



## Economic Development Department

### Monthly Update Report – April 2021

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#### **ACTIVITY**

- **Attending Bi-Weekly Regional Economic Developers Meeting for COVID-19 Response**

I have been attending weekly meetings with Economic Development staff throughout the region including Chatham County, Orange County, Chapel Hill, UNC, Downtown Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, and Chamber staff. Our discussions recently have focused on the ARPA and how to encourage stimulus spending within Orange County.

- **Attending CBA Marketing, Policy, and Leadership meetings**

I am currently attending CBA Marketing Committee, Policy Committee, and Leadership Council meetings to both understand the role of the CBA and to network with these business owners and find ways the Department can get plugged in. The 203 Project and Downtown Parking have been the center of on-going concerns and discussions with the CBA and their respective committees.

- **Working with Two New Unique Businesses**

I have been working with two potential new businesses that have a unique business model – a truck and food cart. One will be a retail truck selling products out of a small mobile unit. The second is a food cart concept that would sell limited food selection out of a mobile cart. Working with Planning Staff, we have determined that both of these establishments would be required to locate on private property.

- **Acquiring new Parking Leases begun; Anticipated Completion by end of Q2**

I am in the process of acquiring new parking leases in downtown Carrboro. Primarily I am working with Fitch Lumber and 300 East Main to acquire a total of 132-180 additional parking spaces in Downtown. We have recently slowed this process to better determine how a potential redevelopment project may impact the Town's investment with parking at the Fitch Lumber site.

- **BIPOC Business Update**

Another BIPOC Business Roundtable is being schedule for May 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PROJECTS**

- **Minority Business Roundtable – Implementation**

Current Status: Online portion of the Resource Center is completed and out for comment from the SBTDC and Durham Tech Small Business Center. Initial meetings with community leaders have been occurring.

Next Steps: Development of a resource center (physical locations).

Projected Completion: On-going. We anticipate these activities to continue and become a part of the economic development workflow process.

- **Project Arrange**

We have received feedback that Project Arrange was very appreciate of the Town Manager's offer. The company has paused this project until they can reassess their needs post-COVID-19.

- **Economic Development Strategic Plan – Identifying Strategic Issues and Strategy**

Current Status: Currently working with the ESC to solidify strategic issues and identify strategies for each issue. Joint development and input in occurring with the Comprehensive Plan Taskforce. In order to ensure consistency, staff anticipate working with Teska's identified goals and strategies to further the ESC's work in developing a strategic plan.

Next Steps: Continue to work with the ESC and Teska to identify strategies for each strategic issue at their May meeting.

Projected Completion: June 2020