

# City Council Economic Vitality Committee

## Agenda

Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Council Chambers  
749 Main Street  
3:00 PM

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- You can call in to +1 646 876 9923 or 877 548 0282 (toll free)  
Webinar ID #852 0147 8768
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the [City's website](#) to link to the meeting:

The Council will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also [email comments to the Council](#) prior to the meeting.

### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

### 2. Approval of Agenda

### 3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda and Items on the Consent Agenda

Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker. When several people wish to speak on the same position on a given item, a spokesperson may be used to state that position.

### 4. Consent Agenda

The following items on the City Council Agenda are considered routine by the City Manager and shall be approved, adopted, accepted, etc., by motion of the City Council and voice vote unless the Mayor or a City Council person specifically requests an item be considered under "Regular Business." In such an event the item shall be removed from the "Consent Agenda" and Council action taken separately on said item in the order appearing on the Agenda. Those items so approved under the heading "Consent Agenda" will appear in the Council Minutes in their proper order.

A. Approval of Minutes

### 5. Regular Business

A. Business Beat Discussion

B. Construction Impact Grant Overview

C. Work Plan Check-In

**6. Staff Report**

A. Staff Update

B. Business Happenings

**7. Committee Member Comments**

**8. Adjourn**

**Resident Information**

If you wish to speak at the City Council meeting in person, please fill out a sign-up card and present it to the City Clerk at the meeting. If you are attending remotely, please use the “raise hand” icon to show you wish to speak in appropriate public comments section.

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or other accommodation should [email the City Clerk's Office](#) or call at 303.335.4574

A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión del Consejo, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4574 o [email](#)

**City Council  
Economic Vitality Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2026  
Regular Meeting  
3:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Leh called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and the following members were present:

**Committee Members:** *Mayor Chris Leh - Chair  
Councilmember Deb Fahey  
Councilmember Judi Kern*

**Staff Present:** *Diana Langley, City Manager  
Rob Zuccaro, Community Development Director  
Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager  
Brian Holihan, Economic Vitality Specialist*

**Others Present:** *None*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Kern moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Councilmember Fahey.

Aye: All  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Fahey moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Councilmember Kern.

Aye: All  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Gillian Millar, Executive Director of Louisville Chamber, Provided and update on the Feel Good Festival report and the Chamber's new advocacy page that is now live on the chamber website.

## **BUSINESS MATTERS**

### **Louisville Economic Snapshot**

Manager Zarate presented an economic snapshot of Louisville, including demographic and psychographic data, a real estate update, community summary, and commuting behavior.

Councilmember Kern asked for clarification on the statistic stating that the housing unit growth rate is – 0.6 %. Director Zuccaro responded that the Marshall Fires are still a contributing factor and that they haven't been large housing developments in recent years, but for the Marshall Fire rebuilds. Manager Zarate additionally shared that there is typically a year lag on the data

Councilmember Fahey asked for statistics on individuals who live and work in Louisville, those who commute into Louisville but live elsewhere, and those who live in Louisville but work elsewhere. Manager Zarate presented Census data and shared that 17,431 commute into the city, 1,004 individuals live and work within Louisville, and 7,309 individuals live in Louisville and commute elsewhere for work.

Councilmember Kern asked for staff's recommendation for council can utilize this data, along with how staff utilizes this data. Manager Zarate responded that staff uses the data for business retraction, ways to explain unusual changes in revenue streams, and a tool for exploring potential areas for development.

Mayor Leh shared an interest in an expanded data collection that would represent years beyond the current data set, along with how the presented data compares to neighboring municipalities, and expanded definitions of the categories represented in the data set.

### **Sundance Discussion**

Manager Zarate provided an update on staffs work in relation to the Sundance Film Festivals relocation to Boulder in 2027 with details on housing and transportation work as it relates to the festival.

Councilmember Kern asked about expanding public transit opportunities outside of the existing bus lines from the festival's location in Boulder to Louisville. Manager Zarate responded that right now we are focused on promotion of activities that can be done in

Louisville to attract festival attendees and can explore public transit opportunities if needed.

## **Staff Report**

### Patio Installation

The Downtown Patio Program is back for 2026. Patios will begin being installed on Monday, April 20th with road closures occurring down main street for the start of the week. Patios will remain installed until November 2, 2026. Please reach out to Brian Holihan with additional questions.

### Commercial Sustainability Rebate

The City of Louisville has launched the redesign of its Commercial Sustainability Rebate Program, offering local businesses financial support for projects that reduce waste, lower emissions and improve overall sustainability. Eligible businesses can apply for tiered rebates of \$ 1,000, \$ 5,000, or \$ 10,000 to help fund energy efficiency upgrades, composting and recycling systems, decarbonization projects, and other impactful sustainability initiatives. The application opened on March 2, 2026. Applicants can apply through May 1, 2026. All applications will be reviewed from May 4 through May 15, 2026, with awardees notified within two weeks of the final day of the review timeline. Please reach out to Brian Holihan with additional questions.

### Sundance Film Festival

City Staff continues to work with Sundance Institute Staff and regional partners to prepare for the upcoming festival in 2027. In addition to internal working meetings, Staff has met with partners for economic vitality, transportation, housing and cultural services workshops and focus groups. A first hearing for a temporary short-term rental program will be held at the April 7, 2026 City Council meeting.

### April Business Beat

The April Business Beat meeting will be held on April 30th from 4:00 – 5:30 pm. This month's roundtable will focus around apprenticeships and we will be joined by Workforce Boulder and City of Lafayette. Please reach out to Brian Holihan with additional questions.

## **Development Updates**

Manage Zarate directed Councilmembers to the packet for updates and asked for any questions.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Gillian Millar, Executive Director of the Louisville Chamber expressed support for the Economic Snapshot of Louisville presentation and conveyed the Chamber's interest in supporting initiatives relating to Sundance Film Festival, while also emphasizing the need to support businesses all year round.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mayor Leh shared an update on the Colorado Connector passenger rail train.

### **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **ADJOURN**

Councilmember Kern moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Fahey.

Aye: All

Nay: None

Absent: None

Members adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

**Subject:** Business Beat Discussion  
**Date:** May 14, 2026  
**Prepared By:** Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager  
**Presented By:** Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager

**Summary:**

The City of Louisville started hosting monthly business roundtables, The Business Beat, in 2024 to provide a space where businesses can connect with City Council and staff.

Originally, the roundtables were held monthly in commercial spaces and themed around business topic or geographic location. These roundtables were held in commercial spaces to meet businesses where they were at and to create a more flexible meeting environment. These meetings were publicly posted so that all three members of the Economic Vitality Committee were able to attend.

Staff would like to have a discussion around the Business Beats- specifically on the cadence and the number of EVC members in attendance.

**Background / Prior Discussions:**

The Economic Vitality Committee started hosting monthly business roundtables in 2024 to create an opportunity to connect with businesses, share information with them, and hear from businesses on how they are doing and whatever feedback the businesses wanted to share.

Since inception, the roundtables were held 10 out of 12 months of the year, and up until January 2026 were held in commercial spaces. At the beginning of each year, the EVC would approve the Business Beat dates for the year, so that businesses and members could plan on attendance. Business Beat updates were regularly shared out at EVC meetings, to share information on what was learned and heard at the previous month's roundtable. The Business Beat meeting was held in partnership with economic vitality partners multiple times a year.

Previous to 2024, Economic Vitality would host larger events once or twice a year.

**Development Proposal:**

## **Analysis:**

The Business Beat roundtables were started to create an opportunity for businesses to have some one-one interaction with the members of the Economic Vitality Committee and for City Staff and City Council to hear from businesses, share news and better connect the City with the business community.

## **Attendance**

It was identified in early 2026, that as these are publicly posted meetings, they needed to be held in a publicly owned space- such as City Hall or the Recreation Center. Since hosting in publicly owned spaces, business attendance has dwindled.

Identified alternative options included

- Limit the number of Economic Vitality Committee members to 2 or less
- Start and end the meeting in a public space- Staff and EVC members would start the meeting in a public space, such as City Hall, and could then relocate to a different space, and would then return to the public space to end the meeting.
- Change the charter requirements, which would require a ballot question

The intended nature of this program was to meet businesses in their spaces, and go to them instead of making them come to us. Additionally, attendance has been greater when held in commercial spaces. When held in commercial spaces, the meeting flexibility and conversation flow has been less stagnant and more open flow, I believe due to the nature of it not feeling like a formal meeting behind held at City Hall.

Staff believes, moving back to commercial spaces will increase attendance and support continued engagement with the business community. We recommend a rotating schedule for the EVC members, so that no more than two members are in attendance at each roundtable.

## **Cadence**

Since 2024 when we implemented the Business beats, they were held monthly throughout the year, except for November and December. The roundtables were open ended, or focused around a business topic or a geographic area within the City of Louisville.

Attendance at the Business Beats has declined in recent months. This could be do to a variety of reasons to include timing, location, other partner events, current economy, etc.

With the attendance, and to ensure the roundtables are meeting business needs, staff is proposing that we host the Business Beat roundtables every other month, instead of monthly. This will provide additional planning time for the business community and allow us to ensure the timing/space and content are as timely and relevant as possible.

**Council Work Plan:**

While not included in the work plan, supporting businesses and economic vitality are Work Plan goals.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact to this discussion.

**Alternatives:**

- Do not make changes and continue to host Business Beats monthly in publicly owned spaces.
- Alternative cadence
- Alternative EVC member attendance

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that we move the Business Beat roundtables to every other month, and have the EVC members rotate attendance so there are never more than two members in attendance each month.

**Attachments:**

None

**Subject:** Construction Impact Grant Overview  
**Date:** May 14, 2026  
**Prepared By:** Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager  
**Presented By:** Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager

**Summary:**

The City Council and Louisville Revitalization Commission have identified Construction Impact Grants as a potential tool to support businesses that are impacted by significant City construction projects.

While no program has been proposed or identified, both bodies have expressed interest in learning more about how such programs work. Staff is starting the conversation with both EVC and LRC to show best-practices for programs of this kind. This discussion item is intended to provide baseline information for EVC on how Construction Impact Grant programs may be structured but is not specific to any upcoming projects.

Staff anticipates that there will be more detailed follow up discussion with EVC, City Council, and LRC on a potential Construction Impact Grant program once a construction project, such as the Front and Center project, is further along and more is known about timing, areas of impact, and staging requirements.

**Background / Prior Discussions:**

The City of Louisville and the Louisville Revitalization Commission both work with businesses to support their growth, sustainability, and attraction efforts into the City of Louisville. As part of ongoing construction project conversations, the idea of a Construction Impact Grant has been brought up as a tool that could be used to support businesses that might experience operational disruptions due to large-scale City/LRC construction projects.

Neither body has explored the option at length but has identified it as a potential tool to support businesses and have expressed their desire to learn more. If a program is created, it would be one tool in a larger program to support businesses during construction. Additional support tools could include business promotion, marketing campaigns, signage and collaboration with the businesses and other economic vitality partners to encourage residents and visitors to continue to frequent the commercial areas that are experiencing construction.

## Development Proposal:

### Analysis:

The City of Louisville, nor the LRC, have an existing Construction Impact Grant program. In preliminary conversations, it has been expressed that EVC would want to learn more about how programs like this function, how they are implemented and what a potential cost of the program would be. A program does not currently exist, and is therefore not funded.

Generally speaking, Construction Impact Grants, are utilized by governments when they have a large-scale, multi-month construction project that could impact businesses. Business impact could be described as loss of access to the street or sidewalk, change in pedestrian, multi-modal and/or vehicle traffic patterns, noise and nuisance. There are many ways someone might claim they have been impacted, the above are a few of the most common. While the City does not have a construction grant program, Staff does have experience administering grants of a similar nature for COVID-related impact grants.

### Typical Program Parameters

- What types of projects would qualify for the program- what kind of threshold of City/LRC driven and funded projects – dollar amount of investment, timeframe of construction, size of construction area, etc
- How would a business qualify- who, size, industry, gross revenue, sales tax generating, distance from construction project, etc
- What is considered an impact -Road closure, sidewalk closure, lost revenues, noise, etc
- Grant award amount- determine the award amounts- sales tax lost, tiered approach, etc
- Program funding
- Process for application and implementation

There are communities in the metro that have a construction impact grant, links to their programs can be found below.

- The City of Denver- [Business Impact Opportunity Fund](#)
- The Town of Erie- [Construction Mitigation Grant Program](#)
- The City of Ft. Collins- [Business Construction Grants](#)
- The City of Greeley- [Construction Impact Grant](#)
- Wheat Ridge Local Works- [Wadsworth Business Recovery Grant Program](#)

As previously mentioned, the purpose of this discussion is to provide baseline information on how Construction Impact Grants generally work, and anticipates future

discussions with EVC, City Council, and LRC to consider developing a policy specific to Louisville in relation to planned future construction projects that may have business impacts.

**Council Work Plan:**

While not included in the work plan, supporting businesses and economic vitality are Work Plan goals.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact to this discussion. The fiscal impact of implementing a program would be determined at the time of adoption/implementation.

**Alternatives:**

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends EVC review and ask questions.

**Attachments:**

None

**Subject:** Work Plan Check-In  
**Date:** May 14, 2026  
**Prepared By:** Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager  
**Presented By:** Vanessa Zarate, Economic Vitality Manager

**Summary:**

The Economic Vitality Committee adopted a 2026 Work Plan, to highlight topics to cover throughout the year. The Work Plan was designed to provide structure around economic vitality activities, while leaving flexibility to address needs and policy as they arise.

As we are nearly halfway through the year, Staff wanted to bring the Work Plan back to EVC's attention to determine if there is additional feedback.

**Background / Prior Discussions:**

The EVC worked on creating their 2026 Work Plan starting in September 2025, with a finalized work plan in December 2025. A goal of the work plan was to guide EVC discussions around identified priority topics. During the creation of the work plan, it was also noted that the EVC would like flexibility to address needs as they arise, as business and economic needs are not always predictable.

**Development Proposal:**

**Analysis:**

The EVC approved their 2026 work plan in December 2025, with priorities established at the time. Economic vitality, business needs and support are fluid. The intent of today is to re-visit the work plan to determine if there are any additional changes that the EVC would like to make through the end of the year.

**Council Work Plan:**

Economic Vitality support is an identified work plan priority, this review supports EVC functions.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact to this discussion.

**Alternatives:**

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends EVC review and provide feedback.

**Attachments:**

1. EVC 2026 Work Plan

**SUBJECT: ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE 2026 WORK PLAN**

**DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2025**

**PRESENTED BY: VANESSA ZARATE, CECD, ECONOMIC VITALITY MANAGER**

**SUMMARY:**

The Economic Vitality Committee has expressed interest in creating a 2026 work plan to help guide conversations and EVC Meetings.

Staff has identified the following as potential work plan items for 2026 and has created a potential timeframe for discussion and implementation. Economic Vitality will need to be nimble to respond timely to needs and the market. These identified activities are priorities identified within the business community.

Timeframe	Activities
Quarter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Satisfaction Survey               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion of potential new and amended programs, activities and policies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sundance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Festival Lodging License</li> <li>○ Collaboration Opportunities Discussion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Louisville Economy Overview</li> <li>• Consideration of new urban renewal areas</li> <li>• Enterprise Zone implementation and promotion</li> </ul>
Quarter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentive Evaluation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promotion of new and small businesses amendment</li> <li>○ Evaluation of current program effectiveness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Evaluation of City Process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Align with adoption of Comprehensive Plan to get feedback</li> <li>○ Align with Community Development efforts with zoning code rewrite</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Louisville Revitalization Commission Collaboration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify opportunity areas for additional collaboration with urban renewal tools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sundance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transportation needs</li> <li>○ Conversation on construction impacts and timeframes</li> <li>○ Potential events/activities in Louisville</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**SUBJECT: EVC WORK PLAN**

**DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2025**

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Quarter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Satisfaction Survey<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Program implementation and additional feedback</li></ul></li><li>• Business Retention Program Update<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Update on retention efforts throughout the year</li><li>○ Conversation on themes arisen from retention efforts</li></ul></li><li>• Business Attraction Program Update<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Update on attraction program and vacancy updates</li></ul></li><li>• Sundance<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Promotion</li><li>○ Business and Community “What to expect” and how tools/tips for engagement</li></ul></li></ul>
Quarter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incentive Evaluation- discussion of potential amendments or additions</li><li>• Louisville Collateral and Promotion</li><li>• Sundance<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Promotion</li></ul></li><li>• Louisville Revitalization Commission collaboration</li></ul>

Please provide additional feedback and staff will bring back a completed work plan to EVC.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no additional fiscal impact to creating a EVC work plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends EVC review and provide feedback.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

**SUBJECT: STAFF UPDATES**

**DATE: MAY 14, 2026**

**PRESENTED BY: VANESSA ZARATE, CECD, ECONOMIC VITALITY MANAGER**

**SUMMARY:**

In the following, staff provides updates on recent activity related to economic vitality functions.

*Boulder Chamber Events*

Economic Vitality works closely with the Boulder Chamber and their Economic Council. The Boulder Chamber hosts a variety of events from networking, meet-and-greets, educational, celebratory and deep dives. [Visit their website](#) to learn more and register for events.

*State of the State*

The Denver Metro Chamber will be hosting the 2026 State of the State on Tuesday, May 19. This event will share information on how the legislative session went, how it might impact you and what we can expect for the year. The event brings together business leaders and policymakers to discuss changes and implementation. [Visit the website](#) to learn more.

*Basic Economic Development Course*

The Economic Council of Colorado will host their annual Basic Economic Development Course in Denver from June 8-12. This course provides a week long overview from theory to fundamentals to implementation, covering the multiple areas of economic development practice. The course is taught by economic development practitioners and partners, and intended to provide an overview of practice, new trends, innovative development tools and more. [Visit the website](#) to learn more and to register.

*Colorado Real Estate Journal Events*

The Colorado Real Estate Journal hosts multiple events throughout the year, themed to provide an overview and update on various sectors across the state. The sessions educate on where the market is, where it might be going, what we can expect and highlights new projects that are being built here in Colorado. [Visit the website](#) to learn more.

**SUBJECT: BUSINESS HAPPENINGS**

**DATE: MAY 14, 2026**

**PRESENTED BY: VANESSA ZARATE, CECD, ECONOMIC VITALITY MANAGER  
BRIAN HOLIHAN, ECONOMIC VITALITY SPECIALIST**

**SUMMARY:**

In the following, staff provides updates on recent and upcoming business happenings within the community.

**New Commercial Development Applications (April 9 to May 7)**

No current applications at this time.

**Chamber Events and Ribbon Cuttings (May 14 to June 11)**

Wednesday, May 20 | 3 – 7 pm

Ribbon Cutting - First American Title

- Celebrate the relocation of Dori Van Lone's office to its new Louisville location.
- Ribbon cutting ceremony begins at 5:00 PM.
- Location: 1025 Cannon Street, Suite 1D

Friday, June 5 | 5 – 8 pm

Dinner on Main

- Annual summer kickoff event hosted by the Chamber.
- Features community dining and downtown festivities.
- Tickets are sold out.

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> | 8:30 – 10:30 pm

Silent Disco

- Community Silent Disco following Dinner on Main.
- No tickets required to attend.

Saturday, June 6 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

SummerFest

- Live music, farmers market, craft market, car show, family-friendly activities and more

Saturday, June 6 | 9 – 10:30 am

Fun Run and Dog Jog

- A 5K fun run for community members and their dogs.
- Part of the broader Taste of Louisville festivities.

**In The News (articles published between April 9 and May 7)**

BizWest: Solid Power reports revenue drop, lower net loss

BizWest: Gaia to shift customer-acquisition focus from third-party video streaming platforms

BizWest: Biodesix touts 'clear path toward profitability'

BizWest: Louisville looks to update incentive program with new small biz benefits

BizWest: Retired Space Force lieutenant general joins Sierra Space board

BS News Article: Dark Horse bar plans to relocate to a different Colorado city after closing down in Boulder.

Axios Boulder: Scoop: Dark Horse bar to reopen in Louisville

Hoodline: King Soopers snaps up shuttered Louisville Lowe's for big-box comeback

The Mirage: Boulder Imaging gains Lime Rock New Energy investment