

## BEAVERTON | May 15, 2014 Business Walk Community Report

The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce and IMPACT\*Beaverton partner, City of Beaverton, hosted the first Beaverton Business Walk on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The business walk was designed to get a pulse of the business community in Beaverton and focused on gathering local success stories as well as identifying companies that may be in need of assistance. 27 teams of 2 business volunteers and civic leaders had a list of 500 doors to knock on and successfully interviewed 281 businesses, left information for 56 more that were unable to visit at the time, and found many more that were either vacant and/or recently leased and not occupied yet.

Their conversations were kept to approximately 5 minutes and focused on three questions:

1. How is business?
2. How is doing business in Beaverton?
3. What keeps you up at night, what is your biggest challenge?

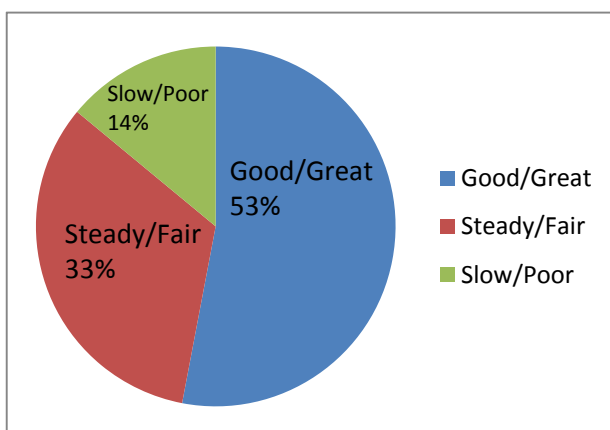
### Summary Results

The findings were positive in the Beaverton business community. Of the businesses interviewed, 86% expressed that business was fair if not good/great. When asked about doing business specifically in Beaverton, two things stood out: 1) strong community and 2) more business friendly tax structure compared to other immediate areas. When asked what they saw as their biggest challenge the most frequent responses were: 1) getting dependable and good employees – workforce, 2) business regulations and healthcare uncertainty and 3) transportation and congestion.

The remainder of this report contains additional details on the responses to each of the interview questions.

### Question 1: How is business?

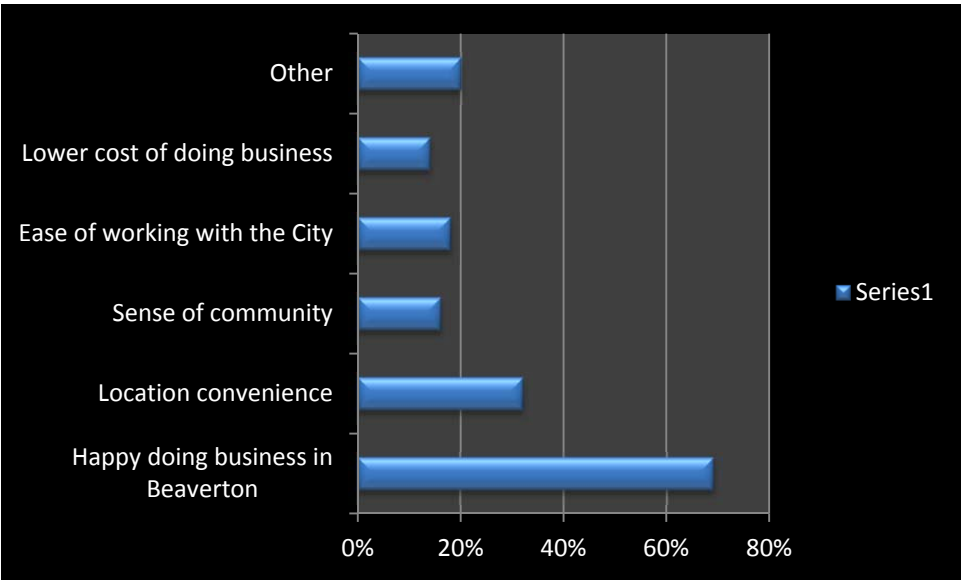
When asked how business is, many business respondents answered the question several ways, from “booming and I can’t keep up” to “steady and growing” to “the economic recovery is pretty slow”. Fifty-three percent said good/great. Thirty-three percent said steady/fair and fourteen percent indicated slow/poor. Comments from the small percent that indicated slow/poor shared input such as “clients are less credit worthy now”, “worried about slowdown in large construction in Washington County”, and “global competitiveness has wiped out our margins”.



Troy Cunningham & Alma Flores – Walk volunteers

**Question 2: How is business in Beaverton?**

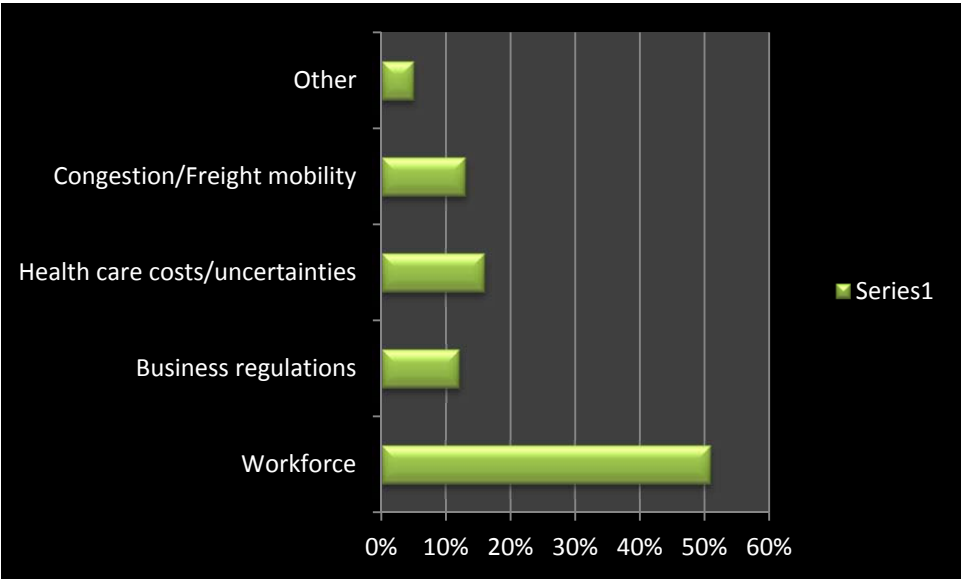
Nearly two-thirds of the participants indicated that they were very happy doing business in Beaverton. The number one reason was location and proximity to the center core. Multi modal transportation was sited frequently as well. Additionally, we heard many comments like “Beaverton is a great community. I feel supported here.” “Beaverton is safe and clean so it makes it great for my customers.” “My employees feel safe and secure”. A refreshing comment heard repeatedly was “it is easy to work with the city”. In fact, we had a number of businesses specifically note that “We’ve met our Mayor. He really does care.”



Happy doing business in Beaverton:	69%
Location Convenience:	32%
Sense of community:	16%
Ease of working with city:	18%
Lower cost of doing business:	14%
Other:	20%

**Question 3: What keeps you up at night – what is your biggest challenge?**

Surprisingly we had a good number of businesses indicate they had no big worries on their mind at this time (23%). Of those that did have concerns, overwhelmingly the number one concern expressed was workforce (59%). While some were specifically in need of trained IT people, the vast majority of respondents indicated “I just want employees that will show up for work”. One CEO indicated, “If I get referred to as “dude” in one more interview...”.



Workforce:	51%
Business regulation:	12%
Health care costs/Uncertainties:	16%
Congestion/Freight mobility:	13%
Other:	8% (included vandalism)

**Areas visited:** Arctic & Western Corporate Park, Creekside Business Park, Parkside Business Park, Cornell Oaks, South Office Building at The Beaverton Round.