



SRPEDD ASSISTANCE TO CITIES AND TOWNS

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's cities and towns are entitled to technical assistance from SRPEDD. Every year each SRPEDD Commissioner (Mayor or Selectmen's representative and Planning Board representative) is allocated 20 hours for municipal assistance.

This year, SRPEDD is offering additional technical assistance services courtesy of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the legislature. SRPEDD has received funding under the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program to assist the cities and towns in two areas:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/LAND USE

Traditional planning work with an emphasis on sustainability. Examples of work in this area would include:

- ✓ Bylaw/ordinance preparation and implementation for open space residential/cluster zoning, low impact development, transit oriented development, workforce housing districts;
- ✓ Permitting procedures to implement prompt and reliable permitting;
- ✓ Master plan elements;
- ✓ Corridor analyses, especially for multiple communities.

MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborations among municipalities in the areas of cost effective municipal service delivery or planning and development issues. Examples of work in these areas would include:

- ✓ Shared services and staff positions;
- ✓ Cooperative agreements/collaboration among communities, regional 911 service, joint purchasing, operating budget management (such as energy cost control, staffing, benefits) and other municipal activities that can be delivered more efficiently at a regional level.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Projects to be undertaken with DLTA funding will be selected on the basis of several criteria, including likelihood of completion and implementation, advancement of the state's sustainable development principles (attached), promotion of regional collaboration and local commitment.

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780

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In addition, SRPEDD will continue to offer technical assistance in these areas:

- ✓ **Municipal Assistance** - 20 hours to each SRPEDD Commissioner. Includes zoning bylaws, GIS Mapping, grant applications, subdivision rules and regulations, subdivision and site plan review, and survey assistance. *(Funded by local assessments from cities and towns)*
- ✓ **Expedited Permitting** - Assistance to municipalities on streamlining local review procedures or compliance with the state Chapter 43D process. *(Funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)*
- ✓ **Economic Development** - Economic development strategies, project development and management, and grant applications. *(Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration)*
- ✓ **Sustainability Planning** - Assistance to cities and town to pursue sustainable activities, including renewable energy alternatives, support for agriculture, low impact development, water management (potable water, wastewater, storm water) and sustainable local bylaws. *(Funded by the Island Foundation and local assessments)*
- ✓ **Environment** - As part of the Taunton River Campaign, technical assistance to basin communities including ACEC, CPA and open space planning activities. *(Funded by the Sheehan Family Foundation)*
- ✓ **Transportation** - Safety studies, intersection analyses, traffic counts, parking and circulation studies, pavement management analysis and other activities under SRPEDD's Unified Planning Work Program. *(Funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation)*
- ✓ **G.I.S. Mapping And Data Center** - Geographic Information System mapping for roads, zoning, land use, aquifers, open space, wetlands and many other layers. Demographic information, surveys, population projections, school enrollment projections and data analysis *(Funded by local assessments to SRPEDD)*

For all requests, please contact Greg Guimond (gguimond@srpedd.org) or Sandy Conaty (sconaty@srpedd.org) at SRPEDD (508-824-1367) to discuss your request because the procedures and eligibility for the various types of technical assistance differ. You will also be requested to consult your local representative on the SRPEDD Commission.

SRPEDD will not use technical assistance services to replace local staff.

November 19, 2008

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Sustainable Development Principles

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall care for the built and natural environment by promoting sustainable development through integrated energy and environment, housing and economic development, transportation and other policies, programs, investments, and regulations. The Commonwealth will encourage the coordination and cooperation of all agencies, invest public funds wisely in smart growth and equitable development, give priority to investments that will deliver good jobs and good wages, transit access, housing, and open space, in accordance with the following sustainable development principles. Furthermore, the Commonwealth shall seek to advance these principles in partnership with regional and municipal governments, non-profit organizations, business, and other stakeholders.



1. Concentrate Development and Mix Uses

Support the revitalization of city and town centers and neighborhoods by promoting development that is compact, conserves land, protects historic resources, and integrates uses. Encourage remediation and reuse of existing sites, structures, and infrastructure rather than new construction in undeveloped areas. Create pedestrian friendly districts and neighborhoods that mix commercial, civic, cultural, educational, and recreational activities with open spaces and homes.

2. Advance Equity

Promote equitable sharing of the benefits and burdens of development. Provide technical and strategic support for inclusive community planning and decision making to ensure social, economic, and environmental justice. Ensure that the interests of future generations are not compromised by today's decisions.



3. Make Efficient Decisions

Make regulatory and permitting processes for development clear, predictable, coordinated, and timely in accordance with smart growth and environmental stewardship.



4. Protect Land and Ecosystems

Protect and restore environmentally sensitive lands, natural resources, agricultural lands, critical habitats, wetlands and water resources, and cultural and historic landscapes. Increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces and recreational opportunities.



5. Use Natural Resources Wisely

Construct and promote developments, buildings, and infrastructure that conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water, and materials.



6. Expand Housing Opportunities

Support the construction and rehabilitation of homes to meet the needs of people of all abilities, income levels, and household types. Build homes near jobs, transit, and where services are available. Foster the development of housing, particularly multifamily and smaller single-family homes, in a way that is compatible with a community's character and vision and with providing new housing choices for people of all means.



7. Provide Transportation Choice

Maintain and expand transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel and improve air quality. Prioritize rail, bus, boat, rapid and surface transit, shared-vehicle and shared-ride services, bicycling, and walking. Invest strategically in existing and new passenger and freight transportation infrastructure that supports sound economic development consistent with smart growth objectives.



8. Increase Job and Business Opportunities

Attract businesses and jobs to locations near housing, infrastructure, and transportation options. Promote economic development in industry clusters. Expand access to education, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Support the growth of local businesses, including sustainable natural resource-based businesses, such as agriculture, forestry, clean energy technology, and fisheries.



9. Promote Clean Energy

Maximize energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. Support energy conservation strategies, local clean power generation, distributed generation technologies, and innovative industries. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of fossil fuels.



10. Plan Regionally

Support the development and implementation of local and regional, state and interstate plans that have broad public support and are consistent with these principles. Foster development projects, land and water conservation, transportation and housing that have a regional or multi-community benefit. Consider the long-term costs and benefits to the Commonwealth.



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