

**Attendees:**

- Scott Wilderman – CareerResources – Non-profit focusing on workforce development

**The statements below are a summary of the opinions expressed by those interviewed. The statements do not necessarily reflect City policy or objective facts.**

The City of Bridgeport is conveniently located and well-connected, but the rail and highway connections are often backed up and delayed. There is a lot of great work on the part of non-profits trying to better the city through collaboration and innovation and this effort can be encouraged by the City and pushed further. The city's manufacturing industry requires high-level math skills and though there are good jobs available, especially in the blue-collar industry, training programs are needed to get people prepared for different kinds of work and address the skills mismatch. The city needs to work to retain both employers and skilled employees who may find more attractive opportunities in other areas of the region, and work strategically to retain larger scale manufacturing businesses.

**Vision for Bridgeport:**

- Find ways to attract and retain good employers
- Ensure that people feel like they are part of Bridgeport's resurgence
- Small mom and pop type manufacturing is doing well, but need more strategic investments to get larger manufacturing into the city
- Defense sector of manufacturing is promising
- Everybody in the City has their own agenda
  - No strategic vision

