

# INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP THOUGHTS & OBSERVATIONS: ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

*Nevada Governor's Office of*

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

*Empowering Success*

 **RCGeconomics**

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# Overview

Over the preceding weeks, RCG Economics (“RCG”) & Working Group Chair, Kris Sanchez, conducted one-on-one interviews with the members of the Working Group. The following slides reflect salient themes & issues that emerged during those conversations, not the opinions of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (“GOED”) nor RCG .

# Major Themes

**Infrastructure & Economic Development**

# Major Themes

- Infrastructure
  - Is the built environment, everything it takes to support that built environment & the social infrastructure
  - Connects people—to places, to opportunities &, most importantly, to a job
  - “Nontraditional” infrastructure is also important
- Economic Development
  - Must reflect the values of the community (diversity, equity, inclusion, etc.)

# Theme: Beginning with the End in Mind

**Opportunities**

# Beginning with the End in Mind

- Opportunities

1. Southern Nevada is a bit of a blank slate; we have relatively little to demolish & redevelop/replace compared to other states
2. There has never been a greater need for a unified/coordinated planning & response—rather than having multiple silos
3. The key is a coordinated private-public implementation, investment & collaboration
4. Invest where we want growth to go by being proactive rather than reactive, including incentives for specific industries we want to recruit within the context of natural resource constraints (e.g., water)

# Beginning with the End in Mind (cont.)

- Opportunities

5. Do something “magnificent” with the ARPA funding—a BIG, strategic project that “moves the needle”
6. Employ planning models, impact analysis & rigorous timelines to make the best decisions possible
7. Hold off on planning for the Ivanpah Valley/SoNV Supplemental Airport until the Environmental Impact Statement is completed

# Beginning with the End in Mind (cont.)

- Opportunities

8. Create a bipartisan, private-public independent group tasked with planning & decision-making relative to the regional infrastructure strategy, starting with a mutually agreed-upon definition

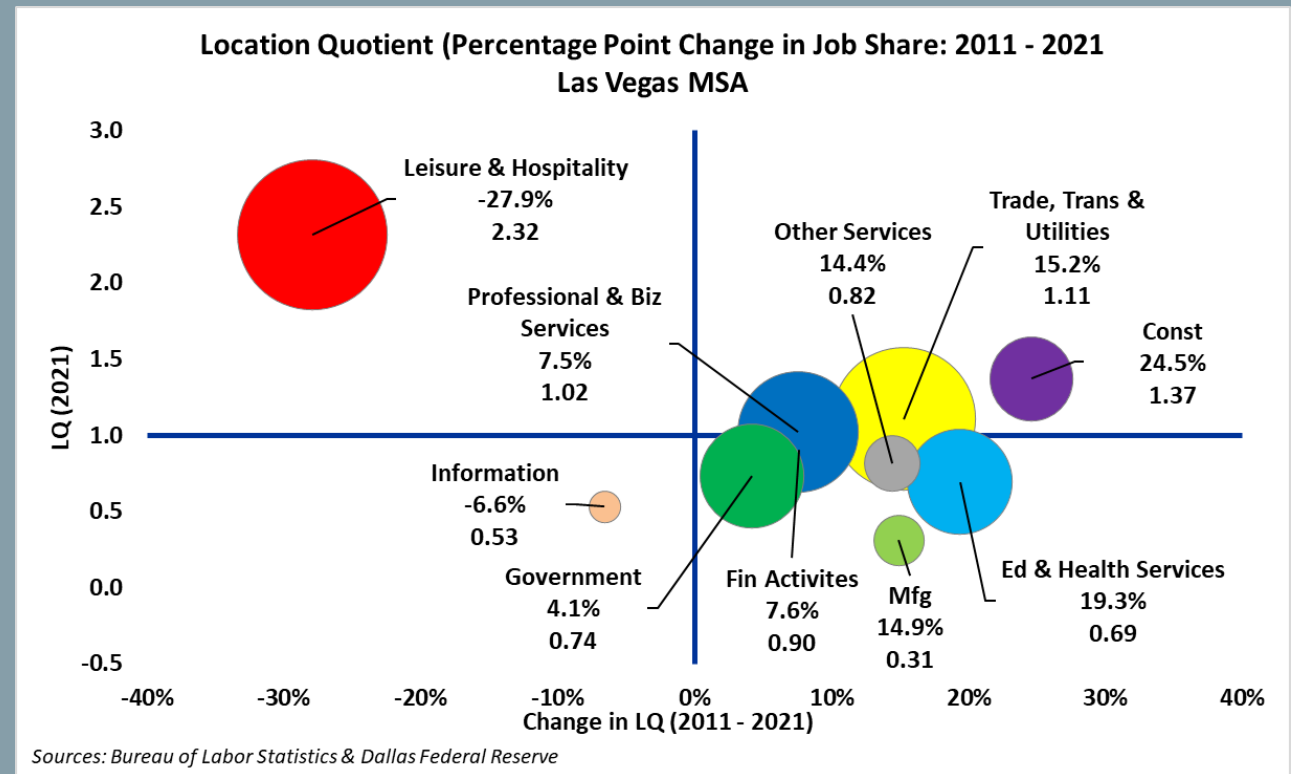


# Theme: So. Nevada Jobs & Employers

**Opportunities**

# So. Nevada Jobs & Employers

- The role of the Federal Government is a key issue in any talk of growth in Nevada
- That said, the quality of jobs produced can be more important (as a metric) than the price or scarcity of land
- So. Nevada has a vulnerable economy, but we must keep the hospitality industry strong as we diversify & become more resilient
  - As shown on the right, So. Nevada’s hospitality industry would be considered a Mature “Cash Cow” with slower growth, while manufacturing is Emerging or a “Question Mark” & Health Care/Education is a “Star”



# So. Nevada Jobs & Employers (cont.)

- Workforce Development

1. Among the factors influencing employers' decision to relocate to So. Nevada, the size & "quality" (e.g., skill set) of the workforce remains the concern most voiced
2. We need to give greater attention to preparing our K-12 students with the right skills for high-demand, 21<sup>st</sup>-century jobs & occupations in So. Nevada that have the lowest chance of being automatable
3. We need a retention strategy that matches our college programming to stem the region's "brain drain"

# So. Nevada Jobs (cont.)

- Workforce Development (cont.)

4. Per one interviewee, with new warehousing space & over 26M people in a 250-mile radius, Southern NV is becoming a significant distribution hub

- Utilities

1. Need to review barriers, cost & processing of development permits, including utilities

2. Need to be strategic about the next capital improvement plan for the SNWA in southern Clark County (Sloan, Jean & the Ivanpah Valley)

# Theme: Transportation & Distribution

**Mobility in All its Forms**

# Transportation & Distribution

- Our funding for public transit is the same as it was in the early 2000s
- NDOT currently has a \$530M annual budget shortfall
- Have to invest in public transportation to & from areas with affordable workforce housing
- Interstate 15: where possible, consider a designated lane for trucks
- Consider light rail for access to the colleges, universities, large employment centers, etc.
- Electric vehicles will impact how roads are constructed & funded (e.g., fuel taxes & vehicle miles travelled)

# Theme: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

**Human Infrastructure & Capital**

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- Infrastructure improvements need to be accessible & equitably distributed
- Childcare & access to transportation: solving these is key to solving other problems down the line
- Need to do workforce building in diverse communities at the outset of projects
- Broadband & Wi-Fi are now critical components of education & daily life & are often considered as “critical infrastructure” especially for vulnerable communities



# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (cont.)

- Housing

1. As a neighbor to California, combined with quickly declining land inventory in the Las Vegas Valley, So. Nevada faces potentially critical challenges with having sufficient workforce housing
2. A contributor to this is the size of So. Nevada's low wage workforce
3. Las Vegas is falling behind in addressing housing needs (single & multifamily housing) in a united way, including a coordinated infill strategy
4. The question of the proper "jobs-housing" strategy going forward is critical to effectively addressing residents' quality of life concerns

# Theme: Conservation & the Environment

**The Balance: A Healthy Economy & Healthy Environment**

# Conservation & the Environment

- Need to balance the water resource management with the need to create jobs & support economic development/diversification
- Construction materials used in infrastructure development affect the heat we experience; include urban reforestation in discussions of infrastructure
- Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (“BRIC”) funding for “resilient infrastructure” is available, particularly for underserved communities

# Conservation & the Environment (cont.)

- Take full advantage of the resources we already have at DRI
- “Good conservation goes hand in hand with good planning & smart economic growth.”
- Sustainable & resilient economic growth will require a combination of technology & creative conservation practices

# Contact Info

John Restrepo

[jrestrepo@rcgecon.com](mailto:jrestrepo@rcgecon.com)

702-967-3188 ext. 101

[www.rcgecon.com](http://www.rcgecon.com)