



# **COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

*2014*

*ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT*

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Eastgate Regional Council of Governments**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments has prepared the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Progress Report for 2014 to update its 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Under EDA guidelines, the CEDS is to be completed every three years, which will be expanded to every five years, and an annual report is to be submitted in the years between the updated version. The CEDS may be viewed on Eastgate's website: <http://eastgatecog.org/>

The 2014 Annual Progress Report has been completed for the period between January and December 2014. This report describes changes in economic conditions within the region encompassing Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties.

In 2014, the Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) received \$3,000,000 for the renovation of the Vindicator Building into the fifth building of YBI's campus that will be used for training and graduate space. Howland Township, Warren, and Trumbull County received \$38,000 in matching funds for the Golden Triangle Infrastructure Improvement Plan to categorize and prioritize infrastructure improvements for an area of about one thousand acres. The plan will be completed in the summer of 2015. Two ongoing grants in the region include the Building Sustainable Communities in Ohio's Shale Region Plan prepared by the Ohio State University Extension and four regional Economic Development Districts, which was awarded \$199,766 in 2013 to create a strategic plan on the oil and gas boom to leverage related manufacturing industries. The second continuing grant is the Economic Development Strategic Plan which is a grant of \$219,732 to the City of Youngstown and Youngstown State University (YSU) that will be completed in the fall of 2015. This strategy will analyze Youngstown's competitive advantages, clusters, business development, and community priorities.

Two projects have been added to the list. The first is an additive manufacturing research and development park. The second is the South Site Development Project at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport (YNG). The development was outlined in the Airport's 2008 Master Plan and will greatly increase the capacity of the airport. An application was submitted for Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) that wasn't selected, however this application led to a further understanding of our economic clusters and strengths. Applications were also submitted by the region for the Regional Innovation Strategy Program Competition (RISP) in the fall of 2014.

Goals for 2014 and their evaluation are included in this report along with upcoming activities for 2015, a list of regional projects, and information related to the maintenance of the CEDS.

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## ADJUSTMENT TO OUR STRATEGY

### Unemployment Trends

The State of Ohio has consistently seen a lower unemployment rate than that of the nation in 2014, resulting in an unemployment rate that is lower than past years. Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties have all experienced months where the unemployment rate is less than one point difference of the nation's unemployment rate, making Ashtabula the only county that may qualify for EDA funding based upon unemployment rate over the last two years. Unemployment levels remain higher than the state and nation for the cities of Youngstown and Warren and other census tracts throughout the region.

Unemployment Rate by County in 2014

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
U.S.	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.6
Ohio	6.9	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.3	5	4.8
Ashtabula	9.9	8.9	7.9	6.5	6	6.5	6.6	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.2	5.9
Mahoning	8.7	7.9	7.1	6	5.8	6.2	6.7	5.9	5.5	4.9	4.9	5.2
Trumbull	8.4	7.9	7.2	6	5.9	6.5	7	5.9	5.4	4.9	4.9	5.1

Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

### Home Foreclosures

Although Ohio continues to have a higher home foreclosure rate than the rest of the country, the number of filings in Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties has dropped and none of the counties are in the top ten for the state of Ohio, according to RealtyTrac. Federal, state, and local policy in coordination with local implementation are working tirelessly to stabilize neighborhoods and demolish housing stock that has outlived its useful life.

### Environment

Industrial pollution, legacy brownfield sites, and nonpoint sources of pollution remain obstacles in the region. Through the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium, land use was explored resulting in recommendations for open space and clean water preservation. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources announced that all fish from the "Do Not Eat" list for the Mahoning River have been removed. Additionally, the region has been in attainment for the air pollutants it monitors.

### Marcellus and Utica Shale Development

Interest in oil and gas development has shifted away from exploration towards the supply chain as production has moved south of the region. The construction of pipelines and the announcement of ethane cracker plants in western Pennsylvania, southern Ohio and northern West Virginia further support the Building Sustainable Communities in Ohio's Shale Region plan prepared by the OSU Extension

### Workforce Development

Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and other partners are anticipating the updated Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) passed in 1998 to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity

Act (WIOA) of 2014. Performance measures and policies are being adjusted to address upcoming changes in addition to the streamlining of the state's workforce strategy.

### **Business Resource Network**

The Business Resource Network for Areas 17 and 18 continues to meet on a monthly basis and has received an extension of its grant to continue.

### **Regional Incubators**

The Tech Belt Energy Innovation center (TBEIC) is expected to open its doors in early 2015, although it has been supporting over 50 companies and generated over two million dollars in investment and grants even without a permanent home. Youngstown continues to be featured in national media because of America Makes and the Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI). In 2014, America Makes hosted its first Maker City Initiative along with several partners and expanded its membership while YBI was named the world's best university-affiliated incubator in the world by University Business Incubator Index. The Kitchen Incubator in Youngstown is also expanding.

### **Agriculture**

A Food Coalition has formed for the Mahoning Valley that works closely with Ashtabula on promoting local foods and sustainable practices. Throughout Northeast Ohio, interest in this topic remains. In 2014, a "Local Foods, Local Places" grant was awarded to the City of Youngstown to explore how local food can spur economic development through implementation planning.

### **Local Government Resources**

Local governments are continually asked to do more with even less. A nearly fifty percent cut in the amount that the state provides to local governments has placed a significant burden on local jurisdictions resulting in freezing and cuts. The City of Niles was categorized as being in fiscal emergency by the state in 2014. The City of Girard and Campbell have been removed from the list, but remain on fiscal watch. Staff will continue to increase efforts to inform the region about EDA programs to strengthen economic competitiveness and invest in critical infrastructure despite the difficulty for local governments in funding matching share.

### **State Strategy on Economic Development**

Economic development in Ohio is continually evolving with the creation of Jobs Ohio, a private, nonprofit organization that promotes job creation and economic development. Jobs Ohio works directly with Team NEO, which in turn communicates with the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber and the Growth Partnership. EDA requirements for economic development planning and monitoring at the federal level through the public sector do not always align with the state, which doesn't directly consult local economic development districts.

### **Sustainable Communities Consortium**

In 2014 Vibrant NEO was released, the result of a three-year grant for a twelve-county area to create the conditions for a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable Northeast Ohio. Eastgate continues to be involved in the mission by promoting the recommendations of the plan and serving on committees and working groups.

**Staffing**

Administration of the CEDS has transferred at Eastgate with staff changes in the summer of 2014. Prospective conversations with local stakeholders have discussed feasibility studies, a workforce development center, economic development strategies, public works improvements, foreign direct investment and export plans, and freight studies. Conversations and workshops with EDA are shaping initiatives for the upcoming CEDS, such as improved metrics, cluster analysis, and a movement away from traditional public works requests. Staff continues to work regionally through different efforts to grow the regional economy and promote collaboration.

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC) was formed specifically for the CEDS planning process. This broad based committee comes from across the three county region and represents government, private sector, nonprofit corporations, and higher education. This committee has been actively involved in all aspects of the planning process, including visioning, issues, goals and objectives, strategies, and the identification of priority projects. REDC is coordinating with Eastgate to update the 2016 CEDS.

Name	Public/ Private	Position
Jessica Borza	PRIVATE	Vice President of Workforce Strategies, Thomas P. Miller and Associates
Bert Cene	PUBLIC	Director, Mahoning-Columbiana Training Association
Michael Conway	PRIVATE	Executive Director, Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation
Michael Garvey	PRIVATE	President, M7 Technologies
Don Iannone	PRIVATE	Director, Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County
Pat Kerrigan	PRIVATE	Director, The Oak Hill Collaborative
Michael Keys	PUBLIC	Director, Warren Community Development Department
Sarah Lown	PUBLIC	Senior Manager, Western Reserve Port Authority
James Pirko	PRIVATE	Commercial Real Estate Agent, Howard Hanna Commercial LLC
Thomas Presby	PRIVATE	Director of Business Assistance, Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber
Julie M. Smith	PRIVATE	President, VISTA AST
Wanda Thomas	PUBLIC	Associate Provost, Kent State University
David Turner	PRIVATE	Area Manager, First Energy
T. Sharon Woodberry	PUBLIC	Director, Youngstown Community Planning & Economic Development
Mark Zigmont	PUBLIC	Economic Development Coordinator, Trumbull County Planning Commission

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN 2014

The activities outlined in the 2013 CEDS are the primary activities necessary for the region to achieve its goals by concentration metropolitan planning organization staff resources on activities that promote regional collaboration and intergovernmental cooperation. The following represent the activities determined necessary in the CEDS and represent reporting of activities continued in 2014:

- A. Participate in workforce development initiatives which are tied to the economic vitality of the District, including the Business Resource Network and the OH-PENN interstate region initiative. **Update:** The Business Resource Network members continue to meet monthly to hear about the new interviews and follow up on previous client accounts. This beneficial program has grown in reputation. The OH-PENN meetings continue with the goal of making workforce initiatives between Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania seamless. These two regions share a strong industrial history and similar workforce issues. OH-PENN has extended its grant and is seeking additional funding due to the success of the collaboration.
- B. Participate in Grow Mahoning Valley, which identifies and prioritizes infrastructure related economic development initiatives in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. **Update:** Grow Mahoning Valley continues to meet on infrastructure projects influencing economic development are discussed. Recently the committee re-ranked their priority project list and discussed opportunities to partner with EDA.
- C. Participate in the Ashtabula economic development work group and assist Ashtabula County officials in economic development efforts. **Update:** Eastgate remains committed to working closely with the Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County. The county administration is in the process of reviewing its economic development strategy and released a plan in early 2014.
- D. Participate in the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative in order to revitalize brownfields for redevelopment along the Mahoning River. **Update:** The Mahoning River Corridor Initiative continues to meet on an as-needed basis and is the model for potential pilot projects within Vibrant NEO 2040.
- E. Participate in the Mahoning Valley Food Policy Council to help promote locally grown and produced foods and agricultural goods. **Update:** The Mahoning Valley Food Policy Council has dissolved due to a lack of staff commitment, however the Food Coalition was formed in its place. Vibrant NEO promotes local food systems and larger regional discussions are taking place for greater integration. Larger concentration on agricultural policy and planning will be presented in the upcoming CEDS.
- F. Assist in other planning initiatives of regional significance that improve the quality of life in the District. **Update:** Transitioning of staff has led to a shift in focus on initiatives of regional significance. Eastgate actively participates in the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium that has led to other initiatives in economic development, community planning, environmental protection, and transportation advocacy. Through this process and other federal opportunities that promote revitalization in legacy communities, effort has been placed into working to strengthen established communities.
- G. Participate in regional transportation planning to ensure transportation needs are being addressed and priorities selected support economic development and community plans.



**Update:** Greater emphasis has been placed on the role transit plays for economic development and transit agencies are working closely with Eastgate to promote better service. Eastgate and its partners continually seek additional funding to improve and expand transit.

## EVALUATION OF PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN & GOALS

The goals in the 2013 CEDS are as follows:

### **Goal 1: ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION**

#### **Objectives:**

- A. Revitalize the central business districts, remediate brownfields, and promote investment and job-creation in distressed inner cities. **Update:** There has been growing interest in the revitalization of central business districts throughout the region as national attention returns to the economic importance of downtowns. Youngstown State University in partnership with the city of Youngstown are preparing an economic development strategy plan that will be completed in 2015. America Makes and the Youngstown Business Incubator have had a significant impact by hosting a four-day Youngstown Maker City Initiative in August 2014 that brought together hundreds of people and national coverage to the downtown and additive manufacturing. Warren has been realigning its economic development strategy. In Ashtabula County, a third Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) was renewed between Harpersfield and Geneva for a business-attracting progress zone and a new Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) was created in Ashtabula Township to attract new retail and commercial investment. Downtown Ashtabula is also witnessing investment for streetscaping and other business attraction activities through the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association. Numerous discussions and grants were submitted for brownfield remediation. The Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber hosted a real estate roundtable on best practices in the summer of 2014 and the Ashtabula County Port Authority received a \$600,000 brownfield assessment grant for former industrial and commercial properties. The Trumbull County Planning Commission with several partners submitted an EPA redevelopment planning grant that would further assess brownfields throughout the city of Warren.
- B. Grow the manufacturing and research of advanced materials for technology development, talent attraction and increased economic opportunity. **Update:** The region has experienced growth in additive manufacturing companies with support from the Youngstown Business Incubator and the opening of Youngstown State University's Center for Innovation in Additive Manufacturing. The Brookings Institution has taken a keen interest in the Mahoning Valley with an application for a regional export plan and a presentation by M-7 Technologies on the demand for a state of the art additive manufacturing business park. TechBelt continues to meet and develop strategies to attract companies in advanced fields.
- C. Expand broadband availability with connection speeds that enable world-class competition **Update:** Availability of broadband and telecommunications access is a frequent topic at Business Resource Network meetings. Legacy cities within the region have been in discussion with OneCommunity, a provider in Northeast Ohio. In addition, CenturyLink has expanded its regional training facility.
- D. Utilize our central location and infrastructure assets. Build off of our water ports, rail access, central highways and airports. **Update:** There has been increased interest in rail with the expansion of the oil and gas industry. Rail assets have allowed the region to attract major development, such as the groundbreaking of a new \$125 million Metalco plant in Lordstown's Ohio Commerce Center. Public dollars are continually appropriated

to critical infrastructure improvements through discussions with business chambers and port authorities.

- E. Foster and grow entrepreneurial activity the YBI, institutions of higher education, minority assistance programs, and other regional development systems. **Update:** EDA, other federal agencies, and the State of Ohio's push to grow entrepreneurial activity are having a profound impact in our area with such events as the Maker City Initiative and trade shows featuring products manufactured locally. Youngstown State University continues to play a strong role in supporting growth with its workshops, expansion of SCORE, and the opening of YSU Launch Lab. Start-up capital has become more available through programs like the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation's small business loan program and Ashtabula County's New Entrepreneurs Opportunity Fund (NEO Fund).
- F. Leverage other State and Federal financing **Update:** Several partnerships have been formed recently for state and federal financing opportunities, particularly for planning grants. Planning grants have been explored from the Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Development Administration, Department Of Transportation, and Department of Labor to name a few. A Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) grant was submitted by the Mahoning Valley Manufacturer's Coalition and others for a feasibility study.
- G. Prioritize infrastructure projects needed to serve existing and new industries and markets. **Update:** Regional prioritization of infrastructure projects is discussed by groups such as Grow Mahoning Valley. New metrics for prioritizing infrastructure projects are expected to be created out of new federal transportation preferences and regional initiatives such as the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium.
- H. Improve intergovernmental cooperation and coordination within the district. **Update:** Intergovernmental cooperation is continually realigned and improved to best serve the goals and initiatives in the region. There have been staff changes within the economic development entities in the region that require greater coordination. Recently, the Economic Action Group (EAG) was formed in Youngstown, which is a platform for intergovernmental cooperation.
- I. Inventory and publicize available industrial sites and buildings. **Update:** The Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium published Vibrant NEO 2040, which encourages the inventorying of available industrial sites and buildings. A regional effort to market these properties is currently being discussed. JobsOhio has taken the lead on this initiative on a state-wide level with InSite that has international traffic. Lastly, an inventory of the city of Youngstown is being conducted as part of the EDA economic development strategy plan.
- J. Expand on the agricultural industry by identifying and developing sustainable value-added products for export, and by working to strengthen the local foods movement. **Update:** Eastgate is part of the Food Coalition that discusses opportunities to expand the agricultural industry. In December 2014, Youngstown was visited by heads of the Appalachian Regional Commission, United States Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Protection Agency to launch the "Local Foods, Local Places" grant. The metropolitan region has recently received several grants to improve access to local foods and strengthen institutional partnerships. The Kitchen Incubator at Commonwealth in Youngstown recently opened, allowing several value-added products to scale. Agricultural

tourism has continued to see expansion in Ashtabula County, particularly with the grand opening of Pairings, an agricultural and culinary center.

- K. Grow the advanced manufacturing cluster through industry networks and collaborations, talent development, promoting and advocating our regional assets. **Update:** Continued collaboration among networks and industry partners had taken place through such avenues as the Business Resource Network, OH-PENN, and other groups. Further understanding of clusters is being performed by the OSU Extension Shale Study and Economic Development Strategy Plan for the city of Youngstown that will touch on Mahoning Valley.
- L. Help appropriate agencies and initiatives connect underserved residents to business and employment opportunities. **Update:** The Business Resource Network and other initiatives continue to connect resources to opportunities. A unique initiative in 2014 allowed Youngstown State University graphic design students to offer graphic and interactive design services to small businesses, nonprofits, and startups for branding and other materials.

**Goal 2: OBTAIN SKILLS AND EDUCATION DEMANDED BY THE REGIONS EMPLOYERS**

**Objectives:**

- A. Align the One Stop workforce development system and its partners with the economic development stakeholders of the region. **Update:** Alignment is ongoing as public-private partnerships are formalized. Team NEO is also restructuring following a merger with NorTech.
- B. Promote programs that enhance and redefine the skills of a varied workforce. **Mid Point Update:**  
Several workforce programs including apprenticeships have been launched in the region as well as an executive training program for emerging leaders by the Small Business Administration.
- C. Ensure participation of the school districts across the region to inform students of local job opportunities in emerging industries, and the preparation, skills, and requirements needed for those career fields. **Update:** National Manufacturing Day and other efforts have expanded knowledge about emerging industries and opportunities to students. Local technical schools have offered several career fairs, including a Cutting Edge Manufacturing conference and STEM festival. Local schools have received grants and purchased 3D printers and other technology to allow greater exposure. OH-PENN has allowed local teachers to be placed in manufacturing businesses to better connect educators with the skills needed in the workforce. The state of Ohio is aggressively marketing and encouraging STEM.
- D. Promote educational partnerships and new approaches to learning that benefit P16 students and life-long learning. **Update:** Several new partnerships have formed among Kent State University, Youngstown State University, and Eastern Gateway Community College to promote innovation and access to technology. Partners received a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) grant for

advanced machining equipment, a welding lab, and other training. 2014 marked the beginning of the Ohio Export Internship program. In addition, opportunities for professional growth are also promoted by interest groups and foundations. Proposals have been submitted for greater support of life-long learning facilities at the time of this report, such as an advanced manufacturing training center.

- E. Help businesses understand what workforce development opportunities exist. **Update:** Collaborative partnerships such as the Business Resource Network and the leadership provided by the local chambers of commerce continually address this issue.
- F. Increase the number of accessible Research and Development facilities as a collaboration between industry and education to enhance new projects and processes. **Update:** Activities that increase accessibility have occurred at the state level and for Northeast Ohio through MAGNET and the Fund for our Economic Future. The Ohio Board of Regents has offered workshops to regional stakeholders in higher education on funding opportunities.
- G. Foster sector partnerships to align talent supply and demand. **Update:** Workforce Investment Boards, OH-PENN, and other initiatives continue to better align talent supply. Panels and other roundtables continually bring together stakeholders to look for new avenues and assess progress.

### **Goal 3:        OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE**

#### **Objectives:**

- A. Create and expand opportunities for culture, recreation, and tourism throughout the district **Update:** Several successes have occurred with this objective recently, such as the expansion of OhWow!, the children’s museum located in Youngstown and greater appreciation of the role that tourism plays in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. Ashtabula County celebrated the opening of Pairings, Ohio’s Wine and Culinary Experience, and continues to advance tourism with new media outreach and branding.
- B. Implement standards that redevelop industrially zoned areas and brownfields in an aesthetically pleasing way for new industrial, green industrial or recreational use. **Update:** Eastgate hosted a green infrastructure workshop and information related to green industrial and recreational use is promoted by Vibrant NEO 2040.
- C. Continue to explore the effectiveness of alternative energy applications in the Region. As some forms of energy production advance, the climate and weather patterns in NE Ohio become more conducive to cost effective alternative energy production. **Update:** The shale boom has limited the interest in other forms of alternative energy in the region, however conversations are ongoing about increasing the efficiency of public services. TBEIC will open soon, offering a new dynamic and local catalyst.
- D. Promote walkable, bicycle and transit friendly, livable, sustainable, socially engaging and welcoming places. This reduces traffic, air pollution, and obesity

- and promotes a greater sense of community and vitality. **Update:** Vibrant NEO 2040 adds to this initiative, offering best practices and other information. Eastgate staff continues to attend workshops on the implementation of these principles. Local community development organizations and foundations provide outlets for engaging citizens, promoting more livable communities, and advocating for placemaking through public art and open events.
- E. Identify high quality natural areas for preservation and protection and protect valuable farmland from sprawl. **Update:** Natural areas for preservation and protection are regularly brought to the attention of Eastgate through the Clean Ohio Fund and other opportunities. Vibrant NEO 2040 provides scenarios for parks, greenways, and natural areas under different development stresses.
  - F. Promote the Great Ohio Lake-to-River bikeway and the MetroParks systems. **Update:** A section of the Western Reserve Greenway recently opened in Trumbull County and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources awarded Ashtabula County with more than a million dollars for trail projects and expansion of Geneva State Park

**Goal 4: COMPLETE DATA SETS AND BECOME MORE DATA DRIVEN IN THE CHOICES WE MAKE**

**Objectives:**

- A. Identify and develop sources of knowledge and innovation in the economy. **Update:** EDA's Strategic Plan for the administration points to greater access to sources and has continued to provide more data. Recently, Team NEO launched a new website that utilizes more information. Vibrant NEO 2040 offers useful information and peer exchange with agencies that maintain data occur on a regular basis.
- B. Monitor and update regional cluster sectors as they lose or gain in importance in the regions markets. **Update:** EDA has provided greater access to regional cluster data and data is maintained for the CEDS to bolster the local decision-making process. Greater analysis of clusters is being conducted by the Economic Development Strategy Plan for the city of Youngstown.
- C. Identify meaningful data points to include in the CEDS. **Update:** Data included is past CEDS is maintained. Currently REDC is considering adding additional metrics for the upcoming CEDS and more options to enhance performance measurement that is occurring across federal agencies.

## **SCHEDULE OF GOALS FOR 2015 & PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

The goals outlined in the 2013 CEDS will be continued in 2015. Progress toward meeting performance objectives outlined in the 2013 CEDS is ongoing. Activities that will be added to upcoming year include:

- Refining goals, actions, and performance measures for 2016 CEDS
- Adding disaster resiliency planning to the CEDS
- Working with downtowns on revitalization
- Incorporating findings of Shale Energy Strategy
- Coordinating economic development partners for a regional strategy
- Supporting the creation of a Healthy Living Committee
- Creating frameworks for regionally-significant clusters
- Re-evaluating projects on the basis of regional priorities
- Strengthening the Regional Economic Development Committee

## PROJECT LIST

- **Little Squaw Creek Sanitary Sewer Phase 4:** extend a sanitary sewer on SR193
  - Sponsor: Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers
  - Total Cost: \$2,186,637
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): SCIP/LTIP, EDA
  
- **Little Squaw Creek Sanitary Sewer Phase 5:** extend a sanitary sewer on SR193 beyond the airport
  - Sponsor: Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers
  - Total Cost: \$1,800,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): SCIP/LTIP, EDA
  
- **Revolving Loan Fund Recapitalization:** request to increase funds available to loan for fixed assets as well as working capital
  - Sponsor: MVEDC
  - Total Cost: \$1,000,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: 200
  - Potential Funding Source(s): EDA
  
- **Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center:** install a technical infrastructure that early stage companies and their scientific and corporate partners can utilize to develop and better understand the scientific underpinnings and application potential of new energy discoveries
  - Sponsor: TBEIC
  - Total Cost: \$1,000,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: 70
  - Potential Funding Source(s): State, EDA
  
- **Geneva Wine and Culinary Center (Pairings):** potential expansion
  - Sponsor: City of Geneva
  - Total Cost: NA
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): EDA



- **Ashtabula Airport Water Line:** Jefferson Township, extending a twelve inch water line five miles to serve the area around the airport, enabling the establishment of an industrial area to serve the airport
  - Sponsor: Growth Partnership
  - Total Cost: \$2,550,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: 500
  - Potential Funding Source(s): State, CDBG, EDA
  
- **Lake to River Kitchen Incubator:** potential expansion
  - Sponsor: CommonWealth, Inc. and the Lake-to-River Food Coop
  - Total Cost: NA
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): ARC, USDA, EPA, State, EDA
  
- **McDonald Bridge and Roadway:** construction of 7,500 foot industrial roadway along the east side of rail from bridge area near McDonald Steel to Liberty Street Viaduct
  - Sponsor: Village of McDonald
  - Total Cost: \$1,500,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): ARC, SCIP/LTIP, EDA
  
- **CASTLO/Lally Rail Service Yard Rehabilitation:** track and railroad bridge repairs for redevelopment of CASTLO'S Area 7
  - Sponsor: CASTLO
  - Total Cost: \$1,300,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: 10
  - Potential Funding Source(s): ARC, EDA
  
- **Warren Steel holdings Onsite Track & West Warren Connection:** allow Warren & Trumbull Railroad to reach CSX's Newton Falls subdivision, add interchange with the CSX mainline at Newton Falls, as well as new industries resulting from the West Warren Industrial Partnership and the Warren Commerce Park
  - Sponsor: Warren & Trumbull Railroad
  - Total Cost: \$1,939,600
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA

- Potential Funding Source(s): ORDC, EDA
- **Ohio Junction Rail Yard Expansion:** expansion of interchange yard at Ohio Junction between CSX and Ohio Central (G&W) to accommodate growing steel pipe business
  - Sponsor: CSX & Ohio Central Railroad
  - Total Cost: \$2,315,300
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): ORDC, EDA
- **MRCO Roadway:** extend existing roadway east along Mahoning River from Campbell to Center Street Bridge
  - Sponsor: Campbell and Youngstown
  - Total cost: NA
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): ARC, State, EDA
- **Carson/Jefferson Transload Expansions:** expand rail capacity
  - Sponsor: Ashtabula, Carson/Jefferson Railroad
  - Total Cost: \$416,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): ORDC, EDA
- **Conneaut Port Authority Port Reuse Plan:** plan for economic development of a portion of Conneaut Port
  - Sponsor: Conneaut Port Authority
  - Total Cost: \$75,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): EDA
- **SR 534 Sanitary Sewer Project:** create a JEDD and design and construct sanitary sewer for commercial development along SR 534, opening up commercial development off I-90.
  - Sponsor: City of Geneva
  - Total cost: \$1,700,000
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: 23
  - Potential Funding Source(s): ARC, WPCLF, OPWC, LGIF, EDA

- **SmartPark USA:** construction and expansion of research park
  - Sponsor: NA
  - Total Cost: NA
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): EDA
  
- **South Site Development Project:** development of the South Site with an access road and utilities at the Youngstown/Warren Regional Airport (YNG)
  - Sponsor: Western Reserve Port Authority
  - Total Cost: \$9,300,000
  - EDA Request: \$4,650,000
  - Local Match: \$4,650,000
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: 64 created and 100 new students
  - Potential Funding Source(s): State Infrastructure Bank
  
- **Advanced Manufacturing Training Center:** shared facility that would provide space for entry-level and continued education.
  - Sponsor: Mahoning Valley Manufacturer's Coalition
  - Total Cost: NA
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): EDA, State, ARC
  
- **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Institute:** institute that would serve a ten-county region for public safety and emergency preparedness workforce development.
  - Sponsor: Kent State University Trumbull
  - Total Cost: NA
  - EDA Request: NA
  - Local Match: NA
  - Estimated Jobs Retained or Created: NA
  - Potential Funding Source(s): EDA, ARC, State

## 2014 Grow Mahoning Valley Project List

Current Rank	Project	Rating	Estimated Cost	Federal Requested	Federal Received	State Requested	State Received	Local Requested	Local Received
1	SR 164/I-680 Interchange (Mahoning Co.)	78	\$19,000,000	\$17,125,000			\$1,875,000		\$1,875,000
2	Meridian Road Safety Upgrade	79	\$10,400,000						
3	Little Squaw Creek Interceptor Phase 5 (Final phase to reach the airport)	91	\$2,500,000	\$250,000	\$175,000				
4	Western Reserve Rd Phase I (West)	69	\$6,200,000		\$2 million - 08/05 TEA-LU Bill				
5	Chemical Feed Improvement Project	82	\$2,700,000						
6	Phase 3 Valve and Pipeline Improvement Project	80	\$6,819,000						
7	Dam and Spillway Improvement Project	80	\$3,835,000						
8	McClurg Rd. Widening	73	\$2,654,000						
9	Market St./North Rd. Interchange	75	\$2,100,000						
10	Southington Township Water Project	86	\$3,000,000						
11	Route 82 Intersection Improvements	62	\$9,000,000						
12	US 422 widening (Trumbull County)	73	\$7.5 million		\$800,000 - 2006 Appropriation Bill				
13	Wick Neighbors-Smokey Hollow	89	\$9,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$1,185,000	\$2,000,000	\$400,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000
14	South Ave. Widening (from Mathews to Midlothian)	TBD	\$8M						
15	Western Reserve Rd Phase I (East)	TBD	TBD						

## EDA INVESTMENT IN THE EASTGATE REGION

Location	Applicant	Project Description	Award Date	EDA Match
Ashtabula	City of Ashtabula	Industrial Park Dev.	2005	300,000
Conneaut	City of Conneaut	Water/Sewer	1997	600,000
Orwell	Orwell Village	Infrastructure Improv	2005	400,000
Conneaut	City of Conneaut	Develop Industrial Park	2009	365,000
Ashtabula County	Ashtabula County	Recap	1993	250,000
Mahoning County	Mahoning County	Bridge Construction	2002	1,800,000
Youngstown	Youngstown Central Area	Const. Tech Center Building	2006	2,000,000
Youngstown	YBI	Incubator	1993	810,836
Youngstown	YBI	Incubator	1998	498,000
Youngstown	City of Youngstown/YSU	Economic Development Strategy	2013	219,732
Youngstown	YBI	Incubator	2014	3,000,000
Lordstown	Village of Lordstown	Water Supply Line	2003	1,300,000
Vienna	Trumbull County	Ind Park at Airport	1999	911,600
Trumbull	Trumbull County	Const San Sewer Lie	2001	564,000
Trumbull/Mahoning	Trumbull County	Sanitary Sewer	2005	340,000
Trumbull	Warren/Mahoning Valley	Industrial Park	1996	951,000
Howland	Howland/Warren	Golden Triangle Feasibility Study	2014	38,000
Ohio	Ohio State	Oil & Gas Strategy	2013	\$199,766

## **Committee By-Laws**

### **BYLAWS EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

#### **ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORITY**

- Section 1 The name of this organization shall be known as the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, hereinafter referred to as “COMMITTEE”.
- Section 2 The COMMITTEE shall have the authority prescribed to it when created by Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. Further, the COMMITTEE shall have authority necessary to carry out its purpose and objectives as delineated in Article II of these bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

- Section 1 The purpose of the COMMITTEE is to develop, maintain, pursue implementation of and complete annual reporting requirements related to the Economic Development Strategy document.
- Section 2 The COMMITTEE shall be charged with the following objectives, which include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. To support the ongoing economic development planning process in the region. The CEDS planning region shall consist of the Counties of Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull.
  - b. To prepare draft CEDS documents, CEDS annual reports, annual implementation schedules, and other documents to be sent to the US Economic Development Administration for review.
  - c. To bring to the attention of Eastgate Regional Council of Governments various approaches to solving community and economic development related problems.
  - d. To provide participating jurisdictions, organizations, and private sector entities with information of CEDS initiatives, relevant grant programs, and other related news.

#### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1 The COMMITTEE shall be composed of members broadly representative of the economic sector of the region. The COMMITTEE will be comprised of elected officials and/or employees of general purpose units of local government appointed to represent such governments, private sector representatives, and regional economic interests.
- Section 2 The following are permanent members of the COMMITTEE:
- a. One (1) representative from the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
  - b. One (1) representative from the Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County

- c. One (1) representative from the Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation
- d. One (1) representative from the Western Reserve Port Authority
- e. One (1) representative from a community college in the region
- f. One (1) representative from a four-year higher education institution in the region
- g. One (1) representative from a Workforce Development Board
- h. One (1) representative from the City of Youngstown
- i. One (1) representative from the City of Warren
- j. One (1) representative from Mahoning County
- k. One (1) representative from Ashtabula County
- l. One (1) representative from Trumbull County

Section 3        COMMITTEE members may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms. Any committee member who withdraws from their position and intends to continue on the COMMITTEE must seek reappointment from the COMMITTEE. New members shall be nominated by the COMMITTEE and be elected to the COMMITTEE as vacancies occur, unless appointed by one of the above listed agencies.

Section 4        Any member failing to attend or to send an alternate to at least half of the scheduled meetings in any given calendar year will no longer be in good standing with the COMMITTEE.

Section 5        The COMMITTEE may invite non-voting members from interested organizations to participate in COMMITTEE meetings. The non-voting members representing the interested organizations shall be appointed by their respective organizations.

Section 6        A representative from Eastgate Regional Council of governments will be present at COMMITTEE meetings.

**ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS**

Section 1        The COMMITTEE shall meet at least two (2) times per year. Special meetings may be held at other times if deemed necessary. A representative from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments will announce meetings at least one month in advance of a planned meeting and distribute an agenda at least one week in advance.

Section 2        Members in attendance, representing a majority participating in the CEDS process shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3        A representative from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments will prepare and maintain a permanent written record of all COMMITTEE proceedings and shall transmit a copy of minutes to all COMMITTEE members upon their

completion.

- Section 4 The agenda for each COMMITTEE meeting shall be prepared by a representative from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. All items desired by members or necessary for inclusion on the agenda shall be submitted not less than **seven (7)** days prior to the meeting date.
- Section 5 Members may attend meetings via electronic means including, but not limited to teleconference. Information about the method of communication, including necessary phone numbers and/or websites, will be sent to members with the agenda at least one week in advance of the meeting.
- Section 6 Members may vote by proxy or email.
- a. COMMITTEE members voting by proxy shall designate their proxy by contacting the representative from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments at least 24-hours prior to the upcoming meeting being called to order and identifying the person to serve as proxy.
  - b. COMMITTEE members voting by email shall email the votes for each actionable item on the current meeting agenda to the representative from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments at least 24-hours prior to the meeting being called to order.

#### **ARTICLE V – AMENDMENT**

- Section 1 These bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the COMMITTEE after approval by motion.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – EFFECTIVE DATE**

- Section 1 These bylaws shall become effective on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.
- Section 2 Amendments to the COMMITTEE bylaws shall become effective immediately upon ratification by Eastgate Regional Council of Governments General Policy Board.



# Project Evaluation

## CEDS PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each project submitted for inclusion in the CEDS will receive a project ranking based on the following information:  
*To be eligible for EDA funding, a project MUST meet at least one of the following basic criteria:*

- Be located in an area with an unemployment rate of at least 1 point higher than the national average for the prior 24 months; OR
- Have a per capita income level at least 20% below the national average, OR
- Meet one or more Special Needs Criteria, and have the ability to meet or exceed EDA Investment Policy Guidelines.

### A. Project Benefits

#### 1. EDA Eligibility (for area where Proposed Project is located) (Maximum 5 Points)

- 24 Month Unemployment Rate is at least 1 point greater than the national average or the per capita income is not more than 80% of the national average.....2
- 24 Month Unemployment Rate is at least 2 points greater than the national average or the per capita income is not more than 70% of the national average.....3
- 24 Month Unemployment Rate is at least 3 points greater than the national average or the per capita income is not more than 60% of the national average.....4
- 24 Month Unemployment Rate is at least 4 points greater than the national average or the per capita income is not more than 50% of the national average.....5

#### 2. Employment (Maximum 8 Points)

- Projected Number of Full Time Jobs Within 3 years is less than 10.....1
- Projected Number of Full Time Jobs Within 3 years is greater than 10.....2
- Projected Number of Full Time Jobs Within 3 years is greater than 25.....3
- Projected Number of Full Time Jobs Within 3 years is greater than 50.....4
  
- Anticipated Number of Full Time Jobs retained is less than 10.....1
- Anticipated Number of Full Time Jobs retained is greater than 10.....2
- Anticipated Number of Full Time Jobs retained is greater than 25.....3
- Anticipated Number of Full Time Jobs retained is greater than 50.....4

#### 3. Ratio of EDA Share of Project Cost to Number of Jobs Created and/or Retained (Maximum 4 Points)

- Greater than \$40,000 per job.....0
- \$30,001 - \$39,999 per job.....1
- \$20,001 - \$29,999 per job.....2
- \$10,001 - \$19,999 per job.....3
- Less than \$10,000 per job.....4

#### 4. Addresses EDA Investment Priorities. (Maximum 6 Points)

- EDA currently has six investment priorities. A short list is included below, 1 point per investment priority allotted.
  - a. Collaborative Regional Innovation

- b. Public/Private Partnership
- c. National strategic Priorities
- d. Global Competitiveness
- e. Environmentally-Sustainable Development
- f. Economically Distressed and Underserved Communities

<b>5. Bonus for support of Emerging Technologies and Innovation. (Maximum 5 Points)</b>	0
.....	5
<b>6. Project is located on a brownfield site or promotes reuse of an existing facility. (Maximum 5 Points)</b>	0
.....	5
<b>7. Impact of Project on Region (Maximum 5 Points)</b>	
• Project would impact community where project is located.....	1
• Project would impact adjacent communities.....	3
• Project would impact County-wide.....	4
• Project would impact Region-wide.....	5

**B. Project Readiness**

<b>1. Matching Funds (Maximum 5 Points)</b>	
• Not Secured.....	0
• Secured and Account for less than 30 percent of Total Project Cost.....	2
• Secured and Account for less than 40 percent of Total Project Cost.....	3
• Secured and Account for less than 50 percent of Total Project Cost.....	4
• Secured and Account for more than 50 percent of Total Project Cost.....	5
<b>2. Engineering and Project Cost Estimates (Maximum 5 Points)</b>	
• Project Engineering Not Started.....	0
• Project Engineering In-Progress.....	2
• Project Engineering and Cost Estimates Completed.....	5
<b>3. Availability of Utilities (Maximum 7 Points)</b>	
Site has access to adequate public water, sanitary and stormwater treatment, all-season road, natural gas, electricity, telephone, and broadband Internet services	
<b>4. Ownership (Maximum 5 Points)</b>	
• Public Body has option to purchase property where improvements are proposed.....	2
• Public Body owns property where improvements are proposed or has control/easement of property.....	5
<b>5. Timeframe (No Points)</b>	
• Short-Term	
• Intermediate (2-4 years)	
• Long-Term (5+ years)	

**Scoresheet:**

**A. Project Benefits**

1. /5

2. /8

3. /4

4. /6

5. /5

6. /5

7. /5

**B. Project Readiness**

1. /5

2. /5

3. /7

4. /5

**Total:** /60

## **General Policy Board**

As a council of governments, organized under Section 167.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, the General Policy Board (GPB) is made up of local elected and appointed officials from Ashtabula, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, plus representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Western Reserve Transit Authority, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Eastgate Citizen's Advisory Board. All official actions, including the adoption of plans, of the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments are enacted by the General Policy Board. 2015 representatives are listed below:

Chairman: Joseph V. Warino, P.E., City of Canfield  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman: Mark Hess, City of Niles  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice- Chairman: Commissioner Casey Kozlowski, Ashtabula County  
Mayor Eric Augustein, Village of Beloit  
Jerry Brockway, Ashtabula County  
Nancy Brundage, Citizens Advisory Board  
Mauro R. Cantalamessa, Commissioner, Trumbull County  
Daniel R. Claypool, Commissioner, Ashtabula County  
Peggy Carlo, Commissioner, Ashtabula County  
Mayor Thomas Christlieb, Village of West Farmington  
Mayor John Darko, City of Hubbard  
David Ditzler, Mahoning County Commissioner  
Robert Faulkner, Trumbull County Transit Board  
James Ferraro, Director, Western Reserve Transit Authority  
Mayor Douglas Franklin, City of Warren  
Frank Fuda, Trumbull County Commissioner  
Pat Ginnetti, P.E., Mahoning County Engineer  
Fred Hanley, Hubbard Township Trustee  
Mayor Arno Hill, Village of Lordstown  
Mayor Glenn Holmes, Village of McDonald  
Don Iannone, Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County  
Mayor Ralph Infante, Jr., City of Niles  
Mayor James Iudiciani, Village of Lowellville  
Mayor William Jones, Village of Washingtonville  
Mayor Harry Kale, Village of New Middletown  
Mayor Bernie Kosar, Sr., City of Canfield  
Paul Makosky, P.E., City of Warren  
Mayor John McNally, City of Youngstown  
Mayor James Melfi, City of Girard  
Mayor Curt Moll, City of Cortland  
Trish Nuskievicz, Director, Trumbull County Planning Commission  
Mayor J. Michael Pinkerton, Village of Sebring  
Jim Pirko, CAB Representative  
Daniel Polivka, Trumbull County Commissioner  
Kurt Princic, OEPA NE District Chief  
Carol Rimedio-Righetti, Mahoning County Commissioner

Randy Samulka, CAB Representative  
Mayor Tim Sicafuse, Village of Poland  
Randy Smith, P.E., Trumbull County Engineer  
Mayor Dave Spencer, Village of Craig Beach  
Mayor Terry Stocker, City of Struthers  
Anthony Traficanti, Mahoning County Commissioner  
Tony Urankar, District Deputy Director, ODOT District 4  
Mayor William Van Such, City of Campbell  
Mayor Lyle A. Waddell, City of Newton Falls

### **The Technical Advisory Committee**

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of local planning, transit, and engineering officials from each member entity. It currently consists of voting members representing the broad spectrum of transportation, development and environmental activities undertaken by Eastgate. The Technical Advisory Committee was established to advise the General Policy Board on technical matters. 2015 representatives are listed below:

Chairman: Rob Donham, P.E., Mahoning County Engineers Office  
Vice-Chairman: Gary Shaffer, P.E., Trumbull County Engineer's Office  
Peggy Carlo, Ashtabula County Commissioner  
Tara Cioffi, Mahoning-Trumbull Air Pollution Control Agency  
Bill D'Avignon, Youngstown City Planning  
Robert Faulkner, Trumbull County Transit Board  
Rex Fee, Executive Director, Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers  
Pat Ginnetti, P.E., Mahoning County Engineer  
Mark Hess, City of Niles  
Jim Kinnick, ODOT District 4  
Kristen Olmi, Mahoning County Sanitary Engineer  
Paul Makosky, P.E., City of Warren  
Aaron Young, Director, Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District  
Trish Nuskievicz, Director, Trumbull County Planning Commission  
Judy Rodriguez, Western Reserve Transit Authority  
Michael O'Shaughnessy, Mahoning County Planning Commission  
Kurt Princic, OEPA  
Charles Shasho, City of Youngstown  
Randy Smith, P.E., Trumbull County Engineer  
Terry Thomas, Community Bus Services, Inc. (non-voting member)

## **The Citizens Advisory Board**

A Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) was established to ensure the input of a broad representation of community interest for Eastgate project development and policy formulation. The Citizen's Advisory Board provides citizen input on Eastgate policies and practices. 2015 representatives are listed below:

Chairman: Gerald Hurayt  
Vice Chairman: Jim Pirko  
Jim Bolchalk  
Nancy Brundage  
Jim Converse  
Ray DeCarlo  
Lark Dickstein-Renerth  
Robert Faulkner  
Genevieve Germaniuk  
Fred G. Hanley, Jr.  
Janet Hazlette  
Kevin Kern  
Charlotte Meloni  
Jerome Parm  
Randy Samulka  
Thomas Smalls  
Janet Weisberg