**Zone CEDS Public Input Sessions**

**Round 2- Brattleboro, September 24th**

(SL Notes)

Talk a little bit more about the decision to work with Bennington county

Does this mean they will have access to wcedp money?

Do you have printouts?

Do you know why we are having this workforce problem?  Is it wages?

Where is workforce not a problem? Cities like Boston

Half of people looking for work in Windham county came to Windham career fair last year

Transportation - lack of intra regional transportation - can get to work but maybe can't get home

Transportation - how many industries talk about shuttle services - bus companies can't afford to expand routes

What was the breakdown of participants - business owners, workers, government officials?

Will there be funds available for wf education partners?

Will this plan just be to benefit the business owners?

Childcare if goal is to benefit the business vs the people?

Quality of life and support services should have more priority and increase wages would be first priority (we have not gotten to goals or objectives at this point) focus on people that are here as opposed to bringing other people

Grow - is there any talk of improving things without growth - declining population seems to be happening everywhere.  If we are trying to put in place programs to reverse that I don't see where these people come from that are going to come here.  Is growth even feasible?

I don't hear sustainable when I hear grow - we can't grow population forever we will run out of space - if growth is goal have to take out our sustainability

Opposed to our neighbors losing if we win

Five year plan - we have a problem with workforce - we have to re ruralize - what we have isn't going to be able to reach that sustainable level

The reasons people leave here are myriad - expensive groceries, childcare, transportation, not enough jobs

Discussion on NPR regarding retraining people - when you start respecting the jobs of childcare and nursing then people will go into those services - pay service industry that is supporting the workers more

We've talked about what we are and where we are?  Are we going to talk about what we'd like to be and strategies to apply energy and resources?

Downtown and village centers exclude commercial corridors?

Vision statement and value statements

Support services often has a negative connotation - we mean community support services

Feels a little vanilla compared to place that I live and work - innovation vs forward thinking - I represent creatives - not just under exceptional like to see it sprinkled in a little bit more intentionally, outdoor rec, progressiveness - not captured in these four buckets

Model for economic development - inside baseball? Community member want to be attracting as opposed to pushing. That people look to us and are attracted to us.  VIsion statement says we want to be "seen" as opposed to who we want to "be" - be at the forefront - perhaps rather then welcoming-engaging.  Rather then diversity-equity. Authenticity

Healthcare - how does that fit in? Is there any direct infrastructure?

Exceptional - differentiators

What is the number we need for critical mass?

Supporting existing businesses

Push back on growing population - if we become more attractive we will grow population - it would be be more interesting to grow our opportunities

How'd do we manage if we don't grow?

"Shrink smart" - we should look at ways to make life better for the people that are here - we put in money to help upper level people - or you put in money to make people's lives better and that will help improve businesses

Encore workforce is not only to attract to state but also to offer training opportunities to those that want it

Growing potential slide

Healthcare innovation - how do we do that regionally

We think about outlining healthcare as a challenge

Growing potential

Agriculture needs succession and diversification planning

All opportunities are for businesses

We have a real dichotomy - be change you want to see in the world - as opposed to growing - things like all of the businesses

Add opportunities for networks, increase opportunities for learning

Is part of strategy to address poverty in our region - when you support women you support children living in poverty - there is data from women’s commission. How do we address children living in poverty?

What’s happening with action plans?

That will create sparks with plan

Absent - higher ed as employer, cultural center, network generator, and people that move here

Try and get plans out to people prior to November meetings

(LS Notes)

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