



2023 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 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.

We find that it is always important to host community meetings because of the changing economic 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 its impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcomes will be.

Developed by:

Southeastern Montana Development
Corporation (SEMDC)

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Broadus CEDS Meeting 2023

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
Three operating ambulances	Major wastewater upgrades in the process
Airport Cardrol for fueling	Many natural resources
Ambulance Director	Massage Therapy Services
Main Street Montana Group	Medical Staff
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/road closing bars
Broadus Volunteer Fire Department	New Lodging Options/Community Conference Room
Bumble Bee Day Care	New Manufacturing Company
Cemetery Road repaired	Museum Facility
Chamber Improvement/Seminars/Website	Clinic/Staff/PA full time
Clean air/water/etc.	Newer airport
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	County Yards/Pick up for Sale Barns
Community Integrated Healthcare Program	Paving Grant for Trails
Contractors	Pharmacy
Crossroads on highways 59 and 212	Pool
Dedicated EMS Non-Profit	Potential for enhancing Warrior Trail designation
Denbury company	Pre School (2)
Electricians	Public transportation for all
EMS Training Center	
Expanded physical therapy services	Recycling
Financial institution 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 Community/Resident Ethics
Full-time PA	Strong Local Core Businesses
Golf course	Teachers retiring, allowing younger residents to find employment

Good schools and great school staff	Wildlife fence
Grocery Store	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	Water/Sewer Improvements

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/small businesses affected by interest rates	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
School 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 Entire County
Cost of upcoming upgrades to town sewer System	Lack of loan access/affordability programs to first time homebuyers
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	Stormwater drainage within town
Difficult to young kids to find recreation	Landfill cell filling up/new cell needed/funding?
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
Sidewalk/Trail Connectivity	School population decrease
Highway 212 Safety	School Transportation \$\$ cut

Highway Signage	Services for visitors/opportunities to get travelers to stop
Housing Availability – Senior/Workforce	Several Brownfields sites/inability to resolve
Community Integrated Health care program	Small Business Transition to new ownership
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	Future of Belle Creek oil field/buyout of Denbury
Lack of diverse job opportunities and higher-wage jobs	Swimming Pool repairs
Lack of Emergency Services and Equipment	Walking trail structure lacking/Need more improvements
Lack of handicapped access (clinic)	Water/sewer services
Lack of Industry	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

Support the development of a Master Plan for the Main Street program. Obtain grant funds to pursue the plan. Pursue “Branding” for the community.

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)

Evaluate possibility of establishing CAH, assisted living, etc. to create best feasibility and medical services for the community.

Mental Health/Chemical Addiction Services/Mental Health

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

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. Create connectivity in trails and sidewalks and incorporate stormwater drainage improvements for the community.

Proposed Quality of Life Projects Receiving Votes

Golf Course Improvements – 1 Vote

Trail/Sidewalk Connectivity/Stormwater Drainage – 7 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.

Fairgrounds Improvement

Assess possibility of creating an Event Center that could potentially be used for sports events as well as high school practices. Evaluate options to improve existing fairground/rodeo facilities.

Fire Hall

New Firehall needed.

Landfill Cell Recycling Center

New landfill cell needed.

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.

Proposed Services/Infrastructure Projects Receiving Votes

Fairground/Event Center - 7 Votes

Recycling Improvements – 3 Votes