








# Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority 2024 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
<b>Industry Advancement/Support</b>						
Continue to assist the L&M Distribution Center project.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the process of removing FAA encumbrances on City parcel.</li> <li>Acquire and convey City parcel to L&amp;M</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administer MIF loan for equipment</li> </ul>
Continue to support Yanmar Expansion project	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administer MIF loan for equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Yanmar on next phase – high bay warehouse</li> </ul>		
Pursue and support initiatives addressing housing shortages	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support private development interest in housing projects by reviewing proposed uses of TIF and/or Tax Abatement.</li> <li>Support the development of housing on GREDA owned parcels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with housing developers, MN IRRR, MHFA, GMHF and Blandin Foundation to incentivize and remove financial barriers for projects.</li> <li>Secure the development of one or more multi-family housing developments.</li> </ul>		

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Industry Advancement/Support						
Continue to work with HWY 35 LLC on current and future development opportunities	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and advise the City Council on any application for a TIF Redevelopment District.</li> <li>Prepare development agreements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities for collaboration with MN North Itasca Campus</li> <li>Work with spinoff developers/businesses interested in co-location.</li> </ul> 		
Ensure an adequate inventory of industrial sites and facilities exist in the community.	Lead	S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider opportunities to make strategic property acquisitions for future industrial development.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to explore funding opportunities that would support the development of a speculative, flexible, industrial/warehouse building in Grand Rapids.</li> </ul>	
Support initiatives addressing workforce and childcare shortages	Partner	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate with industries about their challenges and provide support or connections to support.</li> </ul> 			
Provide as needed support for wood product industries.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue ongoing regular communications with Blandin Paper management regarding as needed assistance.</li> </ul> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with MN Power Boswell officials and explore collaborative opportunities.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Industry Advancement/Support</b>						
Continue to support our medical service providers to ensure that Grand Rapids maintains and grows its position as a regional hub.	Lead	S	▪	▪	▪ Communicate with major providers, Grand Itasca and Essential about trends in rural health care and the buildout of services and jobs to support growth.	▪
Assist with the redevelopment of the Boswell site.	Partner	M	▪	▪ Support County efforts to implement energy transition strategies.	▪ Identify energy transition funding state and federal programs that may be applicable to GREDA efforts toward economic diversification.	▪
<b>Transportation/Logistics</b>						
Plan for highway transportation and corridor land use improvements to address underperforming commercial areas and blighted conditions within the City.	Lead	S	▪	▪ Apply for funding and create a corridor plan along Highway 2 between 6th Ave. E. and 19th Ave. W. that addresses multi-modal transportation issues, city utility replacement needs, blight, environmental contamination, visual appeal and underinvestment.	▪ 	▪

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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"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have discussions with appropriate agencies, government, and elected officials and sponsor research that supports the prioritization of improvements to the TH2 corridor to Duluth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Redevelopment & Downtown						
Downtown Plan Implementation.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the Downtown Organization project.</li> <li>Assist with the redevelopment of downtown sites, specifically: Pluemers building, IEDC building, GREDA lots, and Block 36.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in advancing an updated vision for use of Central School and its needed building upgrades.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Consider ways to support the relocation/renovation of local small businesses and assist with ADA compliance improvement funding options.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase marketing of Downtown Mandated Building Improvement Loan program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have discussions with Blandin Foundation about the possibilities of expanding the geographic boundaries of the program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

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<b>Redevelopment &amp; Downtown</b>						
Support the redevelopment of strategic commercial sites outside of the downtown.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support investment interest in the redevelopment of infill sites such as the former Kmart site, former Ray's Sport &amp; Marine, Grand Rapids Marine, Itasca County Farm Co-op, Ben's Bait, Dondelinger Dodge and Ford, former Sawmill Inn site.</li> </ul>	●	→	→
<b>Administration</b>						
Consider ways to diversify the membership of the Commission and amend the meeting format to include updates from local partners/organizations.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As membership opportunities arise, recruit applicants that further a diverse board.</li> <li>Invite local partner organizations to provide updates, one presentation per quarter.</li> </ul>	●	→	→
Enhance the marketing of GREDA services and programs.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider comprehensive updates to the GREDA website under a new platform.</li> <li>Utilize media to communicate the many GREDA successes and raise awareness of GREDA programs.</li> </ul>	●	→	→