

Common Providence Economic Development Recommendations by Category

Regulatory, Tax, and Business Climate

1. Freeze (or decrease) commercial tax rates in the city
2. Lobby the state to reestablish the Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit
3. Designate or create a permitting office focused solely on quickly approving small projects
4. Reform city permitting processes (building, fire, etc.)
5. Promote redevelopment of existing surface parking areas through changes in the tax code
6. Evaluate existing ordinances to determine their impact on the economy

Housing and Infrastructure

1. Redevelop abandoned or vacant buildings for residential and/or commercial use
2. Reinvent Kennedy Plaza as a pedestrian center by moving RIPTA buses away
3. Enhance transit options in the city, particularly to link College Hill with the Knowledge District
4. Work to improve efficiency of RIPTA and secure adequate funding for the system
5. Promote efforts to make the city more walkable
6. Address parking concerns to ensure that there are adequate spaces to meet needs

Education, Employment, and Job Training

1. Continue to reform K-12 at Providence Public Schools
2. Bring a nursing school to the city
3. Market Providence as a good place to do business, especially to knowledge-based industries
4. Promote the development of the Knowledge District to create high-paying, quality jobs