

Since there is a long lead time needed for construction of sewer, water, and other utilities, forecasting capabilities in boomtown communities need improvement, in order to project with some accuracy the timetable for initial construction. Public and private utilities should be encouraged and required to develop implementation schedules, which make these utilities available in an orderly manner.

Adequate fire and law protection services should be available to the communities and surrounding areas. This will require state and county support. The definition of functions should be made to clearly establish jurisdictional responsibility between city, county, state and tribal officials.

In boomtown conditions, social service agencies will experience dramatic increases in caseload, especially in child abuse and drug abuse. Increases in mental health counseling, public assistance and crisis intervention should be planned for immediately.

Environmental concerns are also present in the northwest communities. Local and state agencies should focus their attention and increase their capacities to monitor the potential environmental impacts of developments.

Finally, local government financing capabilities need to be increased to cope with boomtown problems. One of the major conclusions of this report is that the cities and counties cannot pay for the construction of the needed facilities out of their own revenues.

The increase in property tax does not come until the boom is on its way. There is a lag of up to five years between the time the people come needing facilities and the time that tax revenues are flowing into the communities to pay for these services. Even if the cities were allowed to raise their mill levies and general obligation bond limits beyond the constitutional limit, their financial ability to pay back the debts would be seriously constrained by this lag time and boomtown phenomena."