



**The Economic Development Corporation of Lawrence and Douglas County**

July 30, 2024

**Lawrence Land Development Code**

The EDC sent a letter of support with recommended changes to the Planning Commission on July 26. The letter is attached to the email you received with this update.

The letter to the Planning Commission indicates:

1. Support of the technical requests of the LHBA.
2. Request all administrative procedures to have associated time frames.
3. Request all administrative timeframes be reviewed and adopted annually by a public body.
4. Request all applications be deemed complete or not within 5 business days of receipt.
5. Request applications not be held up for minor technicalities
6. Request applications be “deemed: approved if staff fails to meet their timeline.

Thank you to Bobbie Flory, Joe Terick, Joe Flanery, and Mark Gonzales for their valuable input into our position.

The Planning Commission will be taking public comments on the Land Development Code at each meeting through September when they will vote on the code. Please take time to submit comments or testify in person. We will send updates if anything appears to change from what we know right now.

Future Planning Commission Meeting dates:

- August 14, (mid-month meeting 7:30 AM)
- August 26, 6:30 PM
- August 28, 6:30 PM
- September 11, (mid-month meeting 7:30 AM)
- September 23, 6:30 PM
- September 25, 6:30 PM (anticipated vote)

**Lawrence Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2025**

The EDC sent a letter of Support to the Planning Commission on July 18. The letter is attached to the email you received with this update. The key point made by the brief letter is that this CIP will lead to growth in Industrial, Commercial, and Residential markets. This will help

Lawrence be a healthy well-balanced community. This CIP is a big win for development! Between the 2024 and 2025 CIPs funds are north of \$80 million for new development.

Thank you to Bobbie Flory, Mike McGrew, Kirsten Flory, and Mark Gonzales for their valuable input into our position.

The CIP will be heard again when the City Commission votes on the entire budget on September 3, 10 or 17. We will update everyone on the specific date once the agendas are published. We do not anticipate any changes at this point. We will send updates if anything appears to change from what we know right now.

### **Industrial Development Plan**

I am currently working on an Industrial Development White Paper. Major topics are Airport Development, LVP Development, other potential areas under 500 acres, and a future larger industrial park. I am looking at development areas, development costs, development obstacles, partners, and building construction.

### **Panasonic contacts**

As a reminder, the Panasonic VP of Supply Chain indicated we can reach out directly to him with questions. His name is Robert Winans [Robert.Winans@us.panasonic.com](mailto:Robert.Winans@us.panasonic.com).

For general PR purposes, you may contact Julie Sailors at [julie.sailors@us.panasonic.com](mailto:julie.sailors@us.panasonic.com)

To look at Panasonic job ads in Desoto, click this link: [Panasonic Careers: Find & Search Job Openings | Panasonic](#) You may need to select the company as Panasonic Energy North America to see Desoto Job.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can help.

Sincerely,



**Robin H. Richardson, AICP**

Douglas County Panasonic Opportunities Manager

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### **ABOUT THE PANASONIC UPDATE**

The update is sent periodically to those in the Lawrence and Douglas County EDC Panasonic Funding Group, those on the Lawrence and Douglas County EDC Panasonic Task Force and later posted on the EDC Panasonic web page [Panasonic - EDC Lawrence](#)

If you have comments or suggestions, please email Rob Richardson  
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