

10 Year Statewide Strategic Plan
EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE REGROUP

02:00 PM – JANUARY 13, 2021

Meeting Objectives:

- **Assess where we are vis-à-vis the 10 Year Plan – people, process, & products**
- **Determine next steps for Executive Steering Committee and Individual Work Groups**

Meeting Attendees:

- Martha Bentley (DECD)
- Heather Johnson (Commissioner, DECD)
- Kimberly Smith (DOL)
- Brian Whitney (MTI)
- Peggy Schaffer (ConnectMaine)
- Bruce Wagner (FAME)
- Christopher Quint (DOL/SWB)
- Nina Fisher (MDOT)
- Melanie Loyzim (DEP)
- Yellow Light Breen (MDF)
- Dana Connors (Maine State Chamber of Commerce)

Item 1: Welcome

- Strategic plan was developed over a year and a half ago; implementation was put on hold as we shifted to pandemic response
- ERC put together ideas on how to get us from our new baseline to the implementation of the strategic plan. Martha will lead the implementation – help us prioritize the work to get it jumpstarted, set clear milestones, see what’s working and not working as we progress

Strategic Plan Overview:

- Economic Development Strategic Plan vision: Want to give Maine people an unmatched quality of life and good paying jobs
- Is it a strategy or a plan?
 - Both – It’s a strategy that can be used by a lot of different groups, but it’s also a project-managed plan
- Diversity, inclusion & equity lens

- Want to make sure we have diverse representation of people working on this, that there's an inclusive process, and that we're getting at products that have some level of equity across Maine

Goals for Today's Meeting:

- Who do we need to add to the group?
- What are our next steps?
- What are the capacities this group needs in order to do this work?

Item 2: Review ERC Recommendations against 10-Year Plan

ERC Recommendations Mapped Against 10-Year Plan:

- There is a lot of overlap between the ERC recommendations and the strategic plan. Our team will need to work on questions of **sequencing**
 - What do we need to prioritize now? This will be a key question for the work groups

How do we see the ERC recommendations and the 10-year plan fitting together?

Key Issues:

- Should Health Care and DEI have separate, dedicated workstreams, or should the steering committee work to harmonize these objectives across the 7 strategy areas?
- Is there already a health care workstream happening elsewhere that we should just pull in, or would we need to create a whole new team?
- How do we best support public-private partnerships?

Item 3: Review and Update Portfolio Management Approach

- The Executive Steering Committee should serve two roles:
 1. the block and tackle implementation work group
 2. the thought leadership/advisory role

Key Issues:

- Are additional resources needed for the portfolio management work?
- How do we bring in the private perspective – through direct representation on the steering committee, or by leveraging the current steering committee's networks?
- We can reach out to the ERC members to see if any of them have interest in joining the steering committee. Would be good to have representation from one of the two co-chairs of each ERC topic group.

- Need to emphasize that the work groups will be responsible for “doing the work” and moving these projects forward – not just an advisory role
- How does DOT fit into the broader strategic plan?
 - What does workforce transportation look like and how do we create equity there?
 - How do we make sure people can get to work? What infrastructure is needed?
 - How do we think differently about what transportation should be?
- We should coalesce around our joint priorities so we can speak with a unified voice.

Item 4: Review of Proposed Work Group Make Up – map networks/affiliations, make any needed adjustments

- We want to recognize that the people involved in the steering committee and work groups represent many affiliations.
- As we look at the work groups, we also want to consider if there’s already an existing network doing a big piece of the work.

Possible additions to the executive steering committee?

- One of the two co-chairs from each ERC topic group:
 - Infrastructure: Susan Corbett or Larry Shaw
 - Innovation: Betsy Biemann or Bob Montgomery-Rice
 - Talent: James Herbert or Bill Burke
 - **Notes**:
 - Susan is on the Connect Maine Authority, so she is part of the Ubiquitous Connectivity work group
 - CEI is represented by Keith on the childcare part of the Modern Infrastructure work group
 - Wick Johnson was suggested for the Promoting Innovation work group
- Amy Landry – AVCOG
- Susan Hammond – Four Directions Development Corp

Key Issues:

- We are currently State gov’t heavy. Should we bring in more private sector representation from the start?
- Do we want representation from **regional** (EDDs), **federal**, and **philanthropic** partners at this level? Or do we just reach out to these 3 groups periodically throughout the process?

Thoughts on work groups/possible additions?

- **Grow Local Talent/Develop Skills**

- Should be managed through the State Workforce Board/subcommittees
- **Attract Talent**
 - Chair still TBD?
- **Promote Innovation**
 - As the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board (MIEAB) gets revitalized, they could play an advisory role in this work group
- **Modern Infrastructure**
 - Should have more transit representation, e.g.:
 - Greg Jordan – Greater Portland Metro
 - Sara Devlin – Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System
 - Composition of initial group will hinge upon which projects are prioritized
- **Regulatory and Business Climate**
 - Work group already met with Melanie
 - Could add someone from the Secretary of State's office (corporate registration side – Cathy or Tammy)
- **Ubiquitous Connectivity**
 - Connect Maine Authority is an existing org who can manage this work
- **Hubs of Excellence**
 - Could start with the Roux institute and work out from there
 - Possible communities to start with:
 - Bangor
 - Portland
 - Greenville
 - Rangeley
 - Want to think about the hub and spoke model – even if we start with metro areas, we need to think about how we engage with rural communities, too
 - Potentially get EDDs involved in developing hubs of excellence within their regions

Item 5: Consensus on Work Group Next Steps

- Questions for the steering committee around work groups:
 1. Who in this group can get started making progress with your work groups with what you know at this stage?
 2. How many need additional support around scheduling, pulling materials together, note-taking, high level strategy, etc.?
 - Please reach out to Martha individually around capacity support

For our next meeting:

- Each work group should have met once and prioritized/sequenced the projects in their strategy area
 - Each Chair should look at your work group member lists and get your groups together for a meeting before our next steering committee meeting
 - If a proposed work group member has not been invited yet, it will be the Chair's responsibility to reach out
 - Cheryl can help set up Zoom meetings for work groups if needed
- Steering committee will meet on a monthly basis moving forward