

NVT Industry Working Groups

Make-It / Ship-It

This working group is concerned with the building on the region's historic manufacturing and shipping strengths to build highroad economic opportunities. Leveraging existing highroad manufacturing activities, efforts will be made to develop production that integrates modern technology with traditional manufacturing processes while incorporating efficient shipping strategies. Through this focus, our region will develop an augmented advanced manufacturing strategy. While a guiding principle will be to create higher value products by reconceiving their design and production to enhance productivity, reduce and environmental impacts, this work will also recognize, and actively respond to, the need to build residents skills in this transition.

Building manufacturing in this manner will promote a transition from traditional manufacturing activities to processes that are augmented by robotics and other equipment to enhance the precision, consistency, and speed of production. As a regional economic development strategy, these advanced manufacturing opportunities will be purposefully considered to work and augment activities that are less easily changed from traditional manufacturing processes. Building a community of practice in this manner not only will workforce training be promoted, but so will integrating shipping. This inclusive consideration of shipping will allow regional supply chains and distribution networks to greater integrate production to reduce shipping times and costs.

Building regional logistics capabilities will leverage the entry level opportunities of the region's transportation and warehousing industry to expand employment in areas that require more specialized skills and thereby grow the number of family sustaining jobs in the region. These positions will also increase regional efficiencies, reduce costs, and ensure more timely deliveries. Moreover, purposeful development of more eco-friendly and sustainable shipping methods will further expand good job opportunities as well as create further potential efficiencies. The idea being that as shipping becomes more integrated with advanced technology and sustainable practices, it will not only provide better-paying jobs but also expand career pathways to family-sustaining employment.

Building health and well-being

This working group encompasses a wide range of activities centered around providing care and support services to individuals of all ages, with a particular focus on health, behavioral health, and child/elder care. It not only addresses the physical and emotional well-being of NSJV residents but also offers promising career pathways.

Healthcare Professionals: The carrying economy includes a broad spectrum of healthcare roles, such as doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and allied health professionals. These positions are critical for delivering medical care and ensuring the overall health of patients.

Behavioral Health Specialists: As awareness of mental health issues grows, so does the demand for behavioral health specialists, including psychologists, therapists, counselors, and social workers. They provide crucial support for individuals dealing with mental health challenges.

Childcare Providers: Childcare professionals, including early childhood educators and daycare workers, play a vital role in nurturing and educating young children, creating a strong foundation for their development.

Elder Caregivers: With an aging population, the need for elder caregivers, both in-home and within long-term care facilities, is on the rise. These professionals offer essential assistance and companionship to seniors.

Home Health Aides: Home health aides provide crucial in-home care services to individuals who need assistance with daily tasks, enabling them to maintain independence and dignity.

Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists: These professionals help people regain or improve their physical and cognitive abilities after illness, injury, or surgery.

Administrative and Support Roles: The growing economy also offers administrative and support roles in healthcare settings, such as medical billing and coding specialists, healthcare administrators, and patient advocates.

Technology and Innovation: As technology plays an increasing role in healthcare, there are opportunities for IT professionals, data analysts, and software developers to contribute to the industry's growth and efficiency.

Building health and well-being is not only about well-paying and stable job opportunities that make a meaningful impact on people's lives. It also encompasses innovative delivery of these services as well as considered resources to connect residents to existing services and ensure available resources are fully utilized.

Farming and Fostering the Land

This working group will seek to build on the concentrated agricultural and farming activities in the NSJV region to create more higher-value job opportunities and knowledge intensive business activities. In building these opportunities attention will be given to historic inequities and barriers created by skill requirements that would traditionally limit most of the established agricultural workforce from accessing these family-supporting jobs. For instance, is it realistic to expect a traditional agricultural worker to become an agricultural technologist implementing advanced technologies like drones, artificial intelligence, and precision farming tools without a comprehensive and robust workforce development pathway providing considered and systemic investment in their skills development. Similarly, changing many existing agricultural practices to sustainable agricultural practices will require increasing the supply of sustainability managers in agriculture while also transforming business models to give more considered evaluation of the broad impacts of operations and the food systems that they supply.

In addition to established farming practices this working group will also consider broader stewardship of the region's land. Activities in this context include floodplain restoration, groundwater recharging, and development of conservation easements. For instance, floodplain restoration can enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, and mitigate the impacts of climate change by increasing flood resilience. In terms of job opportunities, besides environmental scientists and ecologists to plan and design, and civil engineers and landscape architects to implement, there are opportunities for local communities in ecotourism, education, and conservation efforts. Likewise, groundwater recharge basins can have an important role in relieving water stress, improving water quality for residents, and limiting land subsidence. Carefully and consultatively developed conservation easements may simultaneously preserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystems and protect water sources while also enhancing the quality of life of residents and promoting environmental stewardship.