



# Copper Valley Development Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 9, Glennallen, AK 99588 \* 907-822-5001 phone \* 907-822-5009 fax  
[www.coppervalley.org](http://www.coppervalley.org) \* [info@coppervalley.org](mailto:info@coppervalley.org)

## **Copper Valley Economic Development Strategy Work Session- Input to Questions Posed by State from Regional Businesses, Organizations, and Residents**

**North to Opportunity- State of AK Economic Diversity**

**Hosted by Ethan Tyler (telephonically) and Jason Hoke**

### **1. What are your ideas for initiatives that would foster the growth of business and entrepreneurship?**

- Agriculture
- Collaboration and Cooperation between State Agencies on initiatives.
- State and Native Corp working together on land and other issues.
- Reduce amount of State Regulations on businesses
- Energy Cost Reduction (too high for business growth and retention)
- Small Business Start-up Capital- lack of access to start up funds.

### **2. What infrastructure should be built that would create economic opportunity?**

- Transmission Line Grid connecting the Rail Belt to the Road Belt (Palmer-Glennallen-Tok-Delta-Fairbanks). It would provide cheaper energy and allow for abundant energy sources around the road belt to be feasible and provide more power.
- Broadband- download and upload speeds b/c of pipe size in and out of region. CVT working on expansion and lg pipe.
- Roads & Airport – Roads need significant repair and upgrade. Area is hub of road traffic in state and terrible roads. Airport at Gulkana has 5000 ft + airstrip but not FAA approved. Needs minor up-keep and improvement.
- Excess Regulations- regulations (e.g. Clean water act, Corps of Engineers, etc.) hinder land development and infrastructure.
- Excessive Permit Paperwork- FERC, FCC, ETC. paperwork takes years to be approved before infrastructure can be implemented.

### **3. Energy- What projects or initiatives would lower the cost of energy as well as enhance innovation in the realm of energy?**

- Electrical Intertie/ Transmission lines- Create a loop around the road belt to provide cheaper energy out here, increase capacity of state and pump in electrical energy potentials out here.
- Energy Auditing for Businesses- Allot has been done but more can be done.
- Small Projects vs. Large Projects- some smaller projects can be done after the larger backbone is served.
- Some electrical costs here are higher than .74/kwh with no PCE
- Allot of planning and work has been done by CVDA, AEA, Ahtna.
- Regulations from State and Feds

**4. Workforce Development- What initiatives would align workforce development and economic expansion?**

- Regulations- too many regs about kids working, using ladders, certifications for everything, etc.
- Difficult finding anyone
- Daycare is a big deal for working families- NONE here
- Distances people have to travel to work.
- UAA looking for opportunities in the region to develop workforce- Expand the College \$\$ tuition payback program to not just for teachers.
- Job Search and applications on line are not always available to folks out here.
- Life skills in schools are not being taught for students looking at job applications.

**5. Community Development- What are the livability or quality of life factors that would enable or constrain economic growth?**

**Enable**

**Wilderness values**

**Constrain**

**Population**

**Medical Services**

**Lack of public transportation**

**Senior Care**

**Lack of potable water**