Request for Designation:

The Central Connecticut Economic Development District

The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

June 28th, 2012

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Serving Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington

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JUNE 28TH, 2012

Willie Taylor, Regional Director
The Economic Development Administration
The Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street, Suite 140 South
Philadelphia, Pa 19106

RE: Request for EDD designation, Central Connecticut Economic Development District

Dear Mr. Taylor,

We are pleased to submit this request for designation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District. This request is the culmination of years of work by a diverse group of stakeholders, representing a broad spectrum of the private and public sectors. The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency sought, and incorporated, public input along each step of the way.

We also received considerable support from the private and public sectors. In addition to the required letters of support from a majority of relevant municipalities (which are included in Tab 5), you will find letters of support from major utilities, the state's largest university, chambers of commerce, United States Senators, United States Representatives, State Senators, and State Representatives.

We thank the Economic Development Administration for the generous financial assistance and guidance provided to our communities throughout this process. It has been a valuable process for the region and has helped us to forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.

We look forward to working with the EDA in the future to establish this EDD and implement the District's CEDS.

Sincerely,

Carl Stephani

Executive Director, Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

The Central Connecticut Economic Development District

Composition and location of the Central Connecticut EDD

The Central Connecticut Economic Development District will span the cities of Bristol and New Britain and the surrounding towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington; its borders will reach into both Hartford and Litchfield Counties. The District will mirror the existing federal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and state Regional Planning Organization boundaries, ensuring that economic development planning is coordinated with and supported by transportation and land-use planning. The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA) will be responsible for all three activities.

The District is located at the crossroads of Connecticut's major transportation corridors. Interstate 84, a major east-west route, travels through the center of the region, Interstate 691 bounds the region's southern boundary, and Interstate 91 skirts the region's eastern boundary. The New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line passes through the region (currently being upgraded to provide high-speed intercity and commuter service), as well as a branch line of the Pan Am Southern Railroad. Additional major highways traversing and bounding the region include State Routes 8, 9, and 72, as well as U.S. Route 6. This District is also home to a prominent regional airport (Robertson Airport in Plainville), which provides quick and convenient air access to the District.

The south of the region consists of plains with fertile soil sandwiched between dramatic, steep traprock and amphibolite ridges (the Metacomet Ridge and South Mountain). While most of the plains agriculture in the region has been lost to suburban sprawl, challenging terrain has spared the ridges the depredations of major development. The foothills of the Appalachian Mountains begin in the middle of the region and rise to the north and west. These areas have witnessed an explosion in exurban development in recent years but, for the time being, by and large are ecologically unimpaired, with tracts of unfragmented forest the dominant landscape.

The physical terrain of the District delineates a clear separation between it and surrounding regions. Ragged Mountain, which rests atop the Metacomet Ridge in the towns of Southington and Berlin, is the region's highest point, at 761 feet and separates much of the District from towns to the East. The Northeastern portion of the District is bounded by the Farmington River. This river, which provides numerous recreation opportunities and formerly provided transportation, provides a natural boundary between the District and the Town of Farmington.

Over one quarter million people reside in the District (2010 Census). The District contains a diversity of different land-use patterns and development intensities, ranging from rural to urban. Population density in the region runs as high as 5,500 persons per square mile. New Britain

(which is the fourth most densely populated city in Connecticut) and Bristol, the two most densely populated municipalities, are the employment and service centers for the region. The 2011 CEDS identifies the redevelopment of these downtown centers, as well as smaller village centers, as priorities for the District.

Table 1. Population, area, and density

	Population	Area (miles^2)	Density
Berlin	19,866	27.0	736
Bristol	60,477	26.8	2,257
Burlington	9,301	30.4	306
New Britain	73,206	13.4	5,463
Plainville	17,716	9.8	1,808
Plymouth	12,243	22.3	549
Southington	43,069	36.6	1,177
Region	**235,878**	**166.3**	**1,418**

The towns of Central Connecticut have historically been closely tied together. Until the late-1700s, all of the municipalities (with the exception of Plymouth) were part of the Town of Farmington. Initially, agriculture dominated the region's economy, but with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, that soon changed. Thanks to its favorable location, plentiful resources (including rivers and streams for power), and some old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity, the region quickly burgeoned into a manufacturing powerhouse of national renown. By the mid-1800s the burgeoning industrial economy of the region drove the municipalities to sever ties with the Town of Farmington and incorporate on their own. The establishment of the Farmington Canal in 1828 and the arrival of the railroad shortly thereafter also put many communities on the map.

Bristol and New Britain in particular boast long and storied traditions of manufacturing. This history is still evident in the countless remnants of mills and factories, many of which are still in use. Bristol, known as the "Clock City," pioneered clock making. In the mid-19th century, its manufacturing industry diversified beyond timepieces to span fabrics, springs, bearings, and brass. While clocks are no longer manufactured in Bristol, the industry's history is still evidenced by the strong presence of metal manufacturing, especially springs and fasteners. New Britain, known as "Hardware City", had similar beginnings. The city continues to be home to several notable manufacturers, including the tool giant, Stanley Black & Decker. Continuing to transition the District's industrial economy is major priority of the 2011 CEDS. It seeks to find new markets for the advanced manufacturing facilities that are the legacy of the District's industrial heritage. Some potential markets identified by the CEDS include aerospace and medical devices.

While agriculture has declined in much of the region, it is still a large part of Burlington's community identity. Early in the town's history, the common farmer also made his living through additional trades and was often found to be a blacksmith, tinsmith, miller, wood maker or minister. Today, farmers are less likely make their own tools; however, as the most rural town in the region, Burlington and its landscape continue to be defined, at least in part, by its agricultural heritage. Preserving the agricultural heritage of the District, where it is still present, is another

objective of the CEDS, and was a direct result of the extensive public outreach performed during the CEDS planning process.

Economic statistics

While unemployment rates vary in the District, on the whole, unemployment in the District remains higher than the national average: 8.7% versus 8.2% in March 2012. This stands in contrast to Connecticut, which, as a whole, has outperformed the nation (8.1% unemployment). Indeed, as longitudinal data demonstrate, unemployment in the District is not new but a persistent problem. Nearly half of the District's municipalities suffered two-year unemployment rates above the national rate over that period; two of them (New Britain and Plymouth) exceeded this rate by 1% (see Table 2 below). The CEDS identifies lowering the unemployment rate as an objective, as well as an indicator of progress.

Income levels in the District also lag (see Table 2 below). Per-capita income (PCI) in the District substantially trails the state as a whole ($32,744 to $36,468, respectively, in 2010). While both of these figures are higher than the national average, the cost of living in Connecticut is also substantially higher than the national average, and all municipalities in the District experience significantly higher costs of living than the nation as a whole. For instance, New Britain, with a cost of living 109% of the national average, is the most affordable; however, with a per capita income of $21,056, residents only earn 78% of the national average. Similar gaps between income and living expenses afflict other communities in the District (reaching a high of 135% of the national average in Burlington).

Poverty rates in the region are low (averaging 9.6% versus 13.5% nationally), aside from the District's largest city, New Britain, where 18.7% of the population falls under the poverty line. However, given the higher cost of living in the region, actual, *experienced* poverty may exceed these numbers substantially.

Table 2. Basic economic data

	24 Month unemployment	Current unemployment (March 2012)	Per-capita income (2010)	% Below poverty line
Berlin	7.4%	7.2%	$38,134	5.5%
Bristol	9.3%	8.4%	$29,629	7.7%
Burlington	6.9%	6.2%	$43,392	1.9%
New Britain	12.4%	11.0%	$21,056	18.7%
Plainville	8.9%	8.1%	$31,000	5.0%
Plymouth	10.3%	8.9%	$30,081	5.6%
Southington	7.6%	7.2%	$36,053	4.2%
Region	9.6%	8.7%	$32,744	9.6%
U.S.	9.1%	8.2%	$27,334	13.5%

The District has experienced modest job growth in the private sector since 2004. Total private sector employment grew by 1.4% between 2004 and 2009, an addition of 1,141 jobs. (During the same period, national employment declined by 0.5%, and state employment declined by 2.1%.)

These results indicate that economic development efforts have had positive impacts, and suggest that further positive impacts may be expected if additional efforts are taken.

District employment, according to 2009 figures, is concentrated in three sectors: *Manufacturing*; *Retail Trade*; and *Health Care and Social Assistance* (see Table 3 below). In 2009 *Manufacturing* accounted for 14.9% of employment, *Health Care and Social Assistance* accounted for 17.2%, and *Retail Trade* accounted for 11.1%. These three sectors were also the largest sectors for the state, though the District's employment base was more specialized in *Manufacturing* (12.5% for the state) and *Health Care and Social Assistance* (just 17.8% for the state). District employment was less concentrated in *Finance and Insurance employment*: 8.6% of state employment was concentrated in this sector versus 2.7% of District employment. Other District concentrations included *Information*, *Construction*, and *Accommodation and Food Services*.

Table 3. Industries as a percentage of total employment (2009)

Industry Sector	Region	National	State
Agric., Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0.0%	0.9%	0.3%
Mining	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Utilities	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
Construction	4.9%	4.8%	4.0%
Manufacturing	14.9%	9.2%	12.5%
Wholesale Trade	3.2%	4.3%	4.7%
Retail Trade	11.1%	11.4%	13.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	1.2%	3.9%	2.9%
Information	4.6%	2.3%	2.6%
Finance and Insurance	2.7%	4.4%	8.6%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	0.7%	1.6%	1.4%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2.5%	5.9%	6.4%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0.3%	1.4%	2.0%
Administrative and Waste Management	3.7%	5.6%	5.5%
Educational Services	0.4%	9.5%	3.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	17.2%	13.8%	17.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	0.6%	1.8%	1.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	6.1%	8.7%	8.0%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3.5%	3.4%	4.1%
Unclassifiable/unknown industry	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%

The largest employers in the District represent a diversity of sectors. Three hospitals are on the list of top ten employers (Hospital of Central Connecticut, Bristol Hospital, and Hospital for Special Care), demonstrating that the region acts as an economic and service destination for the surrounding area. Other major employers include Lake Compounce, an amusement park that draws visitors from a large area, and ESPN, the heart of a growing media and information industry in the region. ESPN has grown by leaps and bounds (it now employs nearly 5,000 people). Lead by

ESPN, the *Information* sector was one of the fastest growing sectors in the region, growing by 42% between 2004 and 2009. At the same time, employment in that sector fell by 8.8%. Further development of the information and health care sectors is an objective of the CEDS.

Economic justification for designation

Central Connecticut has been recognized as a distinct region for coordinated, interdisciplinary planning for over 50 years. Its regional boundaries were fixed by the State in the 1950s as the result of planning study[1] that identified "logical and economic planning regions" based on the strength of inter-municipal ties; regional boundaries were drawn around municipalities with common social, economic, cultural, and physical attributes. The resulting boundaries, which will be shared by the Economic Development District, are also used for other federal and state planning functions. Using these boundaries, the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA)—formed in 1965—serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for the municipalities in the District. As the District's MPO, CCRPA plans and programs funds for the development of the District's transportation system; as its RPO, CCRPA develops a regional land-use plan that sets forth priorities for development and conservation. CCRPA has also taken the lead on creating and maintaining the District's FEMA-approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. As the coordinating entity for, transportation, natural hazard mitigation, and land-use planning, CCRPA is the ideal entity to coordinate economic development planning. Having transportation, land-use, and economic development planning under one roof ensures that all three will achieve a high level of coordination. Improving the District's transportation system was listed as objective in the District's 2011 CEDS; CCRPA is uniquely qualified to ensure that this happens in a manner that maximizes economic development.

CCRPA has jointly planned for the District's economic future for more than two decades. In 1982, the Agency undertook an industry analysis for the region. This was followed by a host of initiatives, including the 1993 (updated in 1995 and 1997) Strategic Economic Development Plan; the 1994 Business Retention and Development Plan; the 1997 Marketing Plan; the 2004 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); and, most recently, the 2011 CEDS. CCRPA and its partners have also spearheaded initiatives such as the Central Connecticut Revolving Loan Fund, which provides loans of up to $200,000 to firms throughout the region.

The District has a distinct economic character, unique among the surrounding regions. Towns to the west (the Litchfield Hills) rely on tourism for their economic future. While the District boasts some tourism draws (such as Lake Compounce), tourism makes up a small part of its economy. Towns to the southwest are much more heavily dependent on manufacturing, while the District has diversified into the *Information*, *Healthcare,* and *Biosciences* industries. At the same time, the District has moved away from some of the major employment sectors found in Capital Region to the east, which are heavily dependent on insurance and state government for employment. While

[1] Connecticut Development Commission, *Progress Toward Regional Planning,* 1959

Central Connecticut had outposts for large insurance companies such as Cigna and The Hartford, those offices have since closed as the industry moves toward greater consolidation.

Commuting flows further demonstrate that Central Connecticut is a distinct economic region. The largest commuting destination for the District's workers are (as of 2009) within the District. The two most popular destinations are Bristol and New Britain, each with an excess of 10,000 commuters. The District's status as a regional economic center is also evidenced by the fact that over 44,000 workers commute to it every day.

The strong economic identity of the District has resulted in cooperative arrangements between business associations. The Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce has transformed itself from an organization focusing exclusively on Bristol, to an umbrella organization for chambers in Plainville, Plymouth, and Burlington. Similarly, the New Britain Chamber of Commerce recently completed a merger with the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. The regional chambers work closely together to advance economic development projects and keep their members apprised of opportunities for expansion.

The District has a strong record of working with the EDA to implement projects that diversify and strengthen its economy. In Bristol, $1.2 million in EDA funds was used to develop the initial phase of the Southeast Bristol Business Park. This was followed by a recently-completed second phase. Both phases have attracted numerous tenants. In New Britain, the EDA provided an $875,000 grant for the Phase 1 SMART Park project. The project was completed in 2008 and is now home to Celebration Foods, employing 300 workers. In Plymouth, $1.1 million in EDA funds enabled construction of Phase III of the Plymouth Industrial Park. The project was a success, and State funds have now been used to start Phase IV of the park. Further improvements to industrial parks are included as Vital Projects in the 2011 CEDS. These projects will create jobs and help drive economic recovery.

Finally, the District's municipalities are dedicated to inter-municipal cooperation. For example, New Britain and Plainville, both of which are considered distressed by the State of Connecticut, plan to enter into an innovative economic development revenue sharing agreement (under authority granted by recent state legislation). This agreement will allow the municipalities to share the expense, and tax revenue, of a new cancer treatment center and medical office complex, but requires that the municipalities be in the same federally designated EDD. New Britain and Plainville's use of this funding mechanism is an unprecedented example of regional cooperation in Connecticut, and demonstrates the strong intra-regional ties that exist between the District's municipalities. Time is of the essence, however, as the project is ready to move forward. This project is listed as a Vital Project in the District's CEDS.

Another example of inter-municipal cooperation is disaster preparedness planning. In 2011 FEMA approved CCRPA's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan identifies potential natural hazards and establishes objectives for mitigating their impacts. Following on this work, the municipalities of Bristol, Plainville, and Plymouth are pursuing state and federal (through the EDA) funding to

study flooding problems along the Pequabuck River. Floodwaters from recent storms caused considerable damage to businesses and infrastructure throughout the District. The three municipalities will work cooperatively, as they have done throughout the decades, to address flooding in a manner that does not benefit one town to the detriment of another. The result will be a more resilient economy. This project has recently been added to the District's CEDS.

Economic distress and eligibility

Central Connecticut, despite pockets of relative affluence, has experienced considerable economic distress, which must be tackled through comprehensive planning. Two municipalities in the District qualify under EDA criteria as economically distressed. The City of New Britain, a city of over 73,000 people, qualifies by having a 24-month unemployment rate that is well over one percent greater than the national average (12.4% versus 9.1%) and a per-capita income that is less than 80% of the national average. (New Britain's PCI is $21,056, just 78% of the national PCI of $27,334.) The Town of Plymouth qualifies as distressed by having a 24-month unemployment rate of 10.3%, 1.2 points higher than the national average.

New Britain is a densely populated city with a rich industrial heritage. It is home to such regional destinations as the Central Connecticut State University (as of 2010 it was the second largest university in Connecticut with 12,477 students), the Hospital of Central Connecticut, and the Hospital for Special Care; all of which draw people into the region from great distances. New Britain grew out of the hardware manufacturing industry (it is known as the "Hardware City") and is still home to Stanley Black & Decker. Despite these large institutions and major employers, it is a city experiencing significant economic distress. The city still has a strong manufacturing base, but it is one that has been weakened by economic trends experienced nation-wide. (Since 2000, the city has lost 23% of its manufacturing jobs.)

Aging industrial buildings in New Britain have failed to keep pace with changing needs of industry, and the city has little room for expansion. New Britain is just 13.4 square miles and is largely built-out. This leaves little room for industrial expansion without costly redevelopment of existing sites. Facilities built during the city's heyday do not meet the large open floor-plans preferred by modern industry. Where redevelopment has occurred, new businesses have thrived, brining much needed jobs. New Britain's SMART PARK project is now home to a major frozen food manufacturing facility (Celebration Foods) and was so successful the company subsequently moved its headquarters to the city (creating over 300 jobs). A former public housing site, called Pinnacle Heights, is now slated for redevelopment as well.

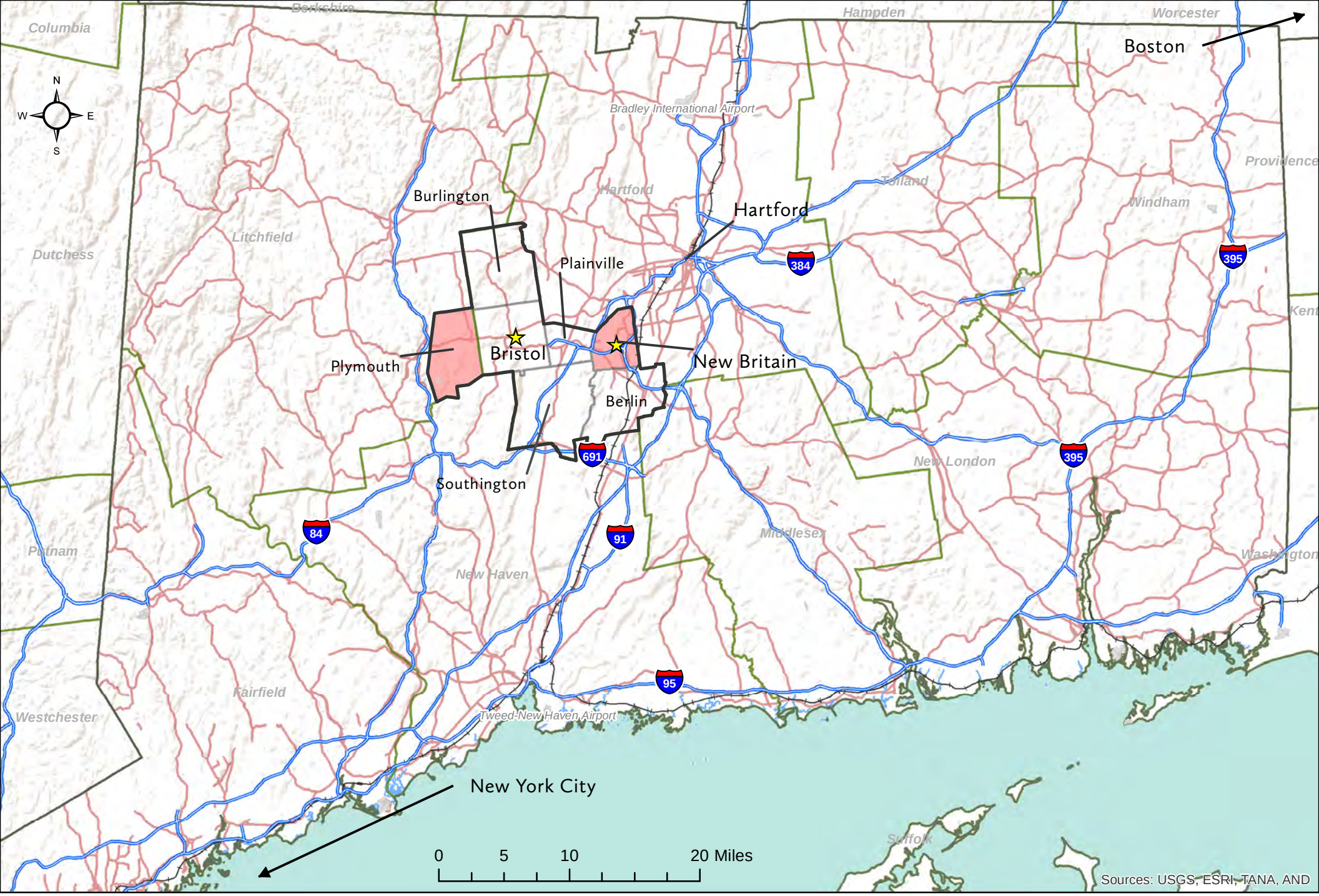
Plymouth is a town of over 12,000 people located on the western edge of the region. The town is much larger than New Britain (22.3 square miles) and much less densely populated. Parts of the town are intensively developed and contain industrial facilities. Despite having several large tracts of undeveloped land, the town suffers from poor transportation access as well as challenging terrain. The town lacks easy freeway and highway access, and has no mass transit. Town residents are thus limited in their employment opportunities.

Plymouth has also experienced success at attracting companies to its industrial park (funded in part with EDA grant funds). A large spice producer recently signed a lease in the park, and a food processing company is looking at a site; these companies may be the start of a small value-added food manufacturing cluster. The town's location between more rural locales and larger industrial centers make it the perfect location for such facilities. The limited transportation infrastructure and few ready-built industrial sites hinder the formation of such a cluster. Plymouth's small size and economic distress, however, leave it with limited resources to encourage such a cluster.

The need for a regional approach

Central Connecticut's municipalities recognize that it is only through a regional, comprehensive economic development planning process that they will overcome their weaknesses and build on their strengths. The District has a large pool of skilled workers, but faces numerous hurdles. Industrial sites no longer meet the needs of modern industry, transportation is problematic in some areas, and persistent economic distress in key parts of the District threatens its future. The economic impacts of the closure of prominent insurance facilities that once linked the regional economy to that of Hartford (especially the recent closure CIGNA's offices in Bristol and The Hartford's offices in Southington, where over a thousand people were employed) have been great. As the District's economy diverges from that of its neighbors, it must find its own path, shifting its focus to industries that benefit from its strengths.

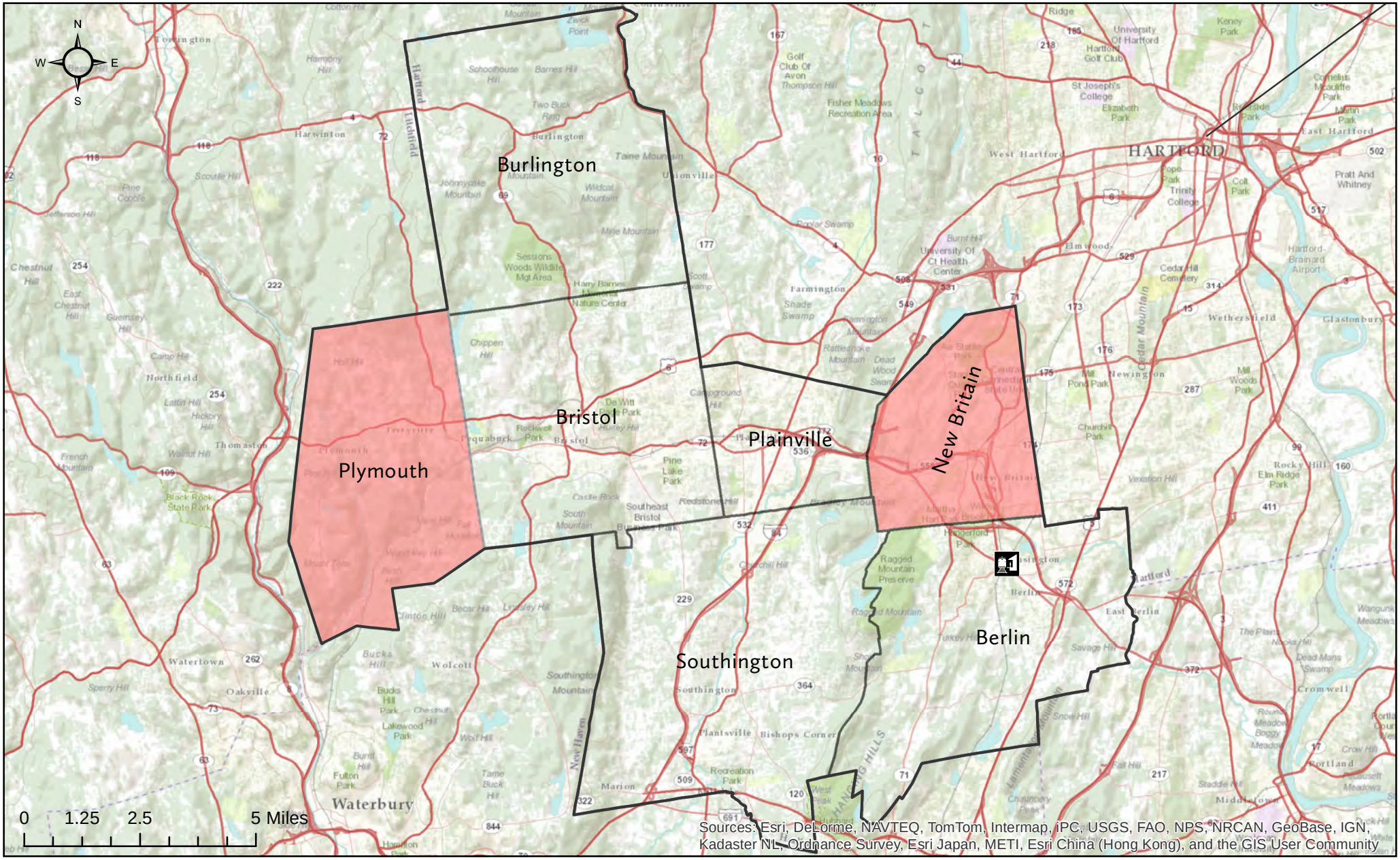
CCRPA has had success in addressing many of these issues by working with its municipalities, the State of Connecticut, and Federal partners such as the EDA. As the region's MPO, CCRPA can help to address critical transportation issues. As the Regional Planning Organization (with land-use planning functions), it can help the region develop industrial, commercial, and residential space in a sustainable manner that meets the needs of residents and industry. By planning on a regional level, with an approach that unifies transportation, land use, and economic development, Central Connecticut can seize opportunities and build on its strengths. Recent developments, including the designation of a bioscience enterprise zone, new and expanded manufacturing facilities, and the growth of information sector companies, testify to the continuing success of CCRPA's and the District's efforts. Through partnership with the EDA, CCRPA and the District hope to foster additional growth, lessening economic distress, and steering the region toward a brighter, more prosperous future.



The Central Connecticut Economic Development District

Map by the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

- Urban Centers
- District Boundary
- Central Connecticut Towns
- Distressed Communities
- County Boundaries
- Major highways
- Major Railroad Lines
- Primary routes



The Central Connecticut Economic Development District

Map by the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

- Urban Centers
- District Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Major highways
- Primary routes
- Rail Station
- Airport Area

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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JUNE 26TH, 2012

Matt S. Erskine
Assistant Secretary
Economic Development Agency
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 7800
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Request for EDD Designation, Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

Dear Assistant Secretary Erskine,

I am writing to you to formally request the designation of the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA) as an Economic Development District from the United States Economic Development Administration. The CCRPA recently completed its 2011 5-year CEDS update, which was spearheaded by its Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) committee. This CEDS was approved by the EDA in January of 2012 and has also been approved by the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy Management and Department of Community and Economic Development. On June 11th Governor Malloy issued the attached letter of concurrence for CCRPA's EDD designation.

The Central Connecticut Region, which comprises Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington, has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning, as well as transportation and land-use planning. Having all three functions of planning housed in a single office will help the region create transformative plans that improve the economy and advance sustainability objectives. Through a combined, cooperative planning process, CCRPA, with EDA as a partner, will strive to implement a strategy that will improve the regional economy, especially in the distressed communities (under criteria found at 13 CFR 301.3(a)(1)) of New Britain and Plymouth.

EDD designation is of utmost importance to regional economic development projects. For example, New Britain and Plainville, both of which are considered distressed by the State of Connecticut, plan to enter into an innovative economic development project revenue sharing agreement. This agreement will allow the municipalities to share the expense, and tax revenue, of a new cancer treatment center and medical office complex, but requires that the municipalities be in the same federally designated EDD. New Britain and Plainville's use of this funding mechanism is an unprecedented example of regional cooperation in Connecticut, and demonstrates the strong intra-regional ties that exist between the District's municipalities. Time is of the essence, as this project is ready to move forward today.

As is evidenced by the numerous letters included in this application package, CCRPA's request for designation is supported by a plethora of public and private sector entities. This broad base of support is also reflected in CCRPA's CCEDA committee membership, which includes representatives from universities, state government, chambers of commerce, private sector companies, and numerous other organizations.

We thank EDA for its assistance with this process, and past economic development projects, and look forward to working with you in the future to implement our CED Strategy and establish an Economic Development District for the Region.

Respectfully,

John Pompei, Chairman
Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

CC: Catherine Smith, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

State Letter of Concurrence

The following is a letter of concurrence issued by Governor Malloy on June 11th, 2012. Please note that the letter refers to the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA), which is the CEDS committee of the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA). The CCRPA will be the district organization and the CCEDA will continue to be charged with updating and implementing the CEDS.

DANNEL P. MALLOY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

June 11, 2012

Mr. Willie C. Taylor, Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Philadelphia Regional Office
The Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street, Suite 1405
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance
Economic Development District Designation

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to submit this letter of approval on behalf of the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) Economic Development District (EDD). CCEDA has demonstrated a commitment to economic development planning and coordination by meeting and exceeding the requirements of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA) for EDD status.

CCEDA has an approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that was submitted to and approved by USEDA on January 17, 2012. In addition, the region contains several Connecticut municipalities that meet minimum USEDA distress criteria found at 13 CFR 301.3(a)(1): New Britain and Plymouth.

CCEDA has complied with the requirements of Public Act 10-168 that was enacted by the Connecticut General Assembly during the 2010 legislative session. The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) required CCEDA to meet responsible growth and development standards and boundary requirements. Furthermore, CCEDA agrees to enter into discussions with surrounding municipalities to expand the EDD coverage area. The CEDS document is generally consistent with the State Plan of Conservation and Development and the Economic Strategic Plan.

The State of Connecticut looks forward to working with USEDA and our local Connecticut CEDS partners to ensure that all eligible towns and municipalities are part of a CEDS organization. The funding from the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 magnifies the impact of the state and local funding on capital improvement and infrastructure projects.

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TEL (860) 566-4840 • FAX (860) 524-7396 • www.governor.ct.gov
Governor.Malloy@ct.gov

Sincerely,

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

cc: Commissioner Catherine H. Smith, CT Department of Economic & Community Development

Support Letters

Enclosed are letters of support from a majority of relevant municipalities. Six of the seven municipalities were able to submit letters in time to send this application (Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington).

Additional letters of support

Following the municipal letters of support are additional letters of support received by CCRPA.

A joint letter of endorsement from Senators Blumenthal and Lieberman, and Representatives Murphy and Larson, is included as well (note: the included letter has not yet been signed by Senator Blumenthal).

CCRPA has also received letters of support from the following individuals and organizations, which are also attached:

- State Representative Robert Sampson
- State Senator Terry Gerratana
- State Representative Whit Betts
- State Representative Peter A. Tercyak
- Senator Jason C. Welch
- The Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership
- The Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce
- The University of Connecticut Office of Economic Development
- The Greater Southington Chamber of Commerce
- Northeast Utilities Corporation

ARTHUR J. WARD
MAYOR

City of Bristol

RESPICE, ADSPICE, PROSPICE
Look to the Past, Look to the Present, Look to the Future

June 12, 2012

Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance
Jonathan Rosenthal, Chairperson
225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

The City of Bristol endorses the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District, comprising the seven communities of Bristol, New Britain, Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington. The Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) recently completed its third Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This has been a long time commitment for us.

Economic Development District (EDD) designation will provide CCEDA with the necessary recognition to enable our cities and towns to obtain the resources and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville have begun exploring the possibility of creating an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law, contingent upon EDD designation.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the region. We are pleased with the way the organization has represented the interests of our city. We recognize the diverse stakeholders who have contributed to the plan for the central Connecticut region. As a result, we have established planning priorities which will significantly benefit the region, utilizing a tool which will evaluate the funding for the most important economic development projects. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition.

The City of Bristol gives our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Arthur J. Ward, Mayor
City of Bristol

cc: Bristol Development Authority

City Hall 111 North Main Street Bristol, CT 06010 (P) 860.584.6250 (F) 860.584.3835
mayorsoffice@ci.bristol.ct.us

Town of Burlington

Mr. Carl Stefani, Executive Director
Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency
225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

May 10, 2012

Dear Mr. Stefani:

Please let this letter serve as the Town of Burlington's Economic Development Commission's letter of support for the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District. The Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and opportunities to implement our strategy. Several of the communities within the District have already begun exploring the possibility of creating an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. The Town applauds our many stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen our ability to see these projects to fruition.

We give our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely,

Tod Kallenbach, Chairman
Burlington Economic Development Commission
Member, Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance

cc: Jonathan Rosenthal, Chairman
Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance

200 Spielman Highway • Burlington, CT 06013-1735 • 860-673-6789

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Tim O'Brien
Mayor

27 West Main Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
TEL: (860) 826-3303
FAX: (860) 826-3308
www.newbritainct.gov

May 7, 2012

Jonathan Rosenthal, Chair
Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance
225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

This letter is to endorse the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District, comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington. Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville have already begun exploring the possibility of creating an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. We applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition.

We give our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Brien
Mayor

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

Office of the Mayor

80 Main Street

Terryville, CT 06786

Phone: (860) 585-4001 Fax: (860) 585-4015

APPROVED JUN 08 2012

June 7, 2012

Jonathan Rosenthal, Chairman
Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance
225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, CT 06010

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

This letter is to endorse the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth and Southington. Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA), the economic development committee for the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA), continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCRPA with valuable recognition, resources and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville are already an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation.

CCRPA and CCEDA have proven themselves to be effective organizations for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. We applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition.

We give our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Yours very truly,

Vincent Festa, Jr.

Vincent Festa, Jr.
Mayor

VF/[h

Town of Southington

Town Council
Edward S. Pocock, III, Chairman
John C. Dobbins, Vice Chairman
John N. Barry
Cheryl Lounsbury
Dawn A. Micell
Albert A. Natelli, Jr.
Christopher J. Palmieri
Peter J. Romano, Jr.
Stephanie A. Urillo

Deputy Town Manager /
Town Attorney
MARK J. SCIOTA
(860) 276-6221
FAX (860) 276-6286
email: sciotam@southington.org

1 2012

May 10, 2012

Jonathan Rosenthal, Chair
Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance
225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

This letter is to endorse the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District, comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington. Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville have already begun exploring the possibility of creating an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. We applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition.

We give our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Yours very truly,

Mark J. Sciota
Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney

TOWN OF

PLAINVILLE

ONE CENTRAL SQUARE, PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06062-1955

Robert E. Lee
Town Manager
(860) 793-0221 x201
relee@plainville-ct.gov

MAY 1 - 2012

May 7, 2012

Jonathan Rosenthal, Chair
Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance
225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

This letter is to endorse the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District, comprising of the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington. Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville have already begun exploring the possibility of creating an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. We applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition.

We give our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Lee
Town Manager

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2012

Matt S. Erskine
Assistant Secretary
Economic Development Agency
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 7800
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Erskine:

We write to endorse the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency's (CCRPA) designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). This designation will help CCRPA, which comprises Bristol, New Britain, Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington, to continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CCRPA's economic development committee – the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) – finished its CEDS in September of last year and gained approval by your agency in January of 2012.

EDD designation will provide CCRPA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to further implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville are already discussing the formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement will create an innovative regional funding mechanism that will expedite the construction of a new medical facility and spur economic development by creating hundreds of jobs.

CCRPA and its CCEDA committee have proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the region. Diverse stakeholders have worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the area in planning, prioritizing, and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition, create jobs, and aid distressed communities throughout the region.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

As a result, we give our full support and endorsement to this designation. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns or questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SAMPSON
EIGHTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
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HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

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RANKING MEMBER
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Catherine Smith
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

June 19, 2012

Dear Commissioner Smith:

This letter is to endorse the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance's (CCEDA) designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). Designation will help CCEDA (comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville are already discussing the formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement will create an innovative regional funding mechanism that will expedite the construction of a new medical facility and create hundreds of jobs.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. I applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition, create jobs, and aid distressed communities throughout the Region.

I give my full support and endorsement to this designation.

Yours very truly,

Rob Sampson
State Representative
Connecticut's 80th District
www.repsampson.com

SENATOR TERRY GERRATANA
Sixth District

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. 860-240-0584
Toll-free 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorGerratana.cga.ct.gov

State of Connecticut

SENATE

Chair
Select Committee on Children
Public Health Committee
Member
Judiciary Committee
Regulations Review Committee

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

May 31, 2012

Dear Commissioner Smith:

This letter is to endorse the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance's (CCEDA) designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). Designation will help CCEDA (comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville are already discussing the formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement will create an innovative regional funding mechanism that will expedite the construction of a new medical facility and create hundreds of jobs.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. I applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition, create jobs, and aid distressed communities throughout the Region.

I give my full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely,

Terry Gerrtana

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE WHIT BETTS
SEVENTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

May 29th, 2012

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Smith:

This letter is to endorse the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency's (CCRPA)—comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington—designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). Designation will help CCRPA's economic development committee, the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA), continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville are already discussing the formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement will create an innovative regional funding mechanism that will expedite the construction of a new medical facility and create hundreds of jobs.

CCRPA and CCEDA have proven themselves to be effective organizations for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. I applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition, create jobs, and aid distressed communities throughout the Region.

I give my full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely,

Whit Betts

Whit Betts
State Representative, 78th District

State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PETER A. TERCYAK
TWENTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CO-CHAIR
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

June 7, 2012

Dear Commissioner Smith:

This letter is to endorse the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance's (CCEDA) designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). Designation will help CCEDA (comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville are already discussing the formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement will create an innovative regional funding mechanism that will expedite the construction of a new medical facility and create hundreds of jobs.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. I applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition, create jobs, and aid distressed communities throughout the Region.

I give my full support and endorsement to this designation.

Yours very truly,

Peter Tercyak

Peter Tercyak

State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR JASON C. WELCH
THIRTY–FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

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MINORITY WHIP

RANKING MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

May 29, 2012

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Commissioner Smith:

I write to endorse the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance's (CCEDA) designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). Designation will help CCEDA (comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources and tools to implement this strategy. New Britain and Plainville are already discussing the formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement that would be permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement will create an innovative regional funding mechanism that will expedite the construction of a new medical facility and create hundreds of jobs.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. I applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition, create jobs, and aid distressed communities throughout the Region.

I give my full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely,

Jason C. Welch

NEW ENGLAND'S KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR

The Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership

June 22, 2012

Matt S. Erskine, Assistant Secretary
Economic Development Agency
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Suite 7800
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Erskine:

On behalf of the Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership (HSEP), an interstate economic development leadership group serving the southern New England/Connecticut River Valley (www.HartfordSpringfield.com), I write to support designation of the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency as an Economic Development District (EDD). The agency comprises the cities of Bristol and New Britain and the towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth and Southington.

This federal designation will enable the agency's economic development arm, the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance, to continue implementation of its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Further, designation will provide the Economic Development Alliance with valuable recognition, resources and tools. New Britain and Plainville, for instance, are discussing formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement, as permitted by Connecticut law, contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement would create an innovative regional funding mechanism, specifically expedite the construction of a new medical facility, and help create hundreds of jobs.

The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency and its economic development arm are proven catalysts for development planning in central Connecticut. I have firsthand knowledge of the diverse stakeholders involved with this region's economic development strategy. The region is well positioned to effectively plan, develop and finance a range of important projects. EDD designation will strengthen this region's ability to see these projects to fruition, create jobs, and aid distressed communities throughout the region.

The Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership offers its full support and endorsement to this designation.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Fisher

Douglas G. Fisher
Chairman, Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership
and Manager, Economic Development & Community Relations
Northeast Utilities, Berlin, Conn.

Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce

one region. one voice.

May 25, 2012

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Smith:

Please accept this letter of endorsement for the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District, comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington.

Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). EDD Designation will also provide CCEDA with valuable recognition along with the resources, and tools to implement this strategy.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. We applaud the diverse stakeholders who have worked on this plan. They have taken great care in analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region.

The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects necessary for continued economic growth. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects through to fruition.

As such, the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce gives our full support and endorsement to this designation. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-584-4720.

Best Regards,

Michael D. Nicastro
President & Chief Executive Officer

200 Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010 • Telephone (860) 584-4718 • Fax (860) 584-4722
Website: www.CentralCTChambers.org • Email: info@CentralCTChambers.org

Serving the Communities of Bristol – Burlington – Farmington – Plainville – Plymouth/Terryville – Wolcott

University of Connecticut
Office of Economic Development

May 29, 2012

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Central Connecticut EDD Designation and Revenue Sharing

Dear Commissioner Smith,

I am writing to express my support for the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance's (CCEDA) request for Economic Development District (EDD) designation. CCEDA has long pursued this designation to enhance its ability to plan and implement a region-wide economic development strategy.

This designation is especially important to Central Connecticut's, and the state's, efforts to bolster its bioscience cluster. The City of New Britain and the Town of Plainville are constructing a cancer treatment center and medical office facility on their shared border. In order to complete this project in a timely manner (and create hundreds of jobs), they have entered into discussions to form a regional economic development agreement (under Public Act 09-231) which will allow them to jointly pay for infrastructure costs, and jointly benefit from resulting tax revenue. To my knowledge, this agreement would be the first of its kind in the state.

In order for the municipalities to create such an agreement, Public Act 09-231 requires that they be in the same federally recognized EDD. Before that can happen, DECD must recommend that Governor Malloy approve the region's EDD designation.

As such, CCEDA's request for EDD designation has my full and enthusiastic support. It will help the region plan for a more resilient economy, create jobs, and support Connecticut's bioscience cluster.

Respectfully,

Mary Holz-Clause, Ph.D.
Vice President for Economic Development

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Gulley Hall
352 Mansfield Road Unit 2032
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-2032

Telephone: (860) 486-4792
Facsimile: (860) 486-1070

Copy

SOUTHINGTON Chamber of Commerce

is yours

THE GREATER SOUTHINGTON
Chamber of Commerce

Celebrating 74 Years of Service 1938-2012

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

May 25, 2012

Dear Commissioner Smith:

This letter is to endorse the formation of the Central Connecticut Economic Development District, comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington. Economic Development District (EDD) designation will help the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance (CCEDA) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Designation will provide CCEDA with valuable recognition, resources, and tools to implement this strategy.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the Region. We applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan, analyzing and reviewing the current and future potential of the Central Connecticut Region. The result of their work is a strategy that will be a significant benefit to the Region in planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects that it contains. EDD designation will strengthen their ability to see these projects to fruition.

We give our full support and endorsement to this designation.

Yours very truly,

Art Secondo
President/CEO

RECEIVED
MAY 29 2012
DECD

Arthur Secondo
President/CEO

Cathy Zalaski-Executive Assistant
Lisa Jansson-Office Manager

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Connecticut Light & Power

Yankeegas

Northeast Utilities Companies

PO Box 270, Hartford, CT 06141-0270

May 30, 2012

Commissioner Catherine Smith
State of Connecticut
Department of Economic & Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Commissioner Smith:

I am writing in support of the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance's (CCEDA) requested designation as an Economic Development District (EDD). This designation will help CCEDA (comprising the Cities of Bristol and New Britain and the Towns of Berlin, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington) continue to implement its recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

New Britain and Plainville are already discussing the formation of an economic development revenue sharing agreement that is permitted under Connecticut law contingent upon EDD designation. This agreement will create an innovative regional funding mechanism that will expedite the construction of a new medical facility and the creation of hundreds of jobs.

CCEDA has proven itself to be an effective organization for coordinating economic development planning in the region. I applaud the diverse stakeholders who worked on this plan -- analyzing and reviewing the current state and future prospects of the Central Connecticut Region. The resulting CEDS is a significant benefit to the region in the areas of planning, prioritizing and funding the important economic development projects. EDD designation will strengthen this region.

I give my full support and endorsement to this designation.

Best regards,

John A. O'Toole
Business Development Manager

District Governance

The Central Connecticut Economic Development District will be managed by the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA). The composition of the board of directors for the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency is dictated by Section 8-31a of Chapter 127 of the Connecticut General Statutes (see the included text of this statute).

The agency has established a committee referred to as the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance, which operates as the region's CEDS committee. It's membership complies with EDA requirements for a CEDS committee (see the attached committee bylaws). Each town is permitted three representatives: one appointed by the chief elected official, one appointed by the economic development department or commission, and one appointed by the local chamber of commerce. As shown in the attached bylaws, other organizations are also permitted an at-large member, and the committee invites members of other interest groups to join the committee.

BYLAWS
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization is the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (the "Agency").

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The Agency shall have such rights, powers and duties as are conferred or imposed upon it by the regional planning provisions of Chapter 127 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and any amendments thereto. These purposes include, but are not limited to, the completion of basic studies such as the regional plan of development, land use plans, housing needs assessments, the regional transportation plan, descriptions of transportation features, and services, regional strategic economic development plans, and plans related to parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, schools, public institutions, public utilities, energy efficiency and pollution abatement, and the provision of such other assistance to municipalities in related areas as in the opinion of the Agency, will be beneficial to the Region.

Pursuant to Agency Board Resolution No. 215 adopted 12/01/94, the Agency serves as the administrator of ADA (Federal Americans with Disabilities Act) Paratransit Services for the Region and also uses the name "Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency - Paratransit Service (CCRPA-PS)."

ARTICLE III - GOVERNING BOARD

The Agency is governed by a Board which includes representatives from the member towns who are selected in accordance with Chapter 127, Section 8-31 of the General Statutes of Connecticut. Questions concerning terms of office, and the authorized representative from any particular member municipality are resolved by reference to the most recent certification from the Town Clerk of the municipality.

In the event a member of the Agency Board resigns, a copy of the letter of resignation shall be filed with the Agency Secretary.

After three consecutive unexcused absences Board members shall be sent a letter asking whether they are interested in continuing to serve. A copy of the letter will be given to the member's appointing official/commission.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

A) REGULAR MEETINGS - Unless otherwise determined, the Board shall meet at 7:30 P.M. on the first Thursday of every month except in July and August.

B) ANNUAL MEETING - Unless otherwise determined by the Agency Board, the annual meeting of the Agency shall be held on the First Thursday in June.

C) SPECIAL MEETINGS - Special meetings may be called by the Agency Board Chairperson, or by petition to the Secretary by 20% of the Agency Board members representing at least three towns.

D) CALL OF MEETINGS - Each Agency Board Member will be sent a meeting agenda and minutes from the previous meeting, at least seven days in advance of the meeting. Any business not on an Agenda may be considered and acted upon by the Board provided it is added to the agenda by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

E) QUORUM - For the conduct of business, Agency Board Members representing four or more member municipalities must be present. If a quorum is not present, those present may set a time, place and date for an adjourned meeting, provided that notice of such adjourned meeting shall be mailed to each member who was not present.

F) VOTING - Each duly appointed individual shall have one vote on matters before the Agency Board. Actions of the Agency Board shall be by majority vote of those present and voting; provided, however, that

adoption of a regional plan of development, or any part or amendment thereof, shall be by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the members.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

A) TERMS - Offices shall include a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve from July 1 to June 30 one year hence, until the next annual meeting, or until their successors have been elected. In the event of a vacancy, a successor shall be elected at the next meeting of the Agency Board to serve the unexpired term.

B) SELECTION - Officers shall be chosen from duly appointed or elected representatives from different municipalities by vote of the Agency Board after nominations from the floor and from the PFP committee at the annual meeting. No individual can be elected to a given office for more than two consecutive terms. When three or more are nominated for any office, the final two nominees shall be selected by a plurality on the first ballot. The two nominees who receive the greatest number of votes shall be considered nominees for the office and a second vote will then be held.

C) REMOVAL - Officers may be removed by majority vote of the Agency Board with at least three member municipalities represented in the majority.

D) CHAIRPERSON - The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings. The Chairperson shall sign all official reports, plans and publications which have been adopted by the Agency, and when authorized, shall sign contracts in the name of the Agency. As a member of the Agency Board, the Chairperson shall have the right to vote on all matters which may come before the Agency. The Chairperson shall be a member of all standing and special committees, ex officio without vote, except in the case of a tie , or when required for a quorum. The Chairperson shall be responsible for selecting all standing committee members and Chairpersons, subject to confirmation by the Agency Board. During the temporary absence or incapacity of the Treasurer, the Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Treasurer and the Chairperson shall be bonded by the Agency.

E) VICE CHAIRPERSON - In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall assume the powers and duties of the Chairperson.

F) TREASURER - In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the Treasurer shall preside over Agency Board meetings. The Treasurer shall oversee the receipt of all money, property and securities delivered to the Agency. The Treasurer shall require the deposit of all money so received to the credit of the Agency in a bank, or banks, selected by the Agency Board. The Treasurer shall ratify all disbursements. The Treasurer shall assure that Agency staff keeps an accurate record of receipts and disbursements and shall assure that a report thereon is made at each regular Agency Board meeting. The Treasurer shall submit the books and records for annual audit under the provisions of U.S. Government Auditing Standards. The Treasurer shall be bonded by the Agency.

G) SECRETARY - In the absence of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Treasurer, the Secretary shall preside over Agency Board meetings. The Secretary shall oversee the staff as the keeper of the official records. Such records shall be open to inspection at reasonable times and places by the Agency members and the public. In the absence of the Secretary at a meeting of the Agency, the Chairperson shall appoint a Secretary Pro Tem.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

A) STANDING COMMITTEES - Shall be appointed at, or after, the Annual Meeting to serve until their successors are appointed. Each member municipality shall be represented on each Standing Committee. A quorum for committee action shall be 50% of the committee membership. Vacancies may be filled by the Agency Chairperson subject to approval by majority vote of the Agency Board at the next regular meeting. Such appointments are effective immediately upon being made by the Chair, and continue effective until such time as they are either approved or rejected by the Board.

B) PROGRAM, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL (PFP) COMMITTEE - The PFP Committee shall prepare and recommend a budget to the Agency Board for adoption at the Annual meeting; shall supervise the annual audit of the Agency's books and records; and shall employ auditors approved by the State of Connecticut Tax Department. The PFP shall also exercise those duties required of it by the Agency's Administrative and Personnel Policies, and shall serve as the ING Pension Plan Trustees.

The PFP Committee shall have final authority regarding the employment, probationary period reviews, evaluations, grievances and potential termination of the Executive Director. Such actions shall be approved by those present and voting, and based on a majority affirmative vote.

C) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE (CPC) - The CPC is responsible for the preparation of the Agency's planning and programming policy and acts on behalf of the Agency Board in relation to all types of referrals requiring an advisory report, providing that the CPC decision is unanimous. The CPC includes one representative from each municipality and is subject to all Agency meeting notice and citizen participation requirements and/or procedures. The CPC may recommend that significant planning, programming, and/or referral items be acted upon by the full Agency even if the Committee decision on the item is unanimous.

Staff shall act on behalf of the Agency in response to all referrals received during the summer months when the CPC does not meet. A full account of summer referral activity shall be provided to the CPC Members at the following September regular meeting. In cases where referrals are deemed significant by the CPC Chairperson a special CPC summer meeting may be called

D) LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY COMMITTEE (LAC) - The LAC shall be responsible for keeping the Agency advised of proposed legislation which might affect the work or recommendations of the Agency. The Committee shall also be responsible for establishing and supervising working relationships between the Agency and Federal, State, and Local Agencies whose work will affect, or be affected by, the Agency's programs .

E) SPECIAL COMMITTEES - The Agency Board may appoint such special committees from time to time as it may see fit with such powers and duties as the Agency may determine, consistent with law and these bylaws, and consisting of such number of persons, whether of the Agency or not, to be chosen, appointed or elected as the Agency may determine.

ARTICLE VII - STAFFING

Within the approved budget, and in a manner prescribed by the Agency Board, technical and clerical staff, and consultants may be employed to carry out the Agency's work .

ARTICLE VIII - REPORTS AND PLANS

All reports and plans adopted by the Agency, shall be filed with the chief executive officer, municipal clerk, planning commission and zoning commission, if any, of each member municipality and with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. Such reports shall include the annual report, reports on the several elements of the regional plan and the annual budget, but shall not include such reports as are incidental to the conduct of business by the Agency, unless so voted by the Agency Board.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCING

A) Acceptance of gifts, bequests, grants and contributions may only be approved by the Agency Board.

B) Requests for approval of expenditures shall be made upon forms, and by procedures, authorized by the PFP Committee and approved by the Agency Board.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Agency Board meeting, provided that notice of the complete text of the proposed amendment shall have been mailed with the call of the meeting to all members.

ARTICLE XI - GENERAL

A) These bylaws shall become effective immediately upon their adoption.

B) All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with these bylaws, where they apply, and, otherwise, in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.

C) Code of Ethics

No Agency Board or staff member, shall engage in or participate in any business or transaction, including outside employment with a private business, or have an interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of the individual's office responsibilities in the public interest, or which would tend to cloud independent judgment or action in the performance of the individuals' official responsibilities. No Agency Board or staff member shall solicit or accept any gift worth forty-five (45) dollars or more from any person or entity which, to the Agency Board or staff member's knowledge, is interested in any pending matter within such individual's official responsibility.

Agency Board and staff members shall not vote on, or otherwise participate in the discussion of any matter before the Agency which involves a business with which s/he is associated, or an individual with whom s/he is associated, or immediately related, who has a financial, or personal interest in the transaction or contract, involving, but not limited to, the sale of real estate, material, supplies or services. In the event of such a conflict, the individual involved shall verbally describe the nature and extent of such interest to the Agency Board, or committee involved, which will determine whether the individual should be disqualified from participation in the decision-making on the matter. Failure to describe such a potential conflict may result in removal from the Board, and/or notification of this failure to the respective municipality by the Agency. Notwithstanding the above, however, a public employee or public official may vote or otherwise participate in a matter if it involves a determination of general policy which involves an interest shared with a substantial segment of the population .

Revised: 10/02/03; 10/06/05; 09/04/08; 090309; 050511; 060211

Executive Director

BYLAWS FOR THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Economic Development Alliance of the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency ("Alliance").

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The Alliance shall have such rights, powers, and duties as are conferred to it as a committee of the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency under Title 8, Chapter 127, of the General Statutes of Connecticut and any amendments thereto. These purposes include, but are not limited to, planing and promoting regional policies, programs, and projects to enhance the Region's economic development vitality, accessibility, and quality of life, and to serve as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee of the Region with respect to the requirements of the United States Economic Development Administration (US EDA).

ARTICLE III - ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP

The area served by the Alliance shall include the Towns of Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington, Connecticut, which shall each have the right to be represented on this committee by up to three members, including one each selected by the Agencies listed below:

1. Chief Elected or appointed Official
2. Local economic development agency
3. Chamber of Commerce

The following other agencies may each appoint one at-large member:

1. Capital Workforce Partners
2. CCSU
3. Connecticut Central Regional Tourism District
4. Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau, Litchfield Hills Office
5. CERC
6. Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development
7. Tunxis Community College
8. Northeast Utilities

Furthermore, to meet US EDA CEDS requirements, the Governing Board may invite other individuals to serve on the committee to represent the following other sectors:

1. Finance
2. Agriculture
3. Professions
4. Organized labor
5. Community organizations
6. Public health agencies
7. Aged
8. Disabled
9. Unemployed and underemployed
10. Racial or ethnic minorities
11. Women

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

A) REGULAR - Unless otherwise specified, the Alliance shall meet quarterly in accordance

with the meeting schedule provided to all municipal clerks for the calendar year.

B) SPECIAL - Special meeting may be held by call of the Chair, or by petition from individuals making up 20% of the membership and representing three or more towns.

C) ANNUAL - Unless otherwise specified, the Annual Meeting shall be held in June.

D) CALL OF MEETINGS - Each Member shall be sent notices of meetings as well as minutes of the previous meeting.

E) QUORUM - A quorum for the conduct of business consists of one or more Members, or their Alternates, representing four or more CCRPA member municipalities . If a quorum is not present, those who are present may set a time, place and date for an adjourned meeting, provided that notice of such adjourned meeting shall be mailed to each member who was not present.

F) VOTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY - Each duly appointed member, or Alternate shall have one vote. Action shall be by a majority vote of those members present and voting. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with these bylaws where they apply and otherwise according to Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

A) OFFICERS - Shall include a Chair, and Vice-Chair. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve from July 1 to June 30, or until the next annual meeting, or until their successors have been elected. The officers shall be from different municipalities. In the occurrence of a vacancy in any office, a successor shall be elected at the next meeting to serve the unexpired term.

B) SELECTION - Officers shall be chosen from duly appointed representatives after nominations from the floor and/or from a nominating committee at the Annual Meeting. The nominating committee shall be composed of one representative from each member municipality. When three or more are nominated for any office, the final two nominees shall be selected by a majority vote on the first ballot. The two nominees who receive the greatest number of votes shall then be considered the nominees for the office and a second vote held.

C) REMOVAL - Officers may be removed from office by a majority vote upon notice to the membership.

D) CHAIR - The Chair shall preside at all meetings except that in the Chair's absence the Vice-Chair shall preside; and in the absence of the Vice-Chair the members present shall select one of their number to preside. The Chair shall have the right to vote on all matters. The Chair shall be a member of all standing and special committees, ex officio without vote, except in the case of tie votes. The Chair shall be responsible for designating all subcommittee chairs.

E) VICE-CHAIR - In the absence of the Chair, or when requested by the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall assume the powers and duties of the Chair.

ARTICLE VI - SUBCOMMITTEES
The Alliance may appoint such subcommittees from time to time as it may see fit with such powers and duties as the ALLIANCE may determine are consistent with law and these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - REPORTS AND PLANS
All reports and plans which are adopted by the Alliance and approved by the CCRPA Agency Board shall be filed with the chief executive officer and municipal clerk of each member municipality. Such reports shall not include reports that are incidental to the conduct of business by the Alliance, unless so voted by the Alliance. The Alliance shall make appropriate information available for public participation, public hearings, other notifications, and the overall process of public participation.

ARTICLE VIII - ADOPTION/AMENDMENTS
These Bylaws may be adopted and subsequently amended by the CCRPA Agency Board and shall become effective immediately upon their adoption or amendment by the CCRPA Agency Board.

ARTICLE IX - CODE OF ETHICS
No Member shall engage in or participate in any business or transaction, including outside employment with a private business, or have an interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of the individual's official responsibilities in the public interest or which would tend to hamper her/his independent judgment or action in the performance of the individual's official responsibilities. No Member shall solicit or accept any gift worth one hundred (100) dollars or more from any person or entity which to the Member's or employee's knowledge is interested in any pending matter within such individual's official responsibility.

Alliance Members shall refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any matter before the Alliance if it involves a business with which s/he is associated, an individual with whom s/he is associated, or a member of her/his immediate family, has a financial or personal interest in the transaction or contract, including but not limited to the sale of real estate, material, supplies, or services to the Alliance. In the event of such an apparent conflict of interest, s/he shall verbally describe the nature and extent of such interest to the Alliance. However, a public employee or public official may vote or otherwise participate in a matter if it involves a determination of general policy and the same interest is shared with a substantial segment of the population of the area.

Adopted 9/6/2001; Amended 4/4/2002; 4/1/2004/4; 4/5/7; 10/4/07

Chapter 127 of the Connecticut General Statutes: Regional Planning Agencies

Sec. 8-31a. Formation of regional planning agencies. Representation. Within any planning region of the state as defined or redefined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his designee under the provisions of section 16a-4a a regional planning agency may be created by the adoption of sections 8-31a to 8-37a, inclusive, by ordinance of the legislative bodies of two or more towns, cities or boroughs within such region, provided the total number of representatives of such towns, cities or boroughs shall equal sixty per cent or more of the total number of representatives possible of all the towns, cities or boroughs within such region computed as prescribed in this section. Any other town, city or borough within such region may join such regional planning agency by the adoption of said sections by ordinance of its legislative body. Each town, city or borough within such region, except as provided herein, shall be entitled to two representatives on such agency, one of whom shall be the chief elected official of such town, city or borough or the designee of such official, and additional representation on such agency at the ratio of one representative for each fifty thousand of population or fraction thereof over and above a population of twenty-five thousand as determined by the last-completed federal census. Cities and boroughs with boundaries not coterminous with the boundaries of the town in which they are located, upon adoption of the provisions of said sections, may have their chief elected official, or the designee of such official, and one other representative on such agency provided the population of the city or borough is greater than fifty per cent of the total population of the town as determined by the last-completed federal census, and the town, upon adoption of the provisions of said sections, may have the chief elected official of such town, or the designee of such official, and one other representative on such agency. If the total population of the town is greater than twenty-five thousand, the town may elect or appoint the extra representative or representatives as prescribed above, except that, for each fifty thousand population residing in the city or borough, the city or borough may have one additional representative. Noncoterminous cities or boroughs which do not contain fifty per cent or more of the total population of the town in which they are located shall not adopt the provisions of said sections and shall not join such regional planning agency. Where a planning commission exists in a town, city or borough established under the provisions of the general statutes or any special act, at least one of the representatives from such town, city or borough to the regional planning agency shall be appointed by such planning commission. The other representative or representatives shall be elected or appointed in

the manner provided by ordinance adopted by the legislative body of such town, city or borough.

Committee Membership

The composition of the board of directors for the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency is dictated by Section 8-31a of Chapter 127 of the Connecticut General Statutes (see the included text of this statute). The agency has established a committee referred to as the Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance, which operates as the region's CEDS committee. It's membership complies with EDA requirements for a CEDS committee. Each town is permitted three representatives: one appointed by the chief elected official, one appointed by the economic development department or commission, and one appointed by the local chamber of commerce. As shown in the attached bylaws, other organizations are also permitted an at-large member, and the committee invites members of other interest groups to join the committee. The current membership is as follows:

A. Municipality Representatives

Berlin	Jim Mahoney - Econ. Dev		Bill Millerick - Chamber
Bristol	Art Ward – Mayor		Steven Schiller - Ec. Dev.
	Jonathan Rosenthal (Chair) - Ec. Dev.	Plainville	Robert E. Lee - Manager
	Mike Nicastro - Chamber (com. org's.)		Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev.
Burlington	Tod Kallenbach – Econ. Dev	Plymouth	Khara Dodds - Ec. Dev.
	Mike Scheidel – Chamber	Southington	Louis Perillo - Ec. Dev.
New Britain	Vacant		

B. Non-municipal Representatives

Julie Geyer - CWP (Un/underemployed)
Bruce Lydem (Organized Labor)

Byron Treado (Finance)
Janet Serra - NW CT CVB (tourism/women)
John O'Toole - Northeast Utilities (utilities)
Vacant - (Disabilities)
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health)

Peggy Sokol - Bristol Senior Center (aged/women)
Rosita Forte-Dobson - CT Small Business Center (Professionals/women/minorities)
CCSU – Richard Mullins
Victor Mitchell - Tunxis CC
Agriculture – Dwight Harris
DECD – Ned Moore
CERC – N.A.

Alliance meetings are held quarterly starting on the third Monday of the month at noon in the CCRPA Offices. Please mark your calendars for the next meeting on June 18th, 2012.

District Staff Roster

Carl Stephani, Executive Director

Carl Stephani has been the Executive Director of CCRPA since 2000. He is the chief administrator of the Agency and is responsible for implementing its policies and overseeing all of its activities. Carl serves as liaison and primary point of contact with all levels of government and the private sector. He also represents the agency on numerous committees, including the Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership, Capital Workforce Partners (the Region's Workforce Investment Board), and the Connecticut Council of Municipalities.

Education

- B.A. in social science, the University of California at Berkeley (1967)
- Master's of Regional Planning, Syracuse University (1971)

Experience

He has more than forty years of professional planning and management experience. Mr. Stephani served as a county planning director, town manager, county commissioner and city councilman before coming to the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency. Mr. Stephani is a successful grant writer and candidate for recognition in early 2003 as a Certified Municipal Government Manager by the ICMA. He is an experienced public speaker and has given presentations on planning and zoning at a wide range of venues. Mr. Stephani has been responsible for establishing and managing literally dozens of successful, effective citizens' committees.

Francis Pickering, Deputy Director

Francis R. Pickering is the deputy director of CCRPA. He reports directly to the executive director and is responsible for overseeing all agency projects. Francis represents the region at the Environmental Review Team; King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Project, Inc.; New England National Scenic Trail Stewardship Council; and the Regional Brownfields Partnership.

Education

- Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Connecticut (2011)
- M.A. in Environmental Management, the Free University of Berlin (2007)
- DAAD Graduate Fellowship, Comparative study of smart growth strategies (2005)
- B.A. in German and Politics, Princeton University (2004)

Experience

Previously, he served as CCRPA's Senior Planner; in that capacity he was responsible for the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan, Unified Planning Work Program, and leading up special projects including the Middle Street Dam Removal and Incentive Housing Zone studies.

Timothy Malone, Associate Planner

As an Associate Planner, Timothy Malone manages special projects and is the lead planner in charge of the Region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).. In this support capacity, he updates, revises, and implements the CEDS, helping member municipalities pursue grant opportunities and coordinate special projects. He is currently working on a transportation demand management plan for the Central Connecticut State University. Tim also writes grants for the agencies and its member municipalities.

Education

- BA in Geography, the University of Washington
- Master's of Regional Planning, with an emphasis on Community and Economic Development, the State University of New York in Albany

Experience

Prior to becoming an Associate Planner, Tim was a Regional Planner for CCRPA. He completed CCRPA's 5-year CEDS update in 2011 and served as staff support for the Agency's CEDS committee. Following the CEDS project he created an application for Scenic Road designation for a section of highway in Burlington, CT. He also wrote and submitted numerous grant applications.

While in school he completed two internships. One was for the New York State Department of Housing and Community Renewal, studying green building standards. The other was for the Hudson River Valley Greenway, creating a resource guide for scenic byway planning. He helped present the results of the latter at the 2010 Upstate New York American Planning Association conference.

Kristin Thomas, Associate Planner

Kristin Thomas serves as an Associate Planner for CCRPA, managing special projects. She is currently working on a village-redevelopment plan for a section of Bristol, CT. Previously, she completed applications for the Safe Routes to School Program. She also works on Land Use Referrals, Emergency Management, Open Space Preservation Projects, and grant writing.

Education

- B.S. in Natural Resources and Recreation Management, the University of Vermont (2006)
- M.A. in Land Planning and Design, the Conway School of Landscape Design (2010).

Experience

While in school, she helped complete a revitalization plan for Hopkinton, Massachusetts and a residential site plan for Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. She has a passion for sustainability planning and design and creating solutions that integrate human needs, such as transportation, energy, and food systems, with ecological functions and processes.

Kristin Thomas also has a successful freelance landscape design practice.

Abigail St. Peter, Assistant Planner

Abigail St. Peter works as an Assistant Planner at CCRPA, and is in charge of the agency's para-transit service. In this capacity she enforces agency policies, prepares reports, certifies new customers, and oversees the day-to-day operations of the service. She also assists with special planning projects, such as transportation studies and an update to the region's plan of conservation and development. Last year she completed a Safe Routes to School project for the Town of Plainville.

Education

- Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Community Studies, the University of Connecticut (2009)
- Master's of City and Regional Planning, Ohio State University (2011)

Experience

While in school she completed internships with the Cape Town Community Housing Company in South Africa, 1000 Friends of Connecticut, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Jason Zhang, Assistant Planner

As an Assistant Planner for CCRPA, Jason Zhang assists with a variety of planning projects. He acts as staff support for the agency's Transportation Improvement Committee, helping to prioritize projects eligible for FHWA funding. He administers the agency's traffic counting program, assists with transportation studies, and performs advanced transportation modeling.

Education

- Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering, the University of Connecticut (2009)
- Master's of Science in Civil Engineering, the University of Connecticut (2011)

Experience

While in school he completed internships at the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Connecticut Department of Community and Economic Development.

Cheri Bouchard-Duquette, Office and Financial Administrator

Cheri Bouchard-Duquette was hired in 2007 and serves as the Office Manager and Bookkeeper. She is responsible for all bookkeeping functions, accounts receivable, accounts payable, grant funding management, cash management, employee benefits, payroll, quarterly payroll taxes, and yearend work. She manages over $2 million in state and federal grant funds. Cheri works closely as liaison between the Agency and its auditor. She handles the administrative functions of the Agency including preparation and distributing of the monthly meeting packages along with minutes for the meetings.

Education and Experience

Cheri brings with her over 25+plus years of experience in the Accounting and Administrative Assistant fields. She has completed coursework in tax preparation, economics, and accounting at Tunxis Community College.