

Project Updates
Economic Vitality Program Champion Reports
January 2023
For the time period of July – December 2022



"Vision without execution is hallucination."
- Thomas Edison

The Fiscal Year 2023-27 [Douglas County Economic Vitality Plan](#) was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in December of 2021. This first part of 2022 was spent identifying and seeking approval for any needed project funding. Project implementation began in July of 2022, for most projects.

A total of eight projects are led by public, private, and non-profit sector Champions who work with the Economic Vitality Manager and other staff members to implement the projects. Champion Reports are provided twice each year.

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Broadband

Champion: John Endter
Team members: Daniel Johnson, Turner Yates, Danielle Hughes, Renea Louie, Paul Eckert

Project(s) Background:

Leverage federal funds to improve broadband access within the county to ensure that all residents, businesses, students, and medical facilities in the county have access to high speed fiber internet from a variety of providers.

Top three things the team is working on and/or accomplished:

- Broadband Action Team reviewed broadband projects based upon the speed test maps, stakeholder data and public safety factors. Top projects are:
 - Broadband connectivity for South County
 - Fiber extension from Carson City to East and South Shore Lake Tahoe
 - Expand/Improve cellular connectivity throughout the County
- Board of Commissioners allocated \$500,000 in ARPA Broadband matching funds
- Researching potential funding sources for broadband projects. Funds identified:
 - State Funding – Governor Lombardo proposed \$400 million
 - Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program - \$42.45 billion nationally
 - 5G Fund for Rural America - \$9 Billion nationally
- Fiber conduit installation during the construction of the Martin Slough Trail - completed

Three things the team is tackling (or what's up next):

- Anxiously waiting for [OSIT](#) to announce the outcome of Nevada High Speed Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - The results of the RFP will drive project priorities and funding needs
- Meet with cellular providers to discuss 5G expansion in the County
- Continue to drive participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program

Obstacles? Waiting for OSIT to award Nevada High Speed RFP

In the News - Nothing at this time.

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**Develop a Thriving Climate for Business and Learning –
Work Based Learning Program**

Champion: Denise Castle

Team members: To be announced



Project(s) Background: Workforce Development Initiatives

Career Bound NV – Intermediary Work Based Learning model that connects education, business and government to engage K-12 students in career exploration and paid work experiences. Successful Pilot launch in school year 2019-2020. Fifteen (15) students (combo from Aspire and Douglas High) participated. Seven (7) students placed in paid work experiences with six (6) local businesses participating. Due to pandemic and funding sources budget reductions, second year and beyond program activities were put on hold.

Top three things working on and/or accomplished:

- Developing team engagement strategy for upcoming 2023-2024 school year
- Procuring funding opportunities
- n/a

Three things your team is tackling (or what's up next):

- Updating project Action Plan
- Securing team members
- School District engagement

Obstacles?

- Funding

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Sports Aviation Destination

Champions: Bobbi Thompson and Linda Mae Hivert



Team members: Frank Monack, Mike and Kathy Bradford, Brad Spires, Kelly Rosser, Don Dixon, Bob Trumbly

Project(s) Background:

Minden-Tahoe Airport (MTA) supports business and sports aviation growth, as well as preservation and improvement of infrastructure and services, through a close working cooperation of the Airport Administration and the non-profit Sports Aviation Foundation. MTA has become integral asset to the economic vitality of the community with a reported annual economic impact of \$56 million.

Top three things the team is working on and/or accomplished:

- The MTA Aviation Round Up featuring the US Navy Blue Angels held on October 1 & 2, 2022 was a phenomenal success with the biggest crowd ever.
- Entrance to MTA via Airport Road and parking lot repaved at a cost \$831,000, which was paid from airport funds. No County funds were required.
- Two new development leases in the works and two lease renewals.
- **Sports Aviation Foundation**-Sponsored Flight Instructor lunch hosted by Frank Monack with FAA and attendees from extended areas including Reno and Carson, ASPIRE Career Fair and Aviation Art Contest in cooperation with “Art in Public Places Program.”

Top thing(s) the team is tackling (or what’s up next):

- Ongoing discussions with firms with east side interest.

Obstacles?

Airport East Side Development infrastructure; taxiways and taxi lanes.

In the News

Extensive coverage of 2022 Aviation Round Up in Newspaper and Social Media

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Focus Area: Create Distinctive Downtown Areas

**Projects: 1) Façade Improvement Program (FIP),
2) Tools for Small Business**

Champion: Jen Nalder

Team members: Carol Sandmeier, Heather Leonard,
Sophia Roussakis, Meredith Fischer, Linda Dibble,
Deborah Ham-Hemphill, Mysta Townsell-Tucker



**Check presentation for new signage
at Especially for You**

Project(s) Background:

With the goal of creating distinctive downtown areas two projects were identified: 1) Create and launch a FIP, and, 2) Create Tools for Small Business with streamlined resources for start-ups addressing common development challenges with solutions.

Façade Improvement Project

Top three things the team is working on and/or accomplished:

- Created a FIP Pilot program by establishing program parameters, process and application
- Secured funding for the FY 22-23 cycle. Main Street Gardnerville (MSG) contributed \$5000
Douglas County contributed \$10,000
- Awarded six FIP grants in the FY 22-23 cycle; businesses provided a 50% match

Three things the team is tackling (or what's up next):

- MSG is currently reviewing the 2022 application and updating the application for next cycle
- MSG has allocated double the initial contribution in the amount of \$10,500 available for FY 23-24 FIP grant cycle
- Creating an inventory of MSG district businesses and the current state of the buildings, that lie within, to identify projects that could benefit from this program.

Tools for Small Business

Projected is slated to begin in FY 23-24.

In the News

N/A

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Kahle Drive Complete Street

Champion: Meghan Kelly



Team members: Eamonn Kerley, Mark Jewell, Jon Erb, Patrick Cates, Steve Teshara

Project(s) Background:

The project proposes to transform Kahle Drive into a “complete street” by improving stormwater drainage and treatment, upgrading an outdated water main and hydrants, repairing wastewater infrastructure, adding sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, and intersection safety improvements, and undergrounding overhead utilities and improving broadband quality in a census block group with one of the lowest median household incomes in Douglas County. This 0.5 mile collector road provides key linkages to the existing popular recreation facilities such as the Stateline to Stateline bike trail, trails throughout Rabe Meadow, and Kahle Community Center and County Park. The unemployment rate in this census block is twice the rate of the rest of Douglas County. The community is 98 percent occupied by primary residents with 90 percent being renters which is more than double the percentages in the surrounding region. Even though the Kahle block group is not classified as a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), it has a lower median household income than the two census tracts in Douglas County that are qualified QCTs.

The current condition of the road is highly degraded, unsafe, and a detriment to water quality and the adjacent public lands. The road’s condition has degraded past the point of a typical maintenance project and requires reconstruction. Existing stormwater collection infrastructure is inundated with groundwater year-round and therefore ineffective and unable to adequately capture and treat storm water runoff.

Top three things the team is working on and/or accomplished:

- Securing funding was accomplished with the designation of congressional funds
- Final plans – the team has plans at a 90 percent level but there are a few final design elements to complete
- Coordination with utilities and other partners – key decisions were made during this time period with NV Energy, Southwest Gas, Kingsbury GID, Douglas County Lake Tahoe Sewer Authority, and Oliver Park GID.

Three things the team is tackling (or what's up next):

- Environmental permitting
- Final plans and specifications
- Bidding

Obstacles?

Current obstacles are environmental permitting and the uncertainty of the type of funding affecting the type of environmental permitting that needs to be completed. The team conferred with NDOT Environmental and we have a path forward but until the funding documents come through, we cannot finalize the permitting.

In the News

The project did receive coverage in the local paper.

<https://southtaoenow.com/story/10/07/2022/complete-streets-project-approved-kahle-drive-stateline>

Some components of the project are covered in the permitting for the adjacent Burke Creek Rabe Meadow Riparian Restoration Project including the new stormwater basin and bike path extension which is currently open for public scoping.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63070>

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Develop an Art in Public Places Program

Champion: Brian Fitzgerald



Team members: Christy Degenhart, Todd Whear, Georgianna Drees-Wasmer, Sharon Hoelscher Day, Geoff Bonar, Jen Nalder, Karen Beckerbauer; Rebecca Bryson

Project(s) Background:

In keeping with the Master Plan, Douglas County is committed to continuously improving quality of life and community vibrancy through streetscape improvements and public art installations that enhance the visual appeal and vibrancy of our communities. Public art expresses local culture and heritage, beautifies communities, and enhances the local business environment.

Douglas County is working with an arts & culture planning consultant, Debra Soule, to assist in preparing the new Art in Public Places Program. The program will be based upon county-wide engagement with County and Town staff, with arts and culture organizations, businesses, and the community at large to inform the long-term vision, goals, and procedures for public art throughout Douglas County.

Top three things the team is working on and/or accomplished:

- \$50,000 in funding secured from Douglas County to recruit and hire an arts & culture consultant to prepare the Art in Public Places Program
- Consultant conducting key interviews with policy makers, stakeholders and arts organizations
- Launched Public Arts Survey inviting all Douglas County residents, business owners, and staff to contribute their ideas and suggestions for public art

Three things the team is tackling (or what's up next):

- On-going meetings with consultant, project champion and staff liaison
- Gathering of best practices from other communities
- Recommendations and development of Public Art policy & procedures including suggested county ordinance language, installation & maintenance protocol and potential funding sources

Obstacles?

Challenges with implementing a new county wide program and the desire to receive wide spread acceptance and support.

In the News

The Public Arts Survey was launched on multiple websites and social media platforms.

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**Champion: Debra Lang
Staff Liaisons: Scott Morgan and Brook Adie**



Walkers on the Martin Slough Trail
which opened in June 2022

Project Background:

Under the focus area of Capitalize on Outdoor Recreation & Lifestyle Opportunities, the Comprehensive Trails Plan was last updated in 2003.

Work to update, modify and amend the Plan to provide further guidance on appropriate timing, funding and partnerships for trail development and maintenance.

Top three things the team is working on and/or accomplished:

- Sought county funding for consultant to update the plan, completed in May 2022
- Issued Request for Proposal; secured Wood Rodgers as consultant, Oct 6, 2022
- With Brook Adie taking the staff lead, conducting research, outreach, and input through internal Douglas County departments and Towns

Three things the team is tackling (or what's up next):

- Updating trails inventory and mapping
- Preparing for Stakeholder outreach input through public surveys
- Identifying trail needs and priorities

Obstacles:

- None at this time

In the News:

- The Martin Slough Trail was [dedicated](#) on August 20, 2022. The trail connects 7 other projects along the extent of the total trail from Jakes Wetland to beyond Gardnerville elementary school. In all, \$6 million in projects were completed - leveraging \$4 million in grant funds
- On October 15, 2022, the Carson Valley Trails Association dedicated the [new lower extension of the Clear Creek Trail](#) which connects the Jacks Valley Road trailhead to the new trailhead at James Lee Park, including the new Jacks Valley Loop trail