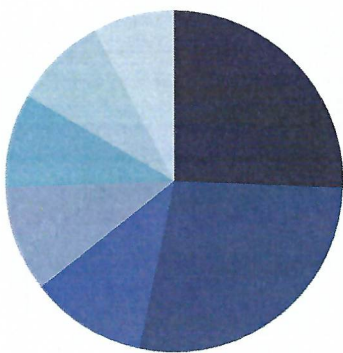


# BUSINESS WALK REVIEW

**CONNECT**   
**GREATER NEWPORT**  
Coastal Communities, Boundless Opportunities

On May 7, 2019, Connect Greater Newport, a regional economic development initiative of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, hosted the first ever Regional Business Walk. 84 community leaders visited 90 businesses in one day resulting in new connections, innovative ideas, and momentum towards business community growth.

## WHO PARTICIPATED?



**90**  
BUSINESSES  
**84**  
COMMUNITY  
LEADERS

## INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED





## HOW IS BUSINESS IN GREATER NEWPORT?


**92%**  
SAY BUSINESS  
IS GOOD/STEADY  
OR BETTER.

### BENEFITS CHALLENGES

PROXIMITY TO  
LARGER CITIES  
CLIENTELE  
**WATER**  
COMMUNITY LOCATION  
QUALITY OF LIFE

**1**  Infrastructure  
Costly commutes,  
broadband access,  
limited alternative  
transportation options

**3**  Regulations &  
Permitting  
Inconsistent messaging,  
outdated/lack of online  
systems, challenging  
communication

**2**  Workforce  
62% of businesses that  
require training report  
workforce challenges  
compared to 20% of  
businesses in leisure,  
hospitality, and retail.

**4**  Cost of Doing  
Business  
High tax rates, permits  
are expensive and time  
intensive, taxes and  
fees are stunting  
business growth

## HELP BUSINESSES THRIVE

To keep the momentum going after the Business Walk, it is essential that community leaders take steps to make Greater Newport an even friendlier place to do business.

**IMPROVE  
COMMUNICATION**  
Create clear lines of  
communication, including  
online system improvements,

**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**  
Create training opportunities  
to retain business talent.

**UPGRADE  
INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Support legislation that  
improves broadband, utilities  
and transportation options.

HOW ARE YOU HELPING BUSINESSES GROW? LET US KNOW AT [WWW.CONNECTGREATERNEWPORT.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTGREATERNEWPORT.COM)

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