Accelerating Economic Growth in the Capital Region

Presentation to the CT Commission for Economic Competitiveness

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CRCOG and CEDS Background

- CRCOG serves 38 cities and towns
- Population is just under 1 million residents
- The region expanded from 30 to 38 municipalities in 2014
- Prior to 2014 four CRCOG municipalities were part of the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency’s CEDS; four municipalities were part of the Windham/Northeast Connecticut CEDS
- Previous CEDS process was managed by the Metro Hartford Alliance
- Following the 2014 consolidation, CRCOG and the Metro Hartford Alliance agreed to a pass off of the CEDS for the expanded region
Why CRCOG as a CEDS Coordinator?

• Much of CRCOG’s existing work has significant economic development impacts
• Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region
• Transportation planning (CTfastrak, New Haven – Hartford – Springfield Rail, next Hartford Springfield Boston rail service)
• Land-use planning Plan of Conservation and Development with a lot of work in Transit-Oriented Development going back a decade
• Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning
• Municipal services -- Regional Purchasing Council, Nutmeg Network/Cloud
• Makes sense to integrate transportation, land-use, hazard mitigation, municipal services, and economic development in one agency
The Current CEDS

**Part 1: Initiatives**

Vision: Why Implement This CEDS

Regional Initiatives:
- Cluster Initiative
- Workforce and Education Initiative
- Infrastructure Initiative
- Downtown Hartford Initiative
- Cross-Cutting Initiatives

Implementation

**Part 2: Trend Analyses**

**Part 3: Industry Analyses**
The New CEDS for the Capital Region

• Moving away from focus on industrial parks and incentive packages
• Shifting focus to drivers of economic development
• Five principles based on the Regional Economic Strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region:
  • Ensuring residents have access to family wage jobs and employers have access to world class talent.
  • Fostering a regional business climate that supports high quality investment and job creation.
  • Harnessing the entrepreneurship and technology innovation assets in the region.
  • Advancing the region’s infrastructure to meet the demands of a globally connected modern economy.
  • Ensuring a healthy and beautiful environment, vibrant and thriving communities and a high quality of life for all the region’s residents.
Next CEDS

• Talent driver
• Infrastructure driver
Conferences Leading to Next CEDS

- **Advanced manufacturing** on Price Waterhouse six factors for New England to remain competitive in manufacturing – 10 billion dollar exports just for the capital region
- **Innovation and entrepreneurship** best practices – Brookings and Hartford Health Works
- **Anchor institutions** and economic development – Penn expert
  - Next: attracting and retaining **skilled millennials** to mid sized communities
  - Next: **Industry 4.0** and Internet of Things with German Consulate
- **Anchor institutions and TOD** study underway
Status of the CEDS process

• Working with CT OPM and CT DECD seeking state designation as the Regional Economic Development District with the 38 town boundary

• Will apply for federal grant funding to develop the new CEDS

• Based on the results of the CEDS, may seek federal Economic Development District status
Thank you!

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