**Town of Taos Comprehensive Plan**

**Transportation Goals, Policies and Actions/Strategies**

**November 5, 2021 Draft**

**Goals**

* 1. Through regional partnerships and collaboration, the economy of Taos continues to build and diversity economic base jobs, develop emerging industries, strengthen and grow established cultural industries including tourism and art, and to support its local workforce and residents by prioritizing the sustainability of the community and its culture, and its natural resources

Policies & Actions

1. Improve and maintain a formal partnership with regional governments and partners through a formal and equitable structure and agreements to work in collaboration in the development and support of long-range, regional economic development goals
   1. Hold a preliminary sub-regional economic development summit including Taos County and the Taos Ski Valley to establish a unified vision with goals and priorities and review strategies for innovating structural frameworks that promote and foster regional and long-range decision-making, equitable sharing of resources and responsibilities, and cooperative leadership and representation including the following:
      1. Establishing a regional Economic Development Commission to review and pursue potential economic development projects and strategies and provide recommendations to local and regional decision-makers as outlined in the body of this chapter\*
      2. Reorganization of existing regional economic development bodies (ECCOG) to promote collaboration and minimize short-term influences
         1. Consider expanding member representation to multiple seats to expand the range of interests represented and dilute political pressure
2. With regional and state support or as local partnerships, the Town of Taos utilized LEDA incentives to promote economic development
3. With regional partners, establish regional economic development capacity with long term support from regional interests, consider authorizing an Economic Development Commission in this capacity
   1. Regional economic development priorities supported through equitably shared resources should include:
      * Developing LEDA projects and partnerships
      * Representing the region as a destination for film
   2. Building and supporting community and natural resource sustainability should be a fundamental priority of regional economic development efforts
4. Establish and maintain an economic development plan that will
   * provide economic development strategies and goals,
   * up-to-date, comprehensive data and market analysis,
   * prioritize target industries and provide potential incentives and strategies for business attraction,
   * develop policies and actions designed based on community input to support local businesses and entrepreneurs,
   * establish an index of current funding sources outlining funding parameters and requirements,
   * identify local and regional partners including support for an authorized local economic development organization to act as the reviewing agent for on local LEDA projects, and
   * serve as the community’s strategic economic development plan in support of regional economic development, prioritizing local community sustainability and regional collaborations
5. Review and update local LEDA ordinance and enable project partnerships
   1. Update local LEDA ordinance to include all recent amendments to state LEDA regulations
      1. Work with the Regional Representative of the New Mexico Economic Development Department to update, adopt, and implement local LEDA ordinance creating or authorizing an economic development organization to act as a reviewing agent and adopting a strategic economic development plan to support local economic development projects in and around the Village of Loving.
   2. Expand the use of local LEDA, including potential participation from regional and state LEDA, to support economic development
      1. Develop and publicize a list of potential local LEDA incentives
      2. Consider convening regular regional workshops, including town, county, state departments and agencies (including NMEDD), local economic development organizations, local institutions, business and industry, and community groups to identify potential incentives and partnerships
      3. Independently, or with regional partners, identify improvement projects eligible for state participation, including investment in land, buildings, and infrastructure
         1. Identify gaps in services and assets that limit development projects and other potential improvement projects that may be eligible for state assistance
         2. Work with the state to develop and complete projects to improve the village’s ability to attract development and investment
   3. Designate the economic development chapter of the Comprehensive Plan update, 2021 as the community’s current economic development strategic plan until such time as a dedicated economic development plan as described above is developed and adopted, and identify and authorize a local reviewing agency
6. Continue economic development efforts underway and ongoing by the Town including developing events at Kit Carson Park and grant writing in support of local economic redevelopment and development projects
7. Actively support Taos Mainstreet to continue working to develop projects promoting economic vibrancy in the core of Taos
   1. Support development of a Downtown Metropolitan Redevelopment Plan to identify priority projects, development and funding tools, project partnerships, and issues and opportunities in the downtown area and provide the town and Taos Mainstreet with guidance and direction for implementing improvement projects in the short and long range as a supplemental planning document to the broader range Comprehensive Plan update, 2021. (see plan relationship notes\*\*)
   2. Review potential redevelopment projects for funding including pursuing funding to develop Civic Plaza Drive as a Great Blocks project
8. Improve and expand small business support
   1. Work with Taos Mainstreet and local business organizations, including economic development interests to identify key business support needs in the community
   2. Evaluate local regulation to identify opportunities to streamline permitting, support a diversity of business structures including home businesses and mobile businesses, and improve the predictability and equity or permitting and land use requests through improved procedures, protocols, and definitions
9. Continue working with regional partners to expand the potential of the Taos Airport and nearby area for regional and base economic development
   1. Review opportunities to improve infrastructure in support of economic development that qualify for state LEDA funding support as outlined in the 2020 State LEDA amendment
10. Continue support Taos’ established cultural and historic agricultural economies by reviewing potential opportunities to develop collaborative and innovative projects including intern and legacy planning programs, youth volunteer and mentorship projects, and expanded events and attractions
11. Consider potential strategies to support an evolving cultural and arts revival and reestablishing the prominence of Taos as a hub of contemporary and traditional art
    1. Consider strategic options and innovative projects to develop arts-based manufacturing (traditional and digital fabrication and design, including audio-visual, coding, and programming products), and storage and transportation industries
    2. Review potential projects to develop arts districts for live/ work/ performance/ event activities including in existing semi-industrial or under-used areas of Taos
       1. Review land use regulations for opportunities to encourage catalytic and flexible uses of space in identified areas
    3. Review local funding and support resources to identify dedicated funding streams for public art installations, events, and programs
       1. Consider working with local arts and technology resources to develop “maker” programs to provide technology and arts courses and technical resources and training to area youth and creatives including coding, 3D printing, CNC fabrication, and shared studio programs
12. Refer to Land Use, Transportation, Parks and Facilities, and Housing chapters of this plan for recommendations and support for developing nodes and mixed-use areas, leveraging transportation improvements in economic development, developing and promoting green and recreational attractions, and tools for expanding and improving housing opportunities and options in Taos

\* Economic Development Commission

In line with recommendations provided in the 2013 Economic Development Plan, an EDC would consist of regionally appointed representatives of the business, industry, banking, housing & development, infrastructure, and education sectors and supported a set funding stream fed equitably by regional partners. Requirements for developing an EDC such as establishing appointment procedures and outlining participation guidelines will be outlined in the body of the plan.

\*\*MRA Plan & The Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan covers town wide topics and issues and the MRA Plan covers issues

and topics more specifically relevant to the downtown area. The MRA Plan supports and localizes recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan. Taken together, these plans constitute a comprehensive road map for improving the community as a whole and strengthening its central core.

The MRA Plan provides essential analysis and recommendations that are not covered in this plan but are essential to understanding and delivering community improvements for Taos. The plans should be used together, as a set pair.