

March 27, 2026 Update for Local and Small Business Engagement

ITEM	Description	Point of Contact	Update
	<b>SHORT TERM</b>		
1	Make advertising available to the small business community on Atomic City Transit busses, both local and the Bandelier route.	LAC - Economic Development Staff (Eli Isaacson, Elyn Felton, Anita Barela)	The County's Business Directory was advertised to all businesses in Los Alamos with a business license to get signed up. Responses from businesses have been positive. The plan is to start advertising the directory in the busses, and many more locations, to the public in April.
2	Provide clear information about how to start a business in Los Alamos County and provide a clear point of contact to help. Create an outline of who is working on ED, and what their specific roles are and how to contact them.	LAC - Economic Development Staff (Eli Isaacson, Anita Barela)	Development handbook information has been updated on County website. LACDC and others have been asked to provide feedback. Here is a link to the webpage: <a href="https://www.losalamosnm.gov/Doing-Business/Development-Information-Handbook">https://www.losalamosnm.gov/Doing-Business/Development-Information-Handbook</a>
3	Track the timelines for LEDA and MRA applications closely and minimize turnaround times.	LAC - Economic Development Staff (Eli Isaacson, Anita Barela)	Included as a separate attached document with the CMO Monthly report.
4	Openings, closings and sales of local businesses, gaps, and available lands for development or redevelopment should all be tracked and regularly reported.	LACDC	LACDC is working on reporting this information on their website and, when it is ready, it will also be a link from the County's Economic Development webpages.
	<b>LONGER TERM</b>		
1	Recent changes to Retail LEDA are a great start. We need advocacy with legislature on this and anti-donation.	Intergovernmental Affairs Manager (Danielle Duran) and Council's Local and Regional Working Group with input from Economic Development staff and LACDC	Currently there is not an active legislation session nor an identified sponsor.
2	Consider the developable land on mesa in SF County east of East Gate Drive and other lands owned by Los Alamos County in Pueblo Canyon	Community Development Director Eli Isaacson	Meetings were held with Santa Fe County development staff. Annexation or rezoning is a longer term process and will require ongoing meetings toward developing a formal proposal for Santa Fe County to take to their governing body for consideration.
3	Why are the pads at Smiths Marketplace not being developed yet? Kroger is still paying ground lease to schools, but we would like to see that space developed. This is not on the Assessor's list of vacant property. Is there a mechanism for County to get that land developed? We understand that Columbus Capital is currently engaged with Kroger regarding a sub-lease.	TBD	Inquiries made to the commercial realtor have gone unanswered. County has heard there is developer interest for developing these sites, but no formal deal or confirmation yet. Staff will continue to check in periodically.
4	Consider engaging with local economic development professional groups like LACDC to help review the Retail LEDA applications. Could Council see all applications and not just the ones that are recommended by County Staff?	N/A	No further actions or updates. LACDC Boards prefers to be an advocate for applicants and staff will bring forward participation agreements when they meet the requirements of the LEDA state law and local ordinance.
5	Continue partnering with Cities Work to review County processes. Coalition members brought up stacking of permits, which seems to happen for large projects, but not smaller ones. Could they also review Retail LEDA process and give suggestions?	N/A	No change since December 2025 update. Despite County staff reaching out often, no written report has been provided by Cities Work.
6	Is it possible or feasible to hire plumbing & electrical inspectors for Los Alamos County? This step seems to hold up progress of small businesses opening because we are so remote.	N/A	No change since December 2025 update which was: <i>There are a few instances where the state inspectors took longer than the County to respond, however there likely isn't enough work volume to add additional staff. This concept could be explored and discussed further at the 2027 budget hearings in April 2026.</i>
7	Consider monument signs that businesses slip their own signage into.	LACDC - MainStreet Program	LACDC MainStreet is engaging with businesses on this concept for further development as part of their FY2027 workplan.
8	Our Change of Use process needs to be more transparent and faster. How can we improve this?	Economic Development staff and LACDC	This information has been embedded in outreach and trainings provided to businesses.
9	Is there a way to create a sense of urgency with regard to developing tourism to support and expand the local business community?	County Staff (Linda Matteson, Dave Krueger, Elyn Felton)	The Tourism Working Group gave an update to Council on March 17th. Here is a link to the presentation: <a href="https://losalamos.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7949251&amp;GUID=AF621A87-CE82-4B68-A31C-50E4DE97A491&amp;Options=&amp;Search=">https://losalamos.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7949251&amp;GUID=AF621A87-CE82-4B68-A31C-50E4DE97A491&amp;Options=&amp;Search=</a>
10	The local procurement forum held by staff should be monitored and metrics tracked relative to the amount of business procured locally.	County Procurement, Budget and Finance staff	Dollar amount of County procurements with local businesses will be included as part of the County's calendar year 2026 online dashboard.
11	Look for ways to facilitate professional services (architects, engineers, grant writers etc.) needed local businesses.	N/A	No change since December 2025 which was: <i>This is a topic County staff have discussed with LACDC. Outside of LEDA and MRA or an affordable housing development with a development agreement with the County defining the public participation dollars and benefits, anti-donation is a barrier. SBC and Los Alamos MainStreet can connect businesses with state and federal grant opportunities when they arise.</i>