



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	02/02/2026

ITEM:	2026 EDA Goal Setting.		
<i>Presenting Item:</i> CD Coordinator Emilie Voight			
DEPARTMENT: Community Development		BY/DATE: Mitchell Forney, 01/28/2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES:			
_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		_Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_High Quality Public Spaces		<u>X</u> Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
_Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		_Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

At the beginning of each year, Community Development staff meet with the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to discuss goals and priorities for the coming year. Establishing a clear set of goals annually helps staff develop work plans and timelines for major initiatives and provides the EDA with a framework to track progress on key programs and projects throughout the year.

During the 2025 goal-setting session, the EDA established a set of annual goals that have guided staff work over the past year. While many of those goals have been actively advanced or even completed, there are several areas where work can be expanded or further prioritized in 2026. Rather than conducting a full reset, staff are proposing a structured activity focused on identifying replacement goals for those that have been completed, refining existing goals carried forward from 2025, and then prioritizing goals for the upcoming year.

The proposed activity will mirror the goal-setting exercise used in 2025. EDA members will begin by identifying specific initiatives, strategies, or topics for 2026. Those ideas will then be categorized within the existing framework, followed by discussion to clarify intent, rationale, and key implementation steps. Once proposals have been fully identified and discussed, the EDA will prioritize strategies, goals, or focus areas to help guide staff focus and resource allocation in 2026.

For reference, the EDA’s 2025 goals and priorities are listed on the next page. Also included as an attachment is a summary of the results from the 2025 goal-setting activity to provide context as the EDA considers updates and refinements for the coming year.

As part of this exercise, staff will also introduce proposed staff-led ideas and work items to ensure alignment with City Council priorities and relevant initiatives from other commissions. This will help ensure the EDA’s goals for 2026 are coordinated across departments and advisory bodies and are realistic given available resources.

Recap from 2025 EDA Goal Setting, with completed goals ~~struck through~~ and achievement updates *in italics*:

1. Central Ave

- a. In alignment with City Council citywide goals for public art, develop and launch a Central Business District public art program.
- b. Facilitate placemaking along and near Central Avenue, taking into consideration existing program-based opportunities and upcoming MnDOT-led street redevelopment.
 - i. *In 2025, the EDA amended the Façade Improvement Grant Program to allow businesses in the Central Business District to access up to \$10,000 in façade grants, including for public alley-facing improvements.*
 - ii. *In 2025, the City audited and replaced signage at the City's surface parking lot.*
 - iii. *In 2025, the EDA planted bee lawns on three EDA-owned sites on Central Avenue.*

2. Business

- a. Create initiatives to increase the City's interactions with and promotion of the local business community.
 - i. *In 2025, Community Development staff collaborated with the City's Multicultural Liaison to conduct 10 business outreach visits to local Spanish-speaking businesses.*
 - ~~b. Update City grant programs to ensure they provide beneficial and valuable support to businesses.~~
 - i. *In 2025, the EDA amended its existing grant programs to increase the amounts available for businesses and to relax restrictions, thereby promoting more usage of the programs.*

2. Neighborhood/Housing

- ~~a. Review, revise, and continue to administer the EDA's Commercial Revitalization Program to address substandard and non-conforming housing stock.~~
 - i. *In 2025, the EDA revised the Commercial Revitalization Program to enable the Commission to target blighted and substandard single-family homes in residential districts as well as in commercial districts. Subsequently, the EDA purchased the blighted home at 4510 Taylor St and is preparing the site for residential redevelopment.*
- ~~b. Establish and implement an allocation plan for the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.~~
 - i. *In 2025, the EDA established a Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing Loan Program and allocated Local Housing Trust Fund resources to these loans, while also setting aside funds for larger scale affordable housing redevelopment programs.*
 - ii. *In 2025, the City was awarded a \$75,000 grant from Minnesota Housing for local affordable housing initiatives, to be administered through the Trust Fund.*

4. "Big Sites"

- a. Advance redevelopment of EDA-owned properties.
- b. Promote and champion opportunities for major local redevelopment sites.
 - i. Marketing
 - ii. Outreach to developers
 - iii. Track progress in 2025
 1. *In 2025, the Medtronic / Lincoln Avenue Communities / 800 53rd Ave NE redevelopment project completed its comprehensive plan amendment and received base approval for its preliminary entitlements.*
 2. *In 2025, the City and the EDA conducted two loan modifications and pledged for the reissuance of bonds for the Rainbow / Alatus / 4300 Central Ave NE site.*
 3. *In 2025, the City provided a letter of support to Minnesota Housing for one of the developers pre-selected by Anoka County for redevelopment of the Royce Place / 1515 44th Ave NE site.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff will participate in the goal setting activity and contribute their 2026 EDA recommendations.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. 2025 EDA Goal Setting Results (Ideas List with Vote Tallies)