

Infrastructure First

PROJECT

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help fund statewide economic development planning. As part of the application process, GOED identified and chose to focus on economic development infrastructure planning. *Note: This grant will not be used for construction, just planning.*

GOED is tagging this EDA Planning Grant as the "Infrastructure First Project" and has selected ISG Inc. to help with this statewide infrastructure planning. Ultimately, we hope this planning will lay the groundwork for future economic development success locally, regionally, and statewide.

The scope of work includes the following areas:

1. Develop a statewide economic development plan focused on infrastructure improvements that considers any existing local, regional, and tribal plans. This plan will include detailed information for water, wastewater, natural gas, railroad, road, electric, and broadband internet infrastructure. Each of those sections will provide an overview of the current systems within South Dakota, an understanding of the capacity and constraints of these systems, and the identification of potential solutions and projects that will set the stage for economic growth.
2. The identification of 16 of the best sites in South Dakota for future economic development along with an analysis of their existing infrastructure and plans for future infrastructure enhancements. These sites will be selected from across the state, by data-driven economic development analysis. The analysis of these sites will include a review of nearby infrastructure capabilities and the associated cost estimates for upgrades and extensions to the proposed sites to make them more suitable for economic growth and shovel ready for development. The analysis for each site will include water, wastewater, natural gas, railroad, road, electric, and broadband internet infrastructure.
3. The creation of five-year capital improvement plans for 16 communities, selected from across the state, to properly plan for large capital expenditures including infrastructure. They will set the stage for well-planned economic growth in these communities. The plans will be created in partnership with the city councils or their designees in each of the communities. The capital improvement plans for each site will consider all infrastructure including water, wastewater, natural gas, railroad, road, electric, and broadband internet infrastructure. Cities will apply through GOED website on a first-come-first-serve basis and will have qualifying factors.

Throughout this process, ISG and GOED will work in collaboration with planning districts, cities, EDOs, and other stakeholders. The project is expected to take approximately 12 months. At the conclusion of the project, GOED will have a more granular understanding of statewide infrastructure strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, particularly as they may relate to attraction or expansion of major industrial users in different regions of the State.