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"The original 125 members of the Business Roundtable were given a two-year mandate to chart Oakland County's economic course for the future and the achieved amazing results," Patterson said. "Of the 142 recommendations submitted by the group, 40 percent have been or are in the process of being implemented. We promised at the very outset that their work would not be left to gather dust on some shelf and it hasn't been."

Patterson credited the first Roundtable's with major accomplishments such as the "One Stop Shop" for business development, the implementation of an

electronic marketing plan to attract new business, the opening of the Export Assistance Center and the aggressive promotion of the Oakland County International Airport as a gateway to the corridors of commerce around the globe.

Stemple and Russi will oversee the progress of the Roundtable's committees. The committees and their chairs are:

- Transportation Committee, chaired by Oakland County Road Commission Director Brent Bair, will address road, rail, air and telecommunications issues.
- Infrastructure and Land Use Committee, chaired by Kirko

Development President Alan Kiriluk, will deal with sewer, water and land development items.

- Economic Development Committee, chaired by Corvus International President Timothy Morris, will handle business retention and expansion and entrepreneurial support.
- International Trade Committee, chair not yet confirmed, will handle export development.
- Work Force and Education Committee, chaired by Kelly Services President Terence Addeley, will address career preparation, school-to-work and job training issues.
- Quality of Life Committee,

chaired by SOC Credit Union Councilman Eldon Thompson, will look at housing, environment, parks and recreation and quality of life items.

Each of the committee will be charged with reviewing, prioritizing and insuring that the original recommendations are implemented. In addition, the committees will be responsible for monitoring and identifying new issues which can be developed into recommendations submitted to the county executive.

At least 18 staff people from five county departments have been assigned to help the committees.

The full Business Roundtable is expected to meet annually. Committees set their own schedules, but are expected to meet every two months. The board of directors, which includes the Stemple and Russi as well as the six committee chairs, will meet quarterly.

Russi said one of the most important tasks of the permanent Roundtable is to see that original recommendations are implemented.

"The exciting part of this for me is the implementation. We have the vision, but we need to do something with it," Russi said.



Co-chair Stemple

Recommendations from page C1

Foreign trade

- Adopt a proactive role in export development by establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the separate segment of Oakland County government within the Economic Development Department which deals with promoting and supporting export issues and opportunities for Oakland County based companies. (Pontiac Export Assistance Center.)
- Establish a new position for a Business Development Representative, who will focus on international trade. This individual will be located at the Pontiac Export Assistance Center to coordinate with our state and federal colleagues.
- Establish a foreign Free Port and Trade Zone within Oakland County. These tax-advantaged facilities generally include storage, re-packing, inspection, exhibition, assembly, manufacturing and other processing.
- Help Oakland County manufacturers aware of the services provided by the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC) and similar service providers.
- Co-sponsor seminars and workshops with MMTC, Oakland Community College, Oakland University, Lawrence Technological University and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and other similar service providers.
- Establish an environment in which emerging technologies can more easily be "discovered" and/or applications derived.

Finance and venture capital

- Establish an ongoing finance and venture capital council to monitor and assist in implementation of initiatives, recruitment, and provide a mechanism for business networking.

Small business initiatives

- The county should assist private entrepreneurs to develop a manufac-

turing incubator for job creation.

- The county should extend the retailing assistance program from the Woodward Corridor to other downtown and retailing groups.
- The county should develop multimedia communications for the Business Roundtable's recommendations.

Labor force preparedness

- An ongoing partnership of business, education and government in Oakland County should be formed.
- "School-To-Work" programs should reach every student in Oakland County.
- Transit providers should improve service to major employment centers in Oakland County.
- Oakland County government should assist business in recruiting outside our area to fill skilled labor shortages which exist in Oakland County.

Higher education collaboration

- Establish the Oakland County Research and Development Consortium to link business and education.
- Discussions have been held with the Southeast Michigan Alliance for Advance Manufacturing (SEMAM) to explore the potential of using SEMAM as a basis for the Research and Development Consortium or as a Higher Education Center for Technology Transfer.
- Form a CEO Collaboration Council to promote collaboration between business and education.
- Meetings have been held with the School-To-Work staff to discuss development of a database for internship and work study opportunities.

Utilities / telecommunications

- Establish expertise at the county level to help interpret the Michigan Telecommunications Act for Oakland County.
- Implement remote electronic

access to Oakland County information become the "Networked County of America." Oakland County will continue to pursue state legislation during the 1998 session.

- Establish a district office in Oakland County of the newly created Environmental Assistance Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. (Discussions are ongoing.)
- Pursue the reorganization of the Detroit Water Board in order to form a truly representative regional advisory board that would participate in management of current infrastructure and planning of future requirements.

Economic development

- Create a county-wide "One-Stop-Shop" for economic development services.
- Create measures of customer satisfaction and capture this data from clients.
- Investigate the SBA Microloan and Low-Doc Programs in conjunction with local banks to gauge their usefulness in Oakland County.
- Seek methods of bringing more consistency in the utilization and administration of tax-exempt private activity bonds (TDAs).
- Support creation of a statewide community infrastructure (sewer, water, drain) fund, with grants and loans made on a competitive basis for job creation and capital investment projects.
- Support the County Road Association's "Funding for the Future" proposal to upgrade the area's transportation system.

Legislative advocacy

- Continue to support efforts that seek a suitable replacement for the Single Business Tax.
- Oakland county staff will continue to monitor legislation at the state and federal levels that affect the county's business climate and development

activities.

Quality of life

- New and advanced forms of communication technology should be explored in order to achieve the most effective delivery systems possible. (Discussions continue with the I-net Committee of TCI Cable.)
- Mature housing rehabilitation, preservation and the consolidation of various community development groups within the county is an ongoing priority and vital to the county's continuing development and growth. The Oakland County CRA Association comprised of Oakland County financial institutions has been established to deal with mature housing rehabilitation and preservation.
- Low income housing is an issue that must continue to be a priority of Oakland County government.
- The County Executive's office should appoint a racial and ethnic coalition to begin bridging the gap between social and racial groups, to break down barriers of prejudice and mistrust, and to create a new understanding of the need to work together to improve the quality of life in the county for all its citizens. Oakland County's Community & Minority Affairs Director is addressing this matter.
- Identify health risk behaviors that are intrinsic to Oakland County, specific communities and/or individual populations.
- Create a self-help kit for groups and individuals that seek to put on an event in the county.
- Develop a county-level clearing-house for all area events at the county level.
- Provide Oakland County residents with easy access to a network of paved bike paths throughout the county.

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