

# Getting Fit For The Future Economy

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2012 Summit: The Role of Cities in a Global Economy

Public Private Partnerships

November 28, 2012



#### **Broadband And Economic Growth**

- The Internet is growing very fast
   Video is: dominant now; 93% of perception; key to trust
- Broadband is a key foundation for 21<sup>st</sup> economic growth
   Because it expands communications and collaboration that is
   necessary to create new ideas, services and products which is
   what grows the economy and makes people wealthier
- Every dollar invested in broadband expands the economy by ten dollars
- Broadband is not just for tech jobs
   Consider the stories from rural Nova Scotia
- Not everyone needs to own a computer
   Broadband can be made available in community centers and libraries and on cell phones

### Future Economic Trends For Cities: Challenges And Opportunities

- Cities have been the centers of production
   Because proximity led to collaboration and communications
- Many more people will be able to move where they want and still make a good living – often from a home office
- Commercial real estate is threatened by a reduction in the need for office space per employee
  - But any place can now be used to work, live, shop, learn
- Physical business clusters are diminishing in importance
- The Internet enables easy collaboration across distance as only major corporations used to do
  - Think Wikipedia vs. Encyclopedia Britannica
  - Big companies no longer offer thousands of new jobs in one place

#### Not Yet Today, But By 2030

- A world of high quality visual communication and easy collaboration everywhere, enabling anyone anywhere to virtually meet anyone else anywhere else
- The laws of economics do not change
  - But physical proximity will no longer be the only or dominant way to connect people

Invest today to be in a position to compete in the future

## Some Aspects Of A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economic Strategy For Cities

- Economic "gardening" instead of "hunting"
   Shift from large companies to small dynamic teams of individuals
   Focus on people, not projects nor real estate
- Increasing income and making a living, not just "jobs"
  - #1. Organize online learning to increase people's income potential
- Connect residents to the global economic ecosystem

Its services, capital, customers

And open innovation

Goal: Leapfrog earlier "winners"



### The Changing Nature Of Public/Private Partnerships

- PPPs are not just about industrial era infrastructure
   Also broadband (at least conduit) and sensors
   Social bonds "pay for success"
- The Internet breaks down borders between public and private sectors – and makes possible a new kind of PPP Public services are not provided just by government workers The P in PPP is no longer just a profit-making corporation Social entrepreneurship Peer-to-peer delivery of public services
- Role reversal: government provides business services to the emerging private sector, not just money/incentives
   Even libraries can become business research arms for people



### **Thank You!**

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