

## **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 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 2009, the Town of Mattapoisett paid \$1,012.47 to SRPEDD, based upon an assessment of 16.15 cents per capita.

Local citizens serving at SRPEDD included the following:

- < SRPEDD Commission: Randall Kunz and Robert Rogers
- < Joint Transportation Planning Group: Michael Botelho and Barry Denham
- < Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force: Stephen Lombard

Some of SRPEDD's more significant accomplishments during 2009 were:

- SRPEDD launched new programs to assist cities and towns to address the ongoing fiscal crisis. A regional cooperative purchasing program was begun this year with two rounds of bidding for public works related items. Regional groups were also established to explore the potential of regional 911 dispatch services and the possibility of combining other municipal services. This effort was funded under the state's DLTA program.
- Completion and approval of the **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, which sets regional priorities for federal transportation funds, and the **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**. The TIP established priorities for federal and state regional targets for highway projects, and transit funds for GATRA and SRTA over the next 3 years.
- **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. This designation was the culmination of over a decade of work by SRPEDD and a group of hard working citizens. SRPEDD is also a partner with 9 other organizations in the Taunton River Campaign.
- South Coast Rail remained a major priority in 2009. SRPEDD continued to support the Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force, which includes representation from SRPEDD municipalities and regional organizations. SRPEDD's work on priority development

and priority protection area designations culminated in the release of the Corridor Plan in August. Plans for development around the train stations commenced in 2009 and will continue into 2010.

- SRPEDD continued as the designated fiduciary agent by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety for the **Southeast Regional Advisory Council for Homeland Security** serving 96 communities in 6 counties in southeastern Massachusetts. The Council has awarded \$23.12 million in federal homeland security funds since 2004.
- SRPEDD conducts a district-wide traffic counting program (including speed surveys and vehicle classification, and 47 intersection turning movement counts) and maintains a computer file of all available traffic count data throughout the region. SRPEDD undertook 125 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. In 2009, SRPEDD completed a web-based mapping tool for all cities and towns in the region that will enable them to evaluate sites in the community.
- SRPEDD operates the Southeastern Massachusetts Data Center, providing information to businesses, cities and towns, and individuals.
- In cooperation with UMass Dartmouth, SRPEDD organized the Southeastern Massachusetts Council on Sustainability in 2009, with assistance from the Island Foundation. The broad-based Council is addressing how the region prepares for the future.
- SRPEDD continues to provide planning and support to the two regional transit authorities, SRTA and GATRA, on various efforts including: consumer advisory committees, route evaluations, planning, monitoring services and federal reporting.
- SRPEDD maintains a comprehensive database of all 355 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.

In addition, municipal assistance was provided to the Town of Mattapoisett in the following areas:

- Master Plan Assistance

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.