

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

CITY OF BELPRE & SOUTHEASTERN OHIO PORT AUTHORITY



LOCATION

City of Belpre, Ohio

TASKS

Economic Development Strategy Development
Stakeholder Engagement Activities

HIGHLIGHTS

Reviewed existing conditions and plans
Performed demographic, economic & workforce analyses
Identified & facilitated meetings with stakeholders
Created an Action Plan Matrix for implementation
Developed a customized plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Belpre contracted Burton Planning Services to guide the development of an Economic Development Strategy that would evaluate the City's potential for business development. The goal of the project was to identify strategies for development that further the City's vision for the future while at the same time making fiscal and financial sense for stakeholders. The City wanted to ensure that they are prepared to capitalize on regional growth through attraction and retention of existing companies, diversification of the economy, and improved quality of life for residents.

The process included a review of existing documents related to economic development in the City, as well as a thorough analysis of demographics, the economic base, and local workforce. Stakeholder input was critical for the creation of this Economic Development Strategy. In coordination with City staff, BPS facilitated an economic development exercise to introduce key economic development techniques that could potentially be implemented in Belpre. BPS staff also coordinated several stakeholder interviews to discuss these economic development techniques and reveal the City's strengths and opportunities for business and economic development.

The Project Team utilized the reviews, analyses, and engagement to develop a list of strategies. Each strategy has an associated list of targeted actions that can be implemented to achieve the strategy. These strategies and actions, along with associated implementation details, are included into an Action Plan Matrix for use by the City.

