**Las Animas County Projects Summary**

**Access to Capital**

The region has moderate to strong capacity in the availability of debt capital, though the lack of a regional SBA 504 packager is a need to be addressed. There is a need to strengthen existing Revolving loan funds to increase capacity and perhaps to offer niche products. Within Pueblo County, there are strong incentive programs for specific types of industries and job creations. The region, however, is an equity desert, with little access to capital for startups, follow on funding, or private equity funds to help existing businesses to pivot or grow. The strategy is to increase access to equity capital in the region and develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem that supports startups in the tech sector and the intellectual property sector.

**SCEDD Regional Programs**

Program- **SoCo Angels Support**. Provide three years of operational support to develop an early Angel startup network of Accredited Investors to fund the seed stage for tech and intellectual property startups

Status of Program- Development

Lead- SCEDD, SCIL, SoCo Angels,

Program Cost Estimate--$300k per annum

Funding Options- EDA technical assistance grant, Foundation grants

Program: **Angel fund.** Adjunctive to SoCo Angels, the development of a separate fund can support individual angel investments with an institutional investment, or a “sidecar” fund created by accredited investors who want to supplement individual investments with group efforts.

Status of Program—Conceptual

Lead: SCEDD, SCIL, SoCo Angels

Program Cost Estimate: Institutional fund--$500k; Sidecar fund $500k

Funding options: Institutional: Foundations; Sidecar: Accredited investors of SoCo Angels

**Broadband/Communications**

Program—**SECDD Regional Broadband Support Office**. SCEDD will create a two-to-three-person office to take the lead in implementing broadband with a regional approach. Local projects need to be rolled up into regional and sub-region initiatives to secure adequate funding and to manage fewer, but larger projects. Part of that effort will be to create a region-wide grant match gap funds to assist with securing funds.

Status of Program—In development

Lead—SCEDD

Project Cost Estimate--$250k per annum in operational support; $1M per annum in grant match gap fund

Funding options—EDA technical assistance grant, DOLA, Electricity providers, County government, Foundation grants.

**Critical Infrastructure**

Project- **Fiber Optics to Trinidad.** Fiber optics are already being installed by CDOT along I-25 north of Trinidad toward the city. Need to pursue this as part of delivering broad band to LAC and Trinidad.

Status of Project – Planned/In progress

Lead – City of Trinidad

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – CDOT, DOLA

Project- **Interconnect City Buildings with High-Speed Fiber Optics.** There is a need to tie all City buildings together with a fiber network which would help with main servers for the City IT infrastructure.

Status of Project – Concept

Lead – City of Trinidad

Project Cost Estimate – $300,000.00

Funding Options –

Project – **Internet**

Status of Project – Concept

Lead – City of Trinidad

Project Cost Estimate – $20,000.00 per mile. (Total cost to be determined.)

Funding Options – Federal grants, tax revenue

Project – **New Fire Station for East Side of Trinidad.** The east side of Trinidad is growing, and this growth is projected to continue. A fire station will soon be needed to serve this area.

Status of Project – Concept

Lead – City of Trinidad

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options –

Project – **Emergency Generator for Fire Station 1.** A backup generator is needed to support this station during power outages.

Status of Project – Concept

Lead – Trinidad Fire Department

Project Cost Estimate – $45,000.00

Funding Options – FEM, USDA, DOLA

Project – **Trinidad Lake Water Treatment Plant**

Status – Planning

Lead – City of Trinidad

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – DOLA, EDA,

**Workforce Housing (Strategies)**

Project – **Workforce housing is needed for several sectors: Needed by higher Ed, Allegiance Coal, and more.**

Status – Planning

Lead – LAC BOCC, Rhonda Epper with TSCC (for Higher Ed.)

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – EDA

**Education/Work Force Development**

Project – **Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy (CLETA)** LAC once had one of these training academies. Want to see it return.

Status – Conceptual

Lead – LAC

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options - EDA, DOLA

Project – **Building Trades Program** – There is a need for vocational job training for non-college bound students and to fulfill needs of local industry

Status of Project – Planning *(Note: there is a local Vo/Tech training program in schools)*

Lead – TSCC/Local High Schools/Donna Haddow w/ TSCC

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – CDE, EDA, DOLA

**Renewable Energy**

Project – **Solar Farm Expansion.** Two solar farms - North of Hoehne near Huerfano Las Animas County’s border, east of I-25

Status of Project – The San Isabel farm is complete. A second project is the Spanish Peaks solar farm. Construction set for 2022. *Another expansion of the Spanish Peaks farm is planned for 2024.*

Lead – LAC/SIEA

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – SIEA

Project- **Burro Canyon** **Geothermal Development West of Trinidad.**

Status of Project – Conceptual

Lead – Public/Private: TSCC and Evergreen Natural Resources

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – DOE, EDA, DOLA

**Recreation and Tourism**

Project – **Access to BLM/State Land** – BLM land is (landlocked) surrounded by private and state park land adjacent to Fisher’s Peak State Park. Access is needed for expanded recreation/camping/ATV/OHV trails.

Status of Project – Conceptual

Lead – LAC and City of Trinidad (Jared Chatterley)

Project Cost Estimate – N/A *(Could involve a land trade or purchase)*

Funding Options – OEDIT, EDA, DOLA

Project – **Simpson’s Rest – Road Improvements, Signage/Parking/Picnicking/Safety and Security Measures (fencing/cameras).** Note: it is possible this area will become a County rock climbing Park.

Status of Project – Planning

Lead – City of Trinidad (Jared Chatterley)

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options –

Project – **Las Animas** **Fairgrounds Improvements:** Grandstand/ADA Walkways. Develop: Playing Fields/Camping Area/Commercial Kitchen/Events Center (small), Pavilions/Bike Lane/Trail to Simpson’s Rest.

Status of Project – CU Boulder study near completion using DOLA grant.

Lead – LAC/Phi Dorenkamp

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – DOLA, EDA, USDA

Project – **Water Park** – The city wants to build a water park as a tourist attraction and to benefit the local population.

Status of Project – Conceptual

Lead – City of Trinidad/Jared Chatterley

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – DOLA, GOCO

Project – **River Walk** – The city wants to build a river walk as a tourist attraction and to benefit the local population.

Status of Project – Planning

Lead – City of Trinidad/Jared Chatterley along with: Jeff Shumaker with Greenway and Julie Knudson with Purgatory Partners (Water Shed Conservancy)

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – GOCO, DOLA

Project – **Remodel/Rehab Former Trinidad Water Works Building, Turning it into an Outdoor Recreation Center.**  This vacant structure is the second oldest in Trinidad. Exterior has been restored but not the interior. The building is situated directly adjacent to a city park and the proposed River walk.

Status of Project – Concept

Lead – City of Trinidad/Jared Chatterley

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – GOCO, History Colorado, City Funds

**Health Care/Public Health/ Mental Health**

Project – **Mental Health/Substance Abuse and Treatment Facility.** Significant substance abuse issues plague the area. A medical detox facility is needed along with short and long-term treatment. (Could be Bi-County and Located in Huerfano i.e., Lathrop Park Youth Camp Facility.)

Status of Project – Conceptual

Lead – Huerfano/Las Animas Bi-County Health Dept. and private sector.

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – CDPHE, DOLA, EDA, DHS, Private

**Transportation**

Project – **Perry-Stokes Airport Paving**

Status of Project – all preliminary work will be completed with County workforce; project needs funds for the placement of asphalt in front of the hangars

Lead – Las Animas County

Project Cost Estimate – $277,000

Funding Options – FAA, EDA - County will prep hangar sites for paving ($300,000 in kind contribution).

Project – **LAC Passenger Rail Service – Front Range Rail/ SW Chief.** This is part of a state effort along the front range to develop a passenger rail from Wyoming to Pueblo and Trinidad. The SW Chief already runs through the area but may be rerouted as part of this project.

Status of Project –Planning

Lead – LAC

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – DOT, DOLA, EDA

**Agriculture**

Project – **LAC Meat Packing Processing Facility.** The region lacks enough meat processing plants and there is a back log. Long distance travel for processing is also an issue.

Status of Project – Conceptual

Lead – Possible Ag Co-op and/or a regional approach

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – EDA, DOLA, USDA

Project- **LAC Rail to Houston.** Plans are to ship coal from the New Elk Mine to ports in Houston. In turn, other commodities could also be shipped to and from Houston back the Las Animas County. Could be an opportunity for additional development of rail commerce.

Status of Project – Conceptual/Planning

Lead – LAC BOCC

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options – EDA, DOT, DOLA

**Other**

Project – **Bulldozer/ Crawler.** This device is needed for basic work at the City’s Landfill Operations.

Status of Project – Planned

Lead – City of Trinidad

Project Cost Estimate – $725,000.00

Funding Options –

Project – **Two Tandem Dump Trucks.** These trucks are needed for basic work at the City’s Landfill.

Status of Project – Planning

Lead – City of Trinidad

Project Cost Estimate – $165,000.00 X 2 = $330.000.00

Funding Options –

Project- **Replace Carpet in Trinidad Carnegie Library.** The current carpet is old, stained, and torn.

Status of Project - Planning

Lead – Library Director

Project Cost Estimate – $36,000.00

Funding Options -

Project- **Update/Overhaul Trinidad Carnegie Library Public Use Computer Infrastructure and Reservation System.** The current public computer system is outdated and incapable of meeting present and future demands/needs. More computers, computer stations, ports, electrical outlets, are needed along with a PC Reservation System.

Status of Project - Planning

Lead – Library Director

Project Cost Estimate – N/A

Funding Options –