Response to vision – ensure we aren’t leaving people behind economically (Sarah’s neighbor Deb)

Adding “all” to vision statement before biz and ppl

Jim Verzino arrived – not signed in

5 Objectives review: Michael Bosworth asks why aren’t the last two redundant Expand biz infra Devel ED Capacity

Deb asks where schools come in –

Don’t use “Develop” twice

Increase our Population: need more focus on retain

* (retain should come before attract – Josh)
* Sarah - issue of elders
* [raise issues of affordability, keeping elders, not just working elders)
* Is this the time to talk about the word Immigration?

Improve Physical Infrastructure

* Verzino asks – are most downtown decisions made at local zoning levels
* (Jen responds about using the plan to point out where we need more state and federal assistance)
* Include some language about accessibility, “permeable space”, healthy lifestyles supporting - equity, mixed income instead of concentrating poverty, **key to point to for accessing funding**
* Reaching out with education to small towns about these things – increase knowledge about all of these issues (Rachel – falls into developing economic development capacity)
* Shaw raises concern that broadband creates isolation and undoes social fabric. Long good discussion about what will be lost if we let go of the civic fabric of Vermont if we think of internet as a replacement for that
* Josh – can we push broadband down (Rachel no – too many people put that first) and push up housing (sure)

Enhance our Social Infrastructure

* 3.C. need to add more about educating town leaders and providing capacity building SVEP v2
* concern about how else to support the arts and the workers in the arts
* Social networks –
* Schools should be better represented here as part of the social infrastructure -
* Don’t forget continuing education / adult education
* Cooper – is there room for the fourth estate? Local newspapers, importance of local press. (also include in here the cable access television system)
* **Can we prioritize incorporating art in new development** (raises issue of artists being evicted from downtown buildings)
* Bellows Falls Creative guy raises that Bellows Falls has affordable housing for artists
* **Need to strongly reference New England foundation for the arts**
* “Let’s use the term accessibility broadly as something covering affordability, transportation, location - include some more explicit language around income and racial diversity, citizenship status …etc”
* **Sarah’s neighbor –** that needs to be explicitly written in the goals

Expand our Business Infrastructure

* (Jen – we need to change the last bullet Define emerging – giving this in writing to Rachel)
* Deb “Amanda Moore is in charge of a coalition of workforce development people” is there some way we can actually reach these kids who are suffering from intergenerational poverty
* Sheila – the title of this bullet does not speak to land-use based companies.
* Making sure employers are “recovery ready” – (Jen – I would add into this a need to figure out how to extend wraparound services that give employers assurance and support)
* Verzino explains that this plan gets used to go out and get funds to bring back here to ‘the plow guy”
* Some snarky stuff about who gets this plan and how plow guys aren’t in here
* Deb – I have an agenda. Generational poverty. We need schools trauma informed with work ready programs. Need education about the population whose lives we are trying to change.
* Sarah Vt Commission on women and poverty linked to women.
* **Alex “Increasing the workforce participation rate of vulnerable populations” – so we need metrics on that**

Develop our Economic Development Capacity

* Bolton – last two of the five on the left. (big bullets) seem self serving
* **Alex – but maybe we need more clarity about how this is really about towns and local capacity**
* Verzino asks – where the RPCs are in this? (We will incorporate both regional plans into this)
* How do we strengthen this process in both directions – not just selectboards.
* **“Continuing to act regionally while reaching deeply into each community to support economic and community development”**
* Transpo guy talks about people being isolated w/o transpo infrastructure b/c they don’t have gas money

**OBJECTIVES IN SMALL GROUPS**

**Improve our physical infrastructure:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Strategies | Actions | Partners |
| 2A | “focus initially on high density areas” – Sarah that’s the problem! The infrastructure is there already! It’s all last mile stuff. Could we say “focus on who isn’t covered” or **the highest need areas. ‘Every house has electricity and we should see this as an equity issue”**  It’s about encouraging businesses to develop.  We may need to talk separately about broadband and cell. Or integrated where cell can be in lieu of internet. Cell service – access issues that have to do with different providers and cost. **An issue that is not the same as with landlines.** |  |
| 2B | There’s not a regional transportation plan? |  |
| 2C housing | Zoning is really important -  **Need to explicitly state multiple types of housing – so let’s embed in here the workforce housing and middle class housing**  **Also need housing agencies to be active NOT JUST in Brattleboro and Manchester.** |  |
| 2D | Just finished a feasibility study for water “ and it was bloody”  -more education for towns about why it’s good.  **CAPACITY & Expertise available to towns to implement their vision: So having people free people who can be at town meetings to provide expertise and information. More expertise and capacity.**  **VCRD process but at the implementation level.** |  |
| 2E |  |  |