

## REPORT TO THE TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

The Town of Mattapoisett is a member of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District. SRPEDD (pronounced sir-ped) is the regional agency serving twenty-seven cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts dealing with common issues facing our region, such as economic development, growth and land development, transportation, environment, municipal partnerships, and general planning for the future. SRPEDD is governed by a Commission of local mayors, selectmen, planning board members and at large members. We are funded by federal and state grants and local assessments. For 2015 the Town of Mattapoisett paid \$1,025.90 to SRPEDD, based upon an assessment of 16.971 cents per capita.

Local citizens serving at SRPEDD included the following:

SRPEDD Commission: Randall H. Kunz and Robert Rogers

Joint Transportation Planning Group: Randall Kunz and Barry J. Denham

Randall Kunz is an Officer and Treasurer for the Finance Committee and Commission. Randall also, a member of the Executive Committee.

Bob Rogers serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the 2015/16 term as the Planning Board Appointee. Bob also, serves as a member of the Finance Committee.

Technical assistance was provided to the Town in the following areas:

- Assisted South Coast Bikeway Alliance (Mattapoisett represented) with mapping, website maintenance, funding guidance, route planning, and public outreach. (MassDOT)

Some of SRPEDD's more significant accomplishments during 2015 were:

- **SRPEDD's Municipal Partnership** SRPEDD's Municipal Partnership program continued its efforts to help improve municipal operating efficiencies and save money for residents of member cities and towns. This year the Community Electricity Aggregation program was implemented in 19 SRPEDD communities and should protect residents from winter spikes in their electricity bill and could save the region over \$15M the first winter. The Group bid for EMS (ambulance) supplies was expanded to include up to 188 communities including cities and towns supported by other RPA's.
- **The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, which sets regional priorities for federal transportation funds, was completed and approved for FY 2016-2019. The TIP targets apply to highway projects, and transit funds for GATRA and SRTA. TIP highway targets average about \$18 million/year.
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeastern Massachusetts**, a regional economic development strategy, was completed and certified by the U.S.

Economic Development Administration, making the region eligible for federal economic development grants from EDA.

- The **Taunton River** was designated by the US National Park Service as a **Wild and Scenic River** in 2009. The Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC) made up of locally appointed representatives from the ten municipalities abutting the Taunton River, along with supporting agencies, continues to meet regularly at SRPEDD to address protection of the river and its outstanding natural resources. SRPEDD staff works with TRSC to administer a mini-grant program that has funded over \$120,000 in local river and tributary related projects to date. SRPEDD continues to participate in the Taunton River Watershed Stream Continuity Program, surveying, documenting, and assessing the barriers to flows and fish passage created by bridges and culverts. In all, 516 sites, in 27 cities and towns, including 15 SRPEDD communities, have been assessed to date.
- **South Coast Rail** remained a major priority in 2015. SRPEDD continued to support the Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force, which includes representation from SRPEDD municipalities and regional organizations.
- SRPEDD also provided technical assistance to communities through seventeen projects that implement the South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan. Projects included zoning bylaw amendments, community build-out analysis, assistance with developing planning documents and renderings of possible future development under project proposals.
- SRPEDD continued as the designated sub-fiduciary agent to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) for the **Southeast Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council** serving 96 communities and the Wampanoag Nation in 6 counties in southeastern Massachusetts. The Council has been awarded more than \$27.5 million in federal homeland security funds since 2004.
- SRPEDD conducts a **district-wide traffic counting program** (including speed surveys and vehicle classification, and 38 intersection turning movement counts) and maintains a computer file of all available traffic count data throughout the region. SRPEDD undertook 144 traffic counts at various locations this past year.
- An extensive **Geographic Information System (GIS)** mapping program is maintained by SRPEDD. Every year new computerized “data layers” are added to the system
- SRPEDD operates the **Southeastern Massachusetts Data Center**, providing information to businesses, cities and towns, and individuals.
- SRPEDD provides technical planning to two regional transit authorities, **SRTA and GATRA**, including: route evaluations, rider surveys, performance standards and federal reporting. SRPEDD completed a Regional Transit Plan for GATRA that will guide transit improvements in the near future. SRPEDD also began an extensive inventory and assessment of all bus stops located on fixed routes within the GATRA and SRTA areas. This work will continue in 2016.
- SRPEDD maintains a comprehensive database of all 365 signalized intersections in the region. This includes geometry, traffic volume, crash rate, signal timing and operational characteristics.
- SRPEDD continued its affiliation with the South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation, which makes loans to small businesses for expansion.

SRPEDD was created to serve the cities and towns of southeastern Massachusetts. We are governed by elected and appointed officials from all the cities and towns. We look forward to serving you in the future.

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