaster resiliency plan related to the 2019 flooding disaster in Powder River County. Seek funding to upgrade/repair this infrastructure.

### ***High School Improvements***

PRCDHS needs a new roof and also is facing a needed upgrade to the locker rooms area.

### ***Broadband/Cell Phone Coverage***

Make appropriate officials aware of lack of cell phone coverage even right in Broadus. Very slow internet in rural areas and complete lack of internet coverage in some areas other than satellite internet.

### ***Broadus Infrastructure Improvements***

Complete water/sewer infrastructure upgrade in process, paint water storage tank and install fencing around it, purchase generator for water system for Town, complete water well upgrades, purchase Hydro-Vac trailer to service water lines.

### **Proposed Services/Infrastructure Projects Receiving Votes**

Broadband/Cell Phone Coverage – 7 Votes

Next Gen 911 – 3 Votes

Bridge Improvements – 2 Votes

Broadus Infrastructure Improvements – 1 Vote