

Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

# Interior Alaska Economic Summit

Closing Plenary, February 23, 2022 Westmark Hotel & Conference Center & Zoom

# The Project Team



### **FNSB Economic Development Commission**

Mayor Bryce Ward | Abigail Riggs | Frank Tomaszewski Kristan Kelly | Mark Billingsley | Paul Robinson | Russell Talvi Past Members: Deb Hickok, Matt Cooper, Mike Meeks, Mindy O'Neall

**FNSB** Project Manager

Brittany Smart

**Contracting Team:** Shelly Wade, AICP

Molly Mylius

Supporting team members:







Information Insights vision + creativity = solutions



# Special Thanks To:

- Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce for helping facilitate breakouts
- Explore Fairbanks for providing us with supplies
- The **Westmark** for hosting us
- The **FNSB and Interior AK community, visitors and other partners** that have contributed to the process since we began in spring 2021

# Reminder: Purpose of the CEDS

## **Project Purpose**

## To develop an updated Five-**Year FNSB Comprehensive Economic Development** Strategy (CEDS).

CEDS must go through a robust update every five years, with shorter, less intensive updates annually.

March 2016

Fairbanks North Star

Borough Comprehensive Economic Development

Strategy

## What is a CEDS?

- A locally-based, regionally-driven economic development roadmap that guides government and community action.
- Brings the private, public and non-profit sectors together to develop a regional strategy and action plan.
- Identifies projects and makes recommendations to:

Secure and support businesses Create more and better paying jobs

Improve quality of life Increase resilience to changes, threats

## Your Thoughts on the Proposed Economic Vision

The Land of the Midnight Sun & Golden Heart of Alaska is a global economic hub, where families, businesses, adventurers, and opportunities thrive.

- Feels generic  $\rightarrow$  Remove "global"  $\rightarrow$  Add "Arctic"
- Remove "Land of the Midnight Sun" → Keep "Golden Heart"
- Everyone should see themselves in the vision are we being equitable?

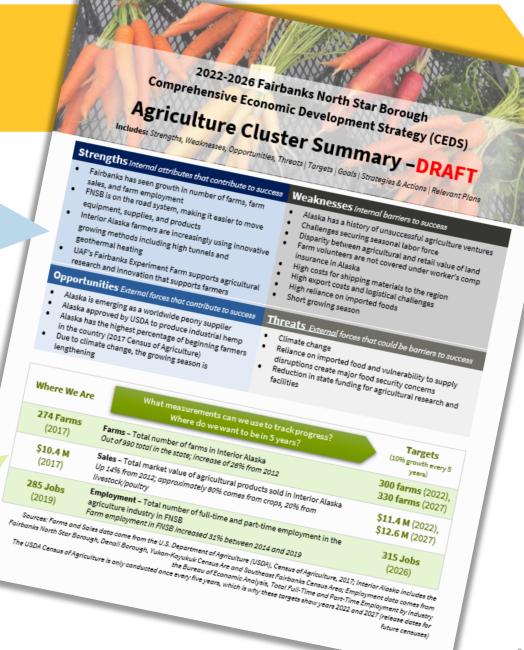
# Brief Recap of Breakout Discussions

## Agriculture

#### **Project idea:**

Encourage residents to buy local, including expanding FEDC's Golden Heart Grown program and distribution of the Interior Agriculture Directory.

Indicator idea: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars being used at farmer's markets

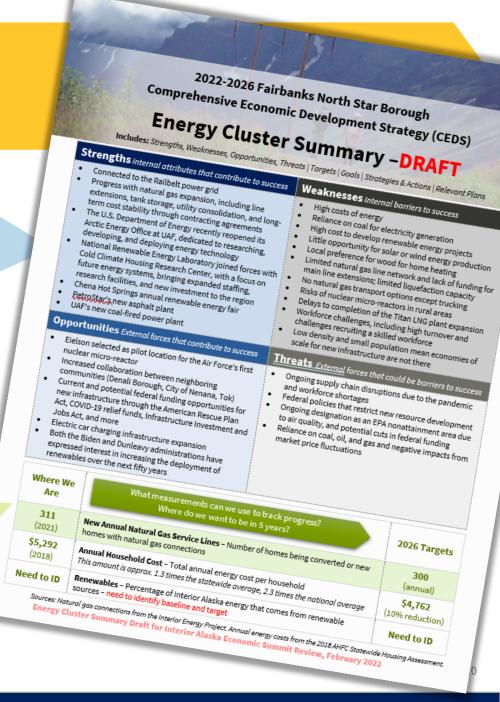


## Energy

#### **Project idea:**

Support safe installation of the Air Force's first nuclear microreactor as a supplemental power source for Eielson Air Force Base and waste heat for agriculture and other energy needs.

Indicator idea: Annual Household Cost – Total annual energy cost per household

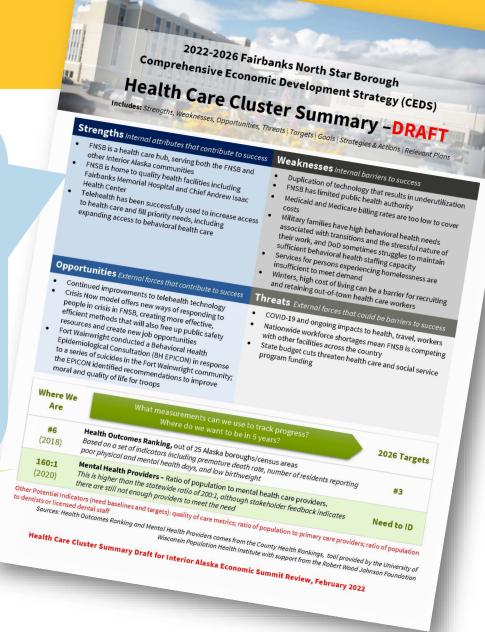


## Health Care

#### **Project idea:**

- Address known gaps in medical specialty care (Otolaryngology [Ear, Nose, Throat] and potentially orthopedics), and behavioral health services
- Reopen the dental hygiene program at UAF.
- Establish a licensed practical nursing (LPN) program at UAF.

#### **Indicator idea:** Ratio of population to health care providers.

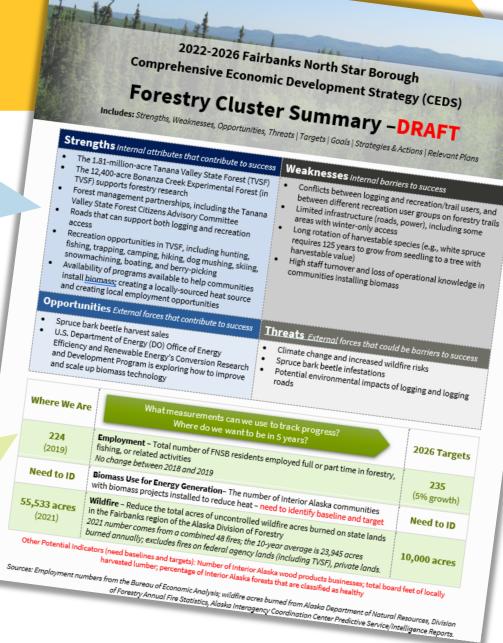


## Forestry

#### **Project idea:**

Manage local forests to maximize productivity of local biomass for heating and construction materials and to reduce threats from wildfires.

**Indicator idea:** Annual Household Cost -Total annual energy cost per household



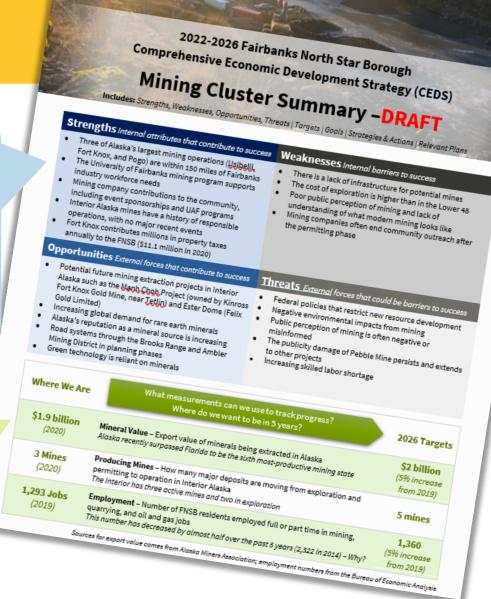
# Mining

#### **Project idea:**

Support and expand mining and geology related degree programs in Alaska, including expanding the UAF Mining and Geologic Engineering program and vocational training programs such as the Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MPTS)

#### **Indicator idea:**

Number of FNSB residents employed full or part time in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas jobs



## **Research & Innovation**

#### **Project idea:**

Support greater community participation and local hire in research efforts and ensure community-based research is communicated back in accessible and usable formats.

> **Indicator idea:** Research related expenditures



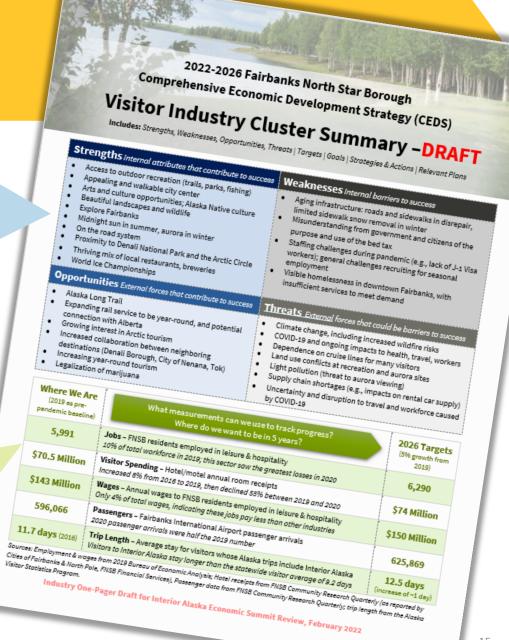
## **Visitor Industry**

#### **Project idea:**

#### Construct the Fairbanks Convention and Arts Center.

#### **Indicator idea:**

Visitor spending (captured via bed tax data). Advocate for annual Alaska Visitor Statistics Program implementation.



# Small Business Development & Entrepreneurship

## Project idea:

Educate local businesses about the benefits of joining BuyAlaska.com.

#### **Indicator idea:**

Number of new small businesses formed.

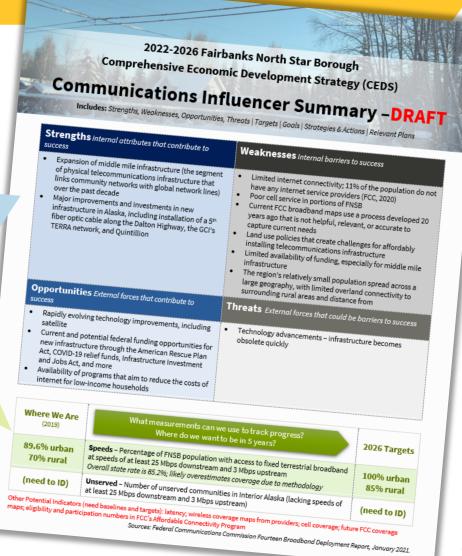


# **Communications** (phone, internet connectivity)

**Project idea:** Advocate for streamlined state and federal permitting for broadband projects and reduced permitting fees.

#### Indicator idea:

Number of unserved communities in Interior Alaska (lacking speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream)



## Land Use, Housing, and Environment

#### **Project idea:**

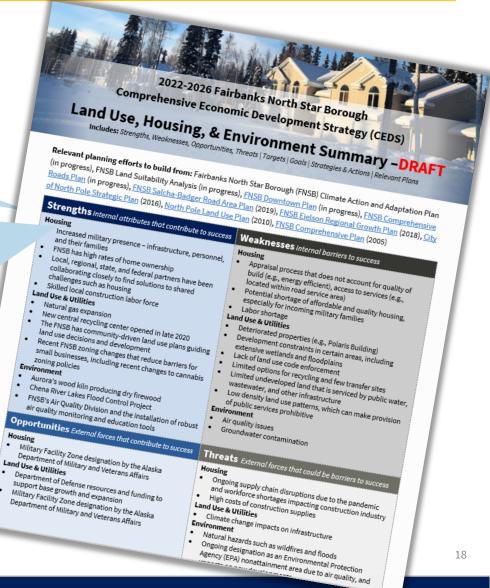
**Conduct housing needs** assessment and plans for annual updates.

#### **Project idea:**

Conduct outreach to increase community knowledge of existing land use policies that impact business development, housing, recreation, etc.

#### **Project idea:**

Continue to take steps to improve air quality with a focus on reducing PM2.5.



## **Recreation & Entertainment**

#### **Project idea:**

Secure funding for and implement phases 2 of the Pioneer Park Master Plan, including opening the park to the riverfront, adding a multi-purpose center.

#### **Indicator idea:** Miles of trail in FNSB.



## **Education & Workforce Development**

#### **Project idea:**

Support industry-specific employment needs starting with priority employment gaps educators, health care professionals, mining workers, telecommunication workers, utility operators, farmers, leisure and hospitality employment, construction workers, and aviation.

#### **Project idea:** Continue to expand STEM education in K-12 schools.

#### **Indicator idea:**

Increased percentage of FNSB population 16 years and older who are in the workforce

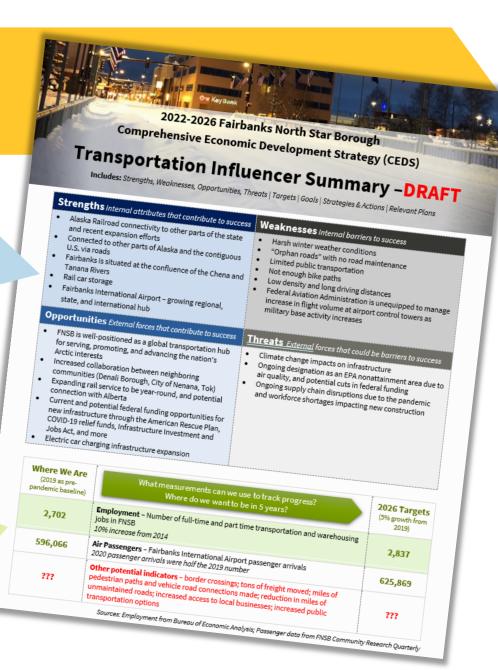
Indicator idea: increased average earnings per job



## Transportation

**Project idea:** Increase public transit and carpool options, including service to military bases and UAF.

Indicator idea: Safer, better maintained roads.



## **Next Steps**

## Summit

 Post-Summit communications, 1-pagers & summary of breakout discussions, summit evaluation – *early March*

## **CEDS Draft & Final**

- Public review draft release *target: April* 2022
- Final draft adoption *target: summer 2022*

Thank you!

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