

On Thursday, November 29, 2012, over thirty people representing ten different Clackamas County business associations and chambers of commerce gathered to discuss priorities for businesses in the county. The two hour session resulted in consensus around a set of clear, articulate priorities that are important to the business leaders of Clackamas County.

Priorities of Clackamas County Businesses

1 Increase positive relationships in Clackamas County among elected officials and businesses (69 votes)

Desired Outcomes:

- Greater trust exists between citizens and elected officials
- The county image is improved (reputation of 'no' is changed to 'yes')
- Coordination and communication is increased among business associations, local government, the electorate, and the press
- A common voice is built among business associations that includes strong communication and coordination
- Government accountability improves (wise and efficient spending of tax revenue)
- Bipartisanship is actively sought among elected officials
- Citizens and businesses participate in healthy public policy discussions

Activities to support reaching these desired outcomes:

2 Enhance transportation (35 votes)

Desired Outcomes:

- Transportation is recognized as an important economic driver
- Improved transportation is promoted and funded
- Transit throughout the county improves
- Freight mobility improves

Activities to support reaching these desired outcomes:

3 Create a more welcome environment for businesses to grow and thrive (33 votes)

Desired Outcomes:

- Businesses have increased access to Capital
- The regulation and permitting processes at city and county levels are streamlined and simplified
- Regulations are reduced (include reduction in fees, taxes and duplication)
- Business incentives are enhanced
- Public and private entities work together to reduce duplication of business resource creation and promotion (education is provided on where to go for resources rather than reinventing the wheel)

Activities to support reaching the outcomes:

4

Increase funding for education and workforce development (17 votes)

Desired Outcomes:

- Increased opportunities for career and technical education
- Improved skill building among job seekers
- More job seekers have the soft skills, or aptitude, to meet the employment demands of employers

Activities to support reaching the outcomes:

5

Expand Job Creation (13 votes)

Desired Outcomes:

- Increased employment land (industrial, etc.) available
- Land in unincorporated areas of the county are available for employment
- Increased industrial land readiness

Activities to support reaching the Desired Outcomes:

6

Reform the Oregon Tax System (7 votes)