

# UMBT STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN - BUSINESS SURVEY

This survey is sponsored by the Upper Mount Bethel Township Economic Development Committee, which is in the process of creating a strategy for economic success in UMBT. The final plan will represent a vision of UMBT's economic future, highlighting a set of prioritized short and long-term goals and objectives.

The strategies will be shaped by a community vision for economic growth and driven by detailed steps for completion of each objective. Please share your opinions and perceptions about the UMBT business climate, infrastructure, education, commercial opportunities, village center(s), and more.

Once the survey information has been disseminated, the EDC will base our strategies on the outcomes, which will be discussed in a future open meeting of the EDC. All participating businesses will be urged to attend.

To ensure that the EDC can accurately assess the business and market conditions in the region, it is very important to submit only one survey per participant. Please complete and submit this questionnaire only once.

***Thank you for your time!***

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## ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

**Your Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

***What industry sector would you say your company falls under?***

- Energy & energy services
- Business / advisory services
- Government / public sector
- Real estate development / construction
- Manufacturing
- Financial services
- Information & communications technology
- Tourism / hospitality / restaurant
- Education
- Culture and arts
- Film or television
- Community-based organization
- Transportation and logistics
- Retail
- Health and wellness
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

***How many people, including yourself, work for your company? Please include both full-time and part-time employees in your total.***

- 1 - 10 employees
- 11 - 25 employees
- 26 - 50 employees
- 50+ employees
- Unsure/refuse to answer

***Right now, today, what are the top three issues confronting your business?***

- Cost of doing business
- Economy
- Human resources
- Financing / investment
- Government
- Market competitiveness
- Oil & gas prices
- Social services
- Real estate / housing
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Unsure

***Which of these best describes your current workforce situation for the next 12 months?***

- Hiring
- Maintaining staff levels
- Reducing staff
- Unsure

***Is your company planning to make any large business or capital expenditures in the next 12 months?***

- Approved for next 12 months
- Being reviewed
- On hold for next 12 months
- Unsure

***Thinking about your own business, do you expect it to slow down, stay the same or grow in the next twelve months?***

- Grow more
- Slow down
- Stay about the same
- Unsure

***Thinking about your own industry or sector, has the economic downturn mostly had a positive impact, a negative impact or no impact?***

- Positive impact
- Negative impact
- No impact
- Unsure

## **UMBT BUSINESS CLIMATE**

***How large an impact do you feel the economic downturn had on the UMBT economy?***

- Major impact
- Minor impact
- Moderate impact
- Unsure

**How would you rate UMBT's overall business climate?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**How would you rate UMBT's environment for retaining and expanding existing businesses?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**Please briefly describe three threats and three opportunities that confront the UMBT community in its economic development efforts.**

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**How would you rate UMBT for each of the following aspects as a location for business expansion and/or investment?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • High quality of life  | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Suitable # of flights from local airports for business              | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Large enough population base for our business                       | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Strong & suitable communications / technology infrastructure        | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Access to post/sec. education & professional development            | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Appeals to organizations as a good place to do business             | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Skilled labor force can support business expansion                  | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Strong/growing economy suitable for business expansion / investment | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • High degree of consumer confidence                                  | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Competitive tax rates   | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Wide amount of access to venture capital/ financing                 | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Great deal of international awareness                               | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Wide availability of cost effective utilities                       | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Diverse economy for overall business expansion /investment          | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Road and transit infrastructure meets the needs of business         | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • There is a low cost of doing business                               | Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> |

**How would you rate the following aspects as challenges to business expansion and/or investment in UMBT?**

- Lack of economic diversification Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Lack of jobs / unemployment Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Global economic slowdown / recession Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Lack of growth / stimulation of industry Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Inflation / cost of living / affordability Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Uncertainty over gas drilling / fossil fuels Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Economic recovery / stability Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Global / commodity pricing Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Lack of diversification from outside energy Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Business confidence Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- High oil & gas prices Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Value of the US dollar Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Interest rate increases Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Lack of infrastructure plan / vision Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Public transportation / lack of Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Urban sprawl / expanding footprint Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Infrastructure (unspecified) Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Traffic congestion Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Road infrastructure Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- High fees for utility / public services Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Environmental constraints Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure
- Permitting/Regulation requirements Agree  Disagree  Neutral  Unsure

**In your opinion, what resources are available for providing assistance in business development and entrepreneurship in UMBT?**

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**In your opinion, what additional resources are needed?**

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## INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND USE

**How would you rate the condition of the following infrastructure areas in UMBT?**

	Excellent	Adequate	Inadequate	Don't know
Roads				
Rail				
Water				
Sanitary sewer				
Storm water or drainage mitigation				
Gas				
Electricity				
Broadband access				

***In your opinion, what would your priorities be for infrastructure improvements in UMBT?***

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***How would you describe the availability of vacant space under roof for industrial use in UMBT?***

- Excellent
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Don't know

***How would you describe the availability of vacant space under roof for non-industrial business (office space) use in UMBT?***

- Excellent
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Don't know

***How would you describe the availability of Greenfield sites (undeveloped land) served by infrastructure for industrial or non-industrial business (office space) development in UMBT?***

- Excellent
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Don't know

***How would you rate UMBT's retail and commercial shopping opportunities?***

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

***Could you describe any specific deficiencies to UMBT's retail and commercial shopping?***

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***How would you rate your community's village center business climate?***

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**How would you rate UMBT's signage?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**In your opinion, where is there a need for more signage in UMBT?**

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## EDUCATION RELATED TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**How would you rate the schools K through 12 in UMBT and surrounding areas?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**How would you rate post/secondary training opportunities in the UMBT and surrounding areas?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**How would you rate the following workforce characteristics in UMBT?**

	Excellent	Adequate	Inadequate	Don't know
Basic skill levels				
Attitude toward lifelong learning				
Work ethic				

**Based on the existing available workforce, how would you rate UMBT's attractiveness for new employers?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

**In your opinion, what types of businesses would you like to see open in the UMBT area?**

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***What would you like your community to look like in the next 10 years?***

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***Other Comments:***

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***We appreciate your comments!***