



# Economic Development Strategy

## Priorities

- ❖ The City is committed to cultivating and supporting the growth of **tax base** and the addition of **quality jobs** through the retention, expansion, and attraction of business and industries.
- ❖ The City values **durable**, quality building **construction** and the **preservation** of existing historic structures that will contribute to the **economic vitality** of the City for decades to come.
- ❖ The City, DDA and LDFA are committed to **investing** in the maintenance and operation of its public **facilities** and **infrastructure** (including streets, sidewalks, water and sanitary sewer, public parking areas, parks and recreational activities) to **support** the operation and **growth** of current and future **businesses and industries**.

## Actions

- ❖ The **boards and commissions** responsible for **development** in the City, including City Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), together with City staff, work **collaboratively** to improve the **economic vitality** of the City.
- ❖ City **staff** is empowered to act as a **liaison** to the development community on behalf of boards and commissions to assure that development decisions are **responsive** and **predictable**.
- ❖ The City will be **responsive** (including, scheduling special meetings, expediting approvals, allocating resources, etc.) as there is significant **competition** in attracting **high quality development**.

## Partners

- ❖ The City is prepared to work with **development partners** like the MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation), Michigan Works, Hillsdale County Economic Development Partnership and others to provide appropriate **incentives** to secure significant levels of **redevelopment/reinvestment**.
- ❖ The City will support the **growth** of entrepreneurs and small businesses, **connecting** them with **services** available through partners, like business plan development, workforce hiring and training resources, networking, etc.
- ❖ The City will collaborate with local **schools** and **training** facilities, **Hillsdale County**, and other area **municipalities** to address workforce and other **needs** expressed by local businesses.

## Future

- ❖ The City and all its development boards will meet **annually** to **review priorities** and **evaluate** if their economic development **efforts** are working.