





Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority 2025 Work Plan

* Results of Issue Identification and Ranking			* Desired Outcomes/Work Approach/Schedule			
Issue/Task/Work Item	Role	Term (years) Short 1-2 Med. 3-5 Long 6+	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Industry Advancement/Support						
Ensure an adequate inventory of industrial sites and facilities exist to accommodate full industrial, warehousing & distribution business expansion and relocation potential.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete as needed due diligence to ensure sites are shovel ready. Scope out development costs for future industrial park expansion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider strategic land acquisitions that will support the need for future industrial sites. Continue to work on addressing 49C Tax Credit Eligibility. 		
Continue to work with HWY 35 on current and future development opportunities.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with HWY 35 on efforts focused on workforce attraction. Work with spinoff developments/businesses interested in a Grand Rapids location. 			

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Industry Advancement/Support						
Pursue and support initiatives addressing housing shortages	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support private development interest in housing projects by reviewing proposed uses of TIF and/or Tax Abatement. Complete the sale of GREDA sites and development of multi-family housing by Oppidan and Unique Opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with housing developers, MN IRRR, MHFA, GMHF and Blandin Foundation to incentivize and remove financial barriers for projects. Complete an inventory of sites available for additional housing. Advance the redevelopment of the former School Admin. Building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advance the Commonwealth purchase and development of the 4th Ave. SE site. 	
Pursue strategic property acquisitions in key commercial, industrial, and residential areas.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider requesting a Program Related Investment or grant from the Blandin Foundation to sufficiently capitalize a fund for strategic acquisitions that support both industrial expansion and commercial residential redevelopment and development 			
Continue support of the Yanmar expansion.	Lead	S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Yanmar on efforts focused on workforce attraction. Pursue grant funding to support the next phases of expansion, as needed. 		

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Industry Advancement/Support						
Support initiatives addressing workforce and childcare shortages	Partner	S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with major employers on workforce challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue funding opportunities to support the professional development and implementation of an innovative and aggressive workforce recruitment strategy. 	
Provide as needed support for wood product industries.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue ongoing regular communications with Blandin Paper management regarding as needed assistance. 			
Transportation/Logistics						
Continue to advocate for highway transportation route improvements to improve linkages between Grand Rapids and the interstate, the Duluth port.	Lead	L		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider grant opportunities to sponsor research that examines the economic importance and transportation function of the Hwy 2 corridor between Grand Rapids and the Duluth Port/Interstate Highway 		

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Redevelopment & Downtown						
Downtown Plan Implementation.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support and leadership in completing the establishment of the Downtown Alliance. Continue to market the Downtown Mandated Building Improvement Loan and Commercial Building Improvement Loan Programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with the redevelopment of downtown sites, specifically the Pluemers Building, GREDA lots and Block 36 (Free Range Food Co-op) 		
Support the redevelopment of strategic commercial sites outside of the downtown with a focus on the Hwy 2 West corridor.	Lead	S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue funding sources to support the demolition of the former Itasca Co. Farm Co-op building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the TH2 Land Use and Development Plan. Support investment interest in the redevelopment of sites such as the former Grand Rapids Marine, Itasca County Farm Co-op, Ben's Bait, Dondelinger Dodge and other sites identified in the TH2 Land use and development Plan 	