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We are making progress toward recovery, our communities are still struggling, countless small businesses are still facing significant impacts. Despite significant relief and investments, economic recovery will continue to be a long haul.

EDCMason supports investments in infrastructure and programs that catalyze business recovery, resilience, retention, expansion, and recruitment at a local and regional level. Over the course of 2022, we have worked through 23 proposals for recruitment and 4 for local expansion projects. Of those 23 recruitments, 18 were initially interested in Mason County sites but we were unable to meet their infrastructure. We continue developing our sites to readiness level, but significant infrastructure is needed. Our Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Projects List has been instrumental in helping distribute APRA funding and focus efforts on identified areas.

Reliable, modern infrastructure is critical for successful economic recovery and development. Underpinning all commerce is physical infrastructure: roads, transit, airports, railroads, water/sewer, broadband and energy. Public investments in infrastructure create construction jobs, set the stage for future private investment and shape an area's prospects for generations. Responding swiftly to unforeseen infrastructure needs of new or relocating businesses is also crucial to economic recovery. Mason County's economic development future depends on both infrastructure capacity and the wise stewardship of these resources. Each year, hundreds of businesses invest in new facilities around the State. Many of these firms can immediately tap into existing public services, but some must rely on public sector partnerships to access infrastructure.

Priority projects include:

- Shelton water storage facilities – Angleside Tank
- Shelton sewer extension projects / wastewater satellite treatment plant
- County-wide substation/electric supply

Additionally:

- **Support** \$2.5million request for Industrial Site Readiness for shovel-ready manufacturing sites.
- **Support** state public works programs designed to help recover and expand businesses including: Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), Public Works Trust Fund and the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
- **Support** broadband capacity initiatives and investment
- **Support** and protect investments in road, rail and transit infrastructure, maintenance and services to move people and freight more efficiently
- **Support** ongoing Small Business funding for a Disaster Fund & Procurement Technical Assistance
- **Support** the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund
- **Protect** targeted incentives to foster innovation clusters and stimulate private investment
- **Support** 'SWAP' programs that exchange federal dollars with state dollars

Support and protect state-level leadership and funding for economic development, including full support for Business Recruitment, Retention & Expansion programs. The collective results from these entities are outstanding. Over the last five years, local ADO/EDC partners have helped over 672 businesses expand or develop new facilities and assisted 564 startups. These companies have invested over \$3.84 billion in land, buildings and equipment. These growing businesses have created over



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13,851 new jobs, and retained over 13,733 jobs. EDC business clients are estimated to generate over \$100 million in new tax revenues for Washington State and local communities annually.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, ADOs shouldered significant new responsibilities, rising to the challenge of urgently providing locally-driven resources and tools to employers across the state, working around the clock to respond to business and community leaders in crisis to save, recover and grow jobs. Commerce has recently implemented new performance measurement and accountability systems and universal usage of an online platform which more efficiently and rigorously provides for quarterly reporting on performance metrics, initiatives and ADO work to foster equity and inclusive economic development. The ADO network is working with Commerce and many others on strategies to address equity gaps with increased outreach, capital and technical assistance and efforts to stimulate markets in underserved communities. There are also multiple state and regional initiatives underway and emerging to foster improved workforce development, innovation, sustainability and regional partnerships and collaboration for results-driven economic development.

Protect the .09 percent Sales & Use Tax for Public Facilities and economic development activities in Rural Counties. Rural counties in Washington have benefitted from up to a .09% “rebate” of locally generated state sales & use tax for over twenty years. This tool helps build critical infrastructure, attract new industry, diversify economies, and create and retain jobs.

Housing Affordability & Supply. EDCMason will support legislation to improve housing affordability and expand opportunities for housing at all income levels, particularly workforce and attainable housing. With multiple housing projects (totaling more than 3,000 units) in various stages, the city has identified water storage capacity as a limiting issue to this growth.