

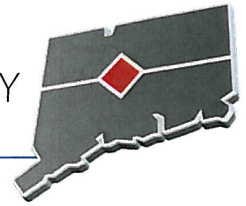
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Serving Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington

225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, CT 06010-4993

Internet: <http://ccrpa.org>
Fax/TDD: (860) 589-6950

Tel: (860) 589-7820
or (860) 224-9888



MEMORANDUM

TO: Agency Board
FROM: Jonathan Rosenthal, Chair, Central CT Economic Development Alliance
DATE: August 29, 2011
FOR AGENDA: September 1, 2011
SUBJECT: Central Connecticut Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

In September of 2009, the Agency received a \$64,000 grant from the US Economic Development Agency (EDA) to prepare an update of the region's 2004 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The EDA requires that any project that a municipality wishes to have eligible for grants under the Public Works and Economic Development Program, or the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, be included in an up-to-date CEDS. Regions must update their CEDS approximately every five years for their towns to remain eligible for these grants.

The Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance, a committee of the Agency, prepared the draft of a new CEDS for the Region which is posted on the Agency web site. This update was developed with input from representatives of all seven towns in the Region as well as interested members of the general public. It includes a comprehensive review of recent economic and demographic data and an analysis of regional trends and issues. From this analysis a series of realistic but ambitious objectives and actions was developed which are intended to move the region forward economically. The CEDS also includes a list of priority capital projects, submitted by representatives from the towns, that may be eligible for EDA funding.

On that basis, it is my

RECOMMENDATION

that your Board:

Approve and endorse the 2011 Central Connecticut CEDS, as presented on the CCRPA website at: <http://ccrpa.org/CEDS/2011-CEDS-final.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance is a committee of the CCRPA, formed in the early 1990s. Each town in the region may be represented by up to three members, including one each selected by the following: chief elected or appointed official, local economic

development agency, and the chamber of commerce. The following other agencies may each appoint one at-large member:

- Capital Workforce Partners
- CCSU
- Connecticut Central Regional Tourism District
- Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau, Litchfield Hills Office
- CERC
- Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development
- Tunxis Community College
- Northeast Utilities

Furthermore, to meet US EDA CEDS requirements, the Governing Board may invite other individuals to serve on the committee to represent the following other sectors: finance, agriculture, professions, organized labor, community organizations, public health agencies, aged, disabled, unemployed and underemployed, racial or ethnic minorities, and women.

Currently the following municipal and chamber appointed members serve on the CCEDA:

Berlin	Jim Mahoney - Econ. Dev		Bill Millerick - Chamber
Bristol	Art Ward – Mayor		Steven Schiller - Ec. Dev.
	Jonathan Rosenthal (Chair) - Ec. Dev.	Plainville	Robert E. Lee - Manager
	Mike Nicasro - Chamber (com. org's.)		Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev.
Burlington	Rich Stocker – Econ. Dev	Plymouth	Khara Dodds - Ec. Dev.
	Mike Scheidel – Chamber	Southington	Louis Perillo - Ec. Dev.
New Britain	Tim Stewart (V. Chair)		

The following non-municipal representatives also currently serve on the CCEDA:

Julie Geyer - CWP (Un/underemployed)	Peggy Sokol - Bristol Senior Center (aged/women)
Bruce Lydem (Organized Labor)	Rosita Forte-Dobson - CT Small Business Center (Professionals/women/minorities)
Byron Treado (Finance)	CCSU – Richard Mullins
Janet Serra - NW CT CVB (tourism/women)	Victor Mitchell - Tunxis CC
John O'Toole - Northeast Utilities (utilities)	Agriculture - vacant
John Tricarico - CCRPA Paratransit (Disabilities)	CERC – N.A.
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health)	

Subsequent to your approval of the CEDS, it will be submitted to the EDA for final approval. Following EDA approval, it is our intention to begin applying for designation as an Economic Development District at both the state and national level.