

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 167th/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 Coffee 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 167th/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.
- 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 (an 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.