
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: December 4, 2018
TO: CRCOG Policy Board
FROM: Timothy Malone, Principal Planner, CRCOG
SUBJECT: Submittal of Metro Hartford Future CEDS Plan to US EDA

CRCOG staff and other partners including the Metro Hartford Alliance and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving have been working with a team of consultants from First Economy to develop Metro Hartford Future -- a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. This effort has involved dozens of stakeholders through focus groups, committees, and interviews. The Advisory Committee to the project has more than 30 members from private corporations, higher education, and non-profits.

The process has focused on developing a limited set of “game changer” strategies that will advance inclusive economic development in the metropolitan region. Our process has been based on an understanding that true economic development cannot leave people behind, and that the only worthwhile plans are those that get implemented. Following those principles, we have endeavored to craft strategies that develop the workforce talent that underpin the success of our economy. We have also sought to develop strategies that create a greater sense of regional identity and purpose to provide common goals for organizations to collaboratively work towards.

The draft strategy you have today is not intended to be the absolute final product of the Metro Hartford Future project. It is a first step in creating a coordinated cross-sector initiative to implement meaningful economic development projects. In doing so, we must realize that this effort will need to be flexible so that it can meet the needs of our partners and respond to new opportunities.

The strategies in this plan have been vetted by our CEDS Advisory Committee and by organizations who are willing to assist with implementation. In some cases that will involve further study, fundraising, or advocating for changes to state law. CRCOG clearly cannot complete these tasks alone and will need strong support and leadership from our partners.

The resolution you are being asked to consider permits staff to submit a final report to our grantors at the U.S. EDA. It also expresses your support of these strategies and

permits us to seek public comment. This will kick off our broader effort at an implementation plan for the report. Following these actions, we will be meeting with our partners and key members of our Advisory Committee to strategize around forming an implementation structure that will be tasked with overseeing the next phases of this project.

We will keep the CRCOG Policy Board fully informed on next steps in the overall process.

A link to the full report may be found [here](#).