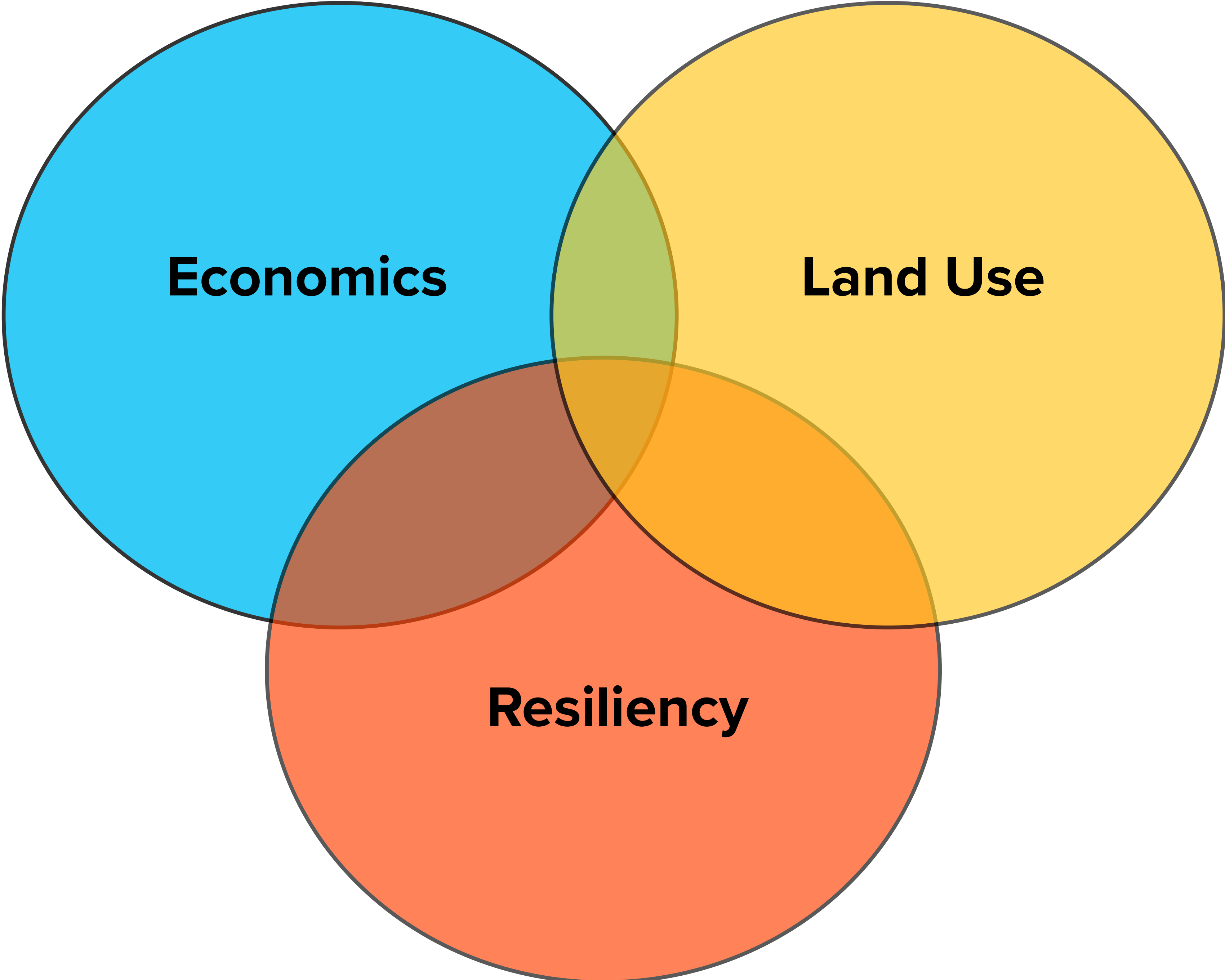


ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF THE MIDCOAST

Creating Economic Development Opportunities

Hi, I'm Dave





Economics

Land Use

Resiliency

BIG PICTURE GOALS

- **Job and economic development creation and retention**
 - **Build economic development opportunities for everyone**
- **Provide additional town revenue**
- **Deal with demographic issues affecting Maine and Knox County**
- **Become a favored place to live and not just vacation**
- **Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues/trends**

BIG PICTURE / HARD PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

TAXES

- Rethinking state/local tax mix
- Inland towns
- Tax reform
- Seasonal taxation

GOVERNANCE

- **Can small towns self-govern indefinitely?**
- **Does cost sharing, county or regional government make more sense?**
- **What are the benefits/disadvantages of town governance vs city governance?**
- **Are there towns that have made the shift to another form of governance?**

BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

REGIONAL VS LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

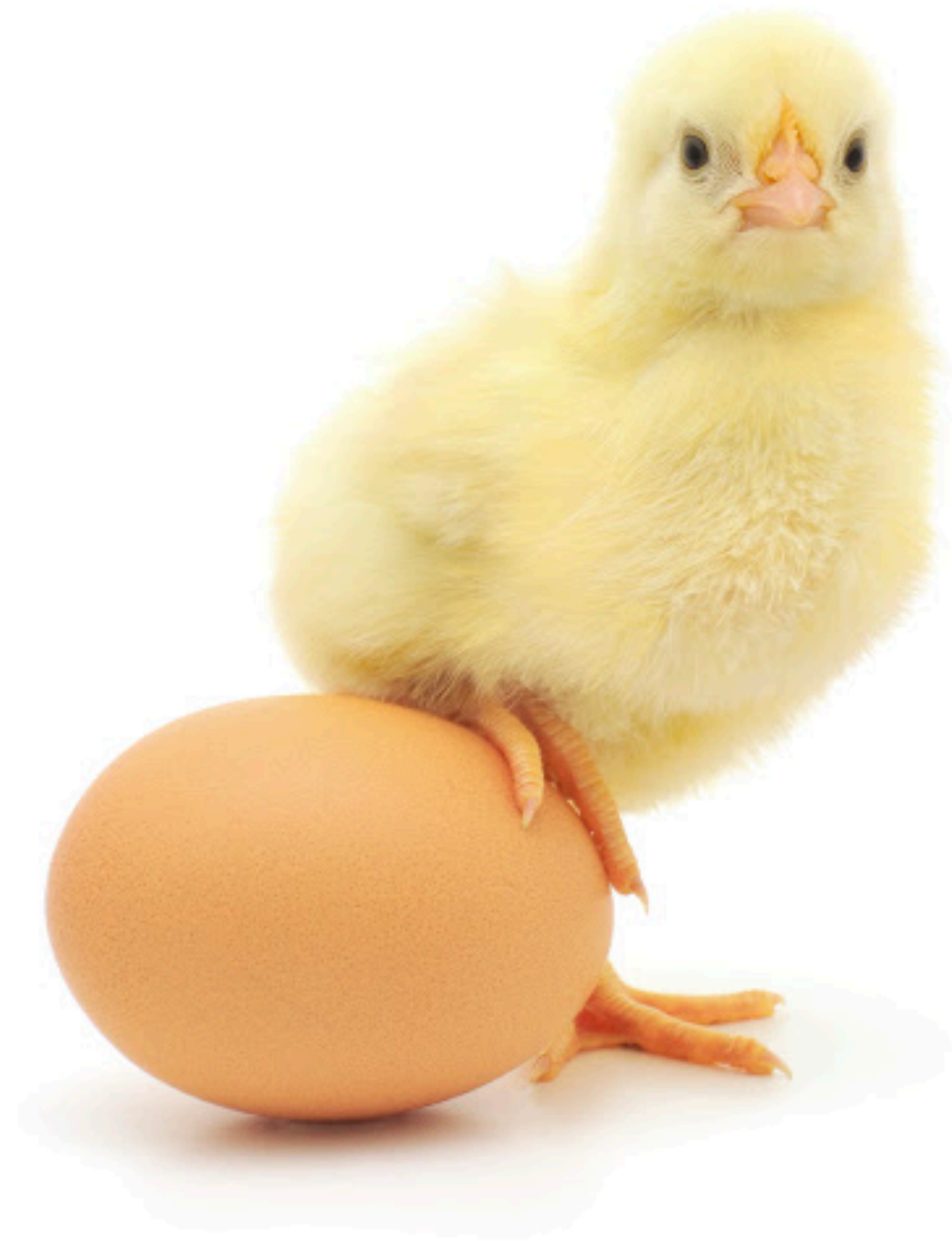
- **Rockport vs The Region**

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY

- **Regional planning**
- **Comprehensive planning and zoning changes**
- **Sanitary sewer availability**
- **Turning NIMBYISM to YIMBYISM**
- **Revisiting land conservation**
- **Attracting/growing skilled labor**

FOCUS AREAS

- **How to attract business and people to the area**
- **How to retain young people in the area**
- **Home grown business initiatives**
- **Middle income job creation**
- **Create recreation powerhouse attractor**
- **Focus on existing businesses and workforce**
- **Support local and regional agriculture**
- **Support local craftspeople**



HOW TO ATTRACT BUSINESS AND PEOPLE

- Marketing initiatives
- Housing availability
- Be remote friendly
 - Access and quality of broadband
 - Office space availability

HOW TO RETAIN YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Develop an economy that works for young people**
- **Future of work will be online**
- **But we also need to make trades cool and a viable alternative**

HOME GROWN BUSINESS INITIATIVES

- Possible 3 of many tracks
 - Tech startups (high growth/high job creators)
 - Grow business opportunities based off local natural resource base or skills present (i.e. fisheries, boatbuilding, aquaculture, small scale craftspersons (woodworking, fabrication, etc)
 - Provide opportunities/assistance for general, small business startups (restaurants, retail services, small batch production)

CREATE RECREATION POWERHOUSE ATTRACTOR

- Borrow playbook of other small towns who have capitalized on their surrounding and build outdoor recreational opportunities - give people a reason to relocate
 - This spurs additional add-on benefits
 - More service workers to staff hospitality
 - Businesses are naturally created
 - To service the tourism sector
 - And as an outgrowth of like-minded, educated people moving to the area for quality of life and recreational opportunities

QUESTIONS?