Gilpin County Action Plan

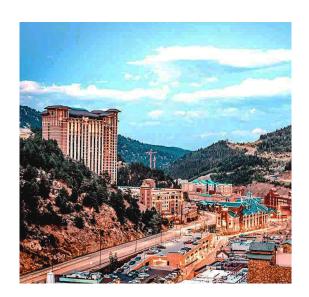Presentation – Rural Resilience Mixer, February 8, 2024

Overview

- Half of Gilpin County's residents are employed in the gaming and hospitality industries. To become resilient to economic downturns, Gilpin County is diversifying its economy, focusing on the mid- and northern areas.

- Black Hawk is developing a gaming-centric resort destination anticipated to grow the region's incremental revenue by an estimated $197 million per year.

- The Central City Council is leading revitalization through diversification and expansion of business opportunities and maintenance of the city's historic atmosphere.
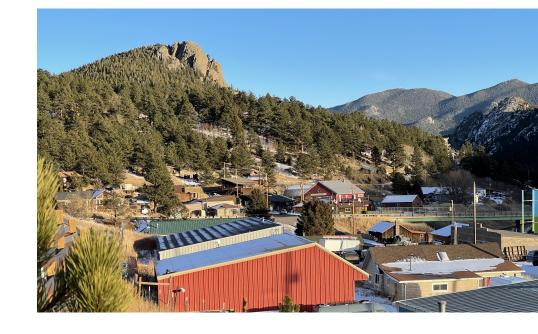
Gilpin's Economic Opportunities

- **Rollinsville Main Street Vision:** To support the attraction of new businesses to the area and provide space where businesses can cluster to provide greater accessibility and visibility to clients. "Make Rollinsville a destination."

- **High-Speed Internet:** To enhance access to high-speed internet within the County to improve access to remote work and quality of residential life.

- **Enhance Trail Assets:** To provide a free amenity for the community's health and enjoyment and attract visitors to the community and boost spending at local businesses.

- **Local Business Support:** To increase employment opportunities through facilitating the growth of local businesses, and to lower the barrier to entry for new business startups.

Rollinsville Main Street Vision

During a planning charette, 24 highly-engaged Rollinsville community members recommended that the following items be addressed in a destination vision plan:

- Street development – sidewalks & crosswalks.

- Parking – cars, bikes, EV charging station.

- Traffic control – stop signs, roundabout.

- Façade improvements – windows. doors, signs.

- Placemaking – flower pots, benches, parklets.

Attendees discussed the need to create an organization, enabling a unified voice and the ability to enact improvements, obtain funding, and influence government decisions.

High-Speed Internet

- Enhancing high-speed internet would improve remote work and the quality of residential life.

- Even before Covid, a study* showed that more than half of Gilpin County households have at least one person working from home.

- The DOLA Roadmap to Recovery resiliency group (Peak-to-peak region) identified broadband as a priority project.

- The County is working to provide broadband to areas in need.

*88% of tested download speeds were below the FCC minimum in the *2017 Neo Connect Gilpin County Broadband Survey.*

Enhance Trail Assets:

- By expanding its outdoor assets in a sustainable way, Gilpin County has the potential to advance its economy and increase local business support, increase tourism spending, and take advantage of capital and operational expenditure impacts.

  - Opportunities to improve accessibility to trails include:

    - Develop parking to make it easy to travel to the trailhead.

    - Install signage to clearly mark trailheads and paths.

    - Provide a map that visitors can use to identify which trails appeal to them and to highlight nearby businesses to visit before or after using the trails.

Hiking Trails – Gilpin County

Source: AllTrails.com, Better City