



2024 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 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 results 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 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

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Broadus CEDS Survey Results 2024

Strengths

Attention to Hwy 212 Problems and Safety	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
New Bridges and repairs to culverts/Assessment completed on remaining	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/Hangar to be constructed soon
Close to Custer National Forest/Recreation	Now have a rep for SE MT Tourism
Coffee Shop	Nursing home (provides about 58 jobs)
Community Foundation	Outdoor Recreation
Community Garden Program	County Yards/Pick up for Sale Barns
Community Integrated Healthcare Program	Two Daycares
Contractors	Pharmacy
Crossroads on highways 59 and 212	Pool
Dedicated EMS Non-Profit	Potential for enhancing Warrior Trail designation
Denbury company	Pre School
Electricians	Public transportation for all
EMS Training Center	New Retail Store/Farmers Market
Expanded physical therapy services	Recycling
Financial institution located in the town	Retail
Fitness Trail System	Ruralness
Fitness Center	Community Foundation Grant \$\$ for community
Pilot Community Tourism Grant Recipient	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 at airport
Grocery Store	Town square/New Sidewalks
Improved Broadband	Variety of churches
Improved storefront appearances downtown	Veterinarians (5)
Improved Website Maintenance for Town	Volunteerism is strong
Increase in Younger Residents	Watercraft inspection site

Lagoon System Upgrades	Water/Sewer Improvements
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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	Private Pay and Medicaid Reimbursement 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)
Urgent Medical Care unattainable	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
Limited Daycare spots	Limited Preschool spots
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 Industry	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
Limited information on available jobs	Multiple restaurants for sale/limited cuisine
Street Conditions in town/drainage issues	Lack of rentals available

Projects

In this second activity, the group was asked to identify projects that would assist in addressing some of the weaknesses or needs in the community.

Economy

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 and implementation of a Master Plan for the Main Street program.

Signage/Internet Presence

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

Housing/Quality of Life

Golf Course Clubhouse Upgrades and Signage

Increase visibility of golf course with signage and upgrade clubhouse.

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.

Hwy 212 Safety

Increase enforcement and implement upgrades where necessary to encourage good driver behavior.

Daycare/Preschool Services

Expand availability of daycare and preschool services to allow young families to be employed.

Streets/Sidewalks

Expand sidewalks and upgrades streets to enhance pedestrian experience in town.

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.

Fairgrounds Improvement/Event Center

Assess the 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.

Town Square Beautification

Support project to create an attractive focal point in the community where events can be held.