



Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

DISTRICT LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (DLTA) FACT SHEET

Assisting Cities and Towns in Southeastern Massachusetts

The Massachusetts General Court has provided funding to regional planning agencies for four years through the District Local Technical Assistance program. SRPEDD has put this funding to good use assisting our 27 cities and towns in a variety of areas and saving them money in the process. This assistance has come in three main categories.

EXPEDITED PERMITTING

Working in close coordination with the Massachusetts Permit Regulatory Office, SRPEDD and the other regional planning agencies helped implement the state's permit streamlining initiative created by Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2006,

- ✓ Developed with MARPA the *Best Practices Guide for Streamlining Local Permitting* published in 2008. The guide, available at www.mass.gov/mpro, was prepared to help municipal officials statewide to more effectively and efficiently guide applications for commercial and industrial development through the local permitting.
- ✓ Worked with **Carver, Freetown, Raynham** and **Taunton** to designate sites under Chapter 43D. SRPEDD also prepared permitting handbooks and proposed bylaw and regulatory revisions as appropriate. Changes were adopted by city council or town meeting in all communities. All four communities received state approval for their designated sites.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/LAND USE PLANNING

Technical assistance made possible with DLTA funds has been provided to 10 cities and towns. Projects were solicited by an RFP and selected on the basis of consistency with the state's Sustainable Development Principles and readiness to implement recommendations.

- ✓ **Berkley, Carver, North Attleborough, Plainville** and **Rochester** all had significant master plan work done by SRPEDD in 2008-2009.
- ✓ Zoning bylaw work was completed in **Dighton, New Bedford** and **Seekonk** in areas ranging from village bylaws to parking requirements.
- ✓ Open space plan assistance was provided to **Berkley and Freetown** to complete their plans for certification.

MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICES

Helping cities and towns to save money and improve service delivery by regionalizing services is a major focus of DLTA. SRPEDD's activity in this area is focused in these areas.

- ✓ A third round of bidding is in process under SRPEDD's **Regional Cooperative Purchasing Program**. Commodities that have been put out to bid on behalf of participating municipalities include gas and diesel fuel, rock salt, crack sealing, cold planing, asphalt. Under the program, SRPEDD solicits bids on behalf of participating communities and handles all of the Chapter 30B procurement requirements. A collective bid for office supplies is being coordinated with the Town of Kingston for early 2010.
- ✓ SRPEDD is coordinating a feasibility study for **Regional 911 Dispatch Service** options with thirteen (13) municipalities and UMass Dartmouth signed up to participate. The application is being filed in May, 2010 and the study is expected to get underway in the summer.
- ✓ A comprehensive survey of municipal services indicated several areas of interest and potential savings. SRPEDD is working actively with committees of local officials to pursue intermunicipal agreements for areas such as **veteran's services, animal control, restaurant inspections, shared conservation agents and IT services**.
- ✓ SRPEDD is working to match municipal partners for **sharing of public works equipment** such as street sweepers. Under contract to SRPEDD, Bridgewater State College is preparing a regionwide inventory of municipally owned equipment.

For additional information contact:

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