

Agenda Item Summary

To: CRCOG Policy Board

From: Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director; Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development

Meeting Date: September 27, 2023

Subject: Adoption Resolution: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Background: One of CRCOG's core planning documents, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development and is intended to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of the Capitol Region. Regions must update their CEDS at least every five years to qualify for Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. In addition, a CEDS is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an Economic Development District (EDD), a designation recently achieved by CRCOG.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: An updated CEDS qualifies the region for various programs through the EDA and establishes a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration. Municipalities applying for various competitive grants are often able to cite the CEDS plan as a supporting document.

Financial/Operational Impact: The CEDS update was funded through an EDA CARES grant with no cost to member towns.

Project Schedule: N/A

Recommendation: CRCOG staff recommends the Policy Board approve the attached resolution endorsing and adopting the final CEDS plan.

Attachments:

- Resolution attached.

RESOLUTION

FOR ADOPTION OF THE UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs)

WHEREAS, CRCOG maintains the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) for the region; and,

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) applied for a grant on behalf of six regions in the state to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for funding from the CARES Act; and,

WHEREAS, the EDA awarded a grant to DECD that included a subgrant to CRCOG in the amount of \$90,000 to update its CEDs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG conducted a competitive Request for Proposals process to select a firm to assist CRCOG in the development of a COVID Recovery Focused CEDs Update;

WHEREAS, CRCOG in consultation with the CEDs Update Committee and Camoin Associates has completed an update to the CEDs, which has been through public review and has been reviewed and recommendations accepted by the Update Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments Policy Board has reviewed the study and has found its recommendations to meet the needs of the region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, that the Capitol Region Council of Governments does hereby endorse the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). The plan may be marked Final and dated September 2023, and study recommendations may henceforth be incorporated into CRCOG's planning documents.

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on September 27, 2023.

BY: _____ DATE: _____
Jason Bowsza, Secretary