

Themes that emerged from the *Basic Needs of Business Sessions*

- Region's regulatory agencies needs to be proactive and ready for development. Specific ideas include:
 - Have policies and processes in place and ready
 - Policies/procedures should be flexible
 - Stream-lined/Fast-track options to meet needs of different developments
- Need to create mechanisms/tools to help match up needs with resources; and to assist with planning. Examples cited include:
 - business assistance team;
 - local ombudsman to help solve regulation issues.
- Focus on Regional Outreach/ Education. Topics to focus on include:
 - How economic development/smart growth can better communities
 - Funding sources/resources, lending options, grants
 - Proactive outreach to small businesses to determine what their needs are and how to help
 - Information referral service (311 Call center cited). Helps provide information more efficiently. Some firms have no idea who to contact.
 - One-Stop resource for Region would help provide information more aggressively
 - Network of current business owners to help share information to new-comers.
 - Clarity of information needs to underscore education effort.
- Build trust between regulators and businesses
- Gap Analysis needs to be completed on Land Supply. Difficult to strategize what infrastructure to invest in without knowing what we have, what can be altered, and what we need. Analysis should take on a regional look of needs, not just one jurisdiction.
- Financial incentives to encourage re-use of brownfield sites. Examples cited include:
 - Deferring fees at front-end to a back-end cost (pay at approval, not as front-end of processing)
 - Allow the spreading of costs out over a payment schedule
 - Tax-break for re-use of buildings
 - Lower financing costs with lending institutions for re-use of buildings/lands.
- Access to transportation is an issue.
 - Most of Eugene's manufacturing is located in W. 11th area, which is isolated from I-5 transportation links.
 - High speed rail would connect our region with other regions. Need a reload/offload facility for rail/truck connection.
 - Railroad link to the coast needs improvement