

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 2014 the Town of Mattapoisett paid \$1,000.87 to SRPEDD, based upon an assessment of 16.56 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. He is also a member of the Executive Committee.

Bob Rogers also serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the 2014/15 term as the Planning Board Appointee. He also serves as a member of the Finance Committee.

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

- Provided the Planning Board with maps depicting community changes to new FIRM Maps as information for Town Meeting consideration.
- Through participation in SRPEDD's Bicycle Parking Program the town added 22 bicycle racks at 10 locations for a total of 44 bicycle parking spaces and was reimbursed \$2,243.78 for the purchase price of the racks.
- Assisted South Coast Bikeway Alliance (Mattapoisett represented) with mapping, website maintenance, funding guidance, route planning, and public outreach.

Some of SRPEDD's more significant accomplishments during 2014 were:

- SRPEDD's **Municipal Partnership** program continued its efforts to help improve the operating efficiencies of member towns and cities. The Cooperative Purchasing Program expanded significantly to include 116 towns and cities for a group bid of EMS (Ambulance) supplies, resulting in awards to vendors offering 26%-83% discount off their list prices.
- The **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, which sets regional priorities for federal transportation funds, was completed and approved for FY 2014-2017. The TIP targets apply to highway projects, and transit funds for GATRA and SRTA. TIP highway targets average about \$15 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.

- **South Coast Rail** remained a major priority in 2014. 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 thirteen projects that implement the South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan. Projects included zoning bylaw amendments, 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 awarded more than \$26.5 million in federal homeland security funds since 2004.
- SRPEDD worked with ten communities to create a regional aggregation of residential and small business customers for a single electricity bid. The result will provide stable electric bills over a 2-3 year period and is expected to save individual accounts over \$150 per year, representing a regional economic stimulus of over \$15M per year.
- SRPEDD conducts a **district-wide traffic counting program** (including speed surveys and vehicle classification, and 36 intersection turning movement counts) and maintains a computer file of all available traffic count data throughout the region. SRPEDD undertook 108 traffic counts at various locations this past year.
- SRPEDD worked with the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to evaluate the impact of proposed slot parlors in Plainville and Raynham.
- 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 Comprehensive Service Assessment for SRTA that will guide transit improvements in the near future. A similar plan for GATRA is expected to be completed in 2015.
- 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.