



County Economic Opportunity Board

January 18, 2024

3:30 p.m.

47 South Main, Council Chambers (3rd floor)

1. **Welcome & Roll Call**
2. **Better City Economic Development Report**
 - A. **Better City Report**

Attachments

 1. 2024-01-18 Better City - ED discussion.pdf
3. **Site Ready Tooele**
4. **Economic Development Plan Update**
5. **Grants**
 - A. **Discussion- Grant Funds and Projects , Rachelle Custer**

Grant fund and projects discussion.
6. **Adjournment**

Better City Economic Development Report

2023 Update

- Wendover Airport is a finalist to host the National Championship Air Races beginning in 2025, with a \$100M financial impact to the Wasatch Front. Other air races as well as aircraft testing are also proposed. The upgrades will cost \$4.4M. The County will work with state legislators to obtain funding.
- Tooele City moved Tooele Business Park towards shovel-readiness, spending \$331K , of which \$160K was funded partly from the 2022 Part B grant and partly from the 2023 Rural County Grant. This enabled the City to recruit Leitner-Poma for their \$27M Skytrac headquarters.
- Gardner-Batt Industrial Park advanced towards shovel-readiness. They spend \$167K to conduct water and sewer design that would allow their land to be developable. The 2022 Part B grant funded \$100K.
- Small Business grants provided \$45K for nine companies to upgrade operations; their combined investments were \$852K.
- The Research Associates were paid \$12,760 from the 2023 Rural County Grant to update the County's Economic Development Plan
- Funds from the 2023 Rural County Grant supported the Tooele Valley Small Business Development Center (\$15K) and Better City (\$60K).
- Tooele County has been conditionally approved for a \$91K grant for a project to assess the feasibility and potential impact of marketing Tooele County to aficionados of "The Need for Speed." The County's outstanding speed-related venues are Utah Motorsports Campus, Bonneville Salt Flats, and Wendover Airport.

2024 – Next Steps (consistent with the 2023 updated strategic plan and the 2023 WFEDD CEDS)

- 2024 Rural County Grant - \$200,000 received. The CEO board recommended that the grant funds be used for:
 1. Economic Development Professional \$60,000
 2. Small business development and expansion sub-grants \$55,000
 3. Wendover airport water line engineering \$50,000
 4. Small Business Development Center \$15,000
 5. Administration \$20,000
- Infrastructure Development – identify what needs to be done to bring the industrial parks and the inland port to shovel-readiness, and then make it happen.
- Innovative Business Attraction Strategies – Identify and prioritize industries that align with the County's strengths. Develop and execute a campaign to encourage site locators to recommend Tooele County.
- Develop a master plan for Tooele's inland port.
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