# DESTINATION | String | String

Mat-Su Tourism Summit

Government Peaks Chalet November 1, 2017





#### **About Destination NEXT**

#### Vision:

Provide destination organizations with a powerful assessment tool and practical actions and strategies for sustainable success in a dramatically changing world

#### **Sponsor:**

Funded by a grant from the Destinations International Foundation

#### **Three Phases:**

- 1. 2014 Futures Study on Key Trends & Opportunities
- 2. Scenario Model & NEXTPractices
- 3.2017 Futures Study Update



#### **Agenda**



- Present
   DestinationNEXT
   findings and
   scenario model
- 2) Discuss assessment results for Boulder
- 3) Breakout groups
- 4) Other items

### FUTURES STUDY



#### **Top Trends**



Technology



**Social Media** 





Consider that every minute of the day:

- > 3.5 million search queries made on Google (60% on mobile devices)
- 4.1 million videos viewed on YouTube (consumers prefer video 4:1 over print to learn about product)
- 46,200 images posted on Instagram (48% of users use platform to help choose vacation destinations)
- > 2,853 new mobile phones activated in the U.S. alone





#### **TripAdvisor**

- Founded in 2000
- Largest travel site in the world
- 62% of hotel guests around world visit site before making a booking



Hotels

Vacation Rentals

Restaurants

Things to do

Flights

...









#### Travelers' Choice: Top hotels













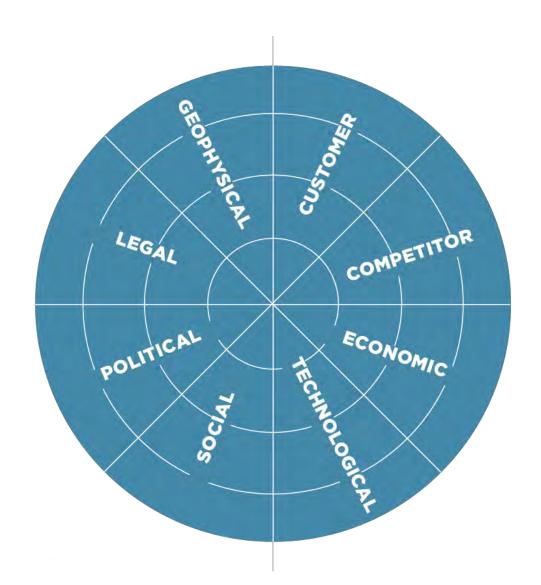








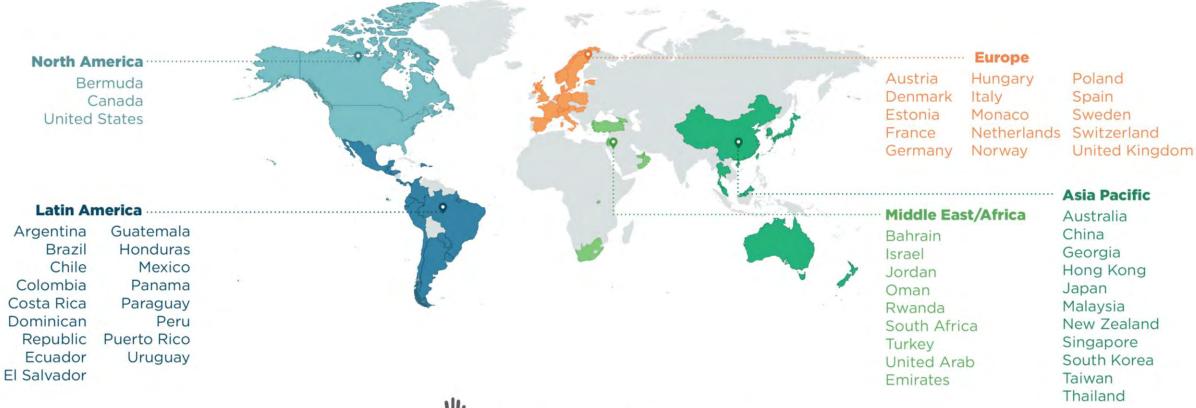
Trends



Strategies

#### We Listened to You







### KEY TRENDS



#### **Top 25 Trends & Strategies**

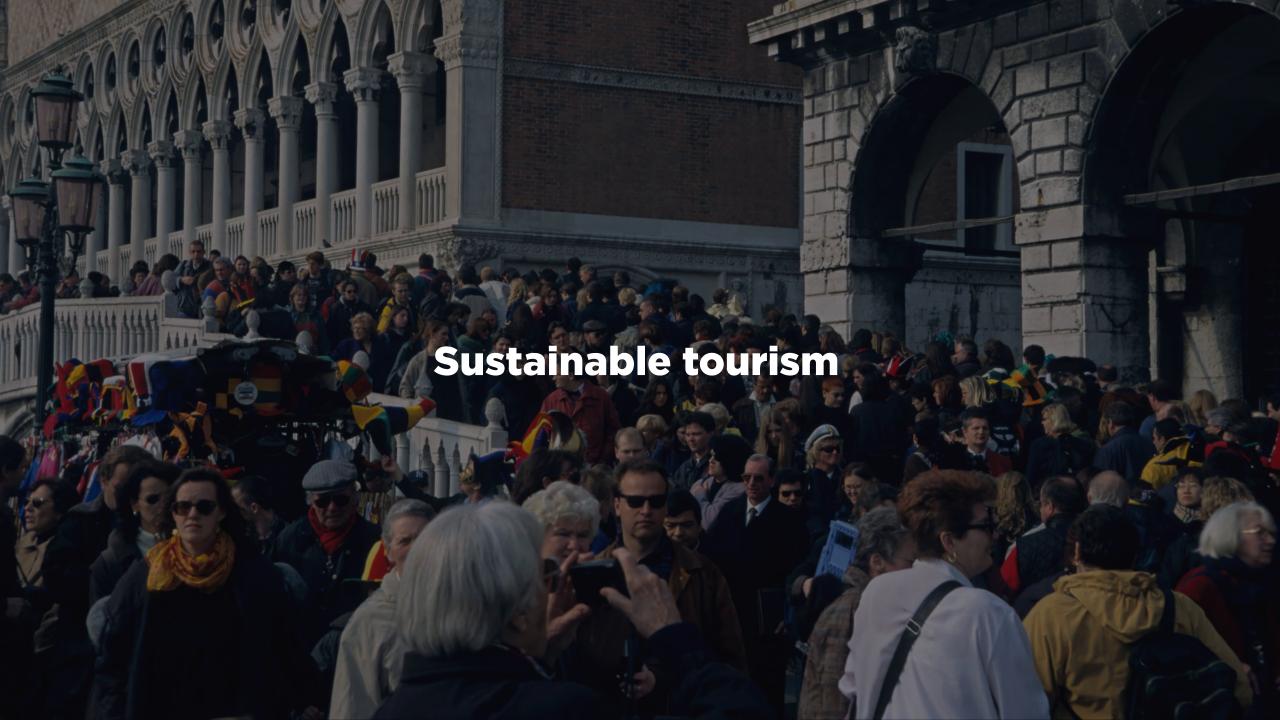
New Trends

10

New Strategies

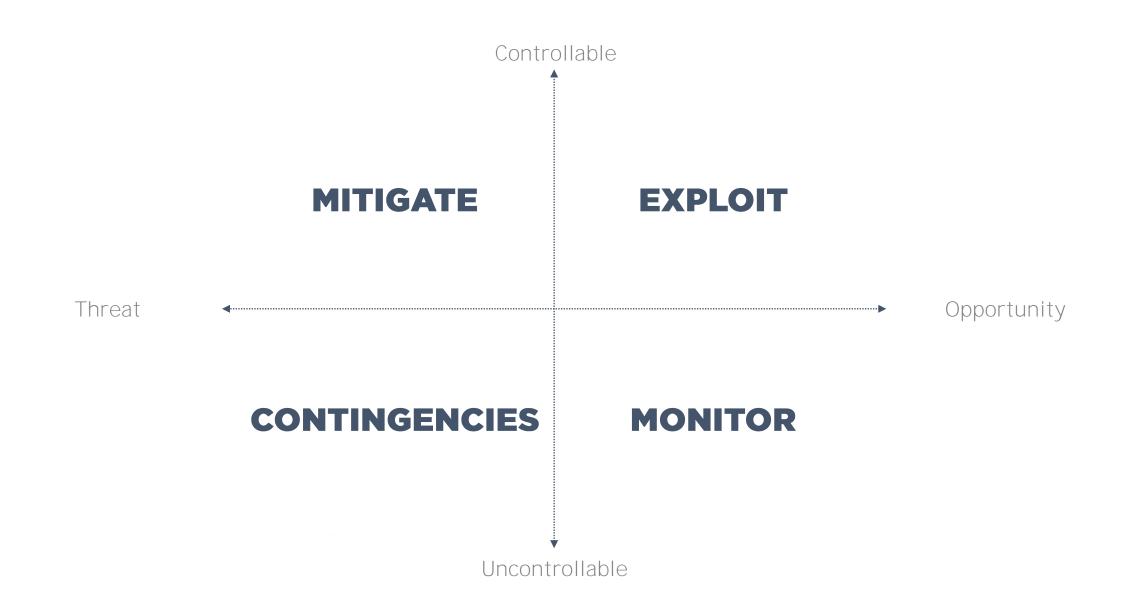






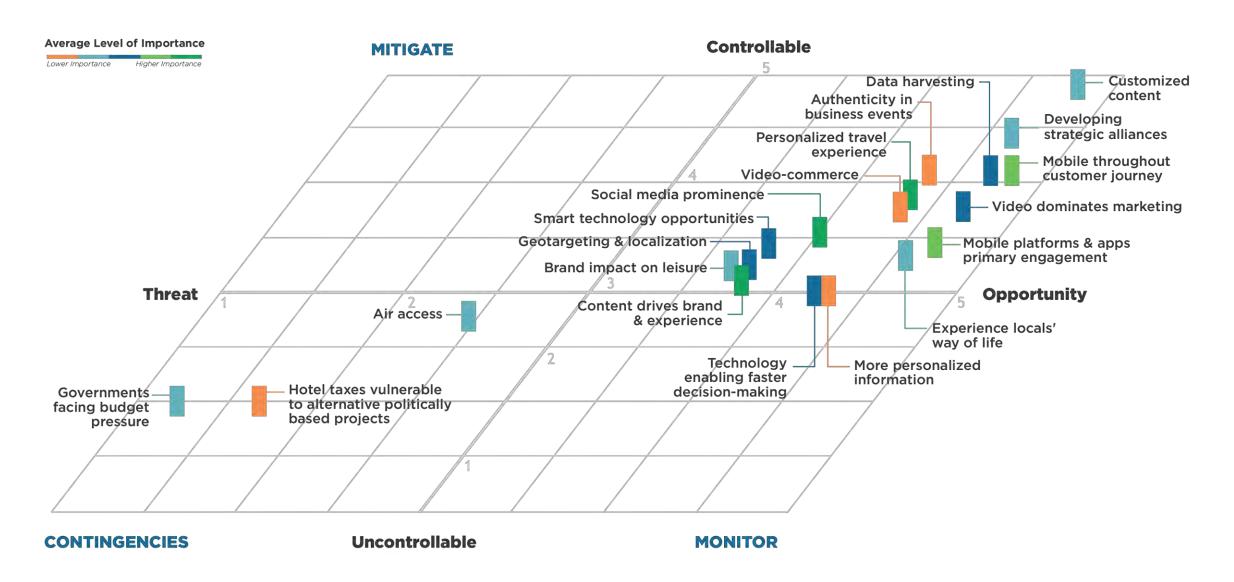
#### **Future Map**





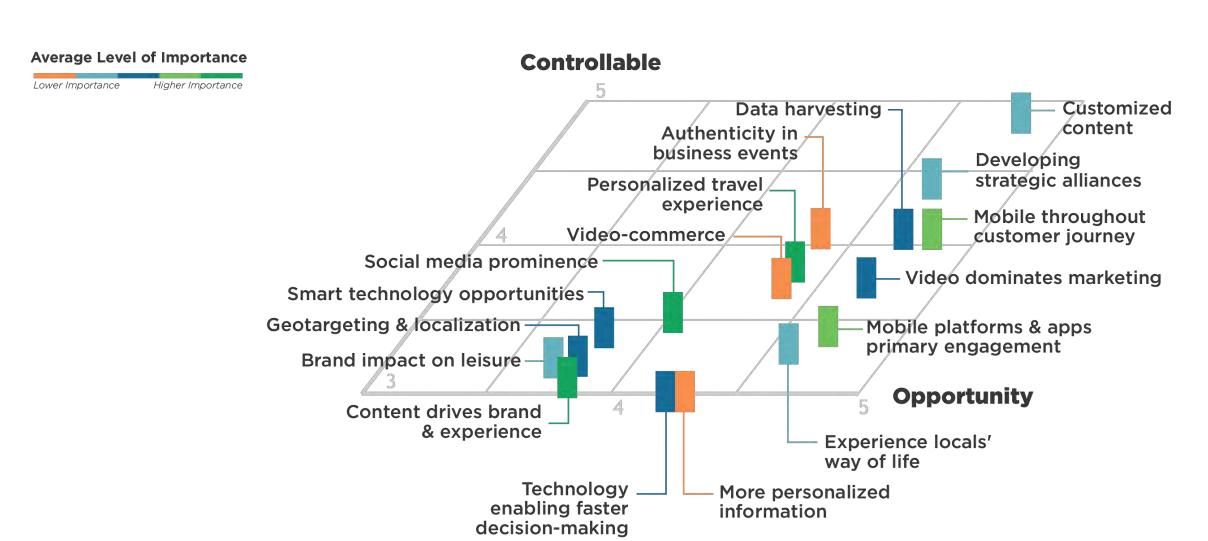
#### **Future Map - Top 25 Trends**





#### **Future Map - Top 25 Trends**







Transformational Opportunities



#1: Broadcast to Engagement Interacting with & leveraging the new marketplace



**#2: Brand Building**Building & protecting the destination brand



#3: Collaboration & Partnerships
Evolving the DMO business model

#### Digital Travel Guides

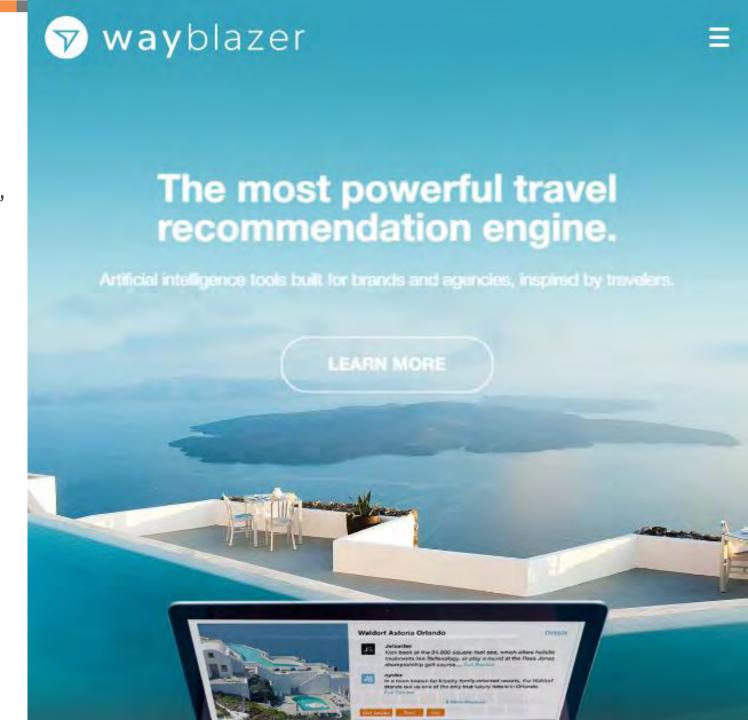
#### **Atlas Obscura**

- Over 700 of curious & strangest places
- Atlas published in 2016
- Nearly 1 million followers



#### Wayblazer

- Established in 2014 by Terry Jones, founder of Travelocity and Kayak.com
- Powered by IBM Watson Analytics
- Queries in common language





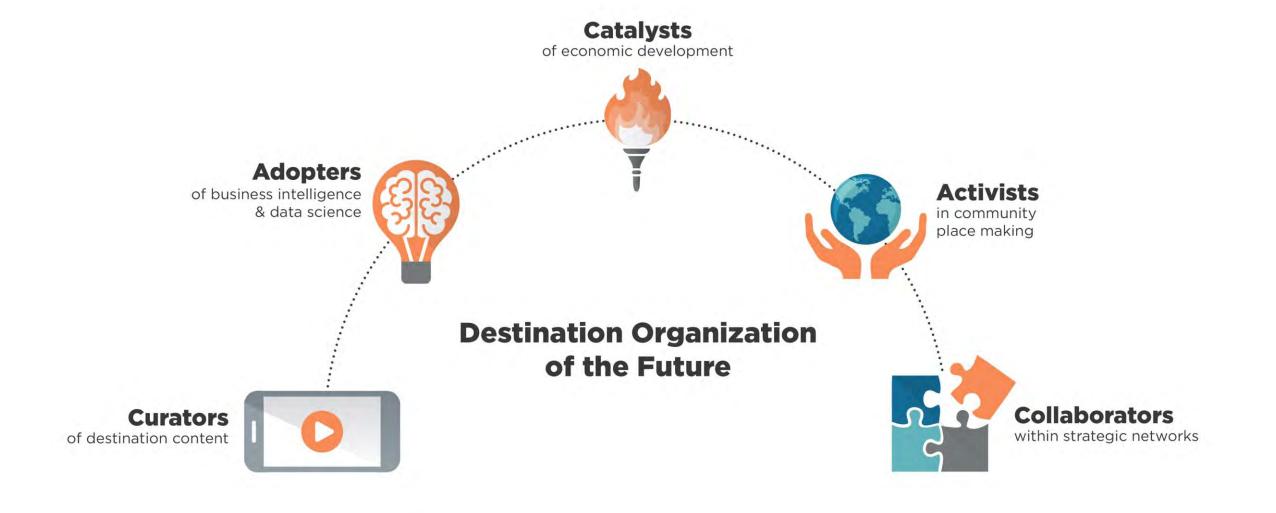


New Destination Organization Start-up

| Rank | Role                                       |
|------|--|
| 1    | Brand marketing                            |
| 2    | Destination and product development        |
| 3    | Meeting and convention sales               |
| 4    | Broader economic development               |
| 5    | Destination information resource           |
| 6    | Industry advocate and association leader   |
| 7    | Leisure sales (group tour and independent) |
| 8    | Visitor experience servicing               |
| 9    | Major event partner/developer              |
| 10   | Convention services                        |
| 11   | Venue management and operations            |



#### Re-engineering the Destination Organization



# CURATORS of destination content

#### **Curators**

- Invest more effort and resources into video content to market the destination.
- 2. Focus significant attention to content creation and dissemination strategies.
- 4. Develop ways to connect with customers through all stages of their experience, from awareness to interest to booking to visiting to post-visit.
- Place greater emphasis on engaging with their customers in two-way conversations.
- 20. Participate more in building platforms to improve visitor experience.

# ADOPTERS of business intelligence & data science

#### **Adopters**

- Agree to uniform methodology with other destination organizations to measure economic impact.
- 11. Develop new strategies to refocus on the millennial market.
- Adopt operating standards and consistent measures of performance with other destination organizations.
- Agree to a uniform methodology with other destination organizations to measure economic impact.
- 17. Put a greater emphasis on market segmentation.
- 19. Invest more effort in scanning the market for business intelligence.

## CATALYSTS of economic development



# ACTIVISTS in community place making

#### **Activists**

- **3** Focus on developing authentic experiences for the customer.
- 6. Enhance our engagement with the local community to manage future tourism considerations.
- 7. Develop strategies to protect what we have while attracting events and visitation to our community.
- 12. Connect visitor experience with the quality of life of residents in my community.
- 18. Take on a greater role as cultural champion of my destination.
- Pay close attention to safety and security as a strategic consideration in our future planning.

### COLLABORATORS within strategic networks

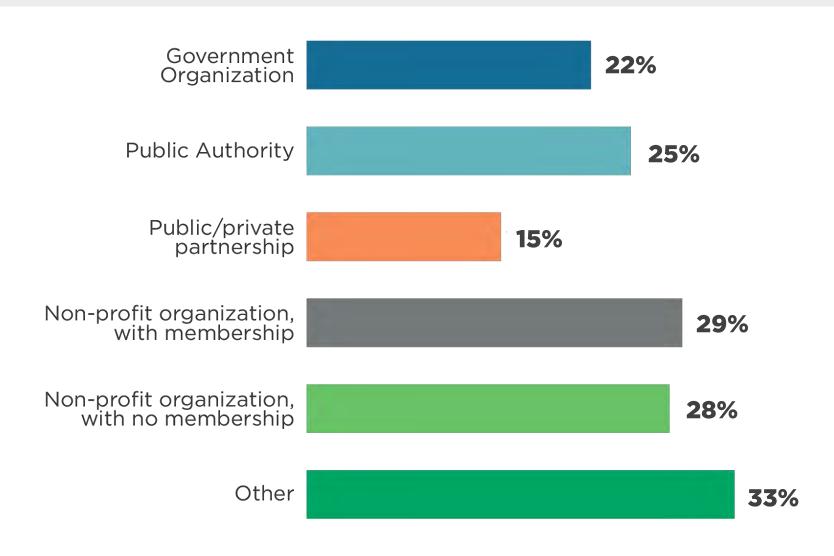
#### **Collaborators**

- **3.** Form more strategic alliances outside the industry.
- 21. Engage more closely with non-traditional stakeholders in my destination.
- 25. Place a greater emphasis on connecting business event customers with intellectual capabilities and knowledge networks in my destination.





Expected Change in the Next 5 Years



### SCENARIO MODEL



#### **Scenario Model**



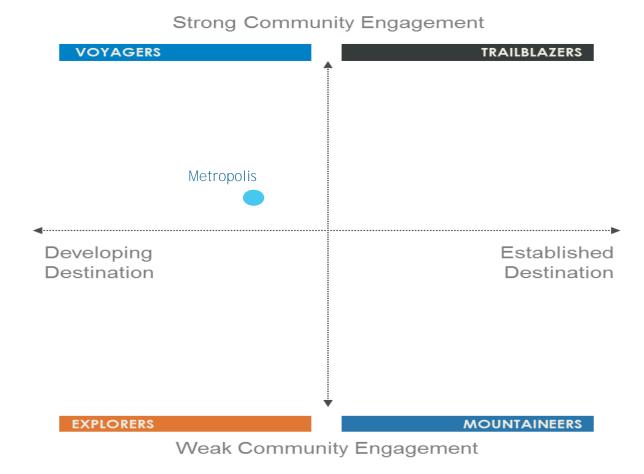


#### **Purpose of Diagnostic Tool**



Scenario model intended to be strategic diagnostic tool, not a benchmarking index to rank DMOs, CVBs or destinations

Objective self-assessment to help identify priorities and strategies for the future



#### **Destination Strength Variables**









**Brand** 



Accommodation



Attractions and Entertainment



Conventions & Meeting Facilities



**Air Access** 



**Events** 



Sporting and Recreation Facilities



Communication & Internet Infrastructure



**Mobility and Access** 

## **Community Support & Engagement Variables**





Effective DMO
Governance Model



Workforce



Membership Strength & Support

**Hospitality Culture** 



**Industry Support** 



**Regional Cooperation** 



Support



Funding Support & Certainty



Policy and Regulatory Environment



**Economic Development** 

#### **Destination Assessments**





325
destinations from 18 countries



detailed assessments completed in 10 countries

USA, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, Colombia, Korea Guatemala, Taiwan, Denmark Australia



50
underway or
planned,
including 4 other
countries





65in discussions,including14 other countries

Peru, Argentina, Dubai, Germany, Honduras, Chile, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Thailand, Micronesia, Philippines, Russia, Ghana, Nigeria

#### **Destinations Completed - U.S.**













# DESTINATION | String | String

Multi-User Online Diagnostic Tool Results:

Mat-Su Borough, AK

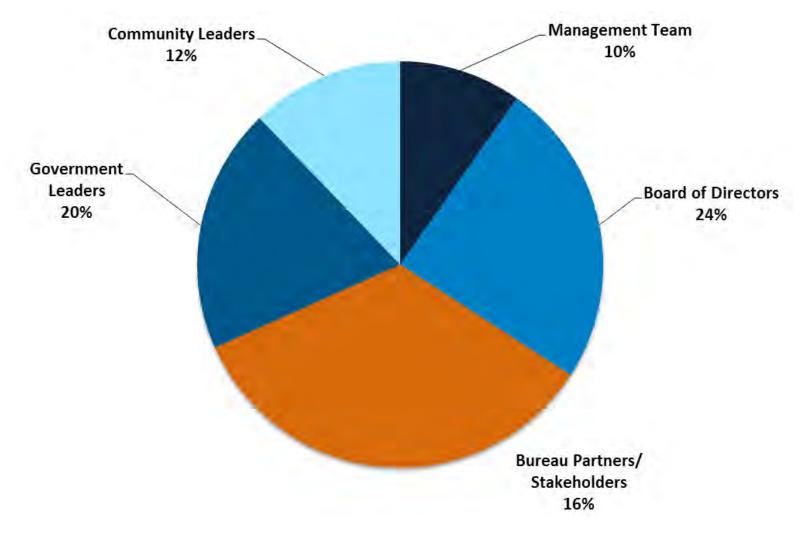
October 25, 2017





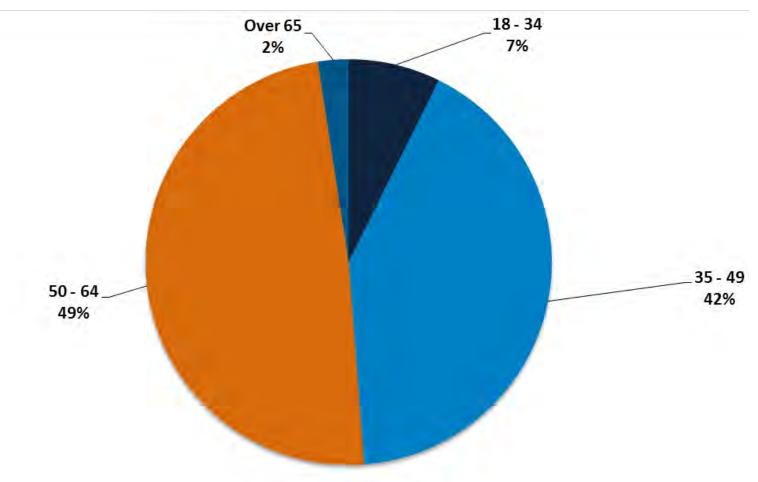






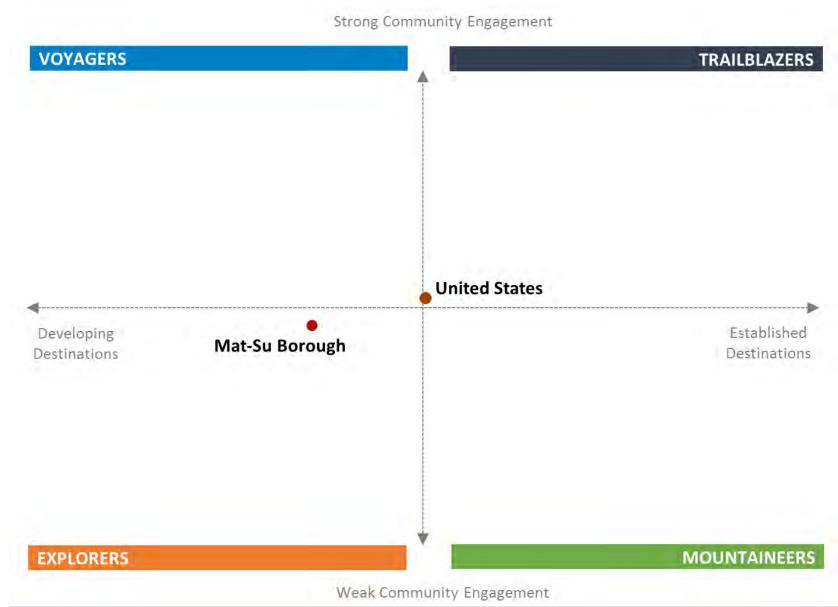








## **Mat-Su Borough Overall Assessment - Industry**



#### **Explorers**

These DMO's and destinations desire an inspired tourism vision and activated community to make it happen.

#### **Key Strategic Challenges**

Above all else:

- Rallying the community to work together towards a realistic vision and strategy
- Building community recognition and acceptance that transformational change is needed
- Implementing the strategy with limited resources

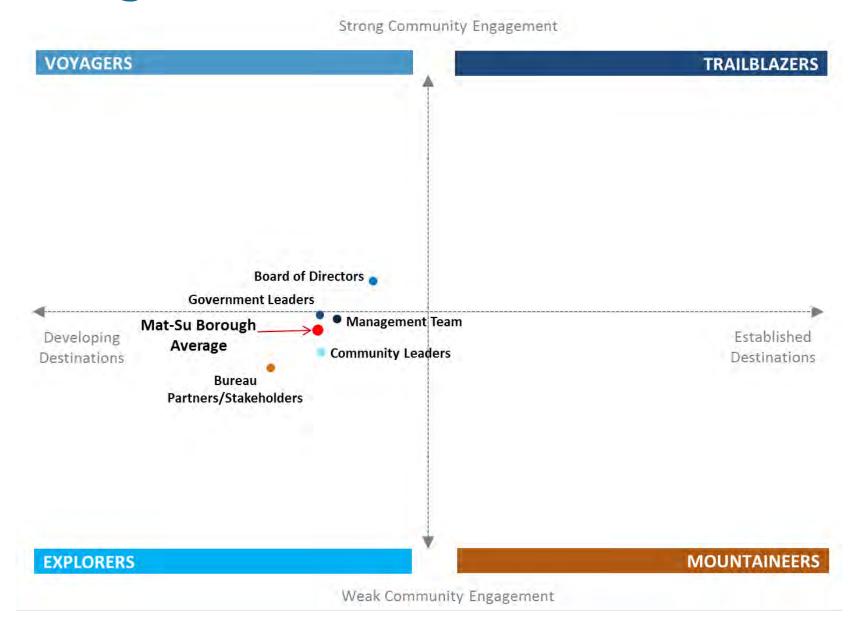




**Weak Community Engagement** 



#### **Mat-Su Borough Overall Assessment - Stakeholder**





#### **Mat-Su Borough Overall Assessment - Age Group**



## **Destination Strength Rankings -Mat-Su Borough**





|   | Relative Importance | Perceived Performance |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Attractions & Entertainment             | <b>1</b> st         | 3 <sup>rd</sup>       |
| Communication & Internet Infrastructure | 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | 5 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Accommodation                           | 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | 9 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Destination Performance                 | 4 <sup>th</sup>     | 1st                   |





|   | Relative Importance<br>(0-100%) |                              |                       | Perceived Performance<br>(1-5 scale) |                              |                       |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Variable                                | Industry<br>Average             | Mat-Su<br>Borough<br>Average | Standard<br>Deviation | Industry<br>Average                  | Mat-Su<br>Borough<br>Average | Standard<br>Deviation |
| Attractions & Entertainment             | 12%                             | 13.0%                        | 2%                    | 3.68                                 | 3.24                         | 0.75                  |
| Communication & Internet Infrastructure | 7%                              | 12.0%                        | 3%                    | 3.32                                 | 2.99                         | 0.75                  |
| Accommodation                           | 12%                             | 12.0%                        | 2%                    | 3.42                                 | 2.40                         | 0.76                  |
| Destination Performance                 | 12%                             | 11.9%                        | 3%                    | 3.83                                 | 3.56                         | 0.89                  |
| Mobility & Access                       | 7%                              | 11.5%                        | 3%                    | 3.04                                 | 2.54                         | 0.71                  |
| Brand                                   | 13%                             | 11.5%                        | 3%                    | 3.21                                 | 3.25                         | 0.66                  |
| Events                                  | 9%                              | 10.1%                        | 2%                    | 3.73                                 | 3.15                         | 0.73                  |
| Sports & Recreation Facilities          | 9%                              | 9.1%                         | 3%                    | 3.32                                 | 2.53                         | 0.98                  |
| Convention & Meeting Facilities         | 10%                             | 8.9%                         | 3%                    | 3.12                                 | 2.67                         | 0.83                  |

| DESTINATION STRENGTH - Mat-Su Borough | 2.93 |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| INDUSTRY AVERAGE DESTINATION STRENGTH | 3.49 |

RESULTING SCENARIO EXPLORERS

#### Note

**Green** shading signifies that the destination **outperformed** the industry average by greater than 0.2. **Yellow** shading signifies that the destination **underperformed** the industry average by greater than 0.2 but less than 0.4. **Red** shading signifies that the destination **underperformed** the industry average by greater than 0.4.





| Perceived Performance<br>(1-5 scale)    |                              |                    |                       |                                     |                       |                      |  |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Variable                                | Mat-Su<br>Borough<br>Average | Management<br>Team | Board of<br>Directors | Bureau<br>Partners/<br>Stakeholders | Government<br>Leaders | Community<br>Leaders |  |
| Attractions & Entertainment             | 3.24                         | 3.64               | 3.44                  | 2.77                                | 3.38                  | 3.60                 |  |
| Communication & Internet Infrastructure | 2.99                         | 3.31               | 3.01                  | 2.89                                | 2.92                  | 3.05                 |  |
| Accommodation                           | 2.40                         | 2.56               | 2.63                  | 2.52                                | 2.16                  | 1.85                 |  |
| Destination Performance                 | 3.56                         | 3.45               | 4.02                  | 3.27                                | 3.58                  | 3.52                 |  |
| Mobility & Access                       | 2.54                         | 2.25               | 2.71                  | 2.30                                | 2.73                  | 2.76                 |  |
| Brand                                   | 3.25                         | 3.55               | 3.61                  | 2.92                                | 3.30                  | 3.16                 |  |
| Events                                  | 3.15                         | 3.40               | 3.36                  | 2.78                                | 3.33                  | 3.28                 |  |
| Sports & Recreation Facilities          | 2.53                         | 2.58               | 2.50                  | 2.14                                | 2.63                  | 3.47                 |  |
| Convention & Meeting Facilities         | 2.67                         | 2.40               | 3.14                  | 2.69                                | 2.39                  | 2.36                 |  |

| DESTINATION STRENGTH                  | 2.93 |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| INDUSTRY AVERAGE DESTINATION STRENGTH | 3.49 |

| RESULTING SCENARIO | EXPLORERS |
|--------------------|-----------|
|--------------------|-----------|

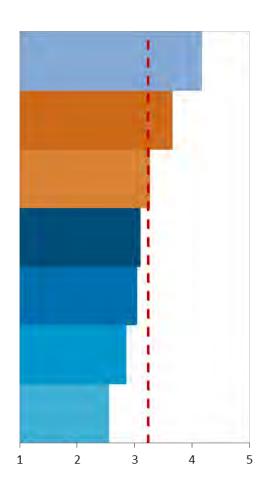
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#### **Attractions & Entertainment**



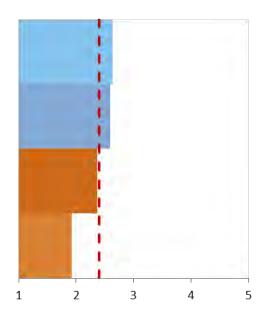
- Wide diversity of parks and bike trails
- Authentic and unique attractions and entertainment opportunities
- Large, famous attractions that cause people to stay
- High-quality and wide-ranging arts and cultural attractions
- Unique and high-quality dining options
- Diverse and high-quality shopping opportunities
- Unique and vibrant neighborhoods



#### **Accommodation**



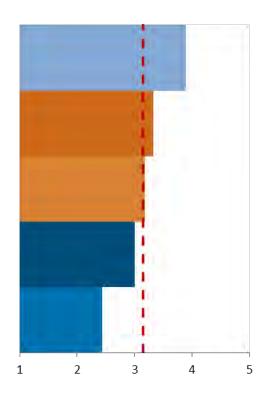
- Location of accommodation options meets visitor needs
- Adequate accommodations capacity
- Diversity of accommodation price options
- Sufficient number of large, headquarter hotels to meet demand



#### **Events**



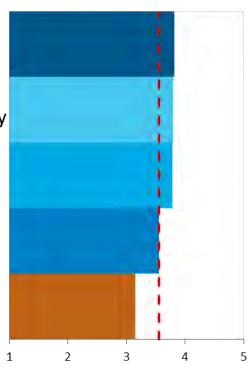
- Abundance of parks and outdoor spaces for handling special events
- Citizens are supportive of hosting major national or international events
- Local government is cooperative and supportive
- Offers a year-long series of major events that drive economic impact
- Diverse facilities/venues with capacity and availability



#### **Destination Performance**



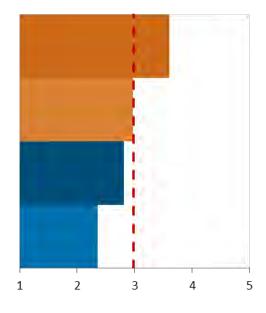
- Positive growth in overnight visitation
- Communicating the performance and economic impact of our tourism industry
- Hotels are performing well (e.g. Occupancy, RevPAR)
- Adequately measures and tracks the performance of our tourism industry
- Successfully converting leads for meetings and conventions







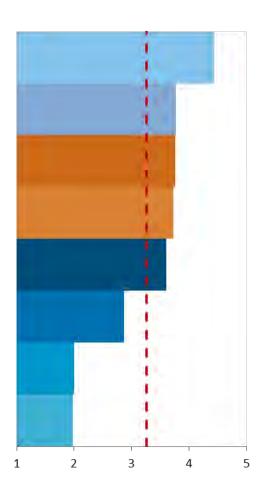
- Industry uses and leverages social media to support the brand
- Mobile and Internet coverage/availability
- Wi-Fi access in meeting/conference facilities
- Wi-Fi in outdoor/public areas with high visitor traffic



#### **Brand**



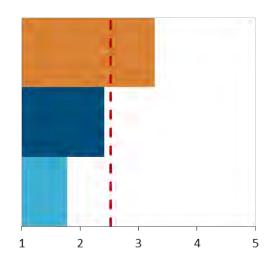
- Known as being healthy and an outdoor, active city
- Known for having a lot of things to see and do
- Appeals to a wide range of visitors
- Known for being safe, clean, and secure for visitors
- Established brand that is simple, memorable, and market-tested
- Known as an environmentally conscious and sustainable destination
- Known as a high-tech, innovative city
- Prepared to become an international tourism destination



### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**



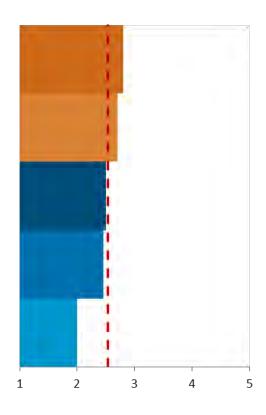
- Sports fields to host major amateur and collegiate sporting events
- Local sports leadership are engaged in pursuing sporting events
- Venues to host major professional sporting events



#### **Mobility & Access**



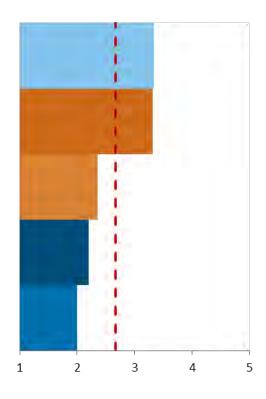
- Great directional signage and wayfinding
- Good quality roads that can easily handle traffic
- Bicycle-friendly city with easy, well-marked bike routes
- Good access and services for those with disabilities
- Adequate public transportation



### **Convention & Meeting Facilities**



- Hotels/meeting venues take full advantage of the views
- Good, unique off-site venues for special events
- Abundance of professional and experienced convention services suppliers
- Necessary facilities to compete today
- Necessary facilities to compete for the next 25 years



#### **Community Support & Engagement -Mat-Su Borough**





|   |                               | Relative Importance | Perceived Performance |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| i | Local Community Support       | <b>1</b> st         | 7 <sup>th</sup>       |
|   | Regional Cooperation          | 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | <b>1</b> st           |
|   | Industry Support              | 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | 6 <sup>th</sup>       |
|   | Membership Strength & Support | 4 <sup>th</sup>     | 4 <sup>th</sup>       |





|                                | Relat               | Relative Importance<br>(0-100%) |                       |                     | Perceived Performance<br>(1-5 scale) |                       |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Variable                       | Industry<br>Average | Mat-Su<br>Borough<br>Average    | Standard<br>Deviation | Industry<br>Average | Mat-Su<br>Borough<br>Average         | Standard<br>Deviation |  |
| Local Community Support        | 11%                 | 10.6%                           | 1%                    | 3.60                | 3.42                                 | 0.71                  |  |
| Regional Cooperation           | 9%                  | 10.5%                           | 1%                    | 3.58                | 3.63                                 | 1.01                  |  |
| Industry Support               | 12%                 | 10.5%                           | 1%                    | 3.70                | 3.34                                 | 0.97                  |  |
| Membership Strength & Support  | 7%                  | 10.3%                           | 1%                    | 3.42                | 3.59                                 | 0.91                  |  |
| Effective Advocacy Program     | 9%                  | 10.1%                           | 1%                    | 3.39                | 3.63                                 | 0.92                  |  |
| Hospitality Culture            | 10%                 | 9.8%                            | 1%                    | 3.55                | 3.46                                 | 0.81                  |  |
| Workforce                      | 9%                  | 9.7%                            | 1%                    | 3.16                | 3.07                                 | 0.80                  |  |
| Economic Development           | 9%                  | 9.6%                            | 2%                    | 3.91                | 3.69                                 | 0.82                  |  |
| Effective DMO Governance Model | 11%                 | 9.5%                            | 3%                    | 3.74                | 3.37                                 | 1.09                  |  |
| Funding Support & Certainty    | 13%                 | 9.5%                            | 3%                    | 3.06                | 3.32                                 | 0.82                  |  |
| COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ENGAGEM    |                     |                                 |                       |                     |                                      | 3.44                  |  |

| COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT - Mat-Su Borough | 3.44 |
|---|------|
| INDUSTRY AVERAGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT | 3.60 |

RESULTING SCENARIO **EXPLORERS** 

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INDUSTRY AVERAGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT



3.60

| Perceived Performance (1-5 scale)   |                              |                    |                       |                                     |                       |                      |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Variable                            | Mat-Su<br>Borough<br>Average | Management<br>Team | Board of<br>Directors | Bureau<br>Partners/<br>Stakeholders | Government<br>Leaders | Community<br>Leaders |  |
| Local Community Support             | 3.42                         | 3.67               | 3.80                  | 2.94                                | 3.58                  | 3.53                 |  |
| Regional Cooperation                | 3.63                         | 4.13               | 4.05                  | 3.14                                | 3.81                  | 3.50                 |  |
| Industry Support                    | 3.34                         | 3.63               | 3.40                  | 3.07                                | 3.63                  | 3.30                 |  |
| Membership Strength & Support       | 3.59                         | 3.25               | 3.90                  | 3.32                                | 3.81                  | 3.60                 |  |
| Effective Advocacy Program          | 3.63                         | 3.67               | 4.27                  | 3.24                                | 3.79                  | 3.17                 |  |
| Hospitality Culture                 | 3.46                         | 3.25               | 3.75                  | 3.32                                | 3.38                  | 3.60                 |  |
| Workforce                           | 3.07                         | 3.00               | 3.65                  | 2.64                                | 3.38                  | 2.70                 |  |
| Economic Development                | 3.69                         | 3.63               | 4.05                  | 3.41                                | 3.85                  | 3.53                 |  |
| Effective DMO Governance Model      | 3.37                         | 3.63               | 3.95                  | 2.93                                | 3.50                  | 3.00                 |  |
| Funding Support & Certainty         | 3.32                         | 3.38               | 3.70                  | 3.36                                | 2.94                  | 3.00                 |  |
| COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT 3.44 |                              |                    |                       |                                     |                       |                      |  |

| RESULTING SCENARIO | EXPLORERS |
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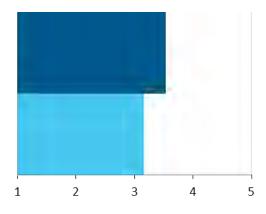
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## **Funding Support & Certainty**



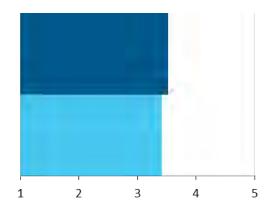
- Sufficient revenue sources to fund their strategies
- Stable revenue sources to fund their strategies



## **Hospitality Culture**



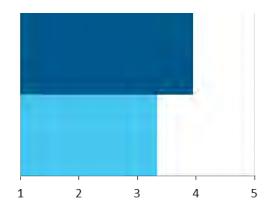
- Hospitality culture that welcomes visitors and improves their experience
- Reputation for offering high-quality customer service



## **Regional Cooperation**



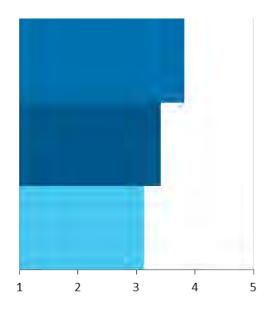
- DMO marketing efforts have broad economic benefits across the region
- There is broad collaboration and coordination among tourism partners



### **Local Community Support**



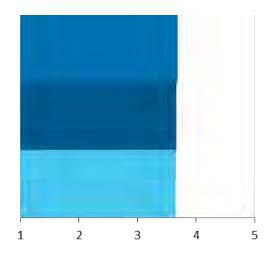
- Tourism industry gets positive media coverage locally
- Locals have a general understanding/positive perception of tourism
- Mat-Su CVB has great corporate support



## **Effective Advocacy Program**



- Local government is supportive of DMO programs and the tourism industry
- Local government relies on DMO for input on destination management
- Advocacy program is successful in educating government

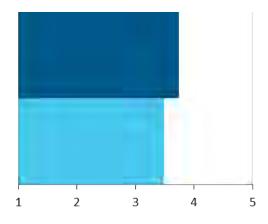


#### **Membership Strength & Support**



■ Businesses benefit from being a partner

■ Mat-Su CVB's partners are active, engaged and supportive

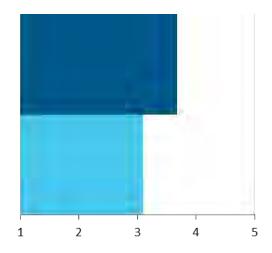


## **Industry Support**



■ Mat-Su CVB is seen as a leader in the state and regional tourism industry

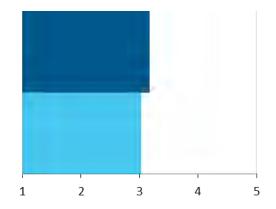
■ Industry leaders/stakeholders are supportive of Visit Anchorage



#### Workforce



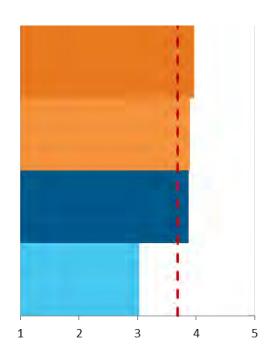
- Workforce is stable and has a positive labor relations environment
- Hospitality industry is able to attract and retain a high-quality workforce



#### **Economic Development**



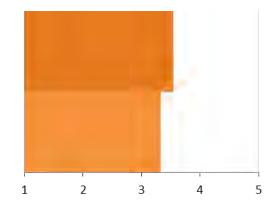
- DMO has a good working relationship with local chambers
- Tourism industry is vital in our community's economic strategies
- Tourism and the meetings industry are identified as key economic drivers
- Tourism master plan for MSB



#### **Effective DMO Governance Model**



- Mat-Su CVB has an effective governance structure
- Local leaders are engaged in Visit Anchorage's governance structure



### **Key Takeaways**



- Stakeholders somewhat aligned on perceptions about destination
- Currently in the Explorers quadrant with overall scores below average destination strength and slightly below average community support & engagement



#### **Destination Opportunities**

- Attractions & Entertainment
- Convention & Meeting Facilities
- Accommodations
- Mobility & Access
- Being known as a:
  - Environmentally conscious and sustainable destination
  - High-tech, innovative city
  - International tourism destination
- Diverse event facilities
- Sports & Recreation Facilities



## **Community Support & Engagement Opportunities**

- Local Community Support
- Collaboration among tourism partners
- Industry leaders/stakeholders support
- Hospitality Culture
- Workforce
- Tourism master plan for MSB
- Local leaders need to be engaged
- Stable revenue sources for DMO

# In your opinion, what one thing could MSB do to become a better or work class visitor destination?



## Attractions (31%)

- Develop some sort of "must-do" attraction. A gondola up Pioneer Peak would be an example of "must-do." Not likely to happen, just an example. Access from the south into Denali could provide a new must-do tour opportunity, but that is well outside the core MSB (Palmer/Wasilla)
- Invest in tourism infrastructure as it relates to visitors accessing our numerous unique outdoor experiences. We are a pass-through region, but if visitors know what we offer and we provide adequate access, they may stay to explore.

# Accommodations (19%)

- We need to have a first class meeting and hotel space. We could capture so much more business with these added to our tourism mix.
- Build more large capacity hotels.
- More above average accommodations that will work with travel trade.
- Further develop lodging and activity options in the Hatcher's Pass region. Make Knik River Valley and Hatcher's Pass into a world class adventure base which will attract partner infrastructure such as lodging, activities and restaurants.

# Marketing (13%)

- Entire MSB as a destination rather than focus on the Denali region.
- Get more involved in online marketing and media, everything is going mobile.

# Mobility & Access (13%)

 More/better local transportation opportunities (bus, shuttles, taxi services). Currently the vast majority of the MSB is only accessible with SELFDRIVE itineraries.





# Attractions (36%)

- Adventure Travel! MSB offers a variety of natural and man-made venues to recreate. Trail systems, local tour offerings, equipment rental and guide services (including park staffing) is key.
- Expand offerings, venues, promotion in areas beyond Denali; develop infrastructure which brings travelers and locals together
- Culture, Heritage and Arts tourism opportunity expansion.

# Accommodations (24%)

- Adding more hotel rooms will help bring more people.
- Encourage additional lodging in Talkeetna
   mid market priced.
- Build up large hotels and convention/meeting space
- More hotels and B&Bs in diverse locations, convention attractions

## Marketing (24%)

Highlighting the Glen
 Highway/Matanuska Glacier area
 as well as involving the local
 Native Alaskan tribal councils to
 provide an authentic Native
 Alaskan village experience.

# Conventions/ Meetings (24%)

 Meetings if we get more/appropriate sized lodging/meeting space



#### Are there any markets we are currently not capitalizing on?

- Adventure Travel! Agricultural tourism.
- Agriculture and local foods
- Almost all of the non-core areas
- Conferences and destination gatherings of small to medium size
- could do more with sports, honeymoons, aurora watching, adventure travel, family travel, family reunions
- 'Crossover' travelers who may take land extensions post/pre cruise; local groups looking for retreat/meeting venues; weddings;
- Cultural travelers
- Eco-tourism, winter activities.
- I think MSB does a great job on reaching a wide variety of people.
- Large hotels with convention space for business meetings
- More online marketing, social media I know that we do some already but I feel like we should invest more money and time into these areas

- Non-cruise ship, non-RV travelers
- Small meeting, retreats and conventions. Palmer is especially well located for this; a walkable community with shops and restaurants, plus decent meeting space in the new Borough Assembly chambers, borough gym and depot.
- Steering Rubber tire traffic to our attractions.
- Student travel, Anchorage locals day trips & overnights
- The lack of an adequate facility makes it hard to capitalize on the meetings and conventions market.
- Tribal culture and heritage High-quality shopping Conventions/ large meetings weddings
- Without year round full-service hotels it is difficult to go after meetings and high school sporting events
- You attend international conventions, but there is no relation to more visitors coming to our area from those convention locations. We never receive leads from those conventions to contact interested parties.

#### What are the biggest challenges we must address to improve our destination?



#### Funding (23%)

- Funding through taxation -- if we want to improve the MSB as a destination, we need to spread the tax burden to all businesses, not just "bed tax" businesses.
- More beds/hotels to increase bed tax funding. Lack of state park funding to keep our hiking and skiing trails world class.
- Need a central tourist district within Wasilla and Palmer. Need more audits/accountability in bed tax collection.

#### Accommodations & Meeting Space (19%)

- Limited hotel infrastructure, limited dining opportunities. North MSB is a necessary relief valve to Denali Park access.
- Quality hotels, better road signage and an overall Disney culture that welcomes guests and makes them want to stay & play in the Mat-Su not just drive through to Denali.
- Accommodation options Meeting/convention spaces built



#### Regional Collaboration (15%)

- Cooperation between businesses and thinking outside the box for partnerships. Everyone matters in tourism in the valley, not just Denali, Talkeetna and Palmer. There is a lot more to the valley than those areas. And support your members.
- Bringing larger Corporate members together with smaller local MSCVB members to forge new projects

#### Mat-Su Borough's main icon image is?



- Denali x 9
- Mountains X 6
- Yahoo X 4
- Farms x 2
- Outdoor recreation and cultural attractions
- Pioneer Peak
- Wilderness/rural/small town/nature/glaciers/animals
- Adventure, Fun, Center of activity
- Blue tarps

# Breakout Groups







- 1) What are the three most significant issues facing Mat-Su during the next three years?
- 2) What is the single most important action which should be taken by the Mat-Su Valley CVB in the next year?



