



Nome Economic Development Strategy 2025:

Building our Future Together

Chamber of Commerce Presentation **July 17, 2025**





Project Objectives:

- Shape economic growth in line with the community's vision, culture, and values;
- Sustain and enhance infrastructure and public spaces to support economic vitality;
- Foster a business-friendly environment where entrepreneurs and employers can thrive;
- Retain and attract a skilled workforce to strengthen our economy; and
- Encourage investment to fuel long-term prosperity.

PROJECT MILESTONE	TARGET COMPLETION
1. Organizing and Pre-Planning	March
2. Community Assessment, SWOT	April
3. Visioning	April - June
4. Goals and Strategies	August - October
5. Implementation 'Action Plan'	November
6. Public Review and Finalize Plan	December



Facilitate discussions and bring the right people together...Developing a good plan is Key...

- Response to Community Vision Survey (June)

Public Involvement

- March 21st Engineering Roundtable
- April 18th Investment Summit
- April 19th Visioning Workshop
- May 13th Youth (HS) Engagement
- May 19th Sitnasuak Elder Committee
- June 1 – 30th Community Vision Survey

Youth Voices

What is your Vision for Nome's Future?

- “Preserving lands and culture while advancing economically and structurally”
- “Less people are on the streets, there are more housing opportunities”
- Thriving town with more than one major employer, lots of job opportunities and improvements to the town. A clean and busy front street, and more small businesses.
- “Cleaned up, culturally grounded”
- “Better roads”

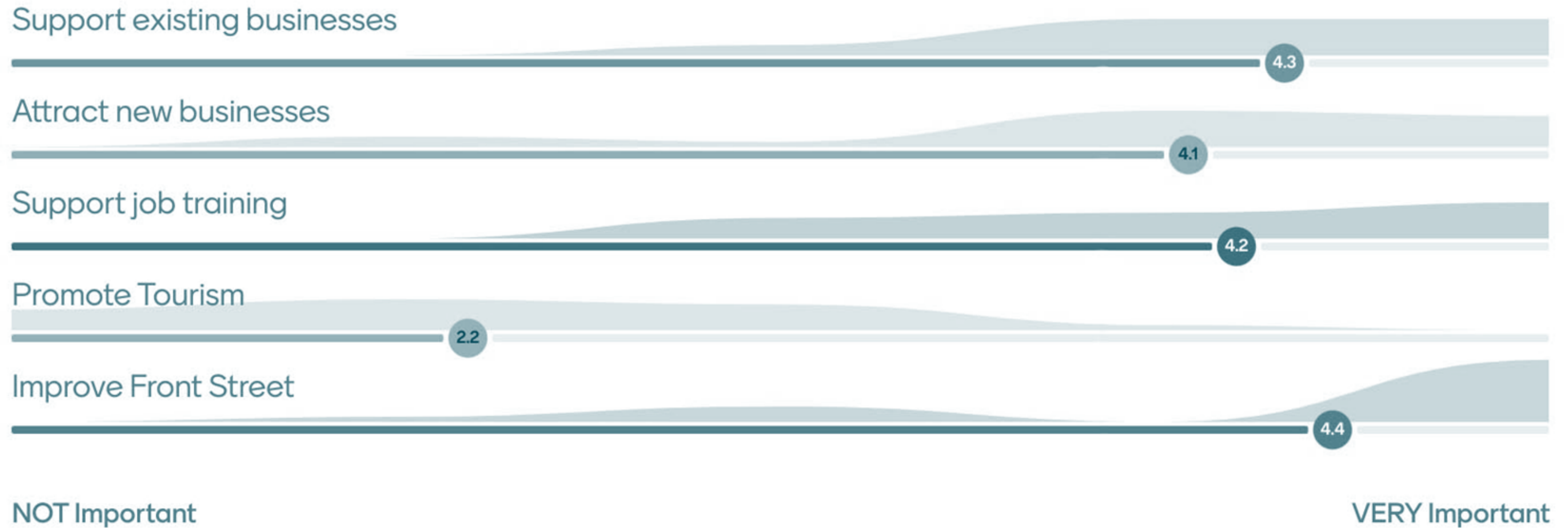
Youth Voices

What Values are most Important to you?



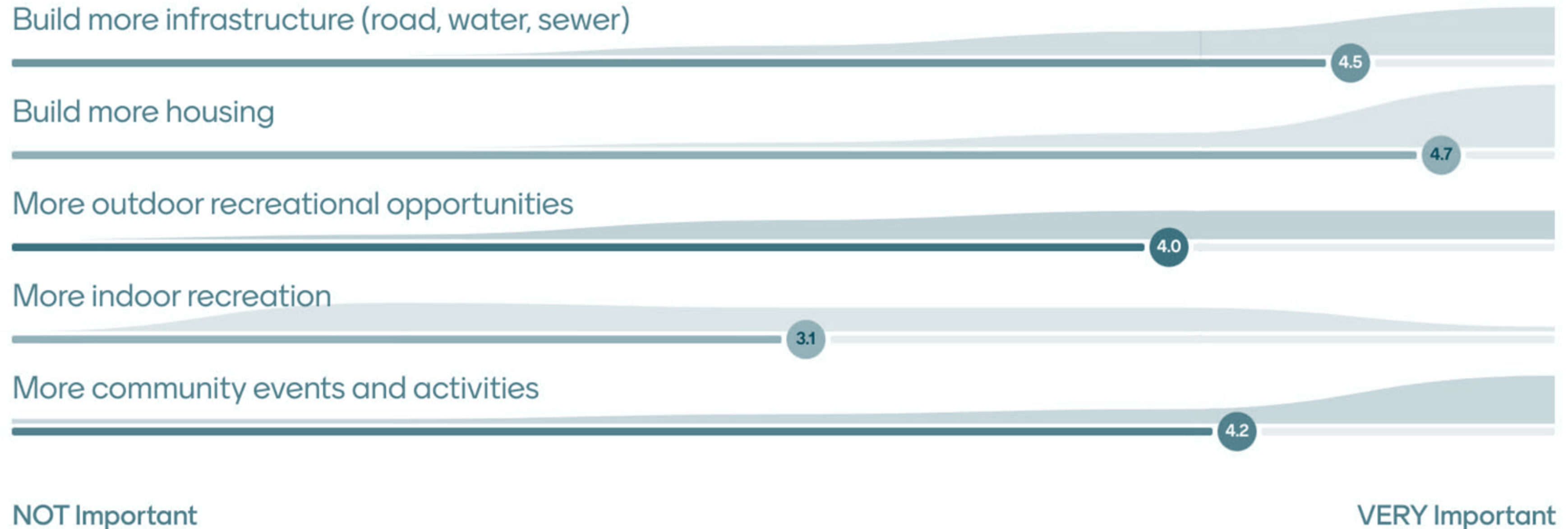
Youth Voices

How Important is it for the City to focus on...



Youth Voices

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Community Vision Survey



- Online Survey open June 1st through 30th
- 13 Open-ended questions
- 60+ Responses
 - _ 77% live in the City of Nome, 8% from broader region
 - _ 59% have lived in Nome 21+ years, 11% less than 5 years
 - _ Over 75% between the ages of 35 and 64 years old

What You Told Us!

Residents overwhelmingly emphasized the need for **housing development**, as well as **economic diversification**, and **improved infrastructure**.

These aspirations were paired with a strong desire to maintain Nome's **close-knit community, natural beauty, subsistence and cultural values**.

“We need to plan for growth and development while preserving what makes Nome special.”

- Survey Respondent

What is your Vision for Nome's Future?

Affordable &
Diverse Housing
(45)

Small Business Support
& Economic
Diversification
(23)

Community
Amenities
(19)

Workforce
Training
(15)

Downtown
Beautification, Clean,
Safe community
(14)

Education & Childcare
(10)

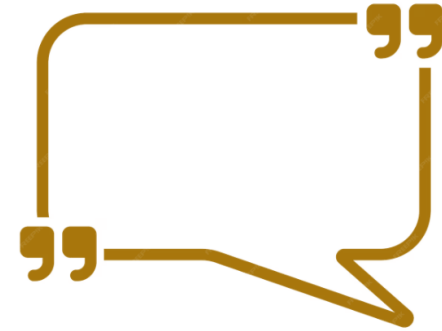
Infrastructure, Roads,
Services
(9)

Leadership &
Collaboration
(7)

Tourism (6)

Environmental Stewardship
(6)

Affordable & Diverse Housing



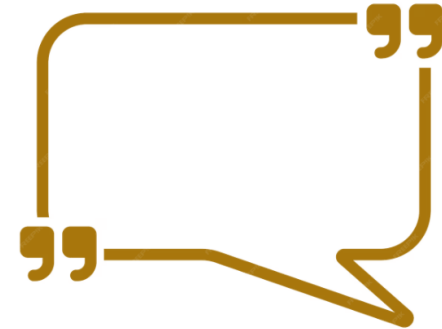
Residents envision a future where everyone has access to **safe, affordable housing**—whether new construction, renovated properties, or expanded rental options.

“More housing. Can’t retain employment or grow anything else if there's nowhere to live.”

“MORE HOUSING!!!!”

“...how is it going to grow if the community is already in a housing crisis? People just going to live at their jobs? “

Small Business Support



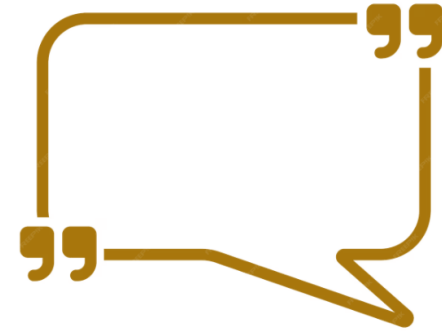
Nome is a thriving hub of economic activity with diverse opportunities—**supporting small businesses and local entrepreneurship.**

“I'd like to see more small businesses develop as the port expands. i.e., small tour companies specializing in birding, guiding, fishing, camping, trips or excursions.”

“Provide affordable space and exposure for small businesses.”

“Hard to believe we don't have a Mexican restaurant.”

Community Amenities



Residents desire a more **walkable, bikeable Nome** with trails, parks, and safe public spaces for recreation, health, and connection to nature.

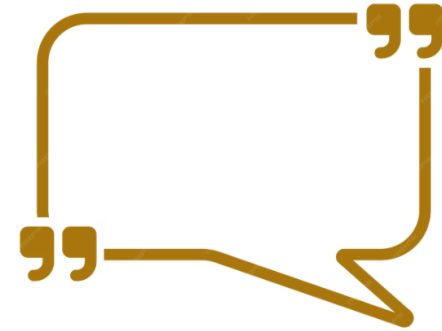
“Improved walking/bike riding opportunities through developing a comprehensive trail network...”

“Can we sponsor more visible art in our community like murals or sculptures?”

“A new WELCOME TO NOME sign... that accurately represents indigenous people of the land.”

Downtown Beautification

People imagine a cleaner, more attractive Nome that feels welcoming to residents and visitors alike.



“Cleaner. Brighter. More attractive... a beautification of Nome, not just Front St., would be amazing.”

“Lots of junk and it detracts from business and morale.”

What are the Biggest Barriers to Economic Development?

- Housing Shortage
- Cost of Living
- Infrastructure
- City Governance Issues
- Workforce & Labor Pool
- Population Turnover
- Education System Gaps
- Land Access and Zoning
- Mental health, Substance Use
- External Dependence

What are Your Priorities for Economic Growth?

01 Housing

02 Small Businesses
Support

03 Workforce
Training

03* Tourism &
Hospitality

04 Utilities, Infrastructure,
Cost of Living

04* Downtown Revitalization

05 Port Expansion

Additional Takeaways

Residents want Nome's future to **reflect and celebrate its Indigenous heritage**, with **strong collaboration** between the City, Tribes, and organizations.

“More culture represented in everyday places... I love the NSHC art walk with the animals on the telephone poles.”

“City collaborating with the four Nome-based Tribes to create a vision for Nome...”

“Stronger cooperation between the organizations.”

Immediate Next Steps – SWOT Analysis

Strengths

Current advantages the community can promote and build from.

Weakness

Challenges the community acknowledges and can work to address.

Opportunities

Positive future considerations to prepare for and pursue.

Threats

Potential negative future considerations the community can mitigate, if possible.

Immediate Next Steps – Working Groups:

Invite Small Groups to Advise on Strategies, Objectives, and Implementation

Tourism

- Museum
- Chamber
- Nome Arts Council
- Financial Lender
- Tour Operator
- Hospitality Businesses
- Cultural Tourism

Workforce Development

- City
- UAF Northwest Campus
- Bering Strait Native Corp.
- Kawerak
- Nome Job Center
- NACTEC
- Norton Sound Health Corp.

Small Business Support

- AK SBDC
- Kawerak
- Chamber
- Small Business Owners
- Financial Lender
- NSEDC

Infrastructure (in development)

- City
- Tribes
- State of Alaska
- Regional Org's
- Private Sector

Sub-Committees:
Transportation
Housing
Water / Sewer

Topics for Discussion

- Feedback on what we've presented so far? Are there things you agree/disagree with? What are we missing?
- How do you want to be involved?
- Who else do we need to reach out to?
- What can we do to make this process successful – for the City, Community Members, and Businesses?

Thank You!

Questions / Feedback

Project Contacts



Megan Onders

Assistant City Manager for Economic Development

MOnders@NomeAlaska.org



Stephanie Queen

Project Consultant

StephanieQueenConsulting@gmail.com
