



2022 Community Meeting Recap for the Community of Broadus

Annually, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) initiates public input throughout a four-county region to assist in developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In the past, we have held community meetings to gain insight into trends, strengths, and concerns in various communities. This year we held in-person meetings but also designed surveys to invite conversation about the current state of each community, to discuss how things have changed from last year, and to note what projects are priorities to be completed for the following year(s). These conversations are incorporated into a five-year CEDS planning document created by SEMDC to be utilized in the process to assist the communities in Southeastern Montana.

This year it was especially important to host community meetings because of the economic impacts on our region recently. 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 its impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcomes will be.

Developed by:

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Corporation (SEMDC)

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Broadus CEDS Meeting 2022

Group Discussion

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

Strengths

212 Speed Limit changes	Largest Coal Deposit in the World
Abundant wildlife	Library
Ag-based economy	Little League Field
Agricultural Economy	Major wastewater upgrades in the process
Airport Cardrol for fueling	Many natural resources
Ambulance Director	Massage Therapy Services
Ambulance(s) (2) ordered	Medical Staff
ARPA funding over \$700k in improvements	Museum Facility
Belle Creek Oil Field	New Businesses/ Younger Owners
Bridges Repairs-Grant	New Healthcare Advisory Board appointed by Commissioners
Broadus residents moving home	New Lights at "T" for safety
Broadus Volunteer Fire Department	New Lodging Options/Community Conference Room
Bumble Bee Day Care	New MFG Company
Cemetery Road repaired	New physical therapy center downtown
Chamber Improvement/Seminars/Website	New Safety Lights at "T" near golf course
Clean air/water/etc.	Newer airport
Clinic/Staff	
Close to Custer National Forest/Recreation	Now have a rep for SE MT Tourism
Coffee Shop - retained	Nursing home (provides about 58 jobs)
Community Foundation	Outdoor Recreation
Community Garden Program	PA -Fulltime
Community Integrated Healthcare Program	Paving Grant for Trails
Contractors	Pharmacy
County Yards/Pick up for Sale Barns	Physical Therapy Services
Crossroads on highways 59 and 212	Pool
Dedicated EMS Non-Profit	Potential Warrior Trail
Denbury company	Pre School (2)
Electricians	Public transportation for all
EMS Training Center	Quality of School Staff
Expanded physical therapy services	Recycling
Financial institutions located in the town	Retail
Fitness Trail System	Ruralness
Fitness Center	School Community Development Council \$\$
Floodplain remapping completed/Decreased properties in the floodplain	Some access to the arts

Funeral Home	Strong Ethics
Full-time PA	Strong Local Core Businesses
Golf course	Teachers retiring, allowing younger residents to find employment
Good schools and great school staff	Tech-based presence
Grocery Store upgrades/New Products	Town square/New Sidewalks
Improved Broadband	Variety of churches
Improved storefront appearances downtown	Veterinarians (5)
Improved Website Maintenance	Volunteerism is strong
Increase in Younger Residents	Watercraft inspection site
Lagoon System Upgrades	Well / Sewer Improvements
Land available if maximized	Wildlife fence

Concerns

\$\$ for Preschool Needs	Lack of service-type workers to existing competition from other employers
Ability to handle an upswing in tourism	Lack of services/recreation/quality housing
Ag-based economy affected by drought	Land Locked - Floodplain
Aging Infrastructure	Limited lots for development/ Commercial Property
Amount of coal seam fires that are started annually	Little promotion of vocational training or entrepreneurialism
Assisted living options for lower-income persons	Medicare Reimbursement Rates create challenges at Nursing Home
Athletic facilities are unsafe, lacking, and aged and need to be replaced	Mental Health Services/Availability at School Additional services
Broadband Capacity	Messy properties on entrances to the community
Cell Phone Service/Coverage	Need a venue for events of all sizes
Communication – Repeaters, radios, emergency systems	Need fire hall and equipment to help with coal seam fires
Cost of housing increasing significantly	No Doctor In The Entire County
Cost of upcoming upgrades to town sewer System	No FHA-approved appraiser
Cost of Utilities (Electric)	No independent living units for elderly
Costs for Road Maintenance/ Lack of funds	Nursing Home Facility (Long-term Viability)
Critical Access Hospital Feasibility Questions	Old houses/buildings
Dependent on Federal \$ and oil revenues	Opportunities – Employment Incentives
Difficult to find recreation	Passive feelings towards the planning for energy developments
Difficult to keep/find quality people to work	Predator Concerns/Affecting Ag and Hunting
Disjointed Healthcare Groups	Preschool Transportation – school bus
Eating Establishments-stability, quality, service	Primary Businesses OK/Secondary businesses decreasing
Employees facing customers are not good stewards for the community	Rest Stop/Visitors Center located too far outside of town/ needs replaced / sewer issues
Fairgrounds need upgrades	Retention/Recruitment of Skilled Labor (Healthcare, Teachers, HVAC, Plumber)

FEMA Flood Insurance Changes (subsidies)	Safety concerns and needed crosswalks flashing signs on Hwy 212, Silver Sage, Park
Future of Ambulance Service	School population decrease
Highway 212 Safety	School Transportation \$\$ cut
Highway Signage	Services for visitors
Housing (100+ workers)	Several Brownfields sites/inability to resolve
Integrated Health care	Small Business Transition
Internet Quality/Cell Phone coverage poor in town	Small Pool for Labor Force
Lack of "service-based" workers	Staffing \$\$ for Visitor Center/Lack of promotion for tourism and Warrior Trail
Lack of awareness of the community website and promotion of the community	Substance Abuse High/Few Programs to help
Lack of Deer /Wildlife Hunting	Surveyor/appraiser
Lack of diverse job opportunities and higher-wage jobs	Swimming Pool repairs
Lack of Emergency Services and Equipment	Walking trail structure in a town lacking/Need more improvements
Lack of handicapped access (clinic)	Water/sewer services
Lack of Industry	Website
Lack of rentals available	

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

Car Wash

Build a car wash for community use.

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.

Main Street Program

Meet as a community to discuss this option, to make Main Street Improvements

Signage/Internet Presence

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

Proposed Economy/Housing Projects Receiving Votes

Historical Museum – 4 Votes

Signage Internet – 1 Vote

Car Wash 1 Vote

Housing/Quality of Life

Golf Course Trails

Need to be repaved.

Potential for Critical Access Hospital (Feasibility Study)

The nursing home parking lot needs to be repaired and a covered area for entrance to get patients in and out of the building safely. Also, need an elevator for the public health building, there is currently no ADA access.

Mental Health/Chemical Addiction Services/Mental Health

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

Pre-School - Transportation

Continue to encourage further development of preschool services in the community and ability to transport preschool children on existing bus routes

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.

Trail System

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

Proposed Quality of Life Projects Receiving Votes

Mental Health – 3 Votes

Healthcare upgrades – 3 Votes

Trail System – 3 Votes

Preschool – 3 Votes

Infrastructure

Broadband/Cell Phone Coverage

Make appropriate officials aware of the 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, purchasing a generator for a water system for the Town, completing water well upgrades, purchase a Hydro-Vac trailer to service water lines.

Fairgrounds Improvement

Needs updates and new facilities.

Fire Hall

New Firehall needed

High School Improvements

Add an athletic building that is safe and secure.

Highway 212 Safety Initiative

Work with Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Federal DOT, Montana DOT, Powder River, Rosebud, Carter and Big Horn Counties to create a safety corridor plan on highway 212.

Lodging and Restaurants

Providing more services for visitors and residents.

Next-Gen 911

Move toward becoming compliant with Next Gen 911 standards

Transportation to Miles City

Public transportation services to Miles City.

Proposed Services/Infrastructure Projects Receiving Votes

Next Gen 911 – 12 Votes

Highschool Upgrades- 3 Votes

Broadband/Cell Phone Coverage –3 Votes

Fairgrounds – 3 Votes

Transportation – 3 Votes

Firehall – 3 Votes

Lodging/Restaurants – 2 Voter

Broadus Infrastructure Improvements – 1 Vote