

Regional Priority Projects - Summary

The heart of the CEDS Action Plan is the set of sixteen Regional Priority Projects identified by the five CEDS Work Groups made up of representatives from the organizations involved in economic development on Cape Cod. These projects have been determined to be consistent with the Regional Growth Policy and Economic Development Goals. Projects under consideration were evaluated according to the likelihood that they would:

- ★ Leverage public and private funding
- ★ Create higher-wage and higher-skilled jobs
- ★ Strengthen and expand partnership & collaboration
- ★ Integrate the regional economy into the global market, and
- ★ Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

The projects were also judged on their ability to direct growth to economic centers and reduce commercial or residential sprawl while having a positive impact on the Cape's natural resources. Those projects that fared the best relative to these criteria were selected as Regional Priority Projects. They are briefly described below and in more detail on the individual project forms following this summary.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- ★ Community Green Enterprise Center Design & Construction
Community Green will be a sustainable community on 45 acres of land in Sandwich, where formerly homeless and low-income individuals and families will have access to vocational training and employment in the fields of renewable energy, agriculture, and the culinary arts with the educational and business partners located at the Community Green Enterprise Center.
- ★ Emerging Sectors Housing Program
Identify opportunities to support emerging industries such as education, marine sciences, and the arts by reducing barriers imposed by the high cost of housing on Cape Cod. Initial projects may include student/faculty housing at the Cape Cod Community College or other educational entities and artist live/work space in economic centers.
- ★ Homeland Security & Marine Security Technology Testing & Training Center
Establish a Homeland Security Center on the MMR to provide scenario based training for military and local public safety providers and to stimulate innovation, research, and technology transfer in marine security through technology testing programs.
- ★ Open Cape Telecommunication Infrastructure
Create a reliable, secure communications backhaul network from Woods Hole to Provincetown with capacity to transport large amounts of data on and off-Cape; a microwave and fiber network to enhance education, research, and economic development on a daily basis, and to provide a redundant emergency communications network in times of crisis.
- ★ Renewable Energy Generation Program

Phase 1 will be an algae bio-fuel refinery pilot project. The project, advocated by Cape Cod Renewable Fuels Partnership, is expected to produce 1 million gallons of bio-fuels annually. Future phases will investigate off-shore renewable energy opportunities.

★ Renewable Energy Technology Testing & Training Center

Phase 1: Assess need for a 3rd party testing site for small- and mid-scale wind applications (up to 600 kilowatts in scale) with complementary training and research opportunities for engineers, technicians and educators in partnership with academia. Phase 2: Assess need for testing in other areas of renewable energy technology development.

★ Wastewater Infrastructure in Economic Centers & Villages

Design and build wastewater infrastructure in those areas designated for mixed-use development and redevelopment where greater population density is desired.

PLANNING PROJECTS

★ Coastal Use Templates for Economic Development

Complete a baseline analysis of access, land uses, and economic activity along the Cape's coastline. Based on this research and through a public process, develop a series of options for coastal development and redevelopment on Cape Cod that will leverage the summer season to provide employment and business opportunities year-round and reinforce the Cape's historic connection to the sea.

★ Development in Economic Centers - Cost Analysis

Identify the factors making development and redevelopment more expensive in downtown centers than in outlying areas; design incentives to recalibrate this cost differential in order to shift growth to economic centers and reduce the higher infrastructure costs associated with sprawl.

★ Redevelopment Authority - Feasibility Analysis

Complete a feasibility analysis of regional or local redevelopment entities to facilitate development in areas designated for growth through the acquisition and sale of land or property rights.

★ Specialized Four-year College - Feasibility Analysis

Establish an independent or affiliated undergraduate institution offering a limited number of degree programs in specialties related to the region's emerging industries and natural resources such as engineering, environmental science, and fine arts with associated Cape-focused research centers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

★ ADA & Building Compliance Loan Program

Establish a regional revolving loan fund for low-interest financing of ADA and building code compliant renovations to improve the commercial building stock and encourage multi-story development and top-of-the-shop expansion in growth centers.

★ 'Buy Local' Infrastructure Development Program

Fund projects to increase local production of goods and services and educate buyers on the economic benefits of using local purveyors. Provide capital to expand local production and value added capacity; adopt appropriate protections for productive lands and facilities; train educators, business owners, and the workforce to use local providers whenever possible.

★ Capitalize the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust

Provide capital to fund the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust's purchase of fishing rights for local fishermen. Purchases ensure a lasting future for sustainable fishing on Cape Cod; corporate consolidation through the purchase of a limited fishing quota has increased the cost of remaining in or entering the fishing industry for the independent small boat operators on Cape Cod.

★ Energy Demand Reduction Program - Greening Existing Buildings

Realize immediate and long-term reduction in energy demand through the expansion of existing energy efficiency assistance programs, the establishment of an efficiency betterment loan program, and through a series of demonstration and workforce training projects.

★ Entrepreneurship Capital Access & Training Program

Attract capital, initially focusing on Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants to fund existing and start up businesses on the Cape. Strengthen the culture of entrepreneurship through training programs in schools, entrepreneurship workshops, and business plan competitions.

Regional Priority Projects – Individual Priority Project Forms

The following priority project forms were developed with EDA priorities in mind. A project form was completed by the Work Groups for each of the priority projects. The numbering indicates which Work Group identified the project described; the initial indicates the Work Group while the number represents how the group ranked the project out of the maximum of three they were asked to select¹. The project form asks for a description of the basic elements of the project, the desired outcomes, and measures of progress. The organization to lead project implementation is identified as well as the expected partner organizations.

It will be clear in reviewing these regional priorities that the various projects are at different stages of development. Some, such as Open Cape and the Fisheries Trust, are essentially “shovel ready” and could be fully implemented within year one. Others are more conceptual. Work will begin on these right away but actual implementation will be in future years. Finally, there are some projects, such as Wastewater Infrastructure in Economic Centers, which will occur in increments throughout the five-year timeframe and most likely beyond.

¹ ID = Infrastructure Development; WD = Workforce Development; SD = Sector Development; BD = Business Development; and BC = Business Climate