

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 2011, the Town of Mattapoisett paid \$976.45 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: Randall Kunz and Barry Denham

Randall Kunz also served as Chair on the Commission as well as a member of the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee.

Bob Rogers also served as a member of the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee.

Some of SRPEDD's more significant accomplishments during 2011 were:

- SRPEDD's **Municipal Partnership** program launched new efforts to help improve operating efficiencies of member cities and towns. The regional purchasing program teamed with the Town of Kingston for a group bid for office supplies, resulting in significant savings to participants. SRPEDD worked with a consortium of local Boards of Health to study the feasibility of regionalizing some functions.
- A feasibility study was conducted for 19 communities on **911 dispatch operations** to make recommendations on enhancements to public safety. The study proposes consolidation of local emergency dispatch operations into 2 regional centers to save over \$4 million annually. Regional training for dispatchers is also underway.
- The **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, which sets regional priorities for federal transportation funds, was completed and approved for 2011. The TIP targets apply to highway projects, and transit funds for GATRA and SRTA.
- The **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** was completed and approved in 2011. The plan sets the framework for future transportation investments in Southeastern Massachusetts.
- **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 made up of representatives from the ten municipalities abutting the Taunton River, along with supporting agencies, continues to meet at SRPEDD to guide protection of the river.

- **South Coast Rail** remained a major priority in 2011. SRPEDD continued to support the Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force, which includes representation from SRPEDD municipalities and regional organizations. Plans for development around the train stations are being developed.
- 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 more than \$25.4 million in federal homeland security funds since 2004.
- SRPEDD conducts a **district-wide traffic counting program** (including speed surveys and vehicle classification, and 45 intersection turning movement counts) and maintains a computer file of all available traffic count data throughout the region. SRPEDD undertook 124 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.
- In cooperation with UMass Dartmouth, SRPEDD organized the **Southeastern Massachusetts Council on Sustainability**. 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, technical assistance was provided to the Town of Mattapoisett in the following areas:

- Open Space and Recreation Plan information was provided to the Town at the Open Space and Recreation Planning Forum. (Foundation and In-Kind)
- Worked to develop plans for a bike path in the town as part of the proposed regional bike path. (MADOT)
- Provided the Police Department with a town-wide street map with labeled roadways. (MA)

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.