

# Memorandum



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## Community Development

**DATE:** 12/11/08

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Chris Messer, Principal Planner

**SUBJECT:** Technology, Economic & Community Development Work Plan

Attached is the Technology, Economic & Community Development Work Plan for City Councils consideration.

# Technology, Economic & Community Development Work Plan

Chair: Onnie Shekerjian; Member: Corey Woods

Committee should address technology application and implementation in Tempe, economic development issues and opportunities, and community development and redevelopment strategies and efforts.

- **Expand the use and availability of technological enhancements by City Government and Tempe residents and businesses.**
  1. Hold a public forum to gain input on technologies to help the City of Tempe.
  2. Ensure transparency and accountability in government through open access to information.
    - a. Improve on-line public access and use, such as electronic Building Permit Plan Review and issuing Building Permits.
    - b. Expand the use of wireless tools throughout City departments.
    - c. Standardize all Public Meeting information into a web based agenda system.
  3. Develop a Constituent Services Management tool.
  4. Explore & Expand on-line payment and input systems – City wide.
  5. Explore and Implement “Social Media” opportunities.
- **Implement redevelopment and development services policies for recommendation to Council, and implementation of council-approved projects**
  1. Develop planning strategies, along transportation corridors, to encourage development that is visually sensitive to surrounding neighborhoods, addresses affordable housing and is compatible with alternate modes of transportation.
  2. Work with the Historic Preservation Commission to preserve, rehabilitate, and reuse the historically, culturally and visually significant buildings, structures, landmarks, districts, and archaeological sites in the City.
  3. Rehabilitate/Redevelopment/Enhancement of neighborhood commercial centers.
    - a. Develop an asset inventory and needs assessment of neighborhood centers throughout Tempe – Graph information geographically by zip code.
    - b. Prioritize neighborhood centers to target for rehabilitation or redevelopment.

- c. Work with Property Owners, Developers, Real Estate brokers and tenants to provide tools for: façade (lighting, Signage, landscape and paint) improvements and assisting with tenant recruitment/retention

- **Develop, implement and assess economic development approaches, projects and proposals.**

1. Update economic develop strategy/policy
  - a. Develop a needs assessment and asset inventory
  - b. Hold a public forum to gain input on the economic strategy and policy.
2. Work with Arizona State University, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Biodesign Institute, Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, Global Institute of Sustainability and the Office of the Vice-president for Research and Economic Affairs and other partners in an effort to established university-based start-ups and expand the number of solar and biotech companies in Tempe.
3. Work in conjunction with Sports, Recreation, Arts & Cultural Development Committee to consider economic development that may result from related business tourism as well as arts and culture-driven tourism, and youth & amateur sports and outdoor, active tourism.
4. Work with Community Partners to further workforce development.