

Infrastructure & Site Selection

STRATEGY	STATUS/UPDATES	TIMELINE	LEADERSHIP	COMMENTS
<p>1. Identify needs and implement plan for identifying new and upgrading and/or expanding all industrial and commercial sites, especially use of fiber and broadband, and marketing of available sites to key site selectors at state and regional levels.</p>	<p>City of Livingston sites are now AT&T Fiber-Ready. Fiber connection for Port Epes to be scheduled.</p> <p>Focus on Port Epes for industrial recruitment.</p> <p>Review marketing of all sites for a more targeted effort.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>County commission and DEWD in partnership with all local governments, UWA, Alabama Power, AT&T & Alabama Dept. of Commerce</p>	
<p>2. Insure availability of all utilities, including expansion of natural gas availability.</p>	<p>Ongoing attention</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Local governments</p>	

<p>3. Develop and implement plan for broadband and technology connectors and expansion in Sumter County and the Black Belt region to connect to the global economy, meet the needs of investors, and enhance the livability for all citizens.</p>	<p>Various initiatives are underway, including: UWA Tech Team; EDA/CUPP program; and other connections at the state and regional levels</p>	<p>2019 priority</p>	<p>UWA Tech Team; DEWD; local governments</p>	
<p>4. Advocate and support enhancements of U.S. Highway 17, U.S. Highway 11, AL 39, and all highway connectors appropriate or required for economic expansion</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>City of York</p>	

<p>5. Enhance and beautify all gateways into Sumter County along with improved signage.</p>	<p>Continued attention is needed</p>	<p>No timeline identified</p>	<p>Local governments; and Sumter Co. Chamber</p>	
<p>6. Develop and implement solutions for upgrading and expansion of 911 system and Google mapping to insure GPS applications.</p>	<p>Progress made over past year. Implementation of 911 system upgrades for UWA campus underway.</p> <p>Continued attention for whole county required.</p>		<p>UWA Technology Office; E911 system office; UWA Tech Team; local area governments</p>	
<p>7. Establish new regional economic development website along with other social media to promote industrial and commercial recruitment, marketing and image building.</p>	<p>Website under design and construction.</p>	<p>March, 2019 scheduled as launch for website.</p>	<p>DEWD</p>	

<p>8. Develop and maintain complete catalog, applications and understanding for all incentives for industrial and commercial development available at local, state and federal levels.</p>	<p>Ongoing attention & updates continue</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DEWD & Sumter Co. Chamber</p>	
<p>9. Develop assessment and identification of state's targeted and emerging industries and leverage for industrial, commercial, small business, entrepreneurial and job development in Sumter County and the Black Belt.</p>	<p>Review of assessment tools and processes needed along with how to effectively implement are currently being reviewed.</p>	<p>Decision of selected processes, tools and resources needed by March 1, 2019.</p>	<p>DEWD</p>	

<p>10. Plan and implement Alabama Summit on Rural Technology for April 2018.</p>	<p>Plans for Summit 2.0 underway and on schedule.</p>	<p>April 12, 2019</p>	<p>DEWD/UWA Summit Tech team</p>	
<p>11. Explore I-59/20 corridor development opportunities connected to expansion of the international portal at the Port of Mobile, including distribution, warehousing, logistical support and trucking</p>	<p>Long-term project. No identified plan currently</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	

Education & Workforce Development

STRATEGY	STATUS/UPDATE	TIMELINE	LEADERSHIP	COMMENTS
<p>1. Actively support establishment and implementation of University Charter School</p>	<p>UCS successfully established and making excellent progress in first year of operation.</p>	<p>Implemented and ongoing emphasis</p>	<p>UCS Board of Directors/Head of School/UWA</p>	
<p>2. Utilize innovative strategies and best practices learned from UCS to share with and contribute to improvements in all Sumter County and Black Belt public schools.</p>				
<p>3. Support expansion and marketing of Alabama Career Center with the goal to become a full-time center job opportunities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DEWD/Dept of Labor / and Career Center</p>	

4. Maintain and leverage status as an Alabama Community of Excellence				
5. Sustain status of as an ACT work ready community, NCRC and expanded utilization of Work Keys throughout Sumter County and the Black Belt region.	Ongoing	Ongoing	DEWD	

<p>6. Actively partner with and support expansion and marketing of the UWA Center for Workforce Development, including identification of growth opportunities in current and future workforce training needs, Ready to Work, and apprenticeship programming.</p>	<p>Process underway. Marketing strategies being reviewed for implementation by end of first quarter, 2019.</p> <p>Marketing team to be established for support.</p> <p>Strategies 7 & 8 being combine.</p>	<p>2019 priority – target for beginning implementation is March 1st.</p>	<p>DEWD</p>	
<p>7. Utilize effective marketing, promotional and recruitment strategies for the UWA Center for Workforce Development.</p>	<p>See above – item #7</p>			

<p>8. Identify gaps in workforce development and develop strategies to address, especially in the areas of unemployment, under-employment and out-migration.</p>	<p>See item #9 under site selection – combining these strategies. All under review with a determination of best practices, tools, resources and evaluations by early 2nd quarter, 2019</p>	<p>Priority for 2019 – early 2nd quarter 2019.</p>		
<p>9. Establish a one-stop entrepreneurial & small business development center that is built on a partnership among public, business and education sectors in Sumter County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DEWD/Sumter County Chamber</p>	

Livability

STRATEGY	STATUS/UPDATE	TIMELINE	LEADERSHIP	COMMENTS
<p>1. Leverage cultural assets to enhance economic vitality and to encourage a more inclusive, connected and blended community.</p>				
<p>2. Market and leverage the outdoor, recreational and rural environment of Sumter County.</p>	<p>Strategies 2, 3, 4 & 5 to be combined in an overall marketing process. To be reviewed in more detail</p>	<p>2nd quarter, 2019</p>	<p>DEWD/Chamber</p>	
<p>3. Market the livability and cultural events of Sumter County through local, regional and state partnerships, utilizing all media</p>				

<p>4. Establish and maintain a presence at Alabama welcome centers.</p>				
<p>5. Develop, produce and sustain new, bold and creative marketing collateral materials for promotion and image-building for Sumter County and the Black Belt region.</p>				
<p>6. Develop, support, encourage and execute downtown revitalization plans, especially for Livingston Alive and Downtown York.</p>	<p>Excellent progress being made through Livingston Alive and is ongoing.</p>	<p>Ongoing – 2019 priority</p>		

<p>7. Develop public-private partnership to address health care needs, and for a financially feasible, cost-effective, sustainable critical access health care facility.</p>				
<p>8. Develop and utilize a tourism marketing initiatives and promotion of regional events in partnership with other Black Belt counties. Encourage expansion of regional tourism</p>				

<p>9. Aggressively pursue Federal designation for the Black Belt region as a National Heritage District.</p>				
<p>10. Explore opportunities at the Port of Epes for expanded recreational uses.</p>				

Leadership & Civic Engagement

STRATEGY	STATUS/UPDATE	TIMELINE	LEADERSHIP	COMMENTS
<p>1. Once finalized and adopted by the Economic Development Leadership Academy participants, advocate, encourage adoption by all appropriate local public, business and educational entities, along with timetables, assignments for implementation, benchmarks and measurements for success. Insure that all sectors are connected to the process.</p>	<p>Renaissance Plan has been adopted & endorsed by the cities of York & Livingston, Sumter Co. Commission, UWA, & the Sumter Co. Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Plans are underway for the 1st annual “state of the community” event and report on 1.31.2019.</p> <p>Benchmarks, updates & timelines are currently under development</p>	<p>Jan. 31, 2019 – “state of the community” report.</p> <p>End of 1st quarter set for revised leadership team for review of timelines, benchmarks, etc.</p>	<p>Cities of York & Livingston, Sumter Co. Commission, Chamber, and DEWD</p>	<p>Will need to merge HP2 and related strategies into the Renaissance plan</p>

<p>2. Explore development of a Black Belt regional leadership development to grow a new generation of rural Alabama leaders.</p>	<p>Conversations underway how to use the UWA Economic Leadership Academy and expand to a regional model.</p>			
<p>3. Encourage and sustain Leadership Sumter, and identify and engage other civic engagement programs to build the next generation of community leaders that will shape Sumter County's future and create a renaissance for the community</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>			

4. Support and advocate the role of UWA as the premier university in America for rural education and rural development.	Ongoing			
5. In partnership with the UWA Division for Economic Development encourage the restructuring, and redirection of the Sumter County Chamber as a regional economic development agency along with development of a comprehensive financial plan for implementation and sustainability.	Progress being made internally.			

<p>6. Leverage Alabama's Bicentennial during 2018-2019 to provide economic and community development opportunities for Sumter County. Consider a county-wide homecoming initiative that identifies economic and educational leaders from throughout the nation to 'come home' and experience "Renaissance Sumter County", thus establishing a renewed 'sense of place'.</p>				
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<p>7. Design and implement an annual scorecard and vitality index to measure progress and create accountability of all partners. At least annually, hold a county-wide 'renaissance summit' to bring together citizens in the ongoing implementation process.</p>				
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