

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**  
**Thursday February 9, 2012**  
**7:30 am**  
**Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve Agenda**
- 3. Approve Minutes**
  1. Approve the Following EDA Meeting Minutes:  
Regular EDA Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2012
- 4. EDA Business**
  1. 2012 Work Plan
  2. 2012 Marketing Plan
  3. Membership in Twin Cities Gateway CVB
  4. Buxton Prospect Update
  5. Update on Big Ben Project
  6. Staff Update
  7. COR Update
- 5. Member/Staff Input**
- 6. Adjournment**

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**3. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** JoAnn Shaw, Community Development

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**Title:**

Approve the Following EDA Meeting Minutes:

Regular EDA Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2012

**Background:**

n/a

**Observations:**

**Funding Source:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**EDA Action:**

Motion to approve the January 12, 2012 meeting minutes.

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**Attachments**

EDA 01.12.12

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**  
Aaron Backman

Form Started By: JoAnn Shaw

**Reviewed By**  
Aaron Backman

Final Approval Date: 02/02/2012

**Date**  
02/02/2012 02:52 PM  
Started On: 02/02/2012 08:59 AM

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted an EDA meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley  
                            Member John LeTourneau  
                            Member Colin McGlone  
                            Member Wayne Skaff  
                            Member Jim Steffen  
                            Member Kristine Williams

Members Absent:     Member Jeff Wise

Also Present:         Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager  
                            Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator  
                            Heidi Nelson, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Riley called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Steffen, to approve the agenda with the addition of case "Economic Development/Marketing Manager Position".

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, Steffen, LeTourneau, McGlone, and Williams. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wise.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve the December 8, 2011 minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members LeTourneau, Skaff, McGlone, Steffen, and Williams. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wise.

**EDA BUSINESS**

**Case #1         Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Williams to appoint Member Riley as Chairperson and Member Skaff as Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development Authority.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Members LeTourneau, Williams, McGlone, and Steffen. Voting No: None. Abstain: Chairperson Riley and Member Skaff. Absent: Member Wise.

**Case #2: EDA 2012 Meeting Dates**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the staff report that discussed the meeting dates of the Economic Development Authority meetings. No changes were made to the 2012 meeting schedule.

**Case #3: Buxton Business Prospect Update**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that updated Members on the status of the Buxton Group Business Prospects. Mr. Backman stated he has spoken with 13 of the 20 recommended companies. The companies receive correspondence from the Buxton Group and Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman follows up with information on Ramsey.

**Case #4: EDA 2012 Work Plan Goals**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that discussed the progress of the 2011 Work Plan Goals and 2012 Work Plan Goals. Mr. Backman stated there has been progress on six out of seven of the highest priority areas.

Members discussed the progress of the 2011 EDA Work Plan and the priorities for the 2012 Work Plan.

Chairperson Riley stated that obtaining a zip code was important to give Ramsey an identity.

Member LeTourneau stated he would like the goal of “establishment of new industrial/business park” be moved up on the priority list.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations proposed by Chairperson Riley and Member LeTourneau as well as the 167<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 47 node.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman requested the Members call or email him their priorities and he will bring a draft 2012 Work Plan to the February EDA meeting.

**Case #5: Economic Development/Marketing Manager Position**

Chairperson Riley stated he added this case because of the proposition of potentially eliminating the Economic Development/Marketing Manager position and spreading those responsibilities to other staff. It is important that the EDA has a staff liaison and that this group supports the position. He continued that this group is ineffective without an economic development staff person.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2013 budget concerns and the importance of the Economic Development/Marketing Manager position to the EDA.

Motion by Chairperson Riley, seconded by Member LeTourneau that the EDA puts its support behind the Economic Development/Marketing Manager position, understanding the City Council has a decision to make, and that the EDA needs this position to be effective and successful.

Member McGlone stated he would abstain from the vote to see what the discussion is at the council work session meeting taking place Monday, January 23, 2012.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members LeTourneau, Skaff, Steffen and Williams. Voting No: None. Abstain: Member McGlone. Absent: Member Wise.

**Case #6: Staff Update**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the staff report that updated the Members on the 2012 Business Expo, Sunfish Commons, and the Transit Improvement Area (TIA) Application. A draft 2012 Legislative Policy for EDAM was attached to the agenda for the Members' information.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated the 2012 Business Expo will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Case #7: COR Update**

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented the Staff Report that discussed the activity in the COR.

**MEMBER/STAFF INPUT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Williams, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, Williams, LeTourneau, McGlone, and Steffen. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wise.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Backman  
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Planning Division Secretary

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**4. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** Aaron Backman, Administrative Services

**Title:**

2012 Work Plan

**Background:**

At the January 12th EDA meeting the Economic Development/Marketing Manager reviewed the results of the 2011 Work Plan for the EDA. The work plan outlines existing guidelines for economic development policies in the City of Ramsey, and priority focus areas delineating the highest and next highest priorities for the year. As part of the process to establish the 2012 Work Plan, the Economic Development/Marketing Manager asked for input from the members regarding the highest, moderately high, and medium priorities. Based upon input from the members, attached please find results of the 2011 Work Plan and the draft of the 2012 Work Plan.

**Observations:**

**Funding Source:**

N/A

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the EDA consider and approve the proposed EDA 2012 Work Plan.

**EDA Action:**

Approve the EDA 2012 Work Plan.

**Attachments**

2011 Work Plan Followup

2012 EDA Work Plan

**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Aaron Backman (Originator)	Aaron Backman	02/03/2012 04:00 PM
Form Started By: Aaron Backman		Started On: 02/03/2012 02:59 PM
	Final Approval Date: 02/03/2012	

## **2011 WORK PLAN FOR THE RAMSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The 2011 Work Plan for the Ramsey EDA outlines existing guidelines for economic development policies, and priority focus areas delineating the highest and the next highest priorities for the current year.

### **Guidelines for the 2011 Work Plan for the Ramsey EDA:**

- Work to sustain moderate growth or recovery of industrial, commercial, retail, and housing activities in the City.
- Begin work on the redevelopment of the 167<sup>th</sup>/Hwy 47 commercial node, including the potential land acquisition of available lots, the design of infrastructure, creation of TIF District, and additional residential development to support commerce.
- Target family-wage to high salary employment opportunities in a variety of industries.
- Continue to target businesses in specific industries, including medical, precision manufacturing, aerospace, and other high tech fields.
- Encourage the retention and growth of existing local firms.
- Ensure quality growth and land use by streamlined, effective regulations and code enforcement.
- Continue to respond to specific requests for assistance from local companies.
- Use infrastructure investment to attract new firms and for development of designated areas.
- Maximize private, local, state, and federal funding for projects.

### **Priority Focus Areas for 2011:**

#### **Highest Priorities**

- **Communicate with existing Ramsey businesses through the Ramsey Resident newsletter, Business Network meeting, Business Appreciation Day, and Business Expo.**
- **Facilitate The Falls Café and Deli/Wells Catering project moving forward with its relocation to the COR.**
- **Although Ramsey does have a variety of fast-food restaurants, there is a strong desire for additional “sit-down” or full-service restaurants in the community. Develop a coherent Full-Service Restaurant subsidy policy.**
- Begin work on the redevelopment of the 167<sup>th</sup>/Hwy 47 commercial node, including the potential land acquisition of available lots, the design of infrastructure, creation of TIF District, and additional residential development to support commerce.
- **Expand, retain and create new employment in the City’s existing industrial parks (e.g. MultiSource Manufacturing).**
- **Support the work of the Development Management (DM) Team to bring potential developers, retailers and office users to sites in the Center of Ramsey (COR); and provide regular updates about the COR to the EDA.**

- **Review the financial obligations and resources of the City's TIF districts and submit modifications as necessary.**

### **Moderately High Priorities**

- Actively contact and work with prospects concerning the possibility of a second grocery store for Ramsey.
- **Continue to promote multiple modes of transportation, including supporting the efforts to obtain funding for the railroad station.**
- **Follow-up on the results of the Retail Site Assessment of Ramsey's Customer Profile undertaken by Buxton in 2008.**
- Consider the feasibility of a Medical-related or Biotech Business incubator in the City of Ramsey. This could include working with Genesis Business Centers, UEL or other entities.
- Develop long-term marketing strategy to improve area businesses and to attract new businesses.
- Utilize the City's website and a software provider (such as E-Gov Link or Co-Star) to improve the community's real estate and business intelligence platform.

### **Medium Priorities**

- Develop a plan to recapitalize the Ramsey Revolving Loan Fund.
- **Move forward with new Village Profile map of the City of Ramsey, as well as the new Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce map.**
- **Work with the new owner of the property formerly known as the Diamonds Sports Bar & Grill (a 15.5 acre parcel south of Highway 10) in terms of redevelopment and infrastructure requirements.**
- Work with other City Departments to submit an application to DEED to seek the designation of the area near the transit station as a Transit Improvement Area (TIA).
- **Support efforts by EDAM and other statewide organizations to seek funding for Brownfields Redevelopment and for TIA Loan Programs.**
- Pursue a separate Zip Code and Post Office for the City of Ramsey.
- Consider the establishment of new industrial/business park in the City of Ramsey. This could include doing a site evaluation of the industrial area south of LCA or the Pearson farm.

**The bolded priorities are ones where there was significant progress during 2011. Several of the non-bold priorities are ongoing efforts or potentially can move forward in 2012.**

## **2012 WORK PLAN FOR THE RAMSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The 2012 Work Plan for the Ramsey EDA outlines existing guidelines for economic development policies, and priority focus areas delineating the highest and the next highest priorities for the current year.

### **Guidelines for the 2012 Work Plan for the Ramsey EDA:**

- Work to sustain moderate growth or recovery of industrial, commercial, retail, and housing activities in the City.
- Begin work on the redevelopment of the 167<sup>th</sup>/Hwy 47 commercial node, including the potential land acquisition of available lots, the design of infrastructure, creation of TIF District, and additional residential development to support commerce.
- Target family-wage to high salary employment opportunities in a variety of industries.
- Continue to target businesses in specific industries, including medical, precision manufacturing, aerospace, and other high tech fields.
- Encourage the retention and growth of existing local firms.
- Ensure quality growth and land use by streamlined, effective regulations and code enforcement.
- Continue to respond to specific requests for assistance from local companies.
- Use infrastructure investment to attract new firms and for development of designated areas.
- Maximize private, local, state, and federal funding for projects.

### **Priority Focus Areas for 2012:**

#### **Highest Priorities**

- Communicate with existing Ramsey businesses through the Ramsey Resident newsletter, Business Network meeting, Business Appreciation Day, and Business Expo.
- Expand, retain and create new employment in the City's existing industrial parks.
- Research and encourage the City to join the Twin Cities Gateway Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) in order to promote the Comfort Suites Hotel and the community's events (e.g. Happy Days and Game Fair) and venues (e.g. Fountains of Ramsey).
- Support the work of the Development Management (DM) Team to bring potential developers, retailers and office users to sites in the Center of Ramsey (COR); and provide regular updates about the COR to the EDA.
- Review the financial obligations and resources of the City's TIF districts and submit modifications as necessary.
- Consider joining the Minnesota Commercial Association of Realtors (MNCAR) Exchange. This would provide access to the Exchange's commercial property database and the ability to list Ramsey properties on the Exchange.

### **Moderately High Priorities**

- Continue to promote multiple modes of transportation, including supporting the efforts to obtain funding for the Armstrong Interchange.
- Continue to follow-up on the results of the Retail Site Assessment of Ramsey's Customer Profile undertaken by Buxton in 2008.
- Begin work on the redevelopment of the 167<sup>th</sup>/Hwy 47 commercial node, including the potential land acquisition of available lots, the design of infrastructure, creation of TIF District, and additional residential development to support commerce.
- Pursue a separate Zip Code and Post Office for the City of Ramsey.
- Develop long-term marketing strategy to improve area businesses and to attract new businesses.
- Actively contact and work with prospects concerning the possibility of a second grocery store for Ramsey.
- Consider the feasibility of a Medical-related or Biotech Business incubator in the City of Ramsey. This could include working with Genesis Business Centers, UEL or other entities.

### **Medium Priorities**

- Develop a plan to recapitalize the Ramsey Revolving Loan Fund.
- Move forward with new Village Profile map of the City of Ramsey, as well as the new Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce map.
- Continue to work with Al Pearson regarding the sale of his property north of Hwy 10 and to the west of Puma Street and Legacy Christian Academy.
- Work with other City Departments to submit an application to DEED to seek the designation of the area near the transit station as a Transit Improvement Area (TIA).
- Support efforts by EDAM and other statewide organizations to seek funding for Brownfields Redevelopment and for TIA Loan Programs.
- Consider the establishment of new industrial/business park in the City of Ramsey. This could include doing a site evaluation of the industrial area south of LCA or south of Highway 10.

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**4. 2.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** Aaron Backman, Administrative Services

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**Title:**

2012 Marketing Plan

**Background:**

As part of the process of considering the EDA's priorities for 2012, the Economic Development/Marketing Manager has drafted a proposed 2012 Marketing Plan. It includes components that pertain to Downtown Development (The COR), Business Retention & Expansion, Community Partners, Workforce Development, Pro-Business Environment, and Tourism. The Economic Development/Marketing Manager will review the six components with the Commissioners at the EDA meeting, seeking input from the members regarding the proposed 2012 Marketing Plan.

**Observations:**

**Funding Source:**

Marketing material costs would be paid for out of the EDA Fund.

**Staff Recommendation:**

City staff is recommending that the EDA Commissioners approve the proposed 2012 Marketing Plan.

**EDA Action:**

Consider approving the proposed 2012 Marketing Plan.

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**Attachments**

2012 Marketing Plan

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**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Aaron Backman (Originator)	Aaron Backman	02/06/2012 10:03 AM
Form Started By: Aaron Backman		Started On: 02/03/2012 04:24 PM
	Final Approval Date: 02/06/2012	

## 2012 MARKETING PLAN FOR THE CITY OF RAMSEY

Priority: Develop strategies to more aggressively and proactively market the City of Ramsey to encourage and attract new business opportunities to the area. The vision would be to enhance and grow a more diverse economy through innovation, partnerships, and relationships, to capitalize on our existing strengths while seeking new opportunities. The City should, in cooperation with other appropriate partners, develop a specific and focused marketing program.

### Components to the 2012 Marketing Plan for the Ramsey EDA:

- Downtown Development. The COR is a key asset to market for new investment. With significant City resources put into infrastructure and land, this area becomes a target for new private sector investment. A significant portion of the community's business attraction strategy will include retail development (e.g. West 50). In addition to continued enhancements to the City's website, the EDA could develop a bi-fold piece, folded to 8 ½" x 11", a *Marketing Piece that targets restaurants and references the City's new Restaurant Assistance Policy*. Another opportunity would be to build upon the medical facilities that now exist in The COR. The EDA could participate in a marketing piece targeting medical companies. The EDA would work to identify medical-related company prospects that could be approached by the DM Team and area developers.
- Business Retention & Expansion. A successful BR&E program can fuel a successful marketing program. The needs of existing businesses can shape marketing. At least a portion of the BRE activity could help facilitate the implementation of a *Customer Relationship Management (CRM) program*. The goal is to manage the City's interactions with citizens and businesses involving technology to organize and enhance the City's responses. CRM is a computerized method of tracking requests while offering several management features. There are at least 17 possible CRM providers that have been identified by the City. The best four—GovQA, FastTrakGov, GovPartner, and CitizenServe—will provide product demonstrations in February. From there, a final selection will be made.
- Community Partners. A high level of coordination is required for this component to work. Partners could include: Ramsey businesses, Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce, Twin Cities Gateway CVB, and local business networking groups. The City of Ramsey could explore joining the *Twin Cities Gateway Convention & Visitors Bureau*. Twin Cities Gateway, with an office in Blaine, includes nine cities in the North Metro. This would entail the City Council adopting a 3% lodging tax. Comfort Suites appears supportive of the City joining the local CVB.

- Workforce Development. Skilled labor is a critical need for new and existing businesses. Business attraction efforts will not be successful if new businesses cannot find the quality labor they require. The continued growth of existing businesses will be hampered if quality employees are not available. At a minimum the City of Ramsey should re-engage involvement in a *General Advisory Committee connected with Anoka Technical College*. Other steps could entail collaboration with the college by having Ramsey marketing materials available at ATC, workforce meetings between City, businesses and ATC, encouraging Ramsey businesses to sponsor students that could be hired fulltime after completion of coursework.
- Pro-Business Environment. To attract new investment, the City must be prepared to partner with developers, investors and existing businesses. Joint activities could include moving ahead with the *DEED Shovel-Ready Program application*. This would lead to greater promotion of The COR on DEED's website to national and regional site selectors. Marketing pieces could be developed that promote the development of all City-owned property, including The COR, industrial parcels, and other scattered municipal properties with free and clear title and no immediate public use.
- Tourism. With an existing focus on commercial and industrial development, there is a need to promote visitors and tourists coming to community. Consider developing a marketing campaign called: *Ramsey. You are Welcome to Explore it*. The campaign would involve working with the Parks & Recreation staff and potentially Anoka County. Also, expanding the partnership with Game Fair to include website links and perhaps an EDA ad in Game Fair website. Building upon the work of City staff, develop community events promoting the Mississippi River Trail Corridor and other trails in the community.

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

4. 3.

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** Aaron Backman, Administrative Services

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Title:

Membership in Twin Cities Gateway CVB

Background:

During the last two months the Economic Development/Marketing Manager has been having discussions with Scott Davy, the new General Manager for the Ramsey Comfort Suites, regarding the City of Ramsey joining the local convention and visitors bureau or CVB. A destination marketing organization, such as a CVB, promotes a city or region in order to increase the number visitors and thereby increase the economic activity of the area.

The Twin Cities Gateway is a CVB that markets 9 communities and 22 hotel properties in the northern portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area (See attached website map). Twin Cities Gateway or TCG's website is [www.tcgateway.com](http://www.tcgateway.com). In 2008 a number of the communities east of the Mississippi River broke away from the Visit Minneapolis North CVB to form their own organization. They wanted to focus more narrowly on tourism and do so with less administrative costs. The idea was to create a non-profit corporation, funded by the local option lodging tax, that would market the region's strengths: sports venues (e.g. the National Sports Center or NSC), convention space and proximity to outdoor amenities and the Twin Cities. The aim is to draw leisure and business travelers who will take lodging in the member cities' hotels and spend their travel dollars in restaurants and entertainment venues.

Today the Twin Cities Gateway CVB represents nine communities--Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, Lino Lakes, Mounds View, New Brighton, and Shoreview. Its \$650,000 budget is funded by a 3 percent sales tax collected by the 22 lodging properties. Those funds are forwarded on to the member cities and then transmitted (less a 5% administrative fee for the city) onto the TCG. Another financial benefit for the member cities is a yearly amount (currently \$2,000, plus a proportionate amount based on lodging tax revenue) provided for any local festival (e.g. Happy Days?).

TCG focuses more on tourism and sports destination and less on the meeting & convention segment. It operates on a much more lean manner than other local CVBs. Whereas other CVBs may spend 50 to 70% of their resources on administrative overhead, TCG allocates only 25% on overhead. The lionshare of TCG's resources is used for marketing activities, such as Internet ads, online social media apps, etc. Fewer resources are allocated for hard-copy visitors' guides since 70+% of visitors get their information online.

Being a member of the CVB would allow for the City of Ramsey to expand its promotion of events (e.g. Game Fair), venues (e.g. Fountains of Ramsey, The Links at North Fork Golf Course, Rum River Hills Golf Course), unique resources (e.g. Rum River Central Regional Park and Mississippi West Regional Park), and to do so in a cost effective way. Attached are samples of TCG promotion on its website.

From a practical standpoint, by being a member of Twin Cities Gateway, Comfort Suites would not have to pay rebates or commissions to the NSC (that non-member hotel properties have to pay). Since the NSC is the world's largest amateur athletic complex and receives millions of visitors a year, Comfort Suites sees an opportunity to pick up sports-related overnight stays. In summary, membership in TCG appears to be a benefit for the hotel, the City's festival, and overall marketing efforts for the City of Ramsey.

Observations:

Funding Source:

Any community desiring to join Twin Cities Gateway, is required to adopt a 3.0% lodging tax. This is a statewide requirement for any city wishing to join any CVB organization. This would be added to the current sales tax paid by customers. Comfort Suites appears to be supportive of implementing this revenue change. It is estimated that this would generate approximately \$24,000 based upon last year's gross revenues. Per statute, the City Council would be required to hold three public hearings regarding implementing this lodging tax.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the EDA adopt a motion recommending that the City Council consider joining the Twin Cities Gateway CVB.

**EDA Action:**

The Ramsey EDA adopt a motion recommending that the City Council consider joining the Twin Cities Gateway CVB.

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**Attachments**

[Twin Cities Gateway Website & Map](#)

[Twin Cities Gateway Community Info](#)

[Twin Cities Gateway - Sample Activities](#)

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**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Aaron Backman (Originator)	Aaron Backman	02/05/2012 12:31 PM
Form Started By: Aaron Backman		Started On: 02/03/2012 04:06 PM
	Final Approval Date: 02/05/2012	



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Cloudy  
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## Welcome to Twin Cities Gateway

### Get away from it all without going too far!

The Twin Cities Gateway is a travel destination like no other in Minnesota. The Twin Cities Gateway is a group of nine communities adjacent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, located on the northern edge of the Twin Cities. The Twin Cities Gateway offers easy access to all the fun and excitement of metropolitan life while retaining small town charm and a sense of community.

Take in a Twins or Vikings game by travel just minutes to Minneapolis; enjoy a concert, Minnesota Wild game or museum visit with travel to St. Paul just a few miles away and then retreat to the peace, quiet and comfort of the Twin Cities Gateway communities. This is what Twin Cities tourism offers you.

If you're from Minneapolis or St. Paul, enjoy a quick Twin Cities weekend getaway by looking no further than the Twin Cities Gateway. You'll find world-class golf, abundant recreational opportunities, stunning natural surroundings and quality accommodations to fit any budget, all in a friendly and fun environment far removed from the stresses of urban living.

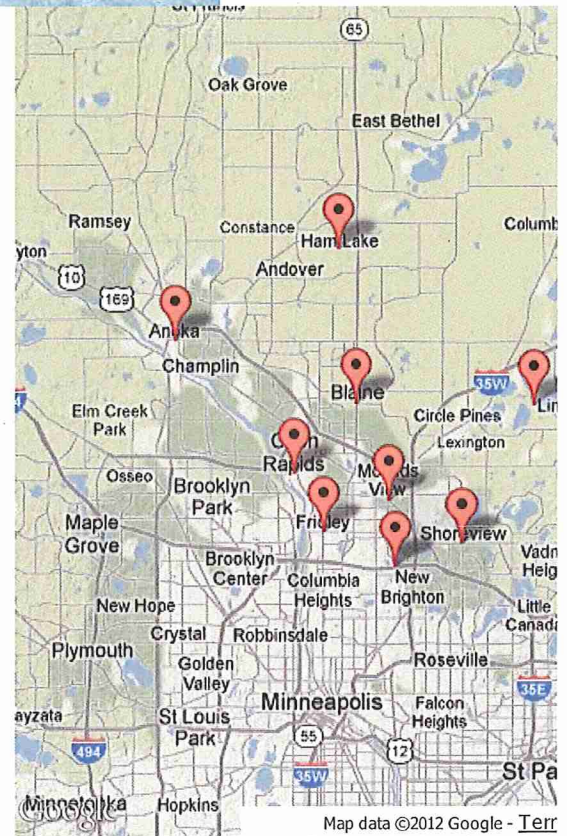
In short, we offer the best of both worlds – urban activities, outdoor recreation and small town charm. What more could you ask for your next vacation, or getaway?

Take a tour of the Twin Cities Gateway communities: [Anoka](#), [Blaine](#), [Coon Rapids](#), [Fridley](#), [Ham Lake](#), [Lino Lakes](#), [Mounds View](#), [New Brighton](#), and [Shoreview](#) or use our interactive map to find points of interest.

Find lodging specials or search for accommodations conveniently displayed by brand, location, price or amenities.

Search for things to do on our events and attractions pages.

Whatever you do, come back often, because weThe Twin Cities Gateway is a travel destination like no other in Minnesota. The Twin Cities Gateway is a group of nine communities adjacent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, located on the northern edge of the Twin Cities. The Twin Cities Gateway offers easy access to all the fun and excitement of metropolitan life while retaining small town charm and a sense of community.



Map data ©2012 Google - Terr



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## ANOKA

[Overview](#)

[Things to do](#)

[Anoka Hotels](#)

[Map](#)



### Anoka

Travel to Anoka, MN, the "Halloween Capitol of the World" for fun attractions, events and activities. Anoka is home to numerous interesting attractions. Anoka's historic downtown boasts an array of eclectic and unique shops, restaurants and services, all surrounded by beautiful city parks, trails, and neighborhoods. Anoka is also proud of its Enterprise Park located on the west side of town brimming with large manufacturing, machining, and distribution businesses, providing employment for over 2,500 people. The largest private employers in Anoka are Federal Cartridge Company and Pentair Custom Products which employ another 2,500 people.

The city-owned Greenhaven Golf Course & Banquet Center and the Anoka Aquatic Center provide hours of seasonal entertainment, while the Anoka Senior Center provides meals and fun activities for seniors all year long. Plus, events such as

### Photo Slideshow



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## Twin Cities Gateway Things to do

The Twin Cities Gateway area is a great travel destination with various exciting attractions. You have the offerings of things to do in Minneapolis, things in St. Paul, the Mall of America and more just a short drive away. You also have very exciting attractions options in the Twin Cities Gateway communities including Adventure Seaplanes, golf, shopping, aquatic centers, the National Sports Center and more.

Browse the things to do in Twin Cities below. You can sort by category and view more details at the attractions' websites. Click on the images for an expanded view of the things to do in Twin Cities.

We invite you to explore our site and learn more about the Twin Cities Gateway communities and the lodging options available. We hope you have fun in our communities and enjoy our Twin Cities attractions.

[All Attractions](#) | [Community center](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Travel](#) | [Recreation/sports](#) | [Golf courses](#) | [Parks](#) | [Arts/entertainment](#) | [Events](#) | [Nature](#) | [Twin Cities Area](#)



### Brunswick Zone XL

11351 Ulysses St. NE  
Blaine, MN 55434

Brunswick Zone XL is extra large fun. Endless lanes for bowling, a giant game room, lazer tag, billiards, and a super-size lounge to relax with friends or catch the big game. It's a different kind of family entertainment center with something for everyone. If you want BIG fun, get into the good times at Brunswick Zone XL. At This Location: 38 Lanes 4 Billiard Tables 4 Dart Boards Event Rooms Game Zone Arcade Lazer Tag Bar & Grill Bumper Cars

**Category:** Recreation/sports  
**Phone:** (763) 561-2230  
**Email Us**  
**Hours:** Monday - Thursday 11a - midnight, Friday 11a - 1a, Saturday, 9a - 1a, Sunday 9a - 1a  
**Open:** Open all days of the week



### Bunker Beach Water Park

Intersection of CSAH 14 and Foley Blvd  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Bunker Beach now features six towering waterslides, a 900' lazy river, leisure pool with climbing wall, a zero-entry pool with a water play structure, a creative sand play area, and as always, Minnesota's largest outdoor wave pool! Large open areas for sunning and relaxing are scattered throughout the water park. Concession options, changing rooms, and a metro-area location, make Bunker Beach a perfect family destination.

**Category:** Recreation/sports  
**Phone:** (763) 767-2895  
**Email Us**  
**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Open:** First Saturday in June - Labor Day

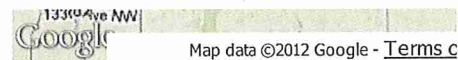


### Bunker Hills Golf Club

12800 Bunker Prairie Drive  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

**Category:** Golf courses  
**Phone:** (763) 755-4141  
**Email Us**  
**Hours:** 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Open:** January 1 - December 31





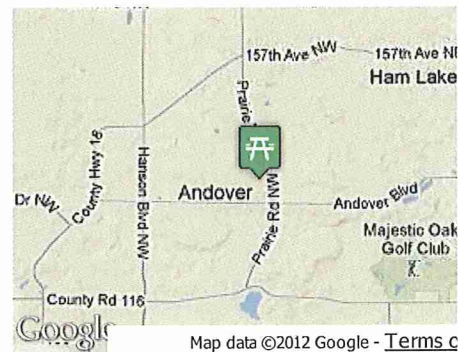
**Bunker Hills Regional Park**

CSAH 14/Main Street and Foley Boulevard  
Coon Rapids, MN 55344

The 1,600-acre Bunker Hills Regional Park offers a wide spectrum of recreation opportunities including swimming and water slides at the Bunker Beach Water Park, horseback riding at Bunker Park Stables, a playground, biking, hiking, golf, camping, archery, picnicking, and cross-country skiing. Bunker Hills is also home to the Anoka County Veteran's Memorial. The Bunker Hills Activities Center offers meeting and banquet facilities and is host to the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department headquarters. All motorized vehicles are required to purchase a vehicle entry permit to the regional parks. Annual permits are available for \$25, good for one year from date of purchase. Daily permits are available for \$5 per day. The annual permit is honored at all Anoka County Regional Parks as well as regional parks in Washington and Carver counties.



**Category:** Parks  
**Phone:** (763) 757-3920  
**Email Us**  
**Hours:** 6 a.m. - 1/2 hour past sunset



**Bunker Park Stable**

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW  
Andover, MN 55304

Since 1995 we have provided a full range of riding programs and activities to the public, kids and adults, of every ability and skill level. Just wander our website or give us a call to discover the array of horse-related activities you can find here. There is something for everyone! Horseback riding is great outdoor fun and a rewarding lifetime sport as well. We are committed to giving you a fun and safe horse experience. Our horses and ponies are well trained ... and our staff is, too!



**Category:** Recreation/sports  
**Phone:** (763) 757-9445  
**Email Us**



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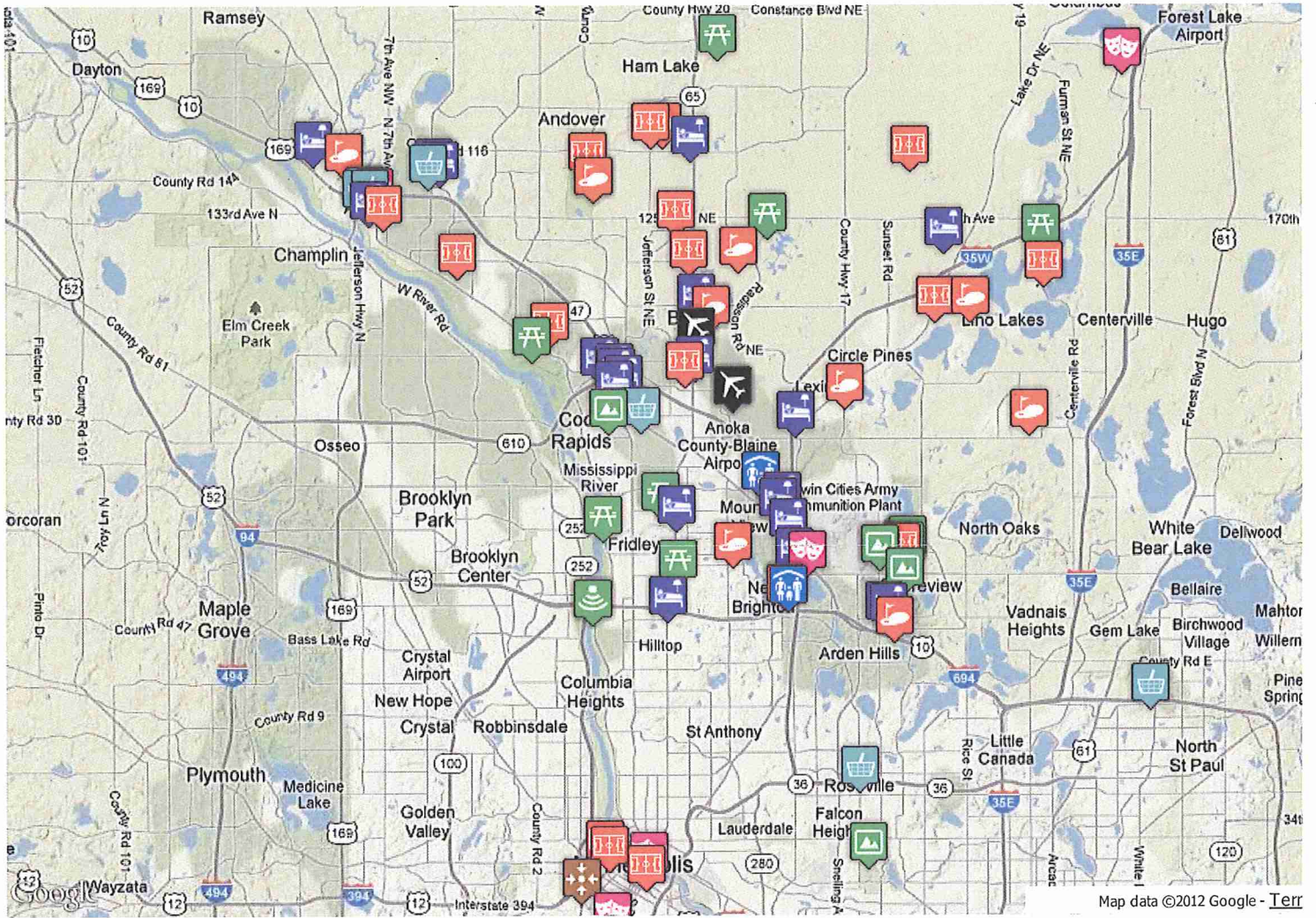
Check-in	Rooms	1
Check-out	Guests	1

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Map data ©2012 Google - Terr

## Twin Cities Gateway Area Map

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**4. 4.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** JoAnn Shaw, Community Development

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**Title:**

Buxton Prospect Update

**Background:**

A Buxton prospect update will be provided verbally at the meeting.

**Observations:**

**Funding Source:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**EDA Action:**

---

**Form Review**

**Inbox**  
Aaron Backman

**Reviewed By**  
Aaron Backman

**Date**  
02/03/2012 04:01 PM  
Started On: 02/03/2012 03:39 PM

Form Started By: JoAnn Shaw

Final Approval Date: 02/03/2012

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**4. 5.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** Aaron Backman, Administrative Services

**Title:**

Update on Big Ben Project

**Background:**

On January 6, 2012 the Economic Development/Marketing Manager received a request from Greater MSP for possible site locations for a large enterprise data center facility with a response deadline of January 11th. The code name for the project is Project Big Ben. The prospect is a Fortune 1000 firm that is looking to build a 100,000 sq. ft., Tier III DC. The Economic Development/Marketing Mgr submitted info re two sites--the Old Municipal Center and the Connexus Energy Outlot A site by January 11th deadline.

Subsequently we learned on January 25th that the City of Ramsey made the first cut for Project Big Ben. A more in-depth submittal for each site was required by February 3rd. This submittal provides information re site characteristics of the properties, zoning, water and sewer access, electrical infrastructure, etc. This information was submitted to Greater MSP by the February 3rd deadline. Attached are maps of the two sites.

**Observations:**

**Funding Source:**

N/A. The goal of the sale of the former Municipal Center would be to substantially fund a majority of the cost for a new fire station.

**Staff Recommendation:**

This is provided for informational purposes for the EDA members.

**EDA Action:**

No action required of the EDA.

**Attachments**

[Old Municipal Center Map](#)

[Connexus--AEC Site Map](#)

**Form Review**

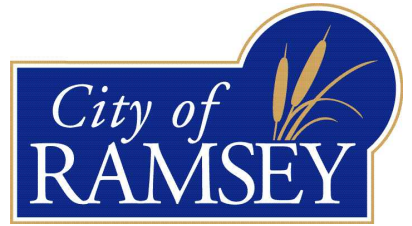
**Inbox**  
Aaron Backman (Originator)

**Reviewed By**  
Aaron Backman

**Date**  
02/03/2012 02:59 PM  
Started On: 02/03/2012 02:31 PM

Form Started By: Aaron Backman

Final Approval Date: 02/03/2012



## Old Municipal Site

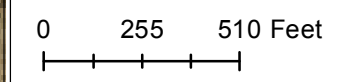
Traffic Counts



 Site

 2900 AADT

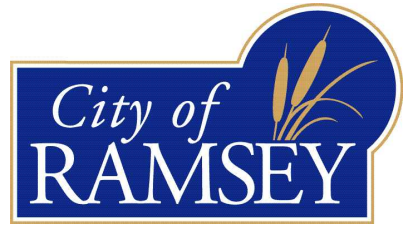
 Parcels



This map has been compiled using information gathered from various governmental offices and other sources and is to be used for reference purposes only. It is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended for use as one. The Geographic Information System (GIS) data used to develop this map is not warranted by the City as being error-free.

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## AEC Site

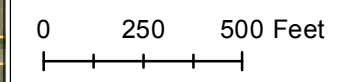
### Traffic Counts



 Site

 2900 AADT

 Parcels



This map has been compiled using information gathered from various governmental offices and other sources and is to be used for reference purposes only. It is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended for use as one. The Geographic Information System (GIS) data used to develop this map is not warranted by the City as being error-free.

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**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**4. 6.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** JoAnn Shaw, Community Development

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**Title:**

Staff Update

**Background:**

A staff update will be provided at the meeting.

**Observations:**

**Funding Source:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**EDA Action:**

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**  
Aaron Backman

**Reviewed By**  
Aaron Backman

**Date**  
02/03/2012 04:00 PM  
Started On: 02/03/2012 11:43 AM

Form Started By: JoAnn Shaw

Final Approval Date: 02/03/2012

**Economic Development Authority (EDA)**

**4. 7.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/09/2012

**By:** JoAnn Shaw, Community Development

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**Title:**

COR Update

**Background:**

The COR update will be presented at the meeting.

**Observations:**

**Funding Source:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**EDA Action:**

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**  
Aaron Backman

**Reviewed By**  
Aaron Backman

**Date**  
02/02/2012 02:52 PM  
Started On: 02/02/2012 09:07 AM

Form Started By: JoAnn Shaw

Final Approval Date: 02/02/2012