



Economic Development Working Group GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Monday, March 21, 2022, 11:30 – 1:00 PM

Zoom Conference

Register in advance for this webinar:

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Phone#: 1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 876 4948 6471

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Gerald Caton, Chair
Economic Development
Working Group

ACTION ITEMS

“The Goal of the Economic Development Working Group is to lower the High Unemployment within the Gateway Cities Region by Encouraging Job Creation Activities”

1. Discussion of Economic Development Issues Important to Gateway Cities
2. Discussion of Issues Important to Gateway Chambers Alliance, SELACO WDB, Southern California Edison and Long Beach City College Regarding Job Development, Business Retention and Workforce Education
3. Update on Gateway Cities Regional Broadband Master Plan
4. Discussion of the Approaching Opportunity to Apply for Broadband Technical Assistance Grants from the California Public Utilities Commission
5. Presentation by **Patrick Atwater**, CA Forward Senior Research Analyst



Gateway Cities COG Study

The California housing crisis has been exacerbated by home price increases due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The long-term cause of this crisis, however, is the fact that not enough housing has been produced in the state for those who want to live here. This shortage threatens California's diverse and dynamic economy while impacting the lives of millions of Californians who spend far too much of their income on housing, leaving little left over to meet the needs of daily living.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically accelerated the transformation of the retail sector, with massive consequences for municipal budgets reliant on sales taxes. In-person shopping has plummeted as more and more spending has moved online. That shift has caused dramatic declines in city revenues and also uncertainty about the future as commercial centers are examined for potential redevelopment into residential or mixed use.

This study will investigate how California's rigid fiscal structure inhibits adaptation to address those interrelated challenges through the lens of the region served by the twenty-seven cities of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments.

6. Member Comments

7. Adjournment