



EDA Partnership Planning Grant

Grant # ED16PHI3020058

Progress Report

January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017

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 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 5-year plan completed in 2014.

Barnstable County was designated an Economic Development District (EDD) by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) in December 2013. This 3-year Partnership Planning Grant began July 1, 2015. 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
EDA Grant Reporting	Ongoing
CEDS Annual Report	Complete
Technical Assistance: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal CEDS	Postponed
Integration of Housing Affordability into CEDS	Ongoing
Research, Data Dissemination & Outreach	
STATS Cape Cod & BART	Ongoing
Research Project – Second Home Survey & Housing Study	Complete
Annual Conference	Complete
Implementation of CEDS Priority Projects & RESET Projects	
CEDS Regional Priority Projects	Ongoing
RESET Projects	Ongoing

Over the past six months, work has focused on completing the CEDS Annual Evaluation Report and two research projects, along with on-going work on



CEDS Priority Projects and EDD/CEDS program administration. The Commission continues to staff 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

Economic development on Cape Cod is guided by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The plan includes an overall vision for the region's economy as well as a concrete action plan determines how staff effort and funding is allocated.

The Cape Cod Commission is the lead planning entity when it comes to economic development. It is governed by a board of 18 commissioners representing all 15 towns of Cape Cod, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, minority populations on the Cape, and the Governor. The Cape Cod Economic Development Council (CCEDC) is another board established to advise the Barnstable County Commissioners on economic development policy and investments. Together the Cape Cod Commission and the CCEDC serve at the EDD Governing Board and CEDS Strategy Committee.

The CEDS Strategy Committee meets monthly except for July. Over the past six months, the strategy committee worked with staff on the CEDS Annual Evaluation and received briefings on the impacts of the RESET program, the status of the OpenCape Last Mile Broadband Regional Priority Project, and on projects funded by their small grants program which is designed around CEDS priorities. They approved the CEDS Annual Report and recommended to the County Commissioners continued funding of the annual work plan. The agendas and minutes from the past six months are available on [the CCEDC website](#).

EDA Grant Reporting: Commission staff has prepared and submitted the interim report for the first half of this fiscal year (July-December) as well as the annual GPRA report to EDA.

CEDS Annual Evaluation: The [five-year update of the Barnstable County CEDS](#) was completed and submitted in June 2014. In June 2017, the [annual CEDS Evaluation](#) for year three was approved by the CEDS Strategy Committee and submitted to EDA. 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 able to move forward on its CEDS at this time.

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 started January 1, 2017 and concluded June 30, 2017. The [Housing Needs Assessment](#) evaluated the demand for housing at different price points and the availability of that housing on Cape Cod today and in the near future. The study found a continued shortage of housing stock affordable to low and middle-income residents of Cape Cod. These findings 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 STATS Indiana and STATS America 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.

[Barnstable Area Regional Trends \(BART\)](#) is an in-depth research publication by the Cape Cod Commission to identify and examine important economic trends in the region using a wide variety of data sets. Topics include the impact of second-home ownership on the regional economy, changes in the seasonality of the economy, population change by age cohort, and the impact of development patterns on tree cover.

Research Projects: With the combine support of the EDA, Barnstable County, and the Cape Cod Commission, staff was able to complete two major research studies this spring.

The housing needs assessment, previously mentioned, was completed with the help of consultants, and presented widely at sub-regional workshops and the Commission's regional *OneCape* conference in June.

A survey of Cape Cod second home owners was also completed this month. This is the second such survey, mirroring many of the same questions asked in the initial 2008 survey, thus allowing for longitudinal comparisons. The questions focused on the current and future use of their properties and their role in the regional economy. The survey results will be posted on the Commission's website this month.



Annual Conference: The Cape Cod Commission convened regional stakeholders at a two-day conference to discuss infrastructure, housing, and the economy. The conference, called [OneCape](#), highlighted both the need for greater economic and housing diversity along with infrastructure investment and potential creative solutions for meeting these needs.

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 integrated planning and funding of infrastructure, particularly wastewater infrastructure. Wastewater infrastructure is needed to restore surface water quality and is essential to maintaining and diversifying the tourism/second-home/retirement driven economy on Cape Cod. A detailed feasibility assessment was completed last spring and was shared with key stakeholders in the region. During the current Massachusetts State legislative session, draft language to establish a regional financing entity was introduced, starting the conversation with law makers and the administration. The Commission is actively engaged in these discussions.

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. Renewed effort is needed to increase funding and participation in this important initiative.

Adaptation Impacts: The Cape Cod Commission is currently working on several projects related to the impacts of sea level rise and climate change on property, 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:

- Identification of the full range of resiliency strategies, an understanding of public perceptions of sea-level rise and these resiliency strategies, and the development of a resiliency planning tool are all underway with the support of a NOAA [Coastal Resiliency](#)



[Grant](#) totaling, with the Commission's 30% match, \$780,000 over three years.

- Development of the [Sea-level Rise Viewer](#) for climate change planning to identify at risk properties and infrastructure
- Completion and approval by FEMA of a [Regional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- Complete assessment of Critical Transportation Assets Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise.
- Continued technical assistance to towns for the development of [Local Hazard Mitigation Plans](#). Commission staff provides necessary data and helps evaluate the economic ramifications of climate change

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. The plan will be adopted as part of the Regional Policy Plan within the next year.

RESET Technical Assistance Program: [The RESET program](#) deploys a multi-disciplinary staff 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.

Since that time, the town has passed zoning changes reflective of the RESET recommendations and has requested that the Cape Cod Commission complete the recommended parking and circulation study needed to make necessary changes in parking and traffic patterns.

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 was completed this spring and presented to several town boards and the public. It included a comprehensive economic development analysis and action steps consistent with the goals of the town and region. The Town has already initiated work on several action steps recommended.



Hyannis RESET: The Town of Barnstable has requested RESET team assistance to help improve economic outcomes both in the Village Center of Hyannis and along the Hyannis commercial strip, which includes four major retail malls. The goal is to update zoning to better reflect the Town's visions for the areas and tailor regional regulatory oversight to encourage the desired development types, patterns, and forms. The project will involve outreach and education in addition to drafting possible by-laws and making policy recommendations.

UPCOMING PRESS EVENTS

Press events and public presentations focused on the economic trends outlined in the CEDS annual report and the findings of both the housing needs assessment and the second home survey are currently being planned.

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. We are, however, working with our communities to address funding needs for wastewater and other infrastructure needs impacting economic development in the region.