



Core Actions Needed to Implement Economic Resilience Resilience and Recovery Workshop-“Don’t Mess With Texas

Action Agenda Items

1. Form an Economic Resilience Task Force with broad representation
2. Engage the business community
3. Review past incidents to identify points of failure and areas of strength
4. Map critical infrastructure and systems
5. Perform self-assessment (scorecard)
6. Build capacity and secure resources
7. Inform and build community support
8. Draft a specific agenda for action
9. Measure progress--celebrate success and adjust as needed



1. Form an Economic Resilience Task Force

Dr. Peter Williams—“Cities and Communities are ‘Systems of Systems’ of interacting physical, infrastructural, economic, and social systems. Each system may have a different owner and management chain, yet each must interact with the others to minimize risks from hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, and the like, as well as from pandemics.”

--The task force should include:

1. Government: Planning, Finance, Health, Education, Emergency Management, Transportation, Water/Sanitation--local, state, & federal
2. Private Sector: Private Infrastructure (85%), Industry, SMEs, Banks, Insurers, Media, Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureaus
3. Non-profit/Community Orgs: Neighborhood associations, churches, charities, special interest groups

2. Engage the Business Community

- Once the Task Force is formed, engage businesses together with public sector and nonprofit organizations to address specific areas of resilience:
 - Infrastructure readiness/resilience--robust, rapid recovery, adaptable)
 - Resilience (continuity) planning—nationally, less than 30% have them
 - Employee resilience-Economic resilience is dependent on individual & community resilience—must educate workers on being prepared
 - Reduce interruption—redundant supply chains & transportation
 - Encourage small businesses to collaborate on space, materials, etc.
- Question: Have your businesses expressed interest/concern in any of the areas outlined above? Any areas NOT outlined above?

3. Review Past Plans and Disaster Outcomes

1. Existing economic development strategies
 - How have disasters impacted them?
 2. Community and/or comprehensive plans
 - Do they provide for disaster resilience?
 3. Local, County, Regional (COG) and State Emergency Response Plans
 - Is response to businesses included?
 4. Local, County, Regional and State Hazard Mitigation Plans
 - Do they factor reducing economic loss?
- How do these plans impact economic resilience, and vice versa?



4. Map Critical Infrastructure and Systems

Knowing where power, water/wastewater, transportation, broadband and related systems are, and where vulnerabilities may lie, is critical

--Most effective strategy: Form a critical infrastructure council

- Public sector—water/wastewater, roads, public utilities, ports/airports
- Private sector—private utilities, broadband, rail, trucking, shipping, logistics-supply chains
- Business and Economic Development organizations --Local, Regional, State, Federal



5. Perform Self-Assessment

- Looking at resilience through an economic development lens:
 - How prepared is the community/region to help businesses recover?
 - What programs are in place to help them cope with specific hazards?
 - Are investments (funding, effort) being made to reduce hazard risks?
 - Are after-hazard efforts (re-entry, workforce, contracting) in place?
 - How about the Local Government and your EDO—do they have a plan?
- These questions, and more, are included in the draft Resilience Scorecard-online
- Draft includes initial 10 questions, provides rating and virtual assistance
- Working with TEDC on enabling offering the entire scorecard and comprehensive educational system



6. Build Capacity and Funding

- Based on the Self-Assessment, and including reviews of plans and prior outcomes plus mapping critical infrastructure, gaps can be identified
 - Programmatic gaps can be addressed by the task force
 - Funding/investment gaps will need further time and effort
- Funding is available as never before—Councils of Government are a good source of information and assistance, TEDC/ISRC will also assist
- Building capacity for resilience should occur as a result of implementing resilience-building actions



7. Inform and Build Community Support

- As the process gets underway, begin informing the community of the reasons economic resilience is needed—a familiar message!
 - Helps resident businesses--their employers and providers—stay afloat
 - Businesses can continue to provide tax revenue for essential services
 - Enhances the community’s ability to attract new investment and jobs
 - In other words, the same message, presented in a specific content!
- For many of the same reasons, solicit support from elected officials
 - Understanding that investing in resilience provides economic return
 - Partnering with the private sector to aid the entire community/county



8. Draft a specific agenda for action

--Based on Analysis, Mapping, Assessment, and Capacity, 5 W's and H



9. Measure and Adapt as Needed

- There are many good project management software programs to manage and measure results from the action agenda
- Implementing one and using it to chart progress is critical to effectiveness of the resilience effort
- Practicing resilience—adapt to changing circumstances—the agenda is a living document and should be online for consistent review and adjustment with agreement of stakeholders
- People-first public private partnerships that value transparency, equity, stakeholder involvement, are fit for purpose, sustainable, and resilient can be a powerful tool to implement the action agenda
 - Following are two examples of PfPPP for resilience



Summary

- Following these steps is not a “magic bullet”, but can provide a real return on investment of time and resources through loss reduction
 - Based on historical data, average return on resilience investment = 4:1
- Next, we will dig into the tools included in your resource guide
- Then, we will apply these actions and tools to a reality-based case study
- The ISRC team is available 24/7 to answer questions and provide info



Don't be a “Firehead”,
take action now!!

