

Economic Development 6 Month Plan

Often Discussed Needs:

- Roads
 - Namely the completion of the Coalfields Expressway and the King Coal Highway
 - **6-Month Solution:** Campaigning for officials from state DOT and the relevant highway authorities to begin attending community meetings and providing updates and opportunities for dialogue to overcome hurdles
- Broadband
 - Although there has been broadband built out to the majority of the county a few years ago, people still identify the county as lacking it. Might be confusion between cable and telephone based internet service and cellular phone service. Might also be perceived barriers to service or lack of education.
 - **6-Month Solution:** Work with current broadband providers, state broadband authority, and local residents to develop a survey to determine continued calls for broadband despite previous buildout.
- Tug River Blueway
 - Will have a completed guide for river access along the Tug River in the next 6 months. Access points will be distributed approximately every 4-6 miles along the river's path. Tug River Blueway authority needs help with relationship building with some private landowners.
 - **6-month Solution** – Organize volunteer groups once guide is published to do clean-up and small infrastructure builds at access points in McDowell. Also, work with CVB and other local orgs to help in distribution and advertisement of the guide's availability.
- Marketing of Tourism
 - Improve/simplify access to tourism materials that are available online
 - Also need help with SEO/social media presence of Meet McDowell
 - **6-Month Solution:** Access resources from SWVCTC and Hatfield-McCoy Trail Authority to help with both these issues. They have grant money for both.
 - We also need to promote classes on how to list your property on AirBnB so that local residents can start capturing tourism lodging dollars and increase hotel/motel tax collection.

- Beautification
 - Places being visually rundown and overwhelmed with trash and junk identified as major barrier to future
 - **6-Month Solution:** Create working group with State Senator Swope and WV Development Hub Abandoned Buildings Coalition about plans of action and funding options for blight removal. Also, reach out to Habitat for Humanity to see if a ReStore location could be put in McDowell to attract the collection and resale of abandoned valuables in unoccupied homes. Maybe also looking into scrap material vendors.
 - Removing dilapidated buildings
 - Seeking funding for work
 - Reclaim/salvage materials
- Work being done or beyond 6-month time frame
 - WorldVision-working with Young Life
 - Infrastructure development in Krampler
 - Two TLC sites
 - Coordinating
 - Develop new hiking/biking guides
 - Disc Golf integration
 - Blue Apron for outdoor tourists
 - CTC/RCBI
 - Small plot farming
 - FFC/CTC/F25 planning meeting
 - Container growing
 - Dams/lakefront development