



SUMMARY MINTUES

ABAG Regional Planning Committee – Economic Strategy Committee

Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Ohlone Conference Room (1st Floor), 375 Beale St, San Francisco, California

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erin Hannigan, Solano County Supervisor

Staff Present:

Cynthia Kroll, Chief Economist

Johnny Jaramillo, Principal Planner

Bobby Lu, Regional Planner

Attendees:

**Committee members or alternates*

Erin Hannigan*, Solano County

Cindy Chavez*, Santa Clara County

Jeff Bellisario*, Bay Area Council Economic Institute

John Carrese, Bay Area Community Colleges

Cindy Chavez*, County of Santa Clara

John Kopchik*, Contra Costa County

Sibella Kraus*, Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)

Darien Louie*, East Bay Economic Development Alliance

Cynthia Murray*, North Bay Leadership Council

Dave Hudson*, City of San Ramon

Calvin Sandeen*, Sonoma County Economic Development Corporation

Ann Steller*, City of Newark

Egon Terplan*, SPUR

Christina Fernandez*, SAMCEDA

Michael Katz*, East Bay Works

Robin Sternberg*, Marin Economic Forum

2. Session Overview and Updates

Staff provided an overview and highlighted meeting topics:

- a. Draft Economic Action Plan is completed. Revisions will be made based on today's meeting. Final Economic Action Plan will be completed and posted in the coming weeks.
- b. Update of the EDD process: organizational structure, and anticipated timeline and application process.

3. Discussion and Feedback

Members provided comments and feedback on Draft Economic Action Plan by the main four goal areas.

Goal one: Business Climate

- There needs to be more specifics about contract workers in the gig economy. An action could be added to better understand how the contract workforce is changing the structure of the employment and our economy, including the size of the workforce, types of occupations, training requirements and opportunities, and retirement benefits.
- We need actions to address the impacts of long term economic changes, and support people to prepare for the transitions. for example:
 - Lifelong learning, training, and career opportunities might be required for older workers because of late career changes or insufficient retirement resources.
 - Technological changes could change industries and occupations profoundly, such as modular housing and autonomous vehicles.

Goal two: Workforce

- Internships and apprenticeship are valuable to help high school students understand a range of career opportunities, but the emphasis shouldn't be limited to high school students. College students also gain experience from internships, veterans also could use internships as stepping stone for career building and transitioning. Veterans already have healthcare benefits, which would be less costly for employers targeting apprenticeships to this group. Meanwhile, middle school students could also benefit from career inspirations of internship and apprenticeship programs.
- Education and training is a need for lifelong learning; we need to support people at all stages of their life.
- Actors would include labor unions, workforce boards, community based organizations serving high school/youths and families, school districts, and economic development partners.
- Manufacturing and construction vocational opportunities are critical for filling employment needs of communities and hiring needs of business. This links to training and housing. Costs are driving low and middle income workers out of the region, creating a shortage of workers in sectors in these income categories.

Goal three: Housing and Work Places

- Add language to encourage employment growth adjacent to workforce housing, which makes sense in some parts of the region. Strategies to pursue job and housing fit need to vary across the region, and TOD strategies should also vary based on different industries' needs.
- Add State agencies as actors for some of the actions, the EDD needs to partner up with the State.
- It is important to identify and project gaps and needs of workforce in Production, Distribution, and Repairing industries.

Goal four: Infrastructure

- Funding is important in infrastructure investment. Add actions to identify funding sources, and work towards a mechanism to align funding and resources.
- It is important to understand, coordinate with and leverage the workplans from other organizations such as BCDC, BAAQMD, and BARC, which may overlap with this action plan. Invite them as EDD board members.
- Include high value manufacturing initiatives in this strategy.
- Develop regional measure type actions for information and broadband infrastructure investment as it is seen as needed by all parts of the region.

4. Wrap Up

Staff thanked all in attendance for their participation. The input collected today will be used to revise the economic action plan. Please contact staff directly with any questions or comments.

5. Adjourn