

to attract and retain employers, current employees, and recent graduates.

- ❖ The Chamber of Commerce and Southern Georgia Black Chambers should collaborate with city governments and commercial property owners to **develop a program allows established local business owners to use vacant and underutilized spaces at reduced fees**, especially in highly visible areas like downtowns.
- ❖ Economic development stakeholders should **assist eligible businesses in pursuing DBE certification and accessing contracting opportunities associated with transportation and infrastructure projects**.
- ❖ Local economic development entities should collaborate with GDOT, the Cities, and Lowndes County to **develop all exits in Lowndes County**.
- ❖ Relevant stakeholders should **consider recommendations to link small businesses, eateries, and other commercial venues with trails** to increase foot traffic.

Funding opportunities that should be considered

- ❖ **CDBG** (site development, downtown revitalization, job creation)
- ❖ **OneGeorgia Authority** (land grading, infrastructure, industrial site prep)
- ❖ **USDA Rural Development** (business, loan funds, job creation)