



EDA Partnership Planning Grant

Grant # ED16PHI3020058

Progress Report

July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this investment is to establish a more balanced regional economy on Cape Cod with opportunities for all residents through the implementation of the CEDS 5-year plan completed in 2014. The scope of work for this planning grant is broken down into three categories, each with specific tasks. These are outlined in the following table along with the current status of each task.

Scope of Work Categories & Tasks	Status
Regional Economic Development Planning	
CEDS Strategy Committee Meetings (monthly)	Ongoing
CEDS Grant Reporting & Annual Evaluation	Ongoing
Technical Assistance: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal CEDS	Ongoing
Integration of Housing Affordability into CEDS	Ongoing
Research, Data Dissemination & Outreach	
STATS Cape Cod & BART	Ongoing
Research Projects	Ongoing
CEDS/SmarterCape Meetings & Annual Conference	Ongoing
Implementation of CEDS Priority Projects & RESET Projects	
Regional Priority Projects	Ongoing
RESET Projects	Ongoing

Over the past six months, work has focused on RESET projects and the on-going implementation of Priority Projects in addition to program administration. Staff continues to coordinate of the CEDS Strategy Committee and keep stakeholders and the media informed. These activities have been supported by matching funding provided by the Cape Cod Economic Development Council (the CEDS Strategy Committee) and the Cape Cod Commission (the Regional Planning Authority for Barnstable County).



ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BENEFITS & IMPACTS

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The CEDS Strategy Committee

The CEDS Strategy Committee is the Cape Cod Economic Development Council (CCEDC) supplemented by the Cape Cod Commission. The CEDS Strategy Committee meets monthly except for July. Over the past six months, the strategy committee has reviewed past accomplishments and planned for the fiscal year beginning in July 2017. They approved an updated CEDS action plan and recommended partial funding of the plan to the County Commissioners. The agendas and minutes from the past six months are available on [the CCEDC website](#).

CEDS Grant Reporting & Annual Evaluation: The [five-year update of the Barnstable County CEDS](#) was completed and submitted in June 2014. In June 2016, the [annual CEDS Evaluation](#) for year two was submitted along with the final report for the previous EDA partnership planning grant. These and other documents related to the CEDS may be found on the Commission's website: <http://www.capecodcommission.org>

Technical Assistance: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal CEDS: Cape Cod Commission staff has been in contact with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe regarding their CEDS development after participating in a large CEDS workshop last spring. The tribe has not, however, been in a position to move forward at this time but will make contact as they progress.

Integration of Housing Affordability into CEDS: The economic development staff at the Commission, in collaboration with the Commission's new Housing Specialist, issued and awarded an RFP for a region-wide housing needs assessment. The study officially started January 1, 2017. The as findings from this study become available they will be integrated into the CEDS analysis and planning process.

RESEARCH, DATA DISSEMINATION & OUTREACH

STATS Cape Cod & BART: The [STATS Cape Cod](#) website was updated as new federal and state data became available. The STATSCapeCod website was built in partnership with STATSIndiana and STATSAmerica which have developed extensive databases of federal data of interest to economic development professionals. The website includes county and town profiles, regional benchmarks, and town by town comparisons. It will undergo a complete review, upgrade, and expansion in the coming year.



[Barnstable Area Regional Trends \(BART\)](#) is in-depth research publication by the Cape Cod Commission to identify and examine important economic trends in the region. The most recent topics covered include the impact of second-home ownership on the regional economy, changes in the seasonality of the economy, population change by age cohort, and development patterns using satellite data.

Research Projects: Economic Development staff at the Commission are currently working on an econometric analysis to better understand residential property values and sales prices across the region. This work is an important element in planning for greater housing affordability in the future which is necessary to sustain our local economy.

CEDS/SmarterCape Meetings & Annual Conference: Preliminary discussion have begun on the agenda for the annual conference among the SmarterCape Partners, an informal collaboration of economic development entities that grew out of the CEDS process. The goal is to have a conference in the late Spring 2017.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CEDS PRIORITY PROJECTS & RESET PROJECTS

Regional Priority Project Implementation: Ten Regional Priority Projects were identified during the 2014 update of the CEDS Five-Year Plan that addressed key regional priority areas. The Cape Cod Commission, with the support of this and other sources of funds, has taken the lead on the following Regional Priority Projects:

Cape Cod Capital Trust Fund: The 2014 CEDS identified the need for more funding at the regional level for investment in infrastructure, particularly wastewater infrastructure. Wastewater infrastructure is needed to restore surface water quality and is essential to maintaining the tourism/second-home and retirement driven economy on Cape Cod. A detailed feasibility assessment was completed this spring and is currently being shared with key stakeholders in the region. The next step will be to work with the state legislature to establish this entity through state law.

Strategic Information Office: The Commission continues to support development of a region-wide e-permitting system. When fully implemented, the online system will allow Cape Cod municipalities to issue and monitor permits, licenses, and inspections, with a web-based portal for citizens and contractors. The system will implement a common technology infrastructure and software to be adopted regionally but tailored to each town. One goal is to eliminate redundant individual purchases and save public municipal funds. Four towns are currently participating in the e-permitting initiative.



Adaptation Impacts: The Cape Cod Commission is currently working on several projects related to the impacts future sea level rise and climate impacts on properties, infrastructure and natural systems. This work will contribute to an overall understanding of the economic development ramifications of sea level rise and storm damage. This work includes:

- The development of a GIS viewer illustrating the impact of climate change on key infrastructure, homes and businesses.
- On-going technical assistance to ten towns to develop or update local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans for FEMA.
- On-going identification of critical/vulnerable transportation assets and mitigation actions with town with support from Massachusetts Department of Transportation.
- Public outreach to improve understanding of climate change and its implications and research to identify adaptation strategies with funding through the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Regional Integrated Infrastructure Planning: The CEDS identified the need for a more coordinated approach to capital planning and maintenance on Cape Cod that would reduce costs to towns and tax payers while limiting the disruption associated with capital construction. In response, the Cape Cod Commission is developing a regional capital infrastructure plan to assess gaps in infrastructure availability, capacity, or quality and to guide infrastructure investment in the region.

RESET Technical Assistance Program: [The RESET program](#) deploys a multi-disciplinary team to work with communities to overcome barriers to appropriate economic development and sustainable growth.

Orleans RESET – Follow-up: The Town of Orleans, through their planning board, requested technical assistance in planning and economic development from the Cape Cod Commission beginning in 2015. The Commission was asked to identify actions the Town could pursue to better align existing conditions and zoning regulations with the vision and goals of their Local Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission delivered the initial [RESET report](#) to the Town in September 2015. Recommendations included zoning changes, changes to parking regulations, a comprehensive analysis of the permitting process, and the establishment of a Business Improvement District in the Village Center. The town has subsequently requested that the Cape Cod Commission complete a parking and circulation study and assist with zoning by-law changes; both of which are currently underway.

Falmouth Davis Straits RESET: The Town of Falmouth requested assistance from the Cape Cod Commission under the RESET program to



complete an analysis of the commercial strip area adjacent to their village center and create possible redevelopment scenarios and action steps. The final report on this project will be completed in the first quarter of 2017. It will include a comprehensive economic development analysis and action steps consistent with the goals of the town and region.

UPCOMING PRESS EVENTS

There are currently no press events scheduled but this will change with the annual evaluation process and SmarterCape Conference this spring.

PROGRESS RELATIVE TO EXPECTATIONS

Overall, progress has been consistent with the proposed timeline. The only exception to this is our assistance to the Wampanoag Tribe which has been delayed by the Tribe as they balance competing priorities with limited time and staff.

CHALLENGES & NEED FOR EDA ASSISTANCE

The only implementation challenges are those common to all projects – limited time and staff – but these have not significantly curtailed or delayed progress on CEDS Implementation or the scope of work under this grant.

We do not foresee the need for additional assistance from EDA to achieve the current workplan