

# CEDS Disaster Resiliency Amendments

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To support Bristol, Plainville, and Plymouth's potential application for EDA Disaster Resiliency grant funding, the following additions to the CEDS are proposed:

## Goals and Objectives

### **Objective 5-5: Increase resiliency of the region's infrastructure in business zones**

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Periodic natural and man-made disasters have the potential to disrupt economic activity in the region. Critical infrastructure such as transportation facilities and utilities can be disabled by storms or sabotage for long periods of time. Hardening infrastructure, installing mitigation measures, and developing recovering plans can help the region reduce the amount of time required to recover from such disasters. This will in turn reduce the economic impacts such disasters have.

*Action 5-5a: Develop a region-wide disaster recovery plan.*

A comprehensive assessment of potential disasters, mitigation measures, and recovery procedures will be developed. This plan will build on the region's recently adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan by adding an economic component. In addition to the public safety priorities contained in the Hazard Mitigation Plan, priorities designed to reduce the economic toll such events have on the region will be developed.

*Action 5-5b: Study flood mitigation measures in the Pequabuck River Watershed.*

The Pequabuck River Watershed has a history of flooding. This river travels through three of the region's towns (Bristol, Plainville, and Plymouth). On multiple occasions in the recent past, the river has breached its banks, destroying homes, damaging roads, and disrupting economic activity. One recent event, Tropical Storm Irene, washed out Route 72 for weeks, disrupting critical shipping routes between towns. Flooding in urban areas severely disrupted businesses. Flood mitigation measures will be explored and a plan for implementing them will be developed. A comprehensive flood recovery plan will also be developed to help speed recovery from such events.

*Action 5-5c: Harden electrical infrastructure in downtowns and industrial parks.*

Flooding caused by tropical storms and electrical outages resulting from heavy snow fall recently demonstrated the fragility of the region's electrical infrastructure. Many businesses were without power for weeks and traffic was snarled behind non-functioning traffic signals. A study of methods of hardening electrical infrastructure in critical areas will be conducted.

## Regional Projects

### **Region-wide: Pequabuck flood mitigation plan**

Bristol proposes to partner with the Town of Plainville and the Town of Plymouth on a plan concerning persistent flooding from the Pequabuck River and said flooding's effect on local businesses. Specifically, Bristol proposes to utilize an EDA Disaster Relief Opportunity grant to help fund a comprehensive study of Pequabuck River flooding within the three communities. This study is the first step in developing construction projects that will effectively mitigate flooding and improve economic conditions near the river. Flooding from the Pequabuck River devastated local businesses in the three communities during Tropical Storm Irene. In addition, costly flooding has occurred during less severe rainstorms in the past. Bristol, Plainville, and Plymouth are committed to working together to address costly and dangerous flooding originating at the Pequabuck River.