

| JANUARY 2025 |

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

| PRESENTED BY |  
BARBARA BREWER-WATSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

| PREPARED BY |  
DEVYN FORQUER  
LEONEL B. JARAMILLO



# NEW BUSINESS LICENSES

# DECEMBER 2024



Larry & Cathy Breeck [STR] 12/06

JM Construction K3 Corp. 12/06

Guardian Concepts LLC & Titan Tactical 12/13

Mr. Ficus Experience\* 12/13

Village Realty, Inc. 12/13

Wags To Riches 12/26

Rosewood Acres 12/26

**44 TOTAL TO DATE**

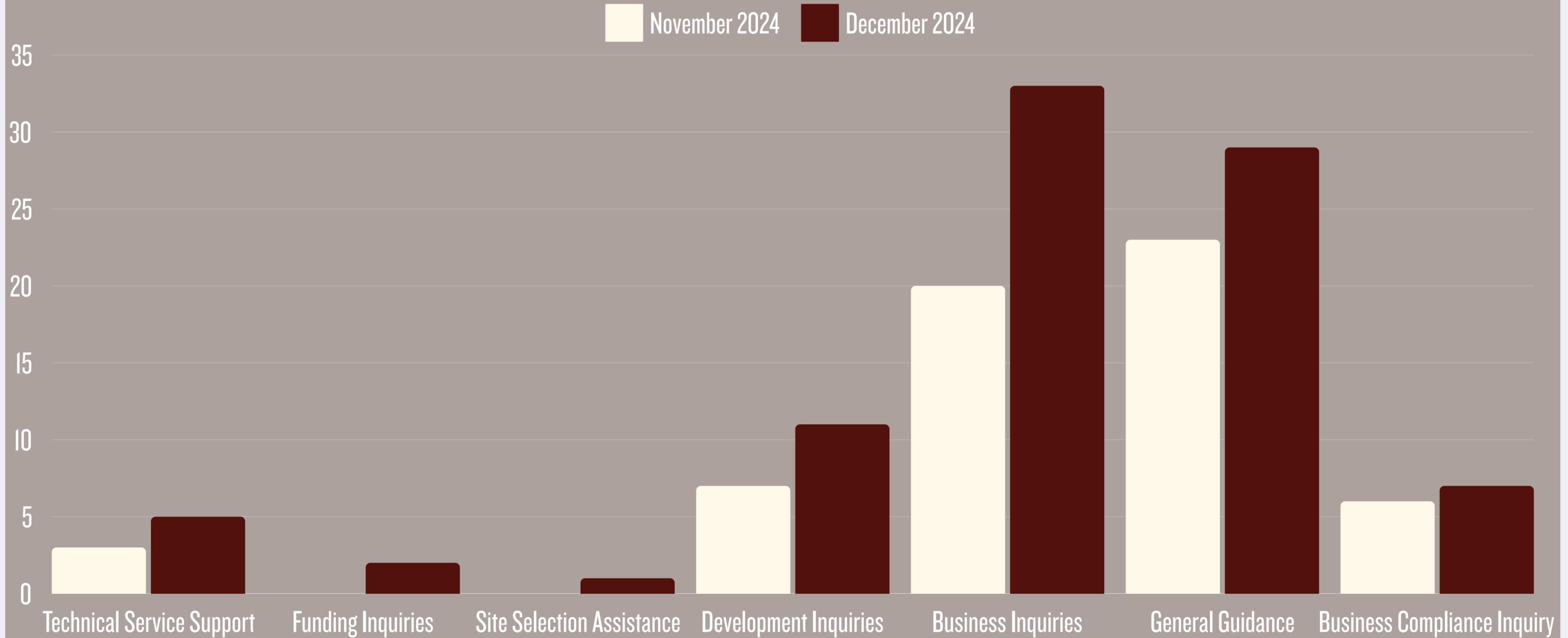
\*indicates home-based

**JM CONSTRUCTION**  
General Contractor

- Remodeling
- Construction
- Drywall
- Painting
- Flooring
- Framing
- Kitchens
- Basements
- Bathrooms



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NAVIGATOR REPORT



## | **DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES** |

16 NEW INQUIRIES

14 NEW BUSINESS - RETAIL x2,  
NONPROFIT x2, RESTAURANT,  
MECHANIC, FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
GROCERY/CONVENIENCE STORE, TATOO  
SHOP, LAUNDROMAT  
1 RELOCATION - BRADLEY  
1 OUT OF CITY - GRANT PARK

## | **NLC CIE COMMITMENT** |

Committing for a third year to NLC's  
City Innovations Ecosystem. Kankakee  
is committed to develop an operational  
strategy for the business incubator. We  
were awarded a \$15,000.00 grant in  
2023.



# ATTRACTION REPORT

## **NLC CIE COMMITMENT**

Committing for a fourth year to NLC's CIE program. Kankakee is committed to enhancing a network of entrepreneurial resource partners to accelerate small business goal attainment. We were awarded a \$15,000.00 grant in 2024.

## **RETENTION VISITS**

- Retention Visits for 2025 in planning process
- Monthly Goal includes visiting 1 Top Employer, 1 Restaurant/Food Establishment, 1 Home-Based Business, 1 Landlord/Realtor



# **RETENTION REPORT**

# PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE

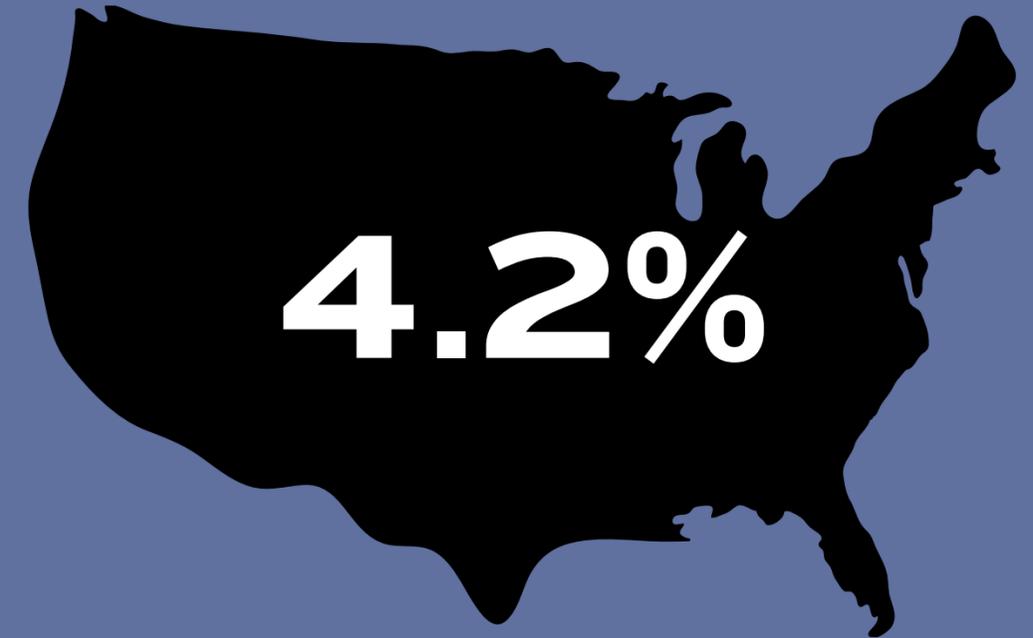
## | MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- YOUTUBE PAGE IS ACTIVE
- WEBSITE LIVE
- YEAR-END BUSINESS SURVEY - RECEIVED 3 REPLIES
- PLANNING LUNCH N' LEARNS & 2025 PARTNERSHIPS
- PLANNING 2025 RETENTION SOCIAL MEDIA (BREW)
- SOURCING/PRICING NEW SWAG
- LUNCHEON PLANNING - SAVE THE DATES, SPONSOR REQUEST LETTERS, PUBLIC SPONSOR REQUESTS, ETC.
  - MAILING SAVE THE DATES MID-FEBRUARY
- TAX WORKSHOP 2/4 & 2/20 - 6 SIGN UPS SO FAR
- KRS GROUNDBREAKING PHOTOS

# UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

## NOV 2024

LAST UPDATE FOR CITY AND COUNTY



7.5%



# KANKAKEE COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (KCCVB)

## | Board of Directors Meeting |

3rd Wednesday of each month | 4pm

Economic Alliance of Kankakee County Board Room

## | Executive Committee Meetings |

2nd Wednesday of each month | 9:30am

KCCVB Board Room

KCCVB City Representative  
Alderman Dave Baron



# KANKAKEE RIVERFRONT SOCIETY (KRS)

Priority notes from Executive Director, Bill Yohnka:

- Working on Community Fundraising Events
- New Goal: \$250,000.00 in fundraising

| Board of Director Meetings |  
2nd Tuesday of each month | 11am  
Meeting Locations Vary

**KRS City Representative**  
**Alderman Mike Cobbs**

**Barbi Watson is the Chairperson.**

**THE OUTREACH**  
**OF KANKAKEE**

# PRIORITIES

- **In-depth look at labor market dynamics in and around Kankakee County**
  - **Current labor supply**
  - **Workforce characteristics**
  - **Underemployment patterns**
  - **Commuting trends**
  - **Skills in high demand & surplus**

# KANKAKEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## DECEMBER 2024 MEETING NOTES:

- NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER
- PREPPING FOR 2025
  - 'COFFEE & CONNECTIONS' - REBRAND ON 'FIRST FRIDAYS'
  - COMMITTEES MEETING QUARTERLY - WORKFORCE & EDUCATION FIRST MEET 12/17

| MEETINGS |  
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

| COMMITTEES |  
WORKFORCE & EDUCATION:  
DEVYN (CO-CHAIR)  
DEI: LEO

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- DEC 11 - VISIT KANKAKEE COUNTY: RC
- DEC 18 - IVY REHAB: RC
- JAN (TBA) - WOMEN IN NETWORKING LUNCHEON

**AMBASSADORS: DEVYN & LEO**



# KANKAKEE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## NOV 2024

- ANNUAL MEETING
- PANEL DISCUSSION WITH 4 DOWNTOWN BUSINESS OWNERS
- DEC 2024 - EXEC BOARD MEETING ONLY

| MEETINGS |  
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

| MARKETING COMMITTEE |  
1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

## DEC 2024 MARKETING MEETING NOTES:

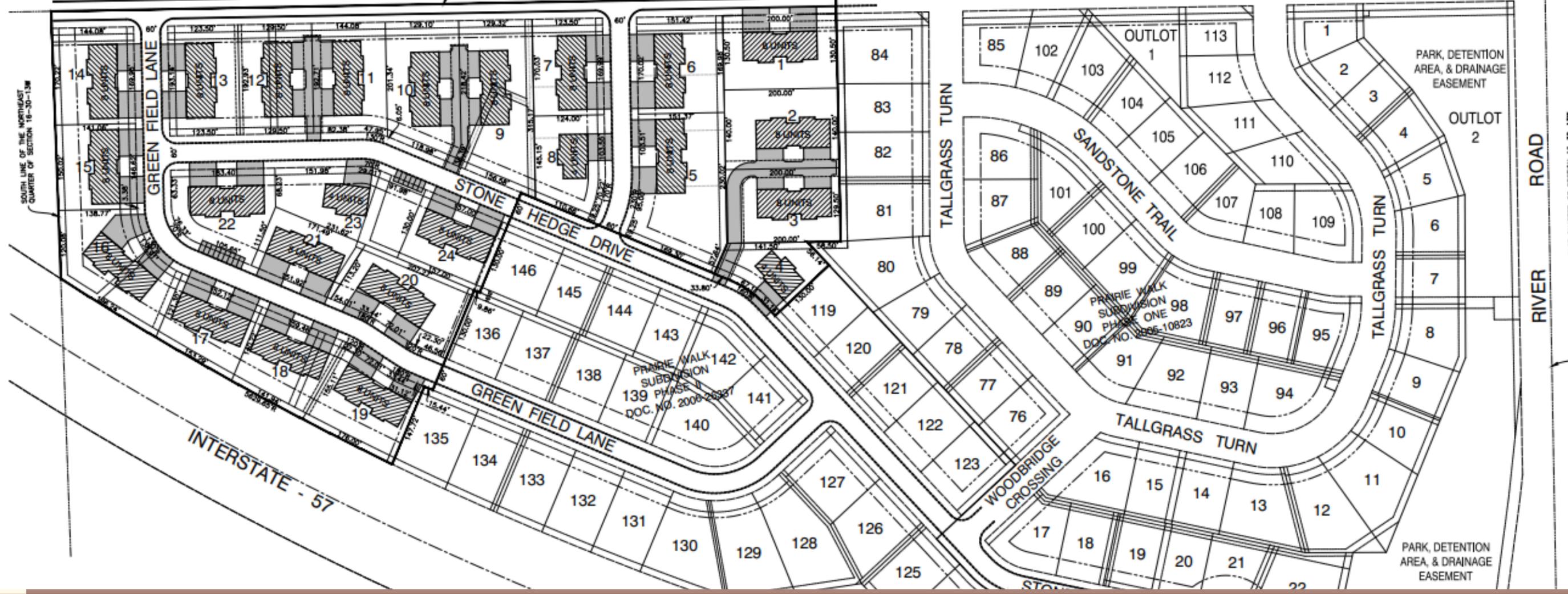
- NO MEETING - LION WREATHING & TREE LIGHTING EVENT



REPRESENTATIVES: DEVYN & LEO



# PROJECT UPDATES



## Harbor Place

Construction is nearing completion.

## Prairie Walk

Incentive request negotiations are ongoing.

## Veteran's Housing

Applications are being accepted via the Veterans Commission.

# HOUSING













# BUILDING, PLANNING, & COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

## |PRIORITY COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES|

|JAFFE DRUG| ON COURT STREET

|RIVERSTONE CONVENTION CENTER| PART OF PROJECT VENTURE

|SOUTHWEST| CORNER OF COURT STREET & SCHUYLER AVE

|1933 E. COURT ST| DEMO COMPLETE



400 N. BLOCK OF 5th AVE  
816 S. SCHUYLER AVE

# KEEP IN MIND

**RACIAL & ECONOMIC  
DISPARITIES**

**MOBILITY**

**AGING & OBSOLETE  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**SWIFTLY CHANGING  
TECHNOLOGY**

**DIVERSE & AGING  
POPULATION**