

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2025



2025 Community Meeting Recap for the Community of Forsyth

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 conducted an online survey to assess 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.

SEMDC is working with citizens and communities to find ways to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The more individuals in each community that 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)

www.semdc.org

406.748.2990

Forsyth CEDS Meeting 2025

Strengths

10 Churches	Location / Transportation
Active Chamber of Commerce	Low Cost of Living
Small Business Community	Movie Theater
Adult basic and Community-Based Ed.	Museum
Active Pals Program	Natural Resource Development Services-Energy Hub
Airport	New Businesses
Archery	County Fair
Assisted Living	New Hutterite Colony / Diversity
Battery Storage	Oil Production Increase
Bowling Alley	Old Building Purchases & Renovations
Car Dealership	Parks
Child Care Services	PER Water Complete
Co Working Space Availability	Pool
Community Activities – Darts, Christmas	Possible Stop for Passenger Train Activity
Community Attitudes/School Sports	Prince Construction
Community Foundation	Proximity to MCC Ag Advancement Center
Community Newspaper	Proximity to Yellowstone River
Community Service/Generosity	Public Transportation Program in place
Computer Hub	Quality Internet to Work from Home
County Seat	Quality Nursing Home/Clinic Funded – Increased Revenue.
County/City Growth Plans	Quigley Shoot
Courthouse	Radio station in the community
Diversified Ag Base	Railroad
Dog Park	Recreation Area and Parks
Downtown Master Plan Completed	Residential Homes Occupied
Duck Days	Riverview Villa
Emergency service radios are all digital	Rosebud Street Pump
Established Businesses	RV Park
Fairgrounds Facility / Events	Seeking Funding for Next Gen 911
Financial Institution	Senior Center-Very Active 2 groups
Front Street Remodel	Shooting Range
Golf Course	Solar Project
Good School/Sports Programs/High Involvement	Stroll, Youth Sports
Great People/Hospitality	Suicide Prevention Training
Grocery/Pharmacy	Telecommunications Co-op in Community
Handicap Fishing Access	Town and County have CIP's
Hiring of Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer	UV System Installed (sewer)
Hospital, good medical, and telehealth	Vacant Lots – Room to build

Hunting/Fishing/Outdoor Recreation	Vet Services
Integrated Behavioral Health Program Avail.	Watts Murals
IT Support for Businesses offered thru Range	Water Improvements
Jobs for residents of the area	Water / Waste Director
Large Veteran Population	Wayfinding Signage Install
Levee	Wind Farm Development Impact \$\$
Library	
Lodging	

Concerns

Aging Infrastructure / Replacement Costs	Limited Local Food Accessibility
Aging population	Main Street 2 nd story renovations
Availability of Labor in both the Service Sector and in Skilled Trades	Medical Professionals
Building Abatements	Mental Health Services
City Website/Keeping up content on all	Need for Recreational Development for families, hunting, bird watching, fishing access, biking, hiking trails, etc.
Coal Board \$\$ Availability	Need for Silent Road Crossings
Coal Future Uncertain of Money	Need to actively maintain websites representing community
Commercial/Industrial Move-In Ready Buildings	No Place for Local Artists to Showcase
Compensation and Retention Crisis	No Animal Control / Feral Cat Population
Computer Tech Support	No Recreation Center
County Landfill Cell	No Tourism Plan
Difficulty Getting Grants and Diminishing Pool	No Walking Path
Downturn in Ag Economy	Oil and Wind Development Impacts
Empty Lots/Run down Housing	Pedestrian Cross Walks
Fed & State \$\$ decreasing	Potential for Increase in Taxes with Loss of Colstrip
Fish Ladder Improvements	Power Plant Closures
Fluctuations in Fed/State Hwy \$\$ (Prince)	Public Water & Sewer Infrastructure
Future for BNSF Employees if train is rerouted	Quiet Zone
Hazardous Rail Cargo and Plans in case of derailment	Rail Crossing Safer Options
Hospice Care	Recruitment expansion of Employees/Labor Force/County Employees/Public Works/Emergency Services
Housing – assisted living, Workforce and single family	Recycling Drop Offs
Increase in Drug Activity	Rental Housing
Increased Online Shopping	School Population Decreasing
Irrigation District Infrastructure \$\$ Needed	Sidewalk construction DOT (filling in gaps)

Junked Cars	Storm Drains
Lack of ag processing Facilities locally / Pulse	Streets
Lack of Foster Care in the area, CASA needs volunteers	Threat of BNSF Railroad Changes
Lack of Mental Health Services	Utility concerns/Urban versus rural – costs associated with mandates and density
Lack of Volunteers or Problem of Volunteer Burnout	Veteran Services
Lack of Affordable Housing	Water Intake Needs PER - Improvement
Large Corporate Interest in the Community	Water / Floodplain Issues
Levee Certification	

Economy

Market the Trail System and River Access

Marketing the trails and river access to visitors and potential residents gives more opportunities for the community to showcase offerings.

Housing/Quality of Life

Community Rebranding Project/Downtown Master Plan Projects

Continue to improve Forsyth by utilizing community groups and implementing visions from the Downtown Master Plan. Improve marketing with community rebranding project.

Housing

Workforce Housing / Housing Study needed for additional apartment spaces / living spaces.

Youth and Senior Activities

Develop more daytime activities for youth and seniors

Infrastructure

Levee Project - Certification

Work with federal agencies to obtain recertification on existing levee structures.

Water Intake/Water Tower/Lift Station

Continue to pursue the upgrade of the water intake from the Yellowstone River and the construction of a water tower and lift station.

Walking Paths

Assess the development of walking paths to encourage exercise for area residents or visitors.

Emergency Communications Technology Implementation

Transition outdated systems to modern frameworks that will establish reliability for first responders.

Planning Documents

Ensure community planning documents are up to date for grant applications – Growth & CIP Plans +