



## Performance Progress Report

<b>Grantee</b>	Old Colony Planning Council
<b>Project Title</b>	Old Colony Economic Development District
<b>Project Number</b>	ED19PHI3020031
<b>CEDS Performance Year</b>	April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022
<b>Reporting period end date:</b>	March 31 <sup>st</sup>
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<b>Five-year CEDS Time Period</b>	2020 to 2025

### Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Updates

Per the 2020 Census information, the estimated population of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was 7,029,917, an increase of 2% (137,414 residents) from 2019 ACS estimates. The Commonwealth population increased 7.4% between 2010 and 2020 Census (482,288 residents).

The annual population growth and median household income are critical measures to consider as the region plans and develops land use, transportation, and infrastructure improvements for the next three years.

Community	Population 2019 ACS	Population Census 2020	Population Change	Percent Change 2019 – 2020	Median Income 2019 ACS	Median Income 2020 ACS	Change in Median Income	Percent Change 2019 – 2020
Abington	16,668	17,062	394	2.4%	\$99,381	\$106,001	\$6,620	6.7%
Avon	4,500	4,777	277	6.2%	\$85,200	\$97,353	\$12,153	14.3%
Bridgewater	27,436	28,633	1,197	4.4%	\$95,675	\$100,747	\$5,072	5.3%
Brockton	95,708	105,643	9,935	10.4%	\$58,469	\$62,249	\$3,780	6.5%
Duxbury	15,291	16,090	799	5.2%	\$128,173	\$126,889	(\$1,284)	-1.0%
East Bridgewater	14,526	14,440	-86	-0.6%	\$90,528	\$102,669	\$12,141	13.4%
Easton	25,105	25,058	-47	-0.2%	\$112,268	\$106,900	(\$5,368)	-4.8%
Halifax	7,896	7,749	-147	-1.9%	\$92,774	\$97,844	\$5,070	5.5%
Hanover	14,570	14,833	263	1.8%	\$127,981	\$133,922	\$5,941	4.6%
Hanson	10,914	10,639	-275	-2.5%	\$96,693	\$100,455	\$3,762	3.9%
Kingston	13,863	13,708	-155	-1.1%	\$96,104	\$95,197	(\$907)	-0.9%
Pembroke	15,509	18,361	2,852	18.4%	\$103,905	\$119,827	\$15,922	15.3%
Plymouth	61,528	61,217	-311	-0.5%	\$90,279	\$92,757	\$2,478	2.7%
Plympton	2,954	2,930	-24	-0.8%	\$105,688	\$107,734	\$2,046	1.9%
Stoughton	28,915	29,281	366	1.3%	\$83,519	\$90,201	\$6,682	8.0%
West Bridgewater	7,281	7,707	426	5.9%	\$ 97,404	\$105,377	\$7,973	8.2%
Whitman	15,216	15,121	-95	-0.6%	\$86,570	\$88,932	\$2,362	2.7%
Plymouth County	521,202	530,819	9,617	1.8%	\$89,489	\$92,906	\$3,417	3.8%
Massachusetts	6,892,503	7,029,917	137,414	2.0%	\$81,215	\$84,385	\$3,170	3.9%

According to population data from the 2020 US Census, Plymouth County was home to an estimated 530,819 residents, an increase of 1.8% (9,617) from 2019 ACS estimates. Since 2010, county population increased 7.3% (35,900). In the past ten years, the Old Colony Economic Development District region has maintained a population growth rate consistent with the state increase of 7.4% during the same period (482,288).

Between 2010 and 2020, population growth differed by communities. The communities of the region that experienced the highest percentage of population increase between 2010 and 2020

include Brockton at 12.6% (11,833) and West Bridgewater at 11.4% (791), followed by Avon at 9.7% (421). Areas with the least amount of population growth between 2010 and 2020 include the towns of Pembroke (2.9%) and Halifax (3.1%).

According to the MassDOT Demographic and Socio-Economic Forecast Population Projections, the area will experience 9.3% population growth from 2010 to 2040 with an estimated increase of 36,201 residents. Areas of the highest population growth projections include Plymouth at 24.5%, Abington at 18.9%, and Kingston at 18.8%. All communities in region have experienced growth. The region should expect to see continued population growth over the next twenty-five years, although at an increasingly slower rate as time moves on.

When reviewing population statistics from the 2019 ACS and the 2020 US Census, the population of the City of Brockton increased from an ACS estimated 95,708 to 105,643 counted under the 2020 Census, an increase of 10.4% (9,935). Some areas of the region also experienced a population decline, the highest being Hanson at 2.5% (-275 less).

Median income has increased for most communities in the region with the Plymouth County median income increasing 3.8% to \$92,906. Areas with the highest increase in median income between 2019 and 2020 include Pembroke, which increased 15.3% to \$119,827, Avon, which increased 14.3% to \$97,353, and East Bridgewater, which increased 13.4% to \$102,669. The community with the highest median income is Duxbury at \$126,889. Communities with the lowest median income include Brockton at \$62,249 and Whitman at \$88,932. The median income for the Commonwealth was \$84,385, an increase of 3.9% from 2019. The 2020 ACS median income for the entire United States was \$64,994.

On average, the racial makeup of the entire region is and has been relatively consistent with 77.5% of the population white alone, 8.5% Black or African American alone, 0.2% American Indian or Alaska Native, 1.5% Asian alone, and 3.8% as Some Other Race.

Between 2019 and 2020, several communities in the region experienced increases in Management, Business, Science, and Arts occupations, largely East Bridgewater (42.4%) and Avon (31.3%). Communities experienced a reduction in Service Occupations: East Bridgewater (-36.7%), Hanson, and Stoughton (-15.9%). Kingston increased Service Occupations by 27.8% and Halifax by 27.3%. Under the Sales and Office occupations, Halifax experienced the greatest reduction (-19.3%) followed by Bridgewater (-11.8%), while Kingston increased Sales and Office occupations (14.7%). Under the Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance Operations category, the East Bridgewater experienced the greatest reduction (-62.9%) followed by Halifax (-21%). Communities with increases in this category include West Bridgewater (18%) and Duxbury (19.8%). The Production, Transportation, and Material Moving category experienced a decrease in East Bridgewater (-23.1%) and Hanover (-21%) but significant increase in Duxbury (56.6%), Kingston (27.7%), and West Bridgewater (27.1%).

## **Summary of Accomplishments: Progress toward CEDS Goals**

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### **Goal A: Support the development of infrastructure for economic development**

1. OCPC staff reviewed and provided comment on the City of Brockton's RAISE grant application. The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity discretionary grant program helps communities conduct projects with significant local or regional impact. Brockton applied for an Infrastructure Project that sought to reconstruct 20 roadways in downtown Brockton, replace traffic signals, convert one-way roadways to

two-way traffic, replace water and sewer lines, replace storm drain systems, and install five miles of fiber optics within project limits.

2. The Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization prepared the FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP serves as a prioritized listing of highway, bridge, and transit projects for implementation during the next five federal fiscal years that reflect the needs of the regional transportation system.
3. The Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization funded the Avon and Stoughton – Pavement Preservation and Related Work on Route 24 Project (\$7,339,593), which consists of resurfacing on Route 24 along with signage and guardrail replacements.
4. The Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization funded the Pembroke – Rehabilitation of Route 36 (Center Street) from Route 27 to Route 14 Project (\$10,160,995). The project consists of resurfacing/rehabilitation and full depth reconstruction of certain areas of the route. Sidewalks will be constructed and reconstructed, drainage will be upgraded, and sign and pavement markings will be added or improved.
5. The Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization funded the Stoughton – Improvements at Richard Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS) Project (\$4,650,151). The project includes the construction/reconstruction of sidewalks along the southerly side of Central Street between Pratts Court and Pearl Street. Additionally, minor widening of Central Street will be required to accommodate 5-foot bicycle lanes in each direction. Construction of ADA-compliant ramps and pedestrian warning signage, installation of new school zone flashers, and the installation of a hybrid traffic signal at Stoughton Fire Department are also included within the project.
6. The Town of Avon and the Town of Stoughton are exploring the possibility of connecting Merchants Park / Stockwell Drive in Avon to Stoughton’s sewer system, which would enable a greater diversity of businesses to move into the area, some of which is vacant and also undeveloped.
7. The Town of East Bridgewater has provided a connection to the town’s sewer/septic system at the Junior/Senior High Schools for some commercial businesses south of Central Square.
8. The South Shore Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the South Shore Economic Development Corporation, MassDevelopment, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and Weston & Sampson, published the South Shore Site Readiness study. The study examined six sites in Hingham, Hanover, Rockland, Weymouth, and Norwell for weaknesses and potential opportunities for future property development. The study concluded, in part, that water and sewer systems across the South Shore are in need of upgrades and inaction will likely lead to problems with supply and quality.

**Goal B: Promote entrepreneurship and preserve existing business and industry by providing planning assistance**

**-and-**

**Goal F: Meet the region’s needs for financing and technical support available to troubled, expanding, start-up, or minority-owned firms**

1. OCPC continued to participate in the South Shore Chamber of Commerce Transportation Advisory Group. The Group’s goal is to “identify transportation priorities

that are most closely tied to the region's economic future." Their recommendations will become a blueprint for the chamber's Transportation work and political advocacy for the next few years.

2. OCPC secured a grant from the MA Office of Business Development's Local Pilot Project to develop mobile apps for the City of Brockton and the Towns of Avon, Stoughton, and Easton. The apps highlight local services, restaurants, and activities for residents and visitors.
3. The City of Brockton and the towns of Plymouth, Halifax, Hanson, and Easton participated in the State's Rapid Recovery Plan (RRP) Program through which each developed actionable, project-based recovery plans tailored to the unique economic challenges and COVID-19 related impacts to their downtowns, town centers, and commercial areas.
4. The Town of Plymouth was awarded \$200,000 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for an entrepreneurship center feasibility study, which is nearing completion.
5. The Town of West Bridgewater has placed on 2022 Spring Town Meeting warrant to fund a Town Planner who would in part drive local economic development efforts including supporting entrepreneurs and existing businesses.
6. The Town of East Bridgewater has been reaching out to local businesses to learn about their needs. The town has organized an informal multi-development review of development proposals to assist developers and business owners before they begin the process of obtaining necessary permits.
7. The Town of Kingston has hired a new town planner and is amending its administrative assistant position to an assistant planner position in order to provide more planning assistance within the community, including on economic development.
8. The Town of Stoughton Provided over \$700,000 worth of Microenterprise Grant Assistance to small businesses recovering from the impacts of COVID-19. Approximately 40% of businesses assisted were minority-owned; all were troubled. Also referred businesses to other state and federal assistance programs including the Paycheck Protection Program, Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan, Shuttered Venues, and Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Connected existing businesses and startups to resources from the Small Business Administration, SCORE, South Eastern Economic Development Corporation, Massachusetts Small Business Development Center, Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, and local banks.
9. The Metro South Chamber of Commerce continued holding regular Business Assistance Recovery and Resilience Resource Zoom calls during which city, state, and federal officials provided participants with COVID-19 economic recovery updates and answered questions.
10. The Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce continues to partner with a variety of business professionals to present seminars, forums, and training focused on the needs of members and the business community.
11. MassDevelopment continued offering Monthly Office Hours through the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. MassDevelopment staff provided information and answered

questions about how the organization can help businesses, financial institutions, and municipalities in southeastern Massachusetts.

12. In October 2021, NeighborWorks Housing Solutions launched their Small Business Loan Program in cooperation with the management of the Brockton Venture Loan Fund. Five local financial institutions – HarborOne Bank, Eastern Bank, North Easton Savings Bank, Rockland Trust, and SCU Credit Union – created a \$1 million Loan Fund for small start-up or growth stage businesses in Brockton and for small businesses planning to move to Brockton. The fund has an inclusive opportunity for minorities, women, and veterans. To be eligible for up to \$50,000 in commercial loans, businesses must complete the Building a Better Business Program, which gives business owners the legal insights, marketing tools, and financial knowledge needed to succeed in business. The Building a Better Business Program is open to all individuals in business and those thinking of going into business. Those in Brockton are eligible for the Brockton Venture Loan Fund; those in other parts of the region are provided support to find other sources of funding.
13. Stonehill College's Meehan School of Business annually runs a senior-year capstone course through which students complete consulting projects with local businesses such as Sullivan Tire, W.B. Mason, and Johnson & Johnson. Students evaluate business practices and make recommendations for improvement, growth, and efficiencies.
14. South Shore Workforce Board continues to offer workshops and resources to businesses, including Workforce Training Grants, Tax Credits, Youth Services, On-the-Job-Training, BizWorks, Department of Revenue, Department of Unemployment, and more. Throughout the year the Board runs a variety of Crystal reports for job seeker work history-matching, employers who haven't received service in the past 45 days, open job order reports, and more to stay connected to openings for job-seeking clients. The Board conducts year-round marketing and outreach to continue building long-lasting relationships with businesses in the region.

**Goal C: Work to maintain and enhance the region's quality of life**

1. OCPC staff were once again awarded MA Department of Transportation funding to continue supporting Councils on Aging with funds to support local volunteer-driver transportation for older adults.
2. OCPC staff prepared the Active Transportation Study that provides an analysis of the bicycle, pedestrian, and transit network within a connectivity, public health, and safety context.
3. OCPC staff began work on Open Space and Recreation Plans for the towns of Pembroke and West Bridgewater that will set out specific actions for advancing open space and natural resource protection the community as well as improve recreation.
4. OCPC staff began work on an Age-friendly Action Plan for the Town of Duxbury that will provide a roadmap to ensure that all older adults, regardless of where they live, can thrive in their homes and neighborhoods.
5. The Town of West Bridgewater has set aside American Rescue Plan Act funds for PFAS remediation and has also funded a study to build a new water treatment plant.
6. The Town of Kingston is currently developing a town-wide Complete Streets Plan for inclusion in the State's Complete Streets Funding Program. A Complete Street is one

that provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities.

7. The Town of Duxbury completed a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan and is now a Tier III community, which means priority projects are now eligible for State funding.
8. The Town of Duxbury formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and is currently seeking funding for a community survey and summit.
9. Stonehill College continues to be an important part of the regional community. The campus is open to all for walking, spiritual services, and events. Local organizations such as the United Way of Plymouth County and the Metro South Chamber of Commerce regularly host events and programs on campus. Recently, the New England Society for Healthcare Materials Management hosted their supply chain development conference at the college through their relationships with Stonehill's Healthcare Administration Department. During the summer, the campus hosts a range of programs such as the Boys and Girls State and College Gate/College Academy as well as sports camps for children.
10. Stonehill College continues to run the Martin Institute Senior Enrichment Program, made possible through grants from the Howard Home Trustees Home for Aged Men in Brockton. Luncheons feature speakers on political, social justice, and local/regional/world topics as well as book clubs and senior enrichment courses. This program is offered to seniors in the local community who seek to be lifelong learners and remain engaged in educational topics.
11. The Farm at Stonehill College continues to produce locally grown fruits and vegetables. In addition to operating a farm stand and CSA, the college partners with My Brother's Keeper, the David Louison Center of the YMCA, and Father Bill's and Mainspring to donate fresh produce in the area. The Mobile Market travels weekly during the summer to Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, and the Farm provides recipes in multiple languages.
12. NeighborWorks Housing Solutions continues its programs that help stabilize families in crisis with rental assistance, and also help residents with economic advancement goals such as financial coaching and homeownership education.

**Goal D: Pursue a policy of sustainable development**

1. OCPC staff completed the Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment. This project identified the impacts of climate change on the transportation system, examined them, and assessed the vulnerability of the system, resulting in strategies for management and mitigation.
2. OCPC staff continued to work with several towns in the region to reduce municipal energy use through municipal building and vehicle fleet improvements, funded in part through the State's Green Communities program.
3. OCPC continued work with the Towns of East Bridgewater and Plymouth to help the communities achieve Green Communities Designation. Once part of the program, the towns would reduce energy use and costs by implementing clean energy projects in municipal buildings, facilities, and schools.
4. OCPC staff completed the Town of Bridgewater's Hazard Mitigation Plan and began work on a Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the towns of Easton, Stoughton,

Abington, and East Bridgewater that will identify natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities common in the communities. Hazard mitigation planning reduces loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters.

5. OCPC staff advised the Town of Plymouth's Water Conservation Committee on the development of a water conservation plan. The municipality will be the first in the region to have such a plan.
6. The Town of Plymouth is seeking funding at the 2022 Spring Town Meeting to hire a Sustainability Planner.
7. The Town of West Bridgewater has applied to the State for funding to develop a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan that will help the community plan for climate change resiliency.
8. The town of East Bridgewater continues to work on its stormwater bylaw.
9. The Town of Duxbury received a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant and inventoried all public infrastructure (and private infrastructure in Snug Harbor) that will be affected by sea level rise, with risk horizons for project prioritization.
10. The Town of Easton opted into Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Massachusetts, a MassDevelopment program administered in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The program helps fund energy improvements in commercial and industrial buildings, multifamily properties with five or more units, and buildings owned by nonprofits. A property owner agrees to a betterment assessment and lien on their property, which repays the financing. This approach enables owners to undertake more comprehensive energy upgrades with longer payback periods of up to 20 years. At property sale, the assessment stays with the property and is transferred to subsequent property owners.
11. Stonehill College continues to pursue operational sustainability and resiliency – 45% of the college's electricity use is generated by solar panels onsite, which contribute renewable energy back to the grid as well. In addition, the college continues to encourage students to pursue pro-environmental projects. During this reporting time period, for example, the Massachusetts Department of Environment Protection funded students to develop a mobile app that tracks reusable to-go containers suitable for reuse by colleges and universities, businesses, etc.

**Goal E: Improve the education and skills of the region's workforce**

1. OCPC continued their student internship program, helping train the planners of tomorrow.
2. Massasoit Community College continued to offer several programs to improve the education and skills of the region's workforce. To help unemployed or underemployed, non-native English-speaking adults begin their college journeys, the College is offering a free program from February to September 2022. "Bridges to College" will provide participants with the language, college, and career readiness skills required to enter post-secondary education pathways – pathways that lead to in-demand jobs and careers with family-sustaining wages and benefits. This past fall, the College offered a seven-month Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Certificate at no-cost.
3. Bridgewater State University is building a state-of-the-art Cyber Security Simulator to enhance job training in the field of Cyber Security. Federal and state funds have been

secured in support of this initiative. A cyber range will provide a virtual immersive experience in which students and cybersecurity professionals confront a range of simulated cyber-criminal attacks, including sophisticated ransomware and malware attacks on enterprise networks. The BSU cyber range will provide the vital hands-on experience that the industry requires and allow users to experience the pressure and complexity of real-world cybersecurity attacks.

4. Bridgewater State University is building a new facility to house the College of Education and Health Sciences. \$25 million has been secured. The project will address critical workforce needs, allowing the university to expand enrollment in its College of Education and Health Sciences by nearly 10% in the high-growth fields of education and health care.
5. Bridgewater State University welcomed its first class of photonics and optical engineering students and opened a new lab inside the Dana Mohler-Faria Science and Mathematics Center where experiments can be conducted in everything from fiber optics to quantum photonic applications. The lab will give BSU students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the light-based technologies of today and tomorrow.
6. Stonehill College recently added an engineering program with a focus on humanistic engineering and continues to offer degrees in computer and electrical engineering. The engineering curriculum is designed to meet ABET criteria and students are expected to go beyond traditional STEM content and work with faculty and community partners to address challenges faced by the local community and society. The engineering program began enrollment in Fall 2021.
7. Stonehill College continues to offer its Photonics Certificate Program, which a 12-month training program for industry partners and local residents who want to gain skills and knowledge in the burgeoning field of integrated photonics. The program is currently training its second cohort of students/enrolling its third class.
8. NeighborWorks Housing Solutions continues its partnership with MassHire to connect participants in their programs with workforce training programs and resources.
9. During this time, MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center provided re-employment services to 4,105 customers. Eighty-five Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligible customers attended vocational training programs through the Center.
10. MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board's Connecting Activities Partnership launched the 2022 Entrepreneurship Competition, which will offer young entrepreneurs the opportunity to work on and exchange ideas, discuss entrepreneurship, and problem solve around challenges they face. Participants will receive advice and feedback from business owners.
11. MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board partnered with a group of students from five different vocational programs at Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School to refurbish a decommissioned bus from the Brockton Area Transit Authority. The new old bus is fully handicap accessible and now a classroom on wheels with workstations, televisions, Wi-Fi, and a whiteboard. It will be used to offer workforce training for different industry certifications and more.
12. MassHire South Shore Workforce Board created an Apprenticeship Integration Manager position who now works with employers and job seekers to coordinate training, including



OJT, Incumbent, and Registered Apprenticeships. Thus far this year the Board has serviced 1,283 employers, 304 new employers, and 316 job orders. The Board continues placing job seekers into in-demand training programs through Individual Training Accounts, including MBA, Manufacturing Technology, Substance Abuse Certificate, CDL, PMP, Networking, HR Professional, Medical Billing/Coding, Web Design, LINUX System Administrator, Dental/Medical Assistant, HVAC, and Excavation License.

**Goal G: Encourage expanding housing investments and housing choices**

1. OCPC staff began advising municipalities in our region on meeting the requirements of the new Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities. (The Town of Avon is the only municipality in our region that is not an MBTA Community.) Enacted as part of the economic development bill in January 2021, new Section 3A of M.G.L. c. 40A (the Zoning Act) requires that an MBTA community shall have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria set forth in the statute: a) Minimum gross density of 15 units per acre; b) Not more than ½ miles from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station, if applicable; c) No age restrictions; and, d) Suitable for families with children. Meeting this new requirement is proving difficult for many municipalities in the Old Colony Region, for a variety of reasons.
2. OCPC in collaboration with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee held a webinar examining the nexus between housing and economic development.
3. Over the last five years, 3,644 dwelling units have been constructed in the Town of Plymouth, providing a range of housing opportunities including 942 rental units (25% affordable).
4. The Town of West Bridgewater has applied for funding for two additional ADA handicap units at the Housing Authority.
5. The Town of East Bridgewater is considering the possibility of a 240-unit affordable housing development.
6. The Town of Stoughton is proposing Downtown Zoning Changes for 2022 Spring Town Meeting that would allow for increased residential development in the downtown. The rezoning would allow mixed-use and multi-family by right and relax various dimensional regulations to encourage those uses.
7. The Town of Kingston supported a new overlay district at the former Sears building to create 292 units of housing during 2022, currently under construction.
8. The Town of Duxbury recently purchased land for future construction of affordable housing.
9. NeighborWorks Housing Solutions continues to assist homebuyers through education and affordable housing property development and redevelopment, creating opportunities for first-time homebuyers. They also support policies for zoning relief, and partner with local redevelopment authorities and municipal planning offices to increase homeownership in the region.

## Summary of Accomplishments: Progress on Priority Projects

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### Abington

- Improving Mass BioReady Rating from Bronze to Silver: No progress.

### Avon

- Installation of public sewer in Avon Industrial Park: The town continues to discuss the possibility of hooking up into the City of Brockton's wastewater system, though this seems unlikely. Public water supply may be possible. The town is also exploring a groundwater disposal system on town land off Page St. Much work has been done, and the Department of Environmental Protection recently approved test holes as well as drilling groundwater wells to track groundwater levels. Both will contribute to determining how much volume from the park can be treated.

### Bridgewater

- Sewer extension to Business District: Design complete, awaiting funding.

### Brockton

- CSX Yard redevelopment: City has secured a MassDevelopment Site Readiness grant to develop a strategy around site acquisition and advancing the Trout Brook Urban Renewal Plan. City will be requesting state funding for the acquisition of select parcels and is also requesting additional funds from EPA and MassDEP to further stormwater study.
- West Downtown structured parking: Feasibility study complete and found the project to be financially viable. City is amending its Downtown Urban Renewal Plan to include this site for acquisition and redevelopment. City will be drafting an MOU and Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with perspective developer, and is requesting funds from the state to acquire the site and begin design of the garage.
- Downtown restaurant loan fund: First loan was made to Brockton Beer Company last year. Construction is 99% complete and opening is likely in May 2022.
- Small business loan fund: No progress due to limited staff capacity.
- Downtown site acquisition and pre-development activities: In planning.
- Sycamore Grove multi-use festival space: Plans completed for permanent outdoor space that would accommodate five or six restaurants and pop-up retail. Planning Department is requesting funding from the City to construct Sycamore Grove.
- Downtown national historic district: Amended application submitted. Application is still under review by Mass Historic.
- Co-work, incubator, and fab lab space: No progress. Feasibility study needed.
- Upgrade Mass BioReady Rating from Gold to Platinum: Lovett Brook Master Plan completed. City working with Good Samaritan Hospital on space needs. The Planning Department has requested that the Brockton Board of Health adopt NIH rDNA Guidelines, one of the two remaining requirements for BioReady Platinum level.
- Downtown traffic plan and circulation improvements: The City is applying for a RAISE Grant from US Department of Transportation to fund 25% PS&E for project.
- Route 28 economic development activities: Some progress. Rezoning needed.

- Silver Lake water transmission main: No progress, seeking funding.

### **Duxbury**

- Hall's Corner development strategy/market analysis plan: Plan completed. More outreach is needed on establishment of the public road layout to enable expenditures of public funding; underway. March 2022 Annual Town Meeting funded layout of Washington Street, which is needed for further project completion.
- Repairs to seawalls and revetments: Completed broken seawall repairs in 2021 and secured MEPA Certificate for nourishment in front of the public seawall, using FEMA, Coastal Resilience, and Dam and Seawall Repair funding. Recently filed a Notice of Intent for nourishment after securing 100% of the easements for beach nourishment from property owners. Now working with the Town of Marshfield on public outreach.

### **East Bridgewater**

- Clean-up of brownfields sites downtown, including the former Grant Steel and Precise Engineering sites: Seeking funding through state programs in 2022.
- The town has identified additional Priority Projects:
  - Sewer connection that will enable development along Route 18/North Bedford Street from the Whitman line to below the North Bedford Street/Highland Street intersection, with potentially 240 units of housing and new commercial construction: the town is pursuing an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Brockton, a \$9 million bond at Town Meeting, and State funding through the MassWorks program.
  - Comprehensive Master Plan and, also, an Open Space and Recreation Plan to provide long-term plans for economic development and quality of life improvements.

### **Easton**

- Installation of public sewer for Queset Commercial District: Completed August 2019.
- Installation of public sewer for Five Corners District: Completed August 2020.
- Installation of public sewer for Easton Industrial Park: No progress. The town continues to explore options, including the possibility of connecting to the City of Brockton's wastewater system.
- Phase II of North Easton Village revitalization: No longer prioritized. Funding not available.

### **Halifax**

- No priority projects.

### **Hanover**

- Environmental clean-up of former National Fireworks Factory: In progress. MassDEP conditionally approved the Revised Phase III Remedy Implementation Plan in June 2021. Phase IV Remedy Implementation Plan is due July 2022. Munitions response work continues.

## **Hanson**

- Former Plymouth County Hospital reuse study: The Hanson Parks and Recreation Committee continue to finalize a design to meet the needs of the residents of Hanson and to comply with all relevant state regulations, such as stormwater design. The proposed re-use plan incorporates playground areas for children of various ages, a basketball court, and dog park. The design includes an area for the construction of an event pavilion for small music events, an area for a farmers market showcasing local produce, and a veteran's memorial. Large areas of green space (open lawns) will be created for passive recreation, along with walking trails. The Committee seeks to engage the services of a landscape architect to create planting areas, such as a public garden, of various plant species to provide beauty and screening throughout the park area.

## **Kingston**

- Repairs to seawalls, revetments, and jetties: Wildlands Trust in Kingston was given more than \$729,000 for removal of an aging dam on Sylvia Place Pond, increasing fish passage and habitat quality. The town continues to seek funding for additional repairs and improvements.
- Improve wastewater and water service infrastructure to support economic development: Designs completed, waiting for finalization of funding. Federal funding through MassWorks was secured in the amount of \$6 million with \$5 million in local match. As a result, new high-pressure water lines and new sewer lines have been installed in 2021/22. A new 292-unit apartment building – a redevelopment project – is now served and is currently under construction. Additional funding and capacity being sought now for expanded wastewater treatment plant facilities; received a state grant in support of the design for this expansion in early March 2022 and have started design.

## **Pembroke**

- No priority projects.

## **Plymouth**

- Water Street promenade: Planning continues, and funding options are being explored.
- Leyden Street and Town Square: Planning continues.
- Court Street with Burial Hill ramp/steps: Under construction.
- Jenney Bypass and pond: Planning continues.
- Depot Square: Planning continues.
- Stephen's Field: Funding being sought at 2022 Spring Town Meeting.
- Waterfront walkway: Planning continues.
- Infrastructure improvements to aid redevelopment of Cordage Park: Planning continues.
- Multi-modal center: Planning continues.
- Closure of nuclear power plant: Closed and demolition is underway.
- Town airport improvements: Funding being sought at the Spring 2022 Annual Town Meeting.
- Cranberry Crescent: Infrastructure in place; several retail stores occupied.
- Manomet Pressure Zone water main upgrades: Funding in place; Phase I underway.
- Pine Hills interconnection project: In planning.

- Repairs to seawalls, revetments, breakwater, and jetties: Planned, needing funding.
- Upgrade Mass BioReady Rating from Gold to Platinum: No progress.

### **Plympton**

- Business Park wastewater treatment and water distribution: In final design stage.

### **Stoughton**

- Industrial Park: 2018 study completed. Construction of a municipal sewer extension is underway currently. 200 Shuman Avenue is currently constructing a large expansion to their advanced manufacturing facility due to the ability of having municipal sewer availability.
- Park Street/Campanelli Park sewer expansion: The major sewer expansion project has been bid out, awarded, and is currently under construction. The project is approximately 60% complete and estimated completion is August/September 2022. It is expected that the project will activate nearly \$36 million in proposed building expansions for commercial and industrial uses in and around Route 27 and the Campanelli Business Park, and create an estimated 240 new permanent jobs across five commercial and industrial properties. The project was made possible through EDA, MassWorks, and local funds.

### **West Bridgewater**

- Widening of West Center Street: Town has agreed to a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) with a Private Developer to widen Route 106 from West Street to Route 24.
- Upgrade Mass BioReady Rating from Bronze to Silver: No progress.

### **Whitman**

- Clean-up and marketing of former Regal Shoe brownfields site: Seeking funding for cleanup.
- Creation of Economic Development Commission to review downtown improvements: No progress.
- Water main improvements: Ongoing.

## **Challenges and Mitigation**

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The region continues to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. There is increased awareness and focus on impact disparities – communities with higher concentrations of poverty, people of color, and immigrants experienced more significant and lingering COVID-19 impacts, including higher unemployment rates. The challenge remains to ensure equitable recovery in the coming years. OCPC will continue to broaden its public participation practices and advocate for inclusive boards, committees, and other decision-making bodies in the region.

A significant challenge for municipalities and regional organizations is finding capacity to apply for funding. There continue to be many grant opportunities that could help fund priority projects and other initiatives in the region, but oftentimes these opportunities are missed due to unrealistic application timelines and/or lack of staff to develop out project ideas and write applications. OCPC encourages collaborations when appropriate to spread the workload associated with grant applications, and we continue to inform municipalities and our regional stakeholders about funding opportunities as soon as they become available.

## **Next Steps**

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OCPC's economic development team will continue working toward the achievement of goals outlined in the CEDS, and will continue connecting and collaborating with regional stakeholders on the best use of federal and state dollars coming into our region.

The primary focus for the next year will be on raising awareness and interest in as well as facilitating collaboration around the CEDS. Tourism, clean energy, water and wastewater, biosciences, and access to data have all been identified as areas of potential collaboration.

## **Client Success Stories**

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Noted in the Accomplishments section.

## **EDA Assistance Needed**

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1. Updates on federal funding opportunities.
2. Updates on good practices for Economic Development Districts and regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies.
3. Training opportunities for economic development professionals.

E.D.A staff member Debra Beavin continues to be a much-appreciated resource to OCPC and her assistance in learning E.D.A. programs and navigating the grants process has been invaluable, and no doubt is contributing to success in the region.

## **Press Engagements/Opportunities**

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None currently.