

Town of Erie Economic Development

• Stimulating Economic Growth • Facilitating Public/Private Cooperation • Catalyzing Private Sector Investment

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Fred Diehl,

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Assistant to the Town Administrator

303-926-2764 or fdiehl@erieco.gov

Town of Erie Economic Development Plan Update – September 23, 2009

Board Accepts Erie Airport Economic Development Study

Implementation of Recommendations Underway

ERIE, CO – The Town of Erie Board of Trustees accepted the [Erie Municipal Airport Economic Development Study](#) as presented by the consulting firm of Boyd Group International during the September 22, 2009 Trustees’ meeting. According to the consultant’s findings, “*Erie Municipal Airport is a viable and a true economic opportunity for the Town.*” The Study concluded that, “*Erie Municipal Airport is located in an area that has and will continue to see strong growth. This will present opportunities for the Town in the development of the properties surrounding the Airport. There are emerging needs that this land can satisfy. These include office parks, light industrial, hotel, and other neighbor-friendly development opportunities that directly create jobs and tax revenues.*”

The Board addressed the consultant's recommendations included in the final Study by directing staff to move forward with implementation of actions designed to increase economic development opportunities at the Airport and adjacent areas including the following:

- ? Move forward with efforts to hire an Airport Management and Development Company to run the day-to-day operations of Erie Municipal Airport in order to build on-airport revenue streams, benefitting both the airport and the Town.
- ? Remove closed Runway 9/27 from the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and open this area for development, specifically:
 - The section of Runway 9-27 located west of Runway 15-33 is to be redeveloped as an expansion of the existing apron area to support additional aircraft tie down areas and serve as pads for T-hangers thereby increasing annual revenues
 - The land east of Runway 9-27 and across Bonanza Drive represents valuable property for commercial development
- ? Pursue efforts necessary to designate the airport as an Aviation Development Zone. This program provides an income tax credit of \$1,200 per employee for new employees of aircraft manufacturers in these zones.
- ? Present design options for new signage to communicate Erie Municipal Airport is a community asset and to aid in the retention and future recruitment of aircraft industry and business partnerships.

Follow this link to the [Erie Municipal Airport](#) webpage and select [Erie Airport Economic Development Study](#) from "In This Section" to view the complete document.

TOWN OF ERIE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN BACKGROUND

With the realization of Erie's significant development potential and seeking independent confirmation of the Town's economic enhancement activities, the [Town of Erie](#) determined during 2006 that it would benefit from a focused effort directed toward economic development. Early in 2007, the [Erie Board of Trustees](#) authorized a contract (\$25,000) with Upstate Colorado Economic Development to

construct an economic development plan. Concurrently, the Board appointed an ad hoc committee to work with Upstate to develop a plan that was to be sensitive to the economic realities and political desires as expressed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. In November 2007, the Board accepted and authorized funding (\$150,000) for the [Town of Erie Economic Development Plan](#) as proposed by the ad hoc committee. The Economic Development Plan includes thirty two specific actions that address the following goals:

- ? Expand the retail/commercial business base of the Town of Erie.

- ? Provide the opportunity for Erie residents to pursue meaningful employment within their community.

- ? Create an environment that facilitates quality development, and starting, expanding and operating a business.

- ? Build the reputation of the Town of Erie as a quality location for living, business and employment.

At the request of the Town of Erie Board of Trustees, the Economic Development Plan Working Group (**EDPWG**) is charged with executing the various action items of the plan. The **EDPWG** is made up of the following entities: the Erie Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Erie, and the EEDC.

Economic Development Plan Working Group

- ? Erie Chamber of Commerce: President, Dr. Sally Towner; Executive Director, Elle Cabbage

- ? Town of Erie: Trustee Tina Harris; Trustee Colin Towner

- ? EEDC: President, Don Huntress III

MORE INFORMATION

As part of the Economic Development Plan, the Town of Erie has created an economic development liaison and business assistance function to assist companies regarding business resources including: existing retail, employment, infrastructure fees, permitting, special event sponsorship & marketing opportunities, community investment, incentives, planning & zoning, codes, and licensing. For more information, please contact Fred Diehl, Assistant to the Town Administrator at 303-926-2764 or fdiehl@erieco.gov.

To view the Town of Erie Economic Development Plan, please visit www.erieco.gov/economic_development.

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