



City of Seattle
Office of Economic Development

Memorandum

Date: August 7, 2012

To: Councilmember Sally Clark
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen
Councilmember Richard Conlin
Councilmember Jean Godden

CC: David Yeaworth, Legislative Assistant to Councilmember Sally Clark

From: Steve Johnson, Office of Economic Development
Roque Deherrera, Office of Economic Development

Re: Industrial Business Research Tool

As part of the City's work to support manufacturing and maritime sectors, the Office of Economic Development (OED) has partnered with King County to develop a GIS-based mapping tool for industrial firms located in Seattle and throughout King County. This tool will help to understand and engage specific business, and allow the City of Seattle, King County, and their partners to better play organizing and matchmaking roles for industrial firms.

The foundation of this system will be a database of land parcels and business-level information, including with physical, financial and economic data. The mapping tool will help users highlight the needs and advantages of individual industrial sites and illustrate information that relates to the location decision process. It could also be a tool for visualizing economic activity and monitoring changes in the industrial composition of the local job base.

The new GIS system has the potential to answer a variety of location-based questions, including (but not limited to) the following:

- How many suppliers for a given manufacturing process are located within a five-mile radius of a parcel?
- Which sites are large enough to accommodate a given business?
- Who are the top employers in a given parcel or area?
- How many "family wage" jobs are within a given census block?
- What physical infrastructure is available at a given location and how many companies and workers will be affected by changes in infrastructure?
- How many recent business closures and start-ups or new branch openings have occurred in a given location during the last year?
- Which sites face the strongest market pressure for land use change?

Here is the link to the "BETA" test website: <http://www5.kingcounty.gov/seattleoed/>