
Focus Area 1: Create/retain well-paying jobs by supporting growth in region's key industries

Suggestions/Issues

- TMAs can be a good resource
- Need to support and grow co-working spaces (preferred by young professionals, allows for mentoring, quicker technical assistance, benefits private sector in a variety of ways)
- Outreach to get vocational-techs to connect with employers

Focus Area 3: Strengthen region's economy by building on existing assets and infrastructure

Suggestions/Issues

- Workforce development boards as a solution to O/D employee site issues: businesses are willing to participate, but others need to create model
- Private partnerships with NJ Transit can help tourism sector
- Develop high quality jobs with TLD (Targeted industry partnerships)]
- Arts projects and spaces utilizing redeveloped spaces
- Find creative solutions to “missing links” beyond city center-bound transportation
- Use technology to link transportation to jobs or get workers to live closer to their jobs
- Counties and TMAs should consider expanding their transportation service beyond ‘jurisdiction’
- Need for better municipal zoning/planning to accommodate freight-related industries; desire for warehouses but no desire for trucks on local roads; consider options for truck routes, 24-hour operation, waterborne freight, and more rail; educate towns about truck and freight needs (i.e. – rest areas)

Focus Area 4: Align workforce training with industry needs

Suggestions/Issues

- Solution providers: workforce development boards; TMAs; public-private partnerships;
- Focus on starting workforce exposure at K-12 levels (push apprenticeship programs)
- “Home rule” is an issue: need better cooperation between local, county, and state to stay competitive
- Generally, transportation/logistics/ports are generating jobs; larger and more ships into the area due to e-commerce; potential for school-business partnerships for internships (i.e. - supply chain management)
- Large work sites/warehouses (i.e. – Amazon) need better public transportation access for employees; too many are taking cars; shuttles cannot solve the issue; NJ Transit may not be a solution right now
- Not enough vendors to provide training for demanded jobs (look into private sector funding that may be available to complement federal funding for training)
- We need to support our TMA's and workforce development boards.
- Transportation and workforce development are our two big issues, but we don't need to create new entities to address these issues, just make the organizations work better. These two issues unite us, not divide us.

Priority Actions for TNJ

- Work more with WIBs (understand their capacity and help them build it); ask WIBs with strong partnerships to speak to the Task Force (i.e. – Newark and Essex County WIBs)
- Task Force could look into creating a cross-talent network symposium (and general partnerships with talent networks to host other outreach events)
- Reach out to vocational-tech schools; labor unions; higher ed-business partnerships
- Reach out to technology groups (there have been tech cuts across all industries)
- Do an inventory of unfilled jobs (perhaps 200,000 in NJ); work with NJBIA and “Opportunity NJ”

- The more we share “Recipes for Success,” the more we’ll get done.
- Work with Mayors, School Boards, CEOs, NGOs that focus on a sub-region with some competitive element to incentivize results.