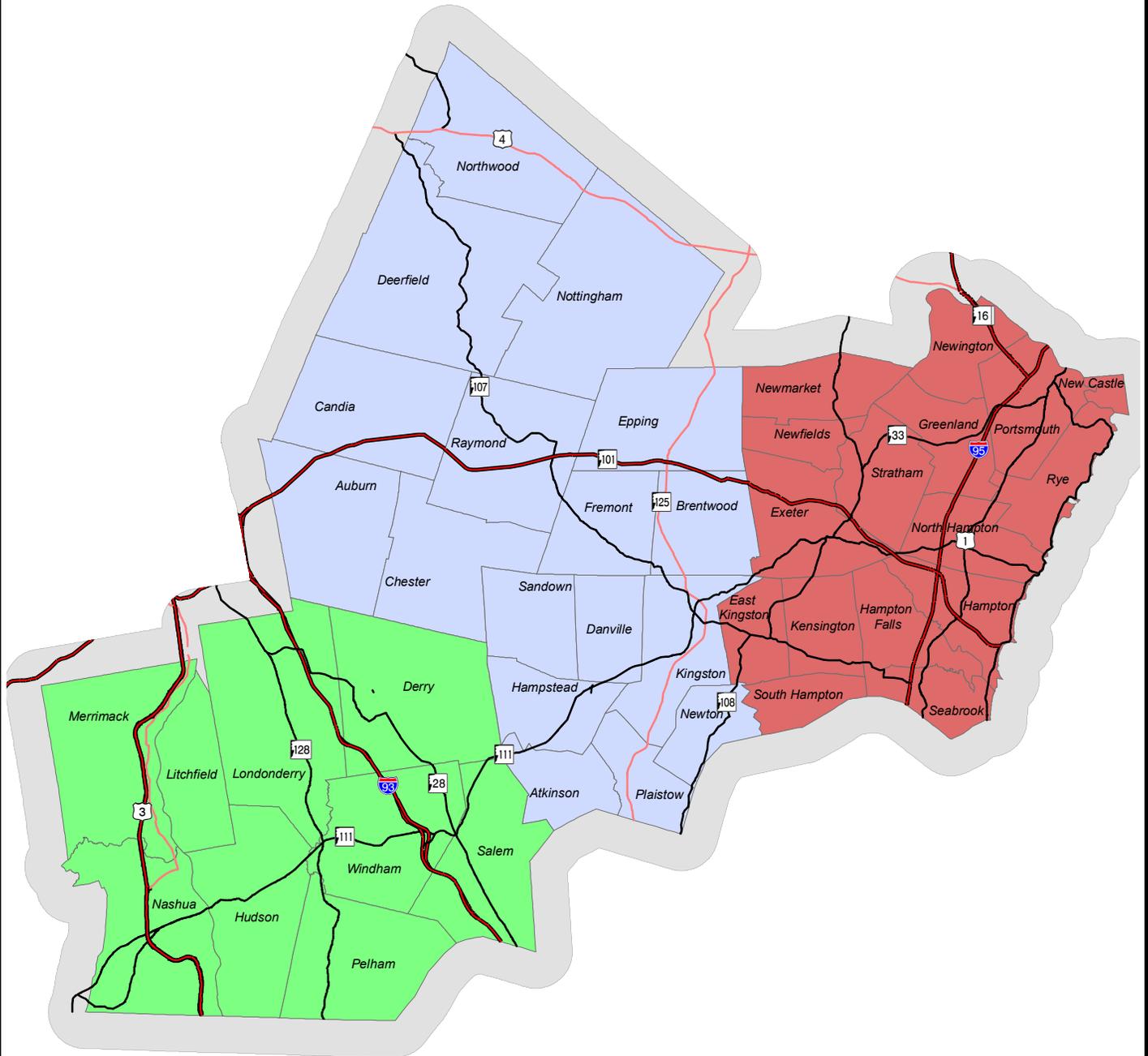


# COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

## Rockingham Economic Development Corporation

### 2011



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## Acknowledgements

Rockingham Economic Development Corporation (REDC) would like to recognize our partners in the publication of the 2011 CEDS Update. Without their advice and continued support this strategic plan would not be possible.

REDC wishes to thank the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration for their continued support and funding. A sincere thank you is extended to Mr. Alan Brigham, Economic Development Representative, for his on-going advice and counsel. In addition, REDC would like to recognize Mr. Stephen Grady and Mr. Willie C. Taylor, at the Philadelphia Regional EDA Office for their continued support and guidance in the annual CEDS process.

The REDC staff would like to recognize the active involvement of the CEDS Steering Committee, the REDC Board of Directors and our economic development partners in the Region and at the federal and state levels for their suggestions and helpful contributions to this year's document.

Sincere thanks go to Rockingham Regional Planning Commission, Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Peter Francese, Demographer and Dennis Delay, Economist, for their cooperation and support of the REDC and CEDS process.

From the REDC Board of Directors, CEDS Steering Committee and the REDC Staff, thank you!

## Executive Summary

Rockingham Economic Development Corporation (REDC) is pleased to present the 2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update. The plan builds upon the work completed by REDC over the past 11 years and provides a summary of work, accomplishments and events from the 2010 CEDS report. The 2011 CEDS Update was approved and ratified by the REDC Board on June 23, 2011.

The first step in creating a successful Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to form a Steering Committee with a broad-based representation of the major interests of the region. Using the 2010 CEDS Steering Committee as a starting point, REDC reached out to the new communities and under-represented areas to form the 2011 Steering Committee. The committee met four times throughout the CEDS planning cycle. To accommodate a diverse steering committee and encourage participation from all our communities, the committee meetings were held in Nashua, Plaistow, Raymond and Exeter.

The next step in the CEDS process is surveying the existing conditions of the Region and providing a background analysis of the Region. In order to complete this work, REDC partnered with Rockingham Regional Planning Commission, Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Peter Francese, Demographer and Dennis Delay, Economist. An extensive review of the changes in the region's demographics and state of the economy over the past 12 months was completed and is found in Part II of this document.

REDC held four meetings in the planning process: one in the fall of 2010 and three in the spring of 2011. Among other things, the sessions focused on the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund and how it would help communities develop contaminated sites in their neighborhoods, and establishment of the CEDS priority project list with updates and projected timelines for the projects. This year's CEDS research also focused on how municipal sharing between communities would help with economic development by lowering the costs for individual towns to maintain their own services.

Using the vision and goals developed in the 2010 CEDS as evaluation criteria, the CEDS Steering Committee and the REDC staff created the 2011 Priority Project list. Many of the 2010 projects remained on the list. REDC utilized the Request for Project (RFP) process (outlined in Part III), which brought in twelve new priority projects for the 2011 CEDS. Six of the new priority projects concern development of a water supply treatment, storage and distribution system as well as design of a sewer collection, treatment, and disposal system in Stratham. These priority projects have the potential to be multi-jurisdictional and will be closely monitored by neighboring communities facing the same challenges. Several more projects have identified some or all of the funding necessary to complete the work.

REDC has had a number of significant, measurable successes, including:

1. The EDA approved The Town of Hampton's application for the extension of sewer lines, which was submitted by REDC on behalf of the Town of Hampton. This grant will assist in the relocation and expansion of the Smuttynose Brewery to Hampton, New Hampshire;
2. REDC assisted in preparing the successful application to the EDA on behalf of the New Hampshire Innovation Commercialization Center (NH-ICC), which serves as a

hub in the Seacoast for innovation and provides a place for high-tech companies to thrive;

3. The Town of Hudson, NH has submitted an application to the REDC for Brownfields RLF grant funds for clean-up of a vacant 9.7 acre lot along Industrial Drive in Hudson. The Town is partnering with a non-profit community foundation to clean-up and redevelop the site into a recreational park with a football field, baseball field, parking lot, and service building;
4. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, REDC was pleased to welcome Willie Taylor, Congressman Guinta and Alan Brigham to tour the region and to visit the sites of several pending and approved EDA grant applications. The tour included the Pettengill Access Road project in the Town of Londonderry, the planned site for New Hampshire's first fish processing facility at the Yankee Fisherman's Cooperative in Seabrook, a visit to Hampton to view the future site of the Smuttynose Brewing Company, and finally a visit to the New Hampshire Innovation Commercialization Center (NH-ICC) in Portsmouth, and
5. On May 9 to May 11, 2011, REDC hosted the EDA Assessment Team Visit as part of the Department of Commerce's mission to learn about the region, our economy and the current state of the New Hampshire commercial fishing industry in light of the recent NOAA regulation changes. All interested stakeholders were invited to share their input concerning strategies for the commercial fishing industry and economic development for the entire Seacoast area. A comprehensive report is expected to be available to all the participants in mid-summer.

All of these activities correlate directly with the CEDS and the economic development of the region.

As REDC continues in its third five-year plan, we are confident that the 2011 CEDS Update provides the Region with a clear path to follow to achieve productive economic development. REDC offers the tools necessary to guide the communities and economic stakeholders as they seek to diversify and create jobs. We will continue to adapt to the current economic climate and try to offer services and programs that best serve our member communities, businesses and residents.

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## Part I – Steering Committee

### A. Committee Members

The first step in creating a successful Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to form a steering committee that is a broad-based representation of the major interests of the Region. Once again, REDC used the previous year's CEDS Steering Committee as a starting point to develop this year's committee. After saying goodbye to four members of the 2010 committee, we reached out to under-represented sectors for additional committee members. We were able to add two additional private sector members to the 2011 Committee. In addition, we mourned the passing of Committee member Walter Warren from the Town of Merrimack. Mr. Warren was the Community Development Director for the town and provided our committee with valuable input. The 2011 Staff, Consultants and Committee Members are listed below and on the following page:

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Nancy Carmer	City of Portsmouth
David Choate	Grubb & Ellis Northern New England (located in Portsmouth)
Ernie Creveling	Town of Raymond
Glenn Coppelman	NH CDFA (Regional Development Coordinator) and Town of Kingston
Dean Eastman	NH DOT
Tom Galligani	City of Nashua
Andre Garron	Town of Londonderry
Ed Gleason	Town of Pelham
Jeff Gowan	Town of Pelham
Diane Hardy	Town of Newmarket
Barbara Kravitz	Rockingham Planning Commission
Dan Poliquin	Town of Plaistow
Barry Sandberg	Exeter Development Commission (located in Exeter)
Bill Scott	Town of Salem
George Sioras	Town of Derry
Lin Tamulonis	Great Bay Community College (located in Portsmouth)
Fred Weismann	Pentucket Bank (located in Salem)
Walter Warren	Town of Merrimack
Robert Zickell	Asphalt Recovery Technologies (located in Brentwood)

## **B. Meetings**

The 2011 CEDS Steering Committee met four times during the CEDS development process. A summary of the meetings is listed below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Agenda</b>
11/10/2010	CEDS Steering Committee Meeting #1	Nashua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brownfields RLF program</li> <li>• 2011 CEDS timeline and process</li> <li>• New EDA grant application requirements</li> </ul>
02/16/2011	CEDS Steering Committee Meeting #2	Plaistow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratham project submittals</li> <li>• Municipal Sharing</li> <li>• Review of 2011 Priority Project List</li> </ul>
04/13/2011	CEDS Steering Committee Meeting #3	Raymond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority Project Updates</li> <li>• Yankee Fisherman's Coop EDA grant application</li> <li>• Review and approval of the 2011 Priority Project List</li> </ul>
06/15/2011	CEDS Steering Committee Meeting #4	Exeter - REDC	Review and approval of the 2011 CEDS update.