

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

# 2015 Performance Report

BERKSHIRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration on November 30, 2015.

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## **SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION**

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is the designated regional planning agency for the thirty (30) towns and two (2) cities in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. In 2011, BRPC staff under the direction and guidance of an advisory committee (CEDS Committee) developed a comprehensive economic development strategy for the Berkshire Region (2011 Berkshire CEDS). The 2011 Berkshire CEDS serves as a guide for establishing regional economic goals and objectives, developing and implementing a plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) regulations (13 CFR 303.6 (C)) require Planning Organizations to submit an updated CEDS performance report on an annual basis. The CEDS Committee is pleased to submit its 2015 Annual Performance Report (Report) to the EDA.

The report discusses existing regional conditions and trends, provides updates on the region's progress towards reaching its goals and objectives and provides information relevant to the performance measures set forth in the 2011 Berkshire CEDS. The report also includes updates for the economic development projects listed on the Priority Project List.

The 2015 Annual Performance Report was endorsed by the Berkshire CEDS Committee on October 27, 2015 and by the BRPC Full Commission on November 20, 2015.

## **SECTION 2. EXISTING REGIONAL CONDITIONS & REGIONAL TRENDS**

This section includes updated information on median household income, employment statistics, economic sector information and a summary of the areas in Berkshire County that meet EDA's distress criteria making those areas eligible for EDA grant funding.

## A. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

TABLE 2.1 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME - BERKSHIRE COUNTY (1999, 2009, 2013)

Municipality	Median Household Income - Berkshire County				
	1999	2009	2013	% Change (1999-2013)	% Change (2009-2013)
Adams	\$32,161	\$38,340	\$40,318	25.4%	5.2%
Alford	\$49,632	\$82,500	\$76,750	54.6%	-7.0%
Becket	\$46,806	\$42,031	\$50,438	7.8%	20.0%
Cheshire	\$41,981	\$57,419	\$49,619	18.2%	-13.6%
Clarksburg	\$43,362	\$52,054	\$57,600	32.8%	10.7%
Dalton	\$47,891	\$57,222	\$49,597	3.6%	-13.3%
Egremont	\$50,000	\$51,856	\$55,388	10.8%	6.8%
Florida	\$43,000	\$53,333	\$54,375	26.5%	2.0%
Great Barrington	\$45,490	\$52,843	\$50,137	10.2%	-5.1%
Hancock	\$45,347	\$74,205	\$79,438	75.2%	7.1%
Hinsdale	\$42,500	\$60,766	\$64,766	52.4%	6.6%
Lanesborough	\$46,496	\$66,458	\$69,651	49.8%	4.8%
Lee	\$41,556	\$50,599	\$57,683	38.8%	14.0%
Lenox	\$45,581	\$60,604	\$51,089	12.1%	-15.7%
Monterey	\$49,750	\$41,625	\$45,417	-8.7%	9.1%
Mount Washington	\$53,125	\$65,833	\$57,500	8.2%	-12.7%
New Ashford	\$51,250	\$69,583	\$73,333	43.1%	5.4%
New Marlborough	\$46,875	\$57,917	\$65,278	39.3%	12.7%
North Adams	\$27,601	\$35,401	\$38,317	38.8%	8.2%
Otis	\$51,488	\$63,750	\$59,271	15.1%	-7.0%
Peru	\$44,531	\$66,250	\$67,813	52.3%	2.4%
Pittsfield	\$35,655	\$43,188	\$42,114	18.1%	-2.5%
Richmond	\$60,917	\$87,682	\$85,588	40.5%	-2.4%
Sandisfield	\$45,972	\$62,411	\$55,917	21.6%	-10.4%
Savoy	\$41,477	\$55,500	\$56,500	36.2%	1.8%
Sheffield	\$45,082	\$47,145	\$51,758	14.8%	9.8%
Stockbridge	\$48,571	\$55,096	\$58,750	21.0%	6.6%
Tyringham	\$60,250	\$93,750	\$75,938	26.0%	-19.0%
Washington	\$54,583	\$68,906	\$70,000	28.2%	1.6%
West Stockbridge	\$51,000	\$68,750	\$64,038	25.6%	-6.9%
Williamstown	\$51,875	\$63,045	\$71,612	38.0%	13.6%
Windsor	\$51,389	\$74,750	\$73,750	43.5%	-1.3%
<b>Berkshire County</b>	<b>\$39,047</b>	<b>\$48,907</b>	<b>\$48,450</b>	<b>24.1%</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>\$50,756</b>	<b>\$64,509</b>	<b>\$66,866</b>	<b>31.7%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>\$41,994</b>	<b>\$51,914</b>	<b>\$53,046</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

Source: American Community Survey (1999-2013)

### OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The median household income for Berkshire County decreased by 0.9% between 2009 and 2013. For the same time period, the median household income for the state increased by 3.7% and 2.2% for the United States. The cumulative rate of inflation for this time period was 8.6%.

- The 2013 median household income for Berkshire County (\$48,450) still remains well below the median household income for the state (\$66,866) and the United States (\$53,046).

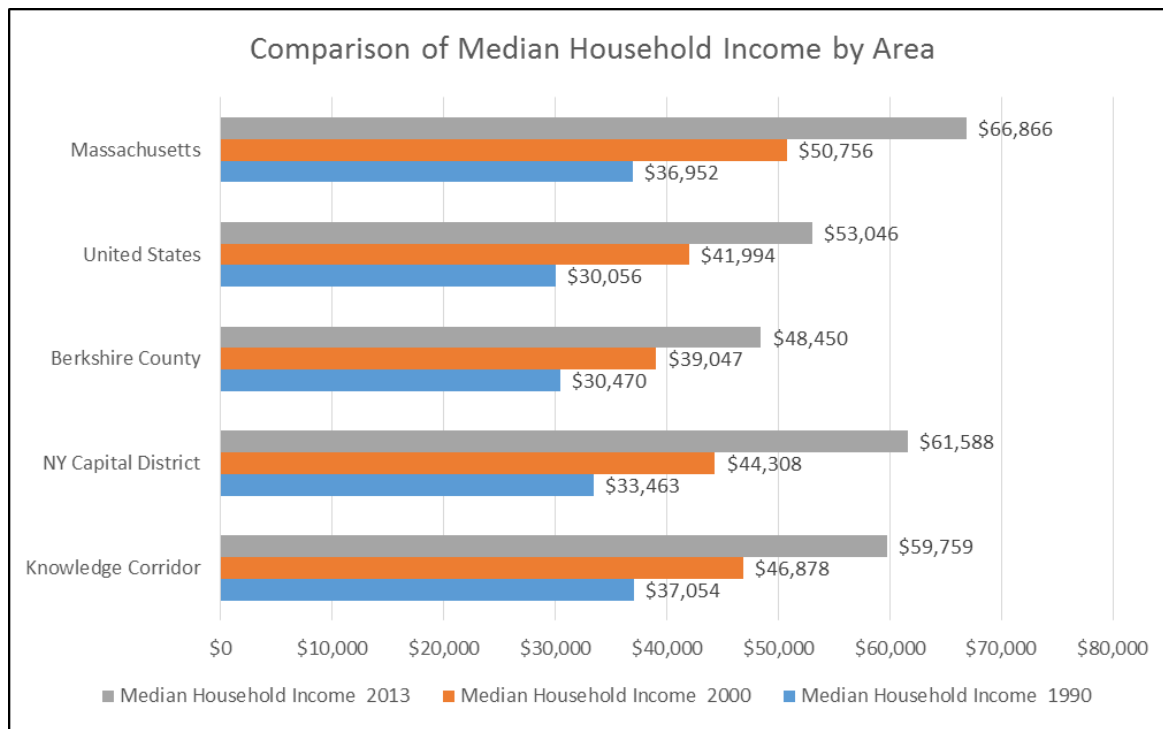
TABLE 2.2 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY AREA (1990, 2000, 2013)

Area	Median Household Income		
	1990	2000	2013
Knowledge Corridor	\$37,054	\$46,878	\$59,759
NY Capital District	\$33,463	\$44,308	\$61,588
Berkshire County	\$30,470	\$39,047	\$48,450
United States	\$30,056	\$41,994	\$53,046
Massachusetts	\$36,952	\$50,756	\$66,866

Source: American Community Survey (1999-2013)

\* The Knowledge Corridor consists of nearby Hampshire (MA), Hampden (MA) and Hartford (CT) Counties. The NY Capital District consists of nearby Albany (NY), Rensselaer (NY), Saratoga (NY) and Schenectady (NY) Counties.

FIGURE 2.1 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY AREA (1990, 2000, 2013)



**OBSERVATION & TRENDS:**

- The median household income for Berkshire County in 2013 (\$48,450) remains below the median household income of the surrounding areas in both Massachusetts (Knowledge Corridor: \$59,759) and New York (NY Capital District: \$61,588).

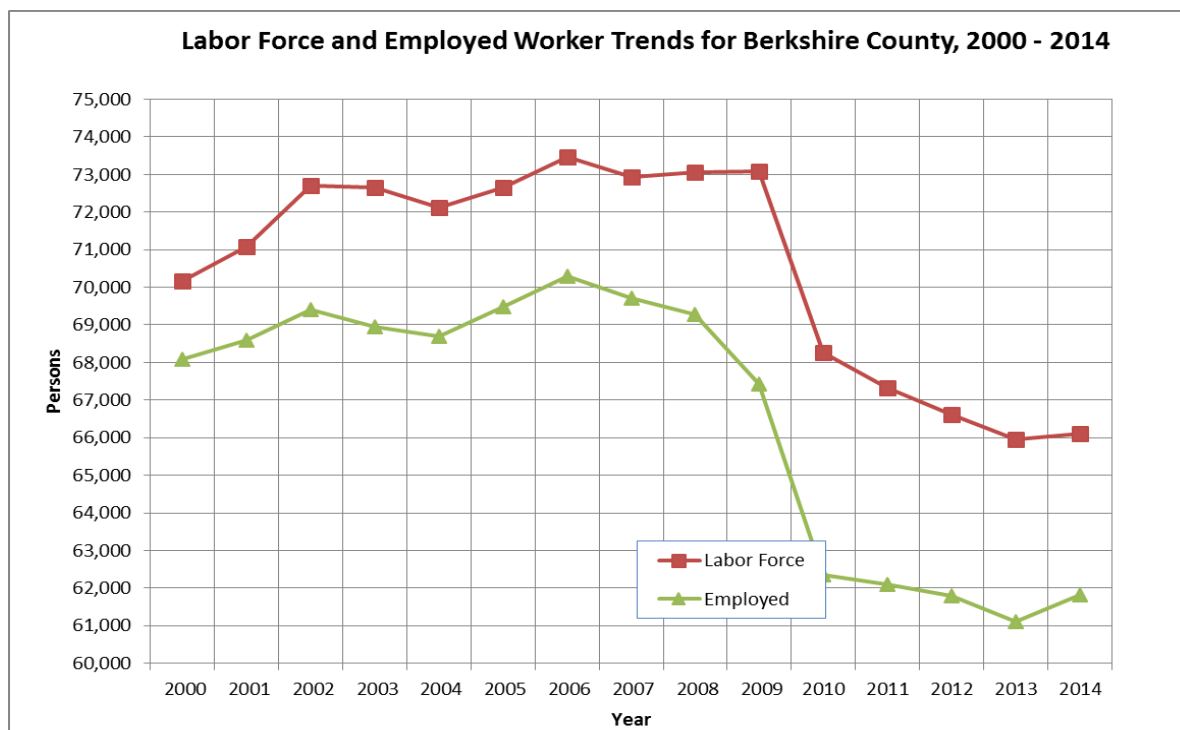
## B. EMPLOYMENT IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

TABLE 2.3 EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (2000 – 2014)

Year	Month	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment		
					Area Rate	Massachusetts Rate	U.S. Rate
2000	Annual	70,160	68,092	2,068	2.9	2.7	4
2001	Annual	71,082	68,590	2,492	3.5	3.7	4.7
2002	Annual	72,706	69,395	3,311	4.6	5.3	5.8
2003	Annual	72,654	68,958	3,696	5.1	5.7	6.0
2004	Annual	72,125	68,705	3,420	4.7	5.1	5.5
2005	Annual	72,646	69,485	3,161	4.4	4.8	5.1
2006	Annual	73,467	70,292	3,175	4.3	4.9	4.6
2007	Annual	72,929	69,717	3,212	4.4	4.6	4.6
2008	Annual	73,055	69,288	3,767	5.2	5.5	5.8
2009	Annual	73,089	67,426	5,663	7.8	8.1	9.3
2010	Annual	68,276	62,343	5,933	8.1	8.3	9.6
2011	Annual	67,322	62,093	5,229	7.2	7.2	8.9
2012	Annual	66,610	61,795	4,815	6.7	6.7	8.1
2013	Annual	65,953	61,107	4,846	7.1	6.7	7.4
2014	Annual	66,116	61,826	4,290	6.5	5.8	6.2

Source: MA Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development

FIGURE 2.2 LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2000 – 2014)

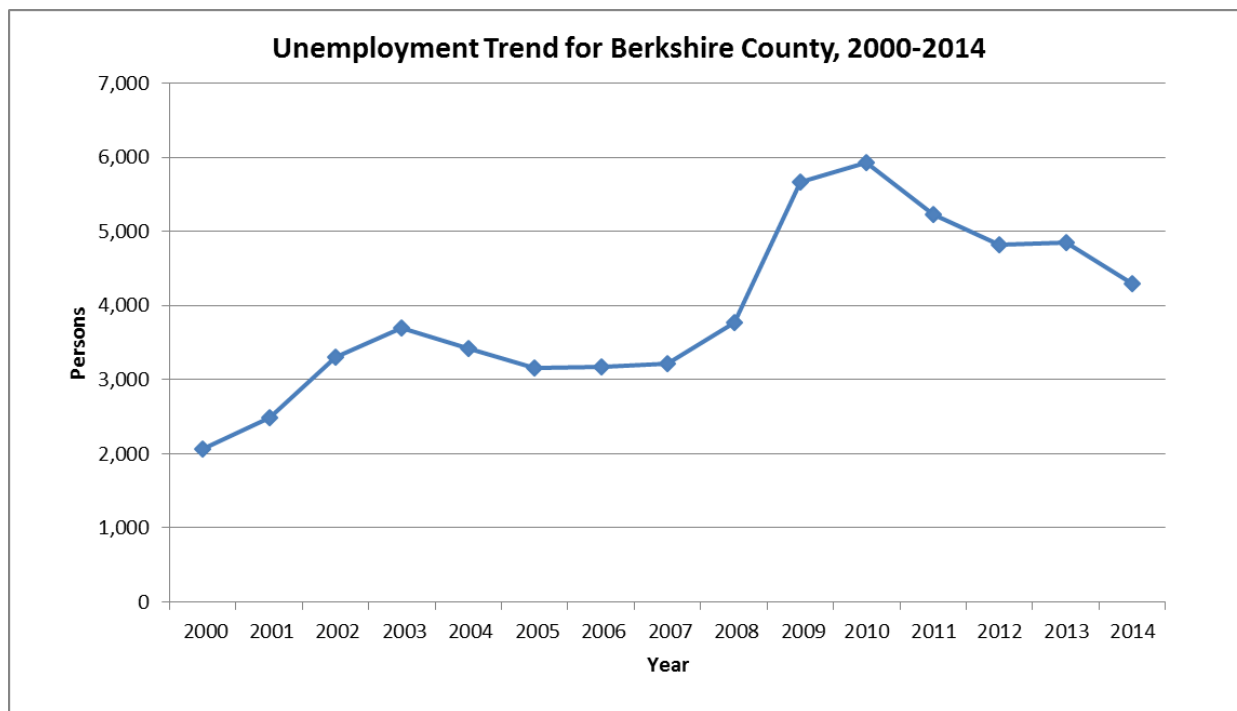


Source: MA Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development

## OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The 2014 unemployment rate in Berkshire County (6.5) decreased by 0.6 from the unemployment rate in 2013 (7.1).
- Between 2013 and 2014, the labor force in Berkshire County increased by 163 people, reversing a negative trend that began after 2009. Since its peak in 2009, the labor force in Berkshire County has decreased by 6,973 persons compared to 2014.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of employed persons increased by 719, reversing a negative trend that began after 2006. Since its peak in 2006, the number of employed persons has decreased by 8,466 compared to 2014.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 556.
- The 2014 unemployment rate in Berkshire County (6.5) still remains higher than the state unemployment rate (5.8) and is now higher the United States unemployment rate (6.2) for the first time since at least 2000.

FIGURE 2.3 UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2000-2014)



Source: MA Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development

## OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The number of unemployed persons in Berkshire County continues to decline since its peak in 2010.



- While the unemployment rate in Berkshire County has declined from its high in 2010, it is declining at a slower rate than the state or the nation.

### C. OTHER TRENDS IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

TABLE 2.4 NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2009, 2014)

Industry Sector Descriptions	Number of Establishments			
	2009	2014	# Change (2009-2014)	% Change (2009 - 2014)
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	4,816	4,971	155	3.2%
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	29	35	6	20.7%
21 - Mining	8	8	0	0.0%
23 - Construction	596	544	-52	-8.7%
31-33 - Manufacturing	171	168	-3	-1.8%
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	99	97	-2	-2.0%
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	72	71	-1	-1.4%
22 - Utilities	14	14	0	0.0%
42 - Wholesale Trade	128	116	-12	-9.4%
44-45 - Retail Trade	692	644	-48	-6.9%
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	98	101	3	3.1%
51 - Information	89	84	-5	-5.6%
52 - Finance and Insurance	166	157	-9	-5.4%
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	140	119	-21	-15.0%
54 - Professional and Technical Services	354	344	-10	-2.8%
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	15	20	5	33.3%
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	250	244	-6	-2.4%
61 - Educational Services	92	100	8	8.7%
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	398	1,077	679	170.6%
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	109	116	7	6.4%
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	489	502	13	2.7%
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	821	412	-409	-49.8%
92 - Public Administration	157	166	9	5.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: in January 2013, employees from private households providing services to the elderly and persons with disabilities was moved from the Other Services sector to the Health Care and Social Assistance Sector. This resulted in a significant number of self-employed workers shifting between the categories.

#### OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The large increase in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector and the large decrease in the Other Services, ex. Public Administration is partly due to the classification change noted. However, it is significant that the former is greater than the latter, suggesting part of it is not due simply to the re-classification.
- Between 2009 and 2014, the following economic sectors lost ten (10) or more establishments:
  - Construction
  - Retail Trade
  - Wholesale Trade

- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional and Technical Services
- Administrative and Waste Services
- Between 2009 and 2014, the Health Care and Social Assistance and Accommodations and Food Services sectors are the only economic sectors that gained ten (10) or more establishments.

TABLE 2.5 AVERAGE MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2009, 2014)

Industry Sector Descriptions	Average Monthly Employment			
	2009	2014	# Change (2009-2014)	% Change (2009-2014)
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	60,540	61,080	540	0.9%
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	177	211	34	19.2%
21 - Mining	108	59	-49	-45.4%
23 - Construction	2,956	2,922	-34	-1.2%
31-33 - Manufacturing	4,910	4,539	-371	-7.6%
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	1,798	1,955	157	8.7%
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	3,112	2,584	-528	-17.0%
22 - Utilities	313	294	-19	-6.1%
42 - Wholesale Trade	902	1,038	136	15.1%
44-45 - Retail Trade	8,469	8,585	116	1.4%
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	1,119	1,130	11	1.0%
51 - Information	1,014	887	-127	-12.5%
52 - Finance and Insurance	2,042	1,875	-167	-8.2%
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	624	476	-148	-23.7%
54 - Professional and Technical Services	2,575	2,629	54	2.1%
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	222	226	4	1.8%
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	2,082	2,027	-55	-2.6%
61 - Educational Services	7,352	7,860	508	6.9%
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	11,453	12,243	790	6.9%
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,870	2,054	184	9.8%
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	6,844	7,282	438	6.4%
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	3,068	2,219	-849	-27.7%
92 - Public Administration	2,440	2,527	87	3.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: in January 2013, employees from private households providing services to the elderly and persons with disabilities was moved from the Other Services sector to the Health Care and Social Assistance Sector. This likely moved a significant number of employees between the categories.

### OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The average monthly employment for Berkshire County increased by 540 people between 2009 and 2014.

- Between 2009 and 2014, the average monthly employment for the following sectors decreased by more than 100:
  - Manufacturing (non-durable goods)
  - Information
  - Finance and Insurance
  - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Between 2009 and 2014, the average monthly employment for the following sectors increased by more than 100:
  - Manufacturing (durable goods)
  - Wholesale Trade
  - Retail Trade
  - Educational Services
  - Arts Entertainment and Recreation
  - Accommodation and Food Services
- The average monthly employment for the Manufacturing sector decreased by 371 between 2009 and 2014, with non-durable goods decreasing by 528 and durable goods increasing by 157.

TABLE 2.6 AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2009, 2014)

Industry Sector Descriptions	Average Weekly Wages - Berkshire County			
	2009	2014	# Change (2009-2014)	% Change (2009-2014)
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	\$743	\$810	\$67	9.0%
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$432	\$457	\$25	5.8%
21 - Mining	\$1,073	\$943	(\$130)	-12.1%
23 - Construction	\$900	\$1,003	\$103	11.4%
31-33 - Manufacturing	\$1,173	\$1,317	\$144	12.3%
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	\$1,062	\$1,090	\$28	2.6%
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	\$1,238	\$1,490	\$252	20.4%
22 - Utilities	\$1,466	\$1,665	\$199	13.6%
42 - Wholesale Trade	\$849	\$1,017	\$168	19.8%
44-45 - Retail Trade	\$489	\$515	\$26	5.3%
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	\$681	\$767	\$86	12.6%
51 - Information	\$792	\$892	\$100	12.6%
52 - Finance and Insurance	\$1,074	\$1,374	\$300	27.9%
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$609	\$649	\$40	6.6%
54 - Professional and Technical Services	\$1,223	\$1,358	\$135	11.0%
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$1,515	\$1,185	(\$330)	-21.8%
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	\$687	\$743	\$56	8.2%
61 - Educational Services	\$797	\$870	\$73	9.2%
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	\$833	\$874	\$41	4.9%
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$453	\$509	\$56	12.4%
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	\$333	\$355	\$22	6.6%
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	\$476	\$515	\$39	8.2%
92 - Public Administration	\$815	\$880	\$65	8.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**OBSERVATION & TRENDS:**

- Between 2009 and 2014, the Mining sector and Management of Companies and Enterprises sector experienced a decrease in average weekly wages.
- Between 2009 and 2014, the average weekly wages increased by \$67 for all industries combined in Berkshire County. This increase represents a 9.0% increase in average weekly wages; however, for this same time period the cumulative rate of inflation was 10.3%. Thus, the increase in average weekly wages for all industries in Berkshire County did not keep pace with the cumulative rate of inflation.

**D. ECONOMIC DISTRESS CRITERIA FINDINGS FOR THE 2015 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Unemployment (13 CFR 301.3(a)(i))**

**Four (4) municipalities** in Berkshire County (**North Adams, Adams, Savoy and Hinsdale**) have an unemployment rate that is for the most recent 24 month period for which data is available, at least

one (1) percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate. Please see Appendix “A” for more information.

**Per Capita Income (13 CFR 301.3(a)(ii))**

**Five (5) census tracts** in Berkshire County (**portions of Pittsfield and North Adams**) have a per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data is available, eighty (80) percent or less of the national average per capita income. Please see Appendix “B” for more information.

**Economic Distress Criteria Map**

Please see Appendix “C” for a map of the eligible areas.

## SECTION 3. GOALS & OBJECTIVES PERFORMANCE REPORT

Chapter 4 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS sets forth six goals and objectives for the region. This section highlights the activities being taken to help the region meet these goals and objectives.

1. To implement unified regional economic development initiatives.
2. To advance the region's economic progress through the use of current and pertinent data.
3. To increase the economic competitiveness of the region in the global economy.
4. To stabilize and strengthen the region's workforce.
5. To advance high-quality infrastructure and community improvements to support development, redevelopment and revitalization of the built environment.
6. To facilitate the region's assessment, remediation and redevelopment of buildings and sites.

### **GOAL # 1: TO IMPLEMENT UNIFIED REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.**

#### **Representative Activities:**

- ✓ 1Berkshire (a partnership of the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, Berkshire Visitors Bureau, Berkshire Economic Development Corporation and the Berkshire Creative Economy Council) continues to operate as a unified regional economic development organization providing such services as a regional marketing program and a regional business retention/attraction program.
- ✓ 1Berkshire in collaboration with regional partners created the Population Task Force, now called the Berkshire Initiative for Growth (BIG). One of the objectives of BIG is to connect young people with available jobs and expose them to opportunities to build a career in the Berkshires. BIG was formed in response to population trends that show an absence of young skilled adults in the region and the need for employers to replace workers in an aging workforce.
- ✓ WiredWest, a cooperative of municipalities, continues to explore ways to expand broadband internet service to underserved and unserved areas in the region. As of August 2015, twenty-three municipalities had passed bond authorizations totaling \$36 million dollars to construct a regional fiber optic network. WiredWest has also received deposits from over 7,000 future customers who intend to connect to the fiber optic network once it is constructed.
- ✓ The Berkshire Compact is a continuing regional collaboration. The Compact is a group of regional civic, education and business leaders who seek to ensure the well-being of each individual and the strength of our economy and community by raising the educational access, aspirations and attainment, as life-long learners, of Berkshire County residents.

**GOAL # 2: TO ADVANCE THE REGION’S ECONOMIC PROGRESS THROUGH THE USE OF CURRENT AND PERTINENT DATA.**

**Representative Activities:**

- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission continued to operate a data clearinghouse and indicators website (Berkshire Benchmarks) focused on improving the quality, volume and access to information and statistics for the Berkshire region.
- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board continued its bi-annual publication of its Workforce Blueprint and annual updates that examine the critical and emerging industries and identifies the necessary skills that the workforce must possess to support the identified industries. BCREB released its most recent report in May 2015 and is available on its website at <http://www.berkshirereb.org/pdfs/1439227176.pdf>.
- ✓ The Berkshire Chamber of Commerce commissioned a report in October 2015 to analyze the economic impact of non-profit organizations in Berkshire County. The report details a direct and indirect economic impact of nearly \$2 billion dollars in economic activity and approximately 25,609 full or part-time jobs. A copy of the report is available at <http://www.berkshirereb.org/pdfs/1256775062.pdf>

**GOAL # 3: TO INCREASE THE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF THE REGION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.**

**Representative Activities:**

- ✓ LEVER, Inc. a North Adams based center for entrepreneurship and social innovation opened its doors in 2014. LEVER operates “Cloud 85” the first co-working space to be opened in northern Berkshire County.
- ✓ 1Berkshire continued to operate Berkshire Nonprofit Solutions (BNP) that is intended to be a catalyst for non-profit collaborations. BNP assists non-profit organization in sharing resources and collaborating effectively to address mutual challenges.
- ✓ The City of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield Economic Development Authority began construction of the Berkshire Innovation Center facility (BIC). The BIC will be a state-of-the-art collaborative workspace that will enable and accelerate innovation and growth of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies.

## **GOAL # 4: TO STABILIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE REGION'S WORKFORCE.**

### **Representative Activities:**

#### **Upgrading Skills of the Current Workforce:**

- ✓ During fiscal year 2015, 16 companies received \$188,102 to train 137 workers thereby generating \$400,000 in training resources. This work resulted in the retention of 106 jobs and the creation of 31 new jobs.
- ✓ During fiscal year 2015, BCREB received a \$336,000 Workforce Competiveness Training Grant that assisted 24 health care organizations. The grant enabled BCREB to facilitate the training of 144 unemployed or underemployed people to work at the organizations.
- ✓ Over the past five years, BCREB facilitated the training of 678 people in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, STEM, and green technology which assisted 77 companies in meeting their workforce needs.

#### **Developing the Skills of Unemployed/Underemployed Residents:**

- ✓ BCREB provided Rapid Response services to 6 Berkshire companies who either closed or downsized impacting a total of 566 workers.
- ✓ The BerkshireWorks Career Center provided services to 3,200 people and 463 companies during fiscal year 2015.
- ✓ Adult Literacy Providers provided services to 381 people and helped them formulate career pathways.

#### **Pipeline Development:**

- ✓ BCREB in partnership with 12 local high schools continued to offer the Connecting Activities Internship Program and College/Career Readiness program that connects high-school students with career awareness, exploration and immersion activities to help students develop work-readiness skills. The following is a list of the various programs and the number of students who participated in them.
  - 431 students participated in Structured Internships program (95 in STEM)
  - 92 students participated in the Work-Based Learning/Drop Out Prevention program
  - 2,488 students participated in the Career Awareness program
  - 1,176 students participated in the Career Exploration program (810 in STEM exploration)
  - 330 students participated in the Work Readiness program
  - 137 youth participated in the in-school & out-of-school youth programs
  - 4,654 students participated in the College/Career Readiness during fiscal year 2015



- ✓ The Berkshire Compact for Education is a county-wide initiative focused on promoting a diverse range of educational opportunities in the region. During fiscal year 2015, the following activities occurred:
  - 3rd and 6th Grade College Visits
  - Berkshire Youth Leadership Program
  - 8th Grade Career Fair for Northern Berkshire
  - STEM Science and Career Fair
  - STEM Career Pathway projects

**Post-Secondary/Vocational Training Opportunities:**

- ✓ BCREB & McCann High School provided basic computer training to 12 dislocated workers from the former North Adams Regional Hospital.
- ✓ BerkshireWorks provided Individual training accounts for 135 dislocated workers and 3 on-the-job training opportunities.
- ✓ Berkshire Community College and BerkshireWorks received \$250,000 to implement medical coding, tech path and hoisting license certificate programs in fiscal year 2014.
- ✓ MCLA continued with the Berkshire STEM Pipeline program to build connections among higher education, primary and secondary education, business and non-profit agencies to improve science, technology, engineering and math education for students.

**Other:**

- ✓ During fiscal year 2015, two Workforce Development Blueprints were developed and distributed. These documents highlight the region's workforce demand and supply.
- ✓ During fiscal year 2015, BCREB secured \$75,000 in resources to develop a Worker Assistance Center for the displaced workers from North Adams Regional Hospital's closing.

**GOAL # 5: TO ADVANCE HIGH-QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT, REDEVELOPMENT, AND REVITALIZATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.**

**Representative Activities:**

- ✓ The MassBroadband 123 regional fiber-optic network was completed in 2014, connecting 1,200 key community anchor institutions like schools, libraries and public safety facilities across Massachusetts to high speed broadband internet. The Commonwealth has issued an information technology bond raising up to \$50 million to help with last mile connections. In

addition, twenty-three towns have approved local bond issuances to match the MBI 123 funds to construct the last mile broadband network.

- ✓ MassDOT acquired and invested approximately \$2.8 million in the north-south rail corridor between Adams and North Adams. The upgrades will improve freight service along the corridor and will allow the operation of the Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway between Adams and North Adams.
- ✓ MassDOT has acquired and will invest up to \$35 million for rail corridor improvements in the north-south Housatonic rail line between the CT/MA state line and Pittsfield. In fiscal year 2016, the Commonwealth has committed to making \$3 million dollars available for track improvements.
- ✓ The City of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield Economic Development Authority received a \$9.7 million grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for the construction of a 20,000 square foot facility in the William Stanley Business Park to be known as the Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC). Construction on the facility is expected to begin in the fall of 2015.
- ✓ MassDOT began construction on a \$4.5 million project to install a new bridge over the CSX rail corridor on Woodlawn Avenue. Woodlawn Avenue bisects the William Stanley Business Park and is a vital link for the planned BIC facility.
- ✓ MassDOT began construction on a \$5 million project to re-construct Route 7 and install streetscape improvements through downtown Great Barrington.
- ✓ MassDOT began construction on a \$1.4 million project to create a roundabout at the intersection of Route 8 and Friend Street in Adams.
- ✓ The City of Pittsfield received a \$4.5 million grant from the Commonwealth's MassWorks program to complete its North Street Streetscape improvements.

## **GOAL # 6: TO FACILITATE THE REGION'S ASSESSMENT, REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF BUILDINGS AND SITES**

### **Representative Activities:**

- ✓ The Berkshire Brownfields Program continued to operate an Environmental Protection Agency funded brownfields assessment program and revolving loan fund to facilitate the assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites.
- ✓ The City of Pittsfield was awarded a \$350,000 brownfields assessment grant to assess the contamination at a former dry cleaning business and to develop a cleanup plan.

- ✓ The vacant 342,000 square foot Cariddi Mill in North Adams was sold to a developer who plans to redevelop the mill as a center for hospitality and commerce that will include retail, manufacturing, restaurants and a hotel.
- ✓ A developer has proposed plans to redevelop the vacant 225,000 square foot Eagle Mill in Lee as a mixed-use development consisting of affordable and market rate housing, retail, professional, office, hotel and studio space.
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission published a report on the availability of industrial/commercial buildings and sites in the region to help regional economic development agencies, such as 1Berkshires, respond to inquiries from companies looking for space to expand or relocate.

## SECTION 4. PRIORITY PROJECTS & STATUS REPORT

This section contains the most recent Priority Project List for the Berkshire Region. The Priority Project Matrix and Annual Update for each Priority Project are provided in the appendix.

### A. PRIORITY LIST - 2015 BERKSHIRE CEDS ANNUAL REPORT

- = Priority Project added in 2011
- ✚ = Priority Project added in 2013

#### **Completed Projects**

- ✓ Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvement Project (pg. E-14 )
- ✓ Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment – Gravel Bank Redevelopment (pg. E-19 )
- ✓ McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements & Parking Garage Restoration (pg. E-30)
- ✓ Regional Telecommunications Network - MassBroadBand123 Middle Mile Fiber Optic Network (pg. E-10)
- ✓ Berkshire Museum 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Project (pg. E-4)
- ✓ First Street/ Common Park Rehabilitation Project (pg. E-3)
- ✓ Regional Highway Access Improvements – South Street (Rte. 7/20) Improvements (pg. E-11)
- ✓ Housatonic Railroad Station Planning Feasibility Study (pg. E-33)
- ✓ Williams Stanley Business Park (Mountain One) – (pg. E-21)
- ✓ Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway (pg. E-6)

#### **Projects Representing the Greatest Needs Regionally**

- ✚ Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (pg. E-9 )
- ✚ Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Brownfields Program (pg. E-2)
- ✚ Keep Berkshires Farming (pg. E-8)
- ✚ Workforce Training Fund & Express Program (pg. E-6 )
- ✚ Berkshire Labor Market Blueprint (pg. E-7)
- ✚ Connecting Activities High School Internship Program (pg. E-7)
- ✚ Industry Sector Initiatives (pg. E-8)
- ✚ Berkshire Compact for Education & Berkshire County STEM Pipeline Network (pg. E-9)
- Regional Telecommunications Network (pg. E-10)
- Regional Highway Access Improvements, including a north-south Limited Access Highway serving central and northern Berkshire County (pg. E-11)
- Alternative Energy & Energy Infrastructure Improvements (pg. E-14)
- Regional Passenger Rail Improvements (pg. E-16)
- Regional Economic Development District (pg. E-33)

### **Projects that Enhance the Region: Physical Development**

- ✚ Memorial School Redevelopment Project (pg. E-1)
- ✚ Saint James Place (pg. E-1)
- ✚ Former Nessacus School Redevelopment (pg. E-2)
- ✚ McCain Business Park (pg. E-3)
- ✚ Hancock Shaker Village Renovations (pg. E-4)
- ✚ Mohawk Theater Restoration (pg. E-5)
- Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Center (pg. E-17)
- Former Commonwealth Sprague Site (Brown Street) (pg. E-18)
- Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment (pg. E-19)
- Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park (pg. E-20)
- William Stanley Business Park (pg. E-21)
- Crane Stationery Mill-Redevelopment (pg. E-21)
- Hubbard Avenue Development Area (pg. E-23)
- Berkshire Mall/ Civic Center/ Hotel (pg. E-24)
- New England Log Homes Site (NELH) (pg. E-25)
- River School Redevelopment Project (pg. E-25)
- Redevelopment of the Historic Great Barrington Fairgrounds (pg. E-26)
- Monument Mills Area Reuse Planning (pg. E-26)
- Redevelopment of Historic Great Barrington Firehouse (pg. E-28)
- Housatonic School Redevelopment (pg. E-28)
- Downtown Parking Strategy (Great Barrington) (pg. E-34)
- Downstreet Art Project (pg. E-29)

### **Projects that Enhance the Region: Programs, Initiatives, Studies, Education, or Other**

- Adaptive Reuse of Mills (pg. E-31)
- City of Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Feasibility Study (pg. E-31)
- Regionalization of the City of Pittsfield's Municipal Airport (pg. E-32)
- Berkshire Creative Initiatives (pg. E-35)
- Berkshire Hills Internship Program (pg. E-38)
- Berkshire Creative Initiative (pg. E-39)

### **Inactive Past Priority Projects**

- Sports Complex (pg. E-24)
- Berkshire Farm to School Feasibility Study (pg. E-32)
- Berkshire Creative Initiative – Berkshire Festival (pg. E-35)
- West Street Water Line Upgrade (pg. E-29)

## B. 2015 ACTIVE PRIORITY PROJECT MATRIX

Please see Appendix “D” for the Active Priority Projects Matrix that categorizes projects based upon economic significance and stage of development/implementation.

## C. ANNUAL PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES – 2015

Please see Appendix “E” for the annual updates to the Priority Projects.

## SECTION 5. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The 2011 Berkshire CEDS includes performance measures to enable the CEDS Committee to track progress in the region and to assess the effectiveness of 2011 Berkshire CEDS. In this section, the performance measures are applied to track the progress made in the region over the last year.

### 1. How many jobs have been created and retained after implementation of projects from the Berkshire Project Priority List?

Year	Priority Project Name	# of Jobs Created/Retained (Source)	Category
2012	Gravel Bank Redevelopment (Super Wal-Mart)	180 (Walmart)	Retail Trade
2012	McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements and Parking Garage Restoration	35 (City of Pittsfield)	Construction
2012	Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvements	40 (City of Pittsfield)	Construction
2012	Adaptive Reuse of Mills (Rice Silk Mill)	67 (City of Pittsfield)	Construction (65)/Real Estate, Rental and Leasing (2)
2012	William Stanley Business Park (MountainOne Financial Center)	25 (Pittsfield Economic Development Authority )	Finance and Insurance
2013	Regional Telecommunications Network – Middle Mile: MBI Fiber Network	114 (MBI)	Construction
2013	Regional Highway Access Improvements – South Street (Route 7/20 Improvements)	Not Tracked	Construction
2014	Pittsfield – First Street Common Park Rehabilitation	3 (City of Pittsfield)	Construction
2014	Berkshire Museum 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Energy Project	35 (Berkshire Museum)	Construction
2014	Housatonic Railroad Station	Not Tracked	Government

	Feasibility Study		
2015	Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway	Not Tracked	Construction
	<b>Total to Date :</b>	<b>499</b>	

2. How many of those jobs have been high quality in terms of wage levels, working conditions, etc.?

Job Category (# of jobs)	2014 Average Weekly Wage (Berkshire County)
23 - Construction (292)	\$1,003.00
44-45 - Retail Trade (180)	\$515.00
53 - Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (2)	\$649.00
52 – Finance and Insurance (25)	\$1374.00

Source: Self Reported from Project Sponsors, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The table above shows the categories of jobs that have been created or retained in the region after implementation of projects from the Berkshire Project Priority List along with the 2014 average weekly wages for each category in order to show how the wage levels for each category of jobs created/retained compare to the total wages for all industries in the region.

3. What number and types of investments have been undertaken in the region since 2011?

Year First Listed in Report	“Representative” Investments	Type & Amount of Investment		Status
		Public	Private	
2015	Williams College Campus Improvements (Stetson Residence Hall, Chapin Hall, the Log, Weston Hall)		\$ 38 million	On-going
2015	Environmental Center – Williams College	\$ 5 million		Completed
2015	Jiminy Peak Community Solar Project		\$ 6.5 million	Completed
2015	Miss Halls School Campus Expansion (Pittsfield)		\$ 10 million	On-going



2015	Route 7 Improvements & Downtown Great Barrington	\$ 5 million		On-going
2015	Adams Roundabout (Route 8 – Friend Street)	\$ 1.4 million		On-going
2015	Woodlawn Avenue Bridge at the William Stanley Business Park	\$ 4.5 million		On-going
2015	Conte School Renovations (North Adams)	\$ 30 million		On-going
2015	War Memorial Tower Renovations (Mt. Greylock)	\$ 2.3 million		On-going
2015	Dalton Apartments Renovation (Pittsfield)	\$ 12.2 million		On-going
2015	Pittsfield North Street Streetscape project - Phase IV	\$ 4.3 million		On-going
2015	Cable Mills Project (Williamstown)	\$ 3.3 million	\$ 22.7 million	On-going
2015	Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway Track Improvements (Adams-North Adams)	\$ 2.8 million		Completed
2014	Highland Woods Senior Housing Project – Williamstown	\$ 12 million	\$ 600,000	On-going
2014	BHS - North Adams Regional Hospital Improvements	\$ 3 million	\$ 6 million	On-going
2014	Pittsfield 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Commons Rehabilitation Project	\$ 4.8 million		Completed
2014	Pittsfield Streetscape Phase III & Pedestrian Plazas	\$ 3 million		On-going
2014	Cumberland Farms Stores (North Adams)		\$ 1 million	Completed
2014	Unistress Expansion (Tappan Zee Bridge Contract)		\$ 6 million	On-going

2014	Hotel on North - Pittsfield	\$ 3 million	\$ 5 million	Completed
2014	Rail Infrastructure Upgrades to the Berkshire Line Rail Corridor	\$35 million		On-going
2014	Weston Athletic Field Complex at Williams College		\$22 million	Completed
2014	Eastover Resort		\$20 million	On-going
2014	Big Y – Lee & Pittsfield Stores		\$23 million	Completed
2014	Tyringham Road Reconstruction	\$5.5 million		Completed
2014	Adams Water Main Replacement	\$2.0 million		Completed
2014	Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing	\$739,590	\$9.2 million	On-going
2013	Courtyard by Marriot		\$6.0 million	On-going
2013	Littleville Power Company Hydroelectric Facility		\$3.0 million	Completed
2013	Crane Hydroelectric Facility		\$2.7 million	Completed
2013	Berkshire Community College – Capital Improvements	\$21.1 million		On-going
2013	Berkshire Health Systems – Cancer Treatment Center		\$30 million	Completed
2013	Hilton Inn – Route 7/20 Pittsfield		\$10 million	Completed
2013	Crane – Asheulot Park II Facility Upgrades		\$5.0 million	Completed
2012	Regional Telecommunications (WiredWest)	\$106,500	\$219,500	On-going
2012	Development of Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Education Center	\$2 million		On-going
2012	New England Log Homes	\$3 million	\$2 million	On-going

2012	Rice Silk Mill	\$3.86 million	\$11.4 million	Completed
2012	Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvements	\$16 million		Completed
2012	339 North Street – Site Remediation	\$240,000		Completed
2012	Pittsfield Streetscape Project	\$2.6 million		Completed
2012	Harriman & West Airport Improvements (2011-2012)	\$4.4 million		Completed
2012	Frank Howard Project		\$4.7 million	Completed
2012	Onota Project		\$7 million	On-going
2012	Green Office Park, Lenox		\$5 million	Completed
2012	McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements and Parking Garage Restoration	\$7 million		Completed
2012	Lee Municipal Parking Area & Pedestrian Connector	\$1.2 million		Completed
2012	Baird & Benton Block Rehabilitation		\$3.7 million	Completed
2012	Williams College Library & Media Arts Center		\$80 million	Completed
2012	Clark Art Campus Expansion		\$145 million	Completed
2012	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Science Center	\$30 million		Completed
2012	Iredale Mineral Cosmetics Development		\$7.5 million	Completed
2012	Hoosac Wind Farm Project		\$90 million	Completed
2012	Consolati Building Redevelopment	\$557,000	\$3.05 million	Completed
2012	Williamstown Youth Center	\$3.9 million		Completed
<b>2012-2015</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>	<b>\$ 235 million</b>	<b>\$ 580 million</b>	

**4. What is the number of business and non-profit organization startups, mergers and closures since the implementation of the CEDS?**

Note: This information is not regularly collected for Berkshire County. The information provided below has been taken from local news sources.

- ✓ SABIC Innovative Plastics announced plans to close its global headquarters in Pittsfield resulting in the loss of 300 jobs.
- ✓ Safariland, LLC closed its facility in Pittsfield resulting in the loss of 40 jobs.
- ✓ Colonial Anodizing closed its facility in North Adams resulting in the loss of 35 jobs.
- ✓ Excelsior Integrated reduced its workforce from 20 employees to 6 employees resulting in a loss of 14 jobs.
- ✓ Best Buy announced the closure of its retail location in Lanesborough resulting in the loss of 60 full-time and part-time jobs.
- ✓ Lenox National Bank merged into Adams Community Bank

**5. What economic sectors are those businesses in?**

A significant portion of the job losses occurred in the manufacturing sector with the remaining job losses occurring in the retail trade sector. The merger occurred in the finance and insurance sector.

**6. What collaborative or partnership efforts have been undertaken in the region?**

**2015:** The partnerships formed since 2012 remain together.

**2014:** The partnerships formed since 2012 remain together.

**2013:** The partnerships formed in 2012 remain together.

**2012:** Formation of 1Berkshire (see pg. 13 of this Report); Keep Berkshire Farming (see pg. E-6 of this Report); WiredWest (see pg. E-8 of this Report); Berkshire Community College & MCLA articulation agreement.

**7. What changes to the characteristic data for the region have occurred? The characteristic data sets to be evaluated, but not limited to, include: demographic; economic; environmental/geographic; governmental; social; transportation/infrastructure.**

Please see Section 2 of this report.

**8. How has the gathering of data and project information improved?**

BRPC has continued to operate the Berkshire Benchmarks website that provides users with a simple web interface to quickly gather data and information about the region.

# Appendix “A”

## 24 Month Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Twenty-Four Months Prior to Submission of the 2015 Performance Report

Series ID	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	24 Month Average
Adams	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.3	8.4	8.6	9.2	9.1	8.6	9	8.1	8	8.3	7.7	7.6	6.6	6.8	7	7.8	7.6	7.3	5.8	5.8	7.9
Alford	5.2	4.7	3.6	5	4.6	3.8	3.8	4.6	4.6	5	4.3	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.6	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.7	4.6	4.5	4.1	2.5	2.9	4.0
Becket	7.5	7.6	6.6	7	6.8	6.9	6.9	8.1	7.6	7.2	6.6	5.4	5.8	6	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.8	6.1	6.2	6	5	4.4	6.3	
Cheshire	6.6	6.2	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.7	7.9	8.2	7.9	6.7	6	5.9	6	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.6	6.9	6.9	6.3	4.9	4.1	6.1
Clarksburg	7.3	6.9	7.5	6.9	6.3	6.6	6.4	7.4	6.7	6.2	8.4	7.6	7.7	8	8	7.3	6	6.5	6.1	7.1	6.3	5.7	4.5	4.9	6.8
Dalton	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.3	5.8	6.3	5.9	6.8	7	6.7	5.8	5.2	5.6	5.5	5.2	5.3	4.5	4.7	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.3	4	5.6
Egremont	4	3.5	3	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.7	4.7	4.1	3.9	3.2	3	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	2.9	2.5	3.5
Florida	7.6	8.1	8.3	7.5	7.7	8.3	7.5	7.9	7.6	7.8	8.2	7	7.8	7.6	7.7	7.1	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.9	7	5.7	5.2	5	7.2
Great Barrington	6.4	5.8	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.3	5.6	7.4	6.9	7	5.8	4.9	5	4.5	4	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.9	6	5.5	5.1	4	3.7	5.3
Hancock	5.3	4.3	3.4	4	4.5	3.6	3.8	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.1	4.4	5	5.1	4.4	4.6	3.9	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.5	3.4	4.3
Hinsdale	8.4	9.2	8.9	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.6	10.1	11	10.6	9	8.5	8.3	9.1	8.2	7.2	6.2	7.3	7.7	8.3	8.4	7.4	6.4	5.4	8.3
Lanesborough	6.5	6.2	5.6	5.8	5.4	6.1	6.3	7.7	8.2	7.4	6.1	5.7	6	6	5.6	5.5	4.8	5.1	5.2	6	5.9	5.6	4.8	4.5	5.9
Lee	5.3	5	4.8	5.1	5	5.2	5.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	5.2	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.5	4	4.3	4.7	5.5	5.3	4.9	3.9	3.6	4.9
Lenox	7.4	7	6.4	7.2	6.7	6.3	6.7	8.1	7.9	7.6	6.8	6.2	6.2	5.7	5	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.4	6.3	6	5.9	4.8	4.5	6.2
Monterey	5.2	4.6	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.5	3.8	4.2	4.6	5.1	5.4	5.2	4.4	3.9	4.5
Mount Washington	7.4	6.3	5.4	7.6	6.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	4.6	5.6	6.3	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	4.4	5.2
New Ashford	7.1	5	5	4.5	5.9	5.2	6.6	7.4	7.4	6.7	7.4	7.2	5.7	6.3	4.3	6.4	5	5	6.5	5.1	5.8	7.2	5.8	4.3	6.0
New Marlborough	5.6	5.8	5	5.3	5.4	4.8	4.8	6.6	6.1	6	4.5	4.2	3.9	4	3.9	4.5	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.8	6	4.9	3.4	3.4	4.9
North Adams	9.9	9.2	9.1	9.3	8.6	9.1	9	10.3	9.8	9.3	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.4	8.8	8.6	7.4	8	8	8.8	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.8	8.8
Otis	6.9	6.7	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.5	5.6	7	6.9	6.7	6	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.9	6.4	6.5	5.9	4.8	4.5	5.6
Peru	4.7	5.3	4.3	4.7	4.5	5.3	5.7	8	8.5	8.2	6.7	5.2	5.6	5	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9	6.4	7.6	7.1	6.8	5.2	3.8	5.8
Pittsfield	8.2	7.9	7.4	8.1	7.5	7.7	7.7	8.6	8.5	8.1	7.1	7	6.9	6.7	6.3	6.6	5.8	6	6.1	6.6	6.6	6.2	5.2	5.2	7.0
Richmond	4	3.7	3.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.5	5.3	5.2	4.4	3.9	3.7	4	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.6	5	4.9	4.5	3.8	3.9	4.1
Sandisfield	4.9	4.4	3.9	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.4	7.2	6.4	6.6	5.4	4.9	5.1	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.1	4.2	4.3	6.3	6.9	5.6	4.6	3.7	5.0
Savoy	9.3	8.6	8.8	9.6	8.6	9.5	10.6	13.7	13.3	11.7	10.3	8.6	8	8.3	6.9	7.9	7.3	8.1	9.1	10.1	9.6	8	6.7	5.1	9.1
Sheffield	5	4.6	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.9	5.9	6.2	4	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.7	4.5	5.4	5.5	5.1	3.5	3.4	4.4
Stockbridge	5.3	5.3	5	5	4.9	5.2	5.1	6	6.1	5.7	5.4	4.4	4.5	5.1	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.8	5.6	5.2	4.6	3.6	3.5	4.9
Tyringham	5.5	3.7	3.7	4.5	4.5	3.3	3.8	5.1	5.1	4.5	4.5	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.6	4.4	4.9	4.4	5.5	6.8	6.6	6.1	5.6	4.3	4.7
Washington	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.2	6.4	7.3	6.1	4.3	4.8	5.8	6.9	6.6	5.6	5	5.6	6.2	6.3	5.4	5.1	4.2	3.8	5.6
West Stockbridge	4.9	4	3.8	4.5	3.9	4.6	4.6	5.7	5.8	5.7	4.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.8	4	5.4	5.4	4.8	3.4	3.5	4.3
Williamstown	7.6	6.6	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.2	6	5.4	4.9	5.4	5.5	6.3	6	5.4	5.5	4.7	5	4.8	5.1	4.6	4.4	4	4.4	5.4
Windsor	6.2	5.9	6.7	6	4.7	5.5	5.7	7	6.6	5.9	4.6	4.3	4.9	4.6	3.9	4.2	3.5	4	4	5.2	4.8	4.4	3.5	3.3	5.0
Berkshire County	7.5	7.1	6.7	7.1	6.7	6.9	6.9	8	7.8	7.5	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.3	5.8	6	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.5	6.3	6	4.9	4.8	6.5
US	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	6.3

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

EDA Standard: An area with an unemployment rate that is for the most recent 24 month period, at least one (1) percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate is considered an economically distressed area.

## **Appendix “B”**

**Most Recently Available Data on Per Capita Income from  
the American Community Survey**



**Economic Distress Criteria—Primary Elements**

	<b>Region</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>Threshold Calculation</b>
2013 Per Capita Money Income (5 Year ACS)	\$29,294	\$28,155	104.05%

**Economic Distress Criteria—Geographic Components**

	<b>PCMI 2013 ACS</b>	<b>Threshold Calculation</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>
Census Tract 9001	\$15,529	55.2%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9002	\$15,206	54.0%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9003	\$26,845	95.3%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9004	\$25,063	89.0%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9005	\$46,017	163.4%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9006	\$14,868	52.8%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9007	\$26,132	92.8%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9008	\$34,315	121.9%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9009	\$29,552	105.0%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9011	\$27,109	96.3%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9111	\$34,375	122.1%	Lanesborough
Census Tract 9121	\$27,938	99.2%	Dalton
Census Tract 9131	\$36,094	128.2%	Lenox
Census Tract 9141	\$33,018	117.3%	Lee
Census Tract 9201.01	\$28,358	100.7%	Williamstown
Census Tract 9201.02	\$41,727	148.2%	Williamstown
Census Tract 9213	\$18,888	67.1%	North Adams
Census Tract 9214	\$22,318	79.3%	North Adams
Census Tract 9215	\$24,506	87.0%	North Adams
Census Tract 9221	\$24,514	87.1%	Adams
Census Tract 9222	\$22,544	80.1%	Adams
Census Tract 9223	\$28,636	101.7%	Adams
Census Tract 9231	\$28,769	102.2%	Cheshire
Census Tract 9241	\$38,355	136.2%	Stockbridge
Census Tract 9251	\$32,963	117.1%	Great Barrington
Census Tract 9261	\$34,779	123.5%	Sheffield
Census Tract 9311	\$28,274	100.4%	Clarksburg
Census Tract 9313	\$27,635	98.2%	Florida / Savoy
Census Tract 9314	\$30,308	107.6%	Peru / Windsor
Census Tract 9322	\$37,301	132.5%	Becket / Washington
Census Tract 9323	\$28,948	102.8%	Hinsdale
Census Tract 9332	\$42,267	150.1%	Monterey / Tyringham
Census Tract 9333	\$35,479	126.0%	New Marlborough

August 26, 2015

Census Tract 9334	\$32,686	116.1%	Otis / Sandisfield
Census Tract 9342	\$37,118	131.8%	West Stockbridge
Census Tract 9343	\$45,172	160.4%	Alford / Egremont / Mount Washington
Census Tract 9351	\$45,580	161.9%	Hancock / New Ashford / Richmond
Census Tract 9352	\$27,695	98.4%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9353	\$21,198	75.3%	North Adams

**Source: American Community Survey 2009-2013**

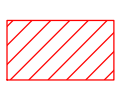

**Note: Using the most recent ACS data for per capita money income, a number of census tracts in Berkshire County meet EDA's economic distress criteria. The qualifying census tracts are highlighted in blue.**

EDA Standard: 80% or less of the national average per capita income is considered economically distressed

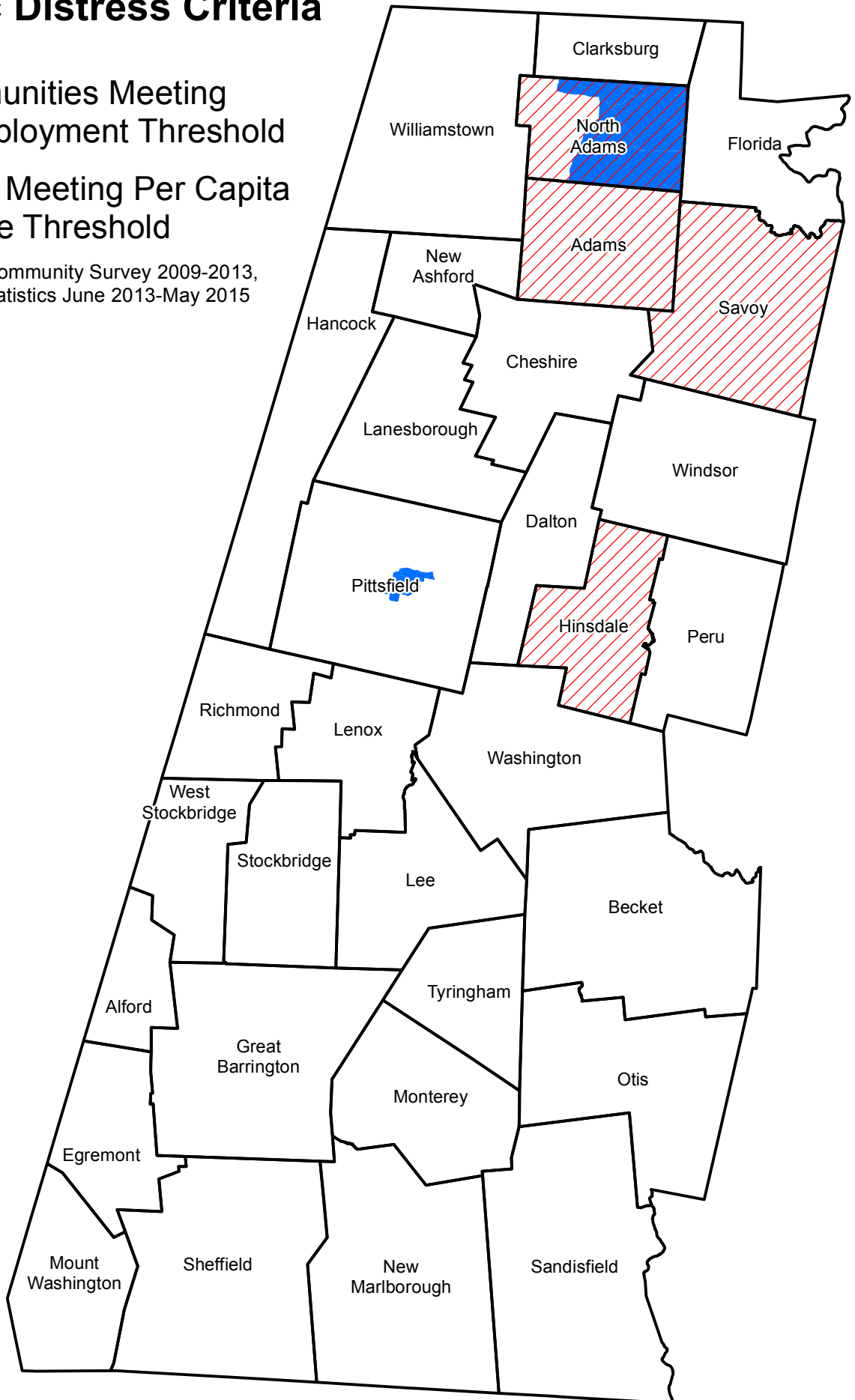
# Appendix “C”

Economic Distress Criteria Map

# Economic Distress Criteria

-  Communities Meeting Unemployment Threshold
-  Tracts Meeting Per Capita Income Threshold

Source: American Community Survey 2009-2013, Bureau of Labor Statistics June 2013-May 2015



# Appendix “D”

2015 Active Priority Projects Matrix

## 2015 ACTIVE PRIORITY PROJECTS - Economic Significance & Stage of Development/Implementation

<b>Economic Significance</b>	<b>Meets Greatest Regional Need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Small Business Revolving Loan Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Regional Economic Development District</li> <li>* Alternative Energy &amp; Infrastructure Improvements</li> <li>* Regional Highway Access Improvements,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Keep Berkshires Farming</li> <li>* Workforce Training Fund</li> <li>* Labor Market Blueprint</li> <li>* Connecting Activities H.S. Internship</li> <li>* Industry Sector Initiatives</li> <li>* BRPC Brownfields Program</li> <li>* Berkshire Compact for Education &amp; Berkshire County STEM Pipeline</li> <li>* Regional Telecommunications Network</li> <li>* Regional Highway Access Improvements</li> <li>* Alternative Energy &amp; Infrastructure Improvements</li> <li>*Passenger Rail Improvements</li> </ul>
	<b>Enhances the Region</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* McCain Business Park</li> <li>* Former Commonwealth Sprague Site</li> <li>* Hubbard Avenue Development Area</li> <li>* Berkshire Mall Civic Center &amp; Hotel</li> <li>* Monument Mills Reuse Planning</li> <li>* Adaptive Reuse of Mills</li> <li>* Redevelopment of Historic Great Barrington Firehouse</li> <li>* Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment</li> <li>* City of Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Feasibility Study</li> <li>* Regionalization of the City of Pittsfield's Municipal Airport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Former Nessacus School Redevelopment</li> <li>* Memorial School Redevelopment</li> <li>* Saint James Place</li> <li>* Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park</li> <li>* Berkshire Creative Initiatives</li> <li>* Redevelopment of the Historic Great Barrington Fairgrounds</li> <li>* River School Redevelopment Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Berkshire Hills Internship Program</li> <li>* Downstreet Art Project</li> <li>* William Stanley Business Park</li> <li>* Mohawk Theater Resotation</li> <li>* Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation &amp; Environmental Center</li> <li>* New England Log Homes Site (NELH)</li> <li>* Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway</li> <li>* Crane Stationery Mill Redevelopment</li> </ul>
		<b>Concept</b>	<b>Pre-Development/ Pre-Implementation</b>	<b>Development/ Implementation</b>
		<b>Stage of Development/ Implementation</b>		

<b>KEY</b>	<b>BLUE TEXT = PHYSICAL PROJECT</b>
	<b>RED TEXT = PROGRAM, STUDIES, EDUCATION, OTHER</b>

last updated 10.26.15

# Appendix “E”

2015 Annual Priority Project Updates

# Annual Priority Project Updates – 2015

## \*\*\*\*\*Priority Projects Added in 2013\*\*\*\*\*

**Project Name: Memorial School Redevelopment Project**

**Location: Town of Adams**

**Project Summary:** The size and prominent location of the Memorial School building on Route 8 in downtown Adams creates opportunities for innovative reuse of the building and its grounds. Redevelopment of the 69,786 square foot building has the potential to have a regional impact by providing new workforce housing, as well as nonprofit and public spaces. New uses could provide a catalyst to additional investment in Adams and the region. (For additional information, see p. 22 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** The Town of Adams applied for funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to install a new HVAC system, but did not receive the award. The Town intends to develop more bid-ready plans to make a future CDBG application more attractive. The Town intends to seek funds from the Berkshire Brownfields program to remove asbestos from the building.

**2014 Update:** The Town has completed a feasibility study and received preliminary designs for the project. The roof to the school has been replaced.

**Project Name: St. James Place**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** The 150 year old building, formally the St. James Episcopal Church, known for its exceptional acoustics, will be restored into a home for classical music, the theatrical arts, public lectures, and other educational & cultural gatherings. The renovated 8,500 square foot Parish House will include a reception hall with a full service kitchen, as well as, office and meeting space for local nonprofits and service organizations including the food pantry. The building is in the Taconic-West Avenues National Register Historic District and historic tax credit funds have been used for building stabilization activities in the initial project phase. (For additional information, see p. 22 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** The owner of the property is rehabilitating the building and expects construction to be completed in 2016.

**2014 Update:** The owner of the property received a zoning special permit and site plan approval to reuse the property in June 2014.



**Project Name: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Brownfields Program**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The BRPC Brownfields Program is a two part assessment program and revolving loan fund used to provide municipalities with the resources to assess and cleanup brownfields sites. Through its assessment program, BRPC hired a licensed site professional to investigate potential contamination on sites. The revolving loan fund program provides loans (and sub-grants) to municipalities and other entities to help pay for the actual physical removal of the contamination from the site. The purpose of this program is to promote the reuse and redevelopment of contaminated, vacant or underutilized properties. (For additional information, see p. 23 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** BRPC continues to operate the Berkshire Brownfields program. BRPC applied for additional brownfields assessment funding from the EPA in 2014, but did not receive an award of funds. BRPC was awarded an additional \$500,000 for its revolving loan fund in October 2015. BRPC is applying for additional assessment funds from EPA in the next round.

**2014 Update:** The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission continued to operate its brownfields program offering grant funding for assessment work and revolving loan funds available for cleanup work.

**Project Name: Former Nessacus School**

**Location: Town of Dalton**

**Project Summary:** The proposed project will redevelop the long vacant school into 15-20 affordable housing units with a senior housing component. Redevelopment of this site will eliminate a blighted aspect of the neighborhood likely creating a ripple-effect of new investment. (For additional information, see p. 23 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** The Town published a request for proposals and received one bid from the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation (BHDC). BHDC was selected as the winning bidder. As an initial step, BHDC intends to pursue affordable housing tax credits to help finance the project.

**2014 Update:** Town residents authorized the Board of Selectmen to convey or lease the former school. The Town received conceptual plans for the renovation of the school building for affordable housing. The Town has engaged the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation to further the project.

**Project Name: McCain Business Park**

**Location: Town of Dalton**

**Project Summary:** This project will result in the construction of a shovel ready business & industrial park along Route 8, a key north/south transportation corridor. This project will facilitate the redevelopment of a former industrial site at 540 Hinsdale Road in Dalton. According to town officials, this site is well suited for the plastics and engineering service industries. (For additional information, see p. 24 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Project Name: First Street Common Park Rehabilitation Project**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** This multi-phase, multi-year project will improve pedestrian connections while installing new landscape treatments to revitalize the park and its connection to downtown. The First Street Common is used to promote regional events which take place there and attract residents from throughout the Berkshires. Overall enhancement of the park contributes to an improved quality of life and has potential for investments. Rehabilitation of the downtown park represents much needed improvements after a period of deferred maintenance and no investment over many years. (For additional information, see p. 24 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** The final phase of the project (Phase III) was completed in June 2015. This phase included the construction of a performance pavilion, wet play area, and a gazebo with accessible restrooms. The project also included the relocation of a multipurpose court, the construction of new park lighting, installation of perimeter fencing and general landscaping improvements.

**2014 Update:** Phase I and Phase II are complete. Phase III which consists of the construction of a performance pavilion, wet play area, and a gazebo with accessible restrooms; re-location of a multipurpose court, landscaping improvements, park lighting and perimeter fencing is fully funded and will be completed in November 2014.

**Project Name: Berkshire Museum 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Project**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** The Berkshire Museum’s Energy Project serves as a model for retrofitting an old building to maximize energy efficiency. The 110 year old historic building required specific temperature and humidity controls for the preservation of a wide range of materials including paintings, an aquarium, and live animal exhibits. Conventional stabilization of the Museum’s temperature and humidity would have increased the Museum’s energy demand significantly. The renovations have decreased the Museum’s use of electricity and natural gas while providing optimal environmental conditions. The upgrades to the HVAC system included a premium efficiency chiller that helps stabilize humidity within the building. The project included building envelope & lighting improvements. The Museum also installed an accessible, passenger-operated elevator, an upgraded fire suppression system, and other public safety features. The Museum serves the greater Berkshire region, including families, tourist and school districts throughout the county and in the adjoining towns in Vermont, Connecticut, and New York. (For additional information, see p. 25 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** The project was completed at the end of January 2014.

**2014 Update:** The project is complete. Improvements have been made to the building’s HVAC system, building envelope and the lighting system. The improvements to the museum are forecasted to reduce electricity usage by 260,000 kWh of electricity annually and natural gas usage by 24,000 therms annually.

**Project Name: Hancock Shaker Village (HSV) Renovations**

**Location: City of Pittsfield, Town of Hancock**

**Project Summary:**

**Visitor Service Buildings Exterior Renovations:** Exterior repair to siding and windows, as well as exterior painting will provide the necessary improvements to the “modern buildings” on the property. These buildings make up the visitors center including: the Center for Shaker Studies (admissions area, exhibit halls, community space, archives, etc.) the Museum Store, and the Harvest Café. Interior upgrades will include the installation of HVAC and kitchen equipment to modernize the Café.

**Laundry & Machine Shop Exterior Repairs, Painting and Interior Reinterpretation:** The project includes exterior repairs to the clapboard siding and window frames in preparation for painting the exterior walls of the 9,600 square foot Laundry & Machine Shop. This building is an important part of Hancock Shaker Village both historically and as a part of interpreting the Shaker story. The second phase of this project includes an analysis of the interior paint and reinterpretation of the building and redesign of the foot traffic pathways inside the building.

**1793 Meeting House Exterior Wall Stabilization and Painting:** This project includes repair of the clapboards and gutters on the north facing side of the 1793 Meeting House structure at Hancock

**Project Name: Hancock Shaker Village (HSV) Renovations**

**Location: City of Pittsfield, Town of Hancock**

Shaker Village. If possible the project will include a collaboration of Pittsfield High School Students supervised by HSV staff.

(For additional information, see p. 26 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** HSV has raised \$435,000 to renovate the exterior of 19 buildings in the Village. The renovations will include lead paint removal, exterior priming and painting, window repairs, and more. The exterior renovations are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015. In addition to the exterior renovations, public safety and mobility improvements will be made in 2016.

**2014 Update:** Hancock Shaker Village (HSV) is still raising funds to pay for the project. HSV has raised \$275,450 out of the \$355,800 needed to complete all three of the projects.

**Project Name: Mohawk Theater Restoration**

**Location: City of North Adams**

**Project Summary:** This project will restore the Mohawk Theater built in 1938. The 1,200 seat Art Deco theater is the last of its kind in North Adams as over time the city has lost its other two theaters to fire and urban renewal. Located on Main Street in the heart of downtown North Adams the theater has the potential to provide a future economic catalyst for investment and growth toward a healthier downtown. The city has joined forces with the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) to make this location a part of a 'downtown campus.' A fully functional theater would provide a 'teaching and training' facility to support MCLA's Art and Performing Arts disciplines. A refurbished theater would also be well poised to become another destination point in Northern Berkshire County, alongside other existing assets like Mass MoCA, Clark Art Institute and Heritage State Park. (For additional information, see p. 27 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report. The resignation of MCLA's President has delayed the development of the project.

**2014 Update:** The City and MCLA are exploring a partnership to undertake the restoration of the theatre. The lack of funding has hindered any significant progress.

**Project Name: Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway**

**Location: City of North Adams, Town of Adams**

**Project Summary:** Berkshire Scenic Railway (BSR) will provide scenic railway tours between Adams and North Adams along five miles of railroad track between those municipalities. The Town of Adams will construct a station facility at the south end of the line re-purposing an existing building. The City of North Adams will construct a passenger platform in close proximity to Heritage State Park. This project will require right-of-way acquisition by the Commonwealth and upgrades to the existing rail corridor and tracks. BSR is working closely with Mass DOT to have the tourist trains operating by the summer of 2014. (For additional information, see p. 27 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** MassDOT acquired ownership of the rail corridor in 2015 and recently completed the total replacement of the tracks. The Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway has begun operations on the recently upgraded tracks. The Town of Adams has completed the Adams Station. Mass DOT is expected to reinstall the remaining mile of track needed to reach downtown Adams.

**2014 Update:** The Commonwealth acquired ownership of the tracks needed for the BSRM to operate the scenic railway service between Adams and North Adams. The Town of Adams obtained funding and executed a purchase agreement for the building to serve as the station in Adams. BSRM also received a state tourism grant to relocate and refurbish some of its rolling stock equipment, as well as a technology grant to assist with the implementation of electronic ticketing services and to meet other technological needs.

**Project Name: Workforce Training Fund (WTF) & Express Program**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The program, operated by the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board (BCREB), helps to market and assist local or regional industries in applying for WTF, Express & Hiring Incentive Training Grants. These funds are used to implement training programs to upgrade the skills of their workforce. Training programs of this nature help companies remain competitive in a growing global economy. Technical assistance in conducting needs assessments and grant formulation is also provided as part of this program. (For additional information, see p. 28 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** During fiscal year 2015, BCREB invested \$188,102 to train 137 workers from 16 companies thereby leveraging \$400,000 in total training resources.

**2014 Update:** The program is on-going. During fiscal year 2014, fifteen (15) companies received \$466,153 to train 589 workers and leveraging \$725,000 in total training resources.

**Project Name: Berkshire Labor Market Blueprint**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** This project consists of the development of a labor market study, the *Workforce Development Blueprint* and annual updates to the report. The *Blueprint* and its annual updates includes: (1) an update of the Berkshire County labor market supply and demand, (2) identification of critical industry sectors, (3) the identification of emerging industry sectors, and (4) identification of the education & training requirements needed to ensure short-term and long term labor force needs are met. The process and subsequent reports help identify the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps within the region so appropriate training can be developed. (For additional information, see p. 28 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** In 2015, Berkshire County Regional Employment Board (BCREB) commissioned the publication of two Workforce Development Blueprints that assessed the needs of the County's labor market.

**2014 Update:** In May 2014, a consultant on behalf of the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board (BCREB) released a report on recent labor market trends in Berkshire County between the third quarter of 2012 and 2013. The report is available on the BCREB website at <http://www.berkshirereb.org/>

**Project Name: Connecting Activities High School Internship Program**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** This program, operated by the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board (BCREB), provides a mechanism to develop career pathways and implement readiness workshops for individuals entering the workforce. It also places students in internships and training programs to assist them in competing in post-secondary education and employment opportunities. *Connecting Activities* is a structured work and learning program which annually connects 500 high school students with internships, provides 1,500 students with career exploration activities, and 15 educators with Teacher Externships. Approximately 30% of the student interns are paid contributing to regional income. (For additional information, see p. 29 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** BCREB partnered with 12 local high schools to offer the Connecting Activities Internship program. A total of 4,654 students participated in the College/Career Readiness program focusing on a diverse range of educational opportunities including STEM career fairs and college visits.

**2014 Update:** The Connecting Activities program is on-going.

**Project Name: Industry Sector Initiatives**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board (BCREB) engages partnering employers and education/ training providers based on the need to develop strategies necessary to address critical workforce needs and shortages regionally. For FY'13, FY'14, and FY'15 the BCREB will be concentrating their efforts on the healthcare and manufacturing sectors. (For additional information, see p. 29 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** During fiscal year 2015, BCREB invested \$336,000 from a Workforce Competiveness Training grant to train 144 unemployed/underemployed persons from 24 different healthcare organizations.

**2014 Update:** The Industry Sector Initiatives program is on-going. The program received an additional \$350,000 to assist the healthcare industry sector initiative.

**Project Name: Keep Berkshires Farming**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The purpose of Keep Berkshires Farming is to increase the amount of food that is both produced and consumed in the county by overcoming potential barriers to market such as a lack of aggregation and distribution, value-added processing, meat processing and marketing. These and other economic factors can render small scale farming commercially unviable. The project will collect original data concerning local food supply and demand; formulate a strategy to strengthen local agricultural production and food access; then implement that strategy. Partners in this effort include the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Glynwood Center, Berkshire Grown, Berkshire County Farm Bureau, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. (For additional information, see p. 30 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Project Name: Small Business Revolving Loan Fund**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is exploring the development of a small business revolving loan fund in Berkshire County. This program would assist small businesses that cannot secure traditional bank financing for expansions or upgrades. The details of the program are dependent on the source of funds. (For additional information, see p. 30 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** Preliminary research has been completed on sources of funding for a small business revolving loan fund. The next step is to engage stakeholders to determine their interest in administering a new revolving loan fund.

**2014 Update:** BRPC received a grant from the Economic Development Administration in September 2014 to explore establishing a small business revolving loan fund.

**Project Name: Berkshire Compact for Education & Berkshire County STEM Pipeline Network**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** This initiative works to improve access to post-secondary education and raise the aspirations of all Berkshire County residents to pursue 16 or more years of education and/or training in a technical field. The program also strives to build connections between the needs of the workplace and the local education system by providing students with knowledge about career options. Through the *Berkshire County Goes to College* program 1,200 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from around the county visited either MCLA, BCC, Williams College, or Bard at Simon's Rock to learn about college life. In April 2013, 1,500 copies of the book *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle were distributed to young children at reading events through the *We Read Berkshire County* program. (For additional information, see p. 31 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

**2015 Update:** During fiscal year 2015, 1,138 sixth grade students and 176 third grade students visited 4 college campuses in Berkshire County. 500 eighth grade students participated in MCLA's career fair and 273 high school students attended a STEM career fair.

**2014 Update:** During fiscal year 2014, 1,200 6th grade students from 20 schools visited 4 college campuses; the *We Read* program was implemented for 1500 children to promote literacy; and a Youth Leadership program was implemented for 30 high school juniors.



**Project Name: Regional Telecommunications Network**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** Many communities in the Berkshires have no access or only partial access to high speed broadband level internet service. This project includes two initiatives, each with the same goal of constructing a high speed fiber-optic network to provide broadband levels of internet service to residents and businesses in Western Massachusetts. (For additional information, see p. 79 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update(s):**

**Middle-Mile:**

**2015 Update:** Project completed in 2014. Not all communities have subscribed for service on the network.

**2014 Update:** The MassBroadband 123 project is complete. Each community in Berkshire County has high speed broadband internet access through the 123 fiber optic network should they choose to subscribe to the available service. The communities are negotiating with service providers for internet service over the network.

**2013 Update:** The Massachusetts Broadband Institute installed the middle mile fiber optic network throughout the County. As of the writing of this update, the MBI estimates that it has installed approximately 92% of the fiber optic cables to be installed. The southernmost portion of the network is installed and operational.

**2012 Update:** The MassBroadband 123 regional fiber-optic network is under construction. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute procured Axia NGN to operate the network. Axia NGN has registered twenty-four (24) service providers to provide communication services over the network. Please see <http://www.massbroadband.org/> for more information.

**Last Mile:**

**2015 Update:** The Massachusetts Broadband Institute continues to seek solutions to solve the last mile issues. The Commonwealth has raised \$50 million for the project through the issuance of an information technology bond. WiredWest has secured bond authorizations from 22 communities totaling \$34.5 million to invest in the construction of a last mile network for its member towns.

**2014 Update:** In 2014, the Commonwealth issued an information technology bond bill that included \$ 50 million dollars to begin work on solving the last mile issue.

**2013 Update:** WiredWest raised funds and worked collaboratively with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. The Governor of Massachusetts proposed an additional \$40 million dollars to assist with constructing the last-mile of fiber optics.

**2012 Update:** Forty (40) municipalities in Western Massachusetts formed the WiredWest Communications Cooperative Corporation in August 2011 to provide a legal structure to finance, build and operate a fiber-optic telecommunications network. Work completed to date by WiredWest

includes, GIS mapping of utility poles, roadways and structures, identification of possible hub locations, completion of an in-depth marketing survey, issuance of a request for information for engineering services, issuance of an RFP for high-level network design. Please see <http://wiredwest.net/> for more information.

**Project Name: Regional Highway Access Improvements, including a north-south Limited Access Highway serving central and northern Berkshire County**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Regional Highway Access Improvements project is a grouping of highway improvement proposals that would make a wide array of highway improvements throughout the County. (For additional information, see p. 82 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Limited Access Highway.** This project will improve access, relieve traffic congestion and implement safety upgrades through the construction of a new vehicular corridor from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) to municipalities in central and north Berkshire County.

**South Street (Rte. 7/20) Improvements.** This project entailed the replacement of deteriorated pavement, enhancements to side street access points and improvements to unsafe locations through signal upgrades in the City of Pittsfield.

**Route 8/Friend Street Intersection Improvements.** This project will correct safety deficiencies and enhance traffic flow in the Town of Adams. 25% design completed.

**Berkshire Medical Center (BMC) Area/North Street Improvements.** This project will address several intersections and roadway deficiencies in order to improve safety conditions on the east side of the Berkshire Medical Center complex in the City of Pittsfield and improve the regional north-south traffic flow on Route 7.

**Route 7/20 Corridor Access Management Improvements.** This project will reduce turning conflicts and improve safety conditions in concert with changes to zoning bylaws in the City of Pittsfield and the Town of Lenox.

**East Street Reconstruction.** This project will add capacity and replace deficient sections of roadway between downtown Pittsfield and Merrill Road to improve regional traffic flow and facilitate the redevelopment of the Williams Stanley Business Park.

**First Street Improvements.** This project will increase the capacity and turning movements on Route 7, the main north-south truck route through the City of Pittsfield. This project also includes upgrades to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act retrofits, pavement reconstruction, and signal modernization.

**Route 20 Traffic Improvements (Lee/Lenox) or pursuit of a new I-90 Interchange.** This project seeks to alleviate heavy truck traffic, improve walkability, promote economic development, and ease congestion in the Town of Lee's downtown and improve regional access to I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike).

**Westside Connector.** This project would establish a new connector road between West Housatonic Street (US 20) and West Street in Pittsfield with the aim of reducing traffic congestion at critical downtown intersections along Routes 7/20.

**Route 8 Alternating Passing Lane (Cheshire/Lanesborough).** This project will add capacity, improve safety, and alleviate congestion to coincide with anticipated increases in north-south travel between the central and northern Berkshires.

**Project Update(s):**

**Limited Access Highway**

**2015 Update:** Conducting an interchange analysis is the next logical step; however, the timing of such an analysis is uncertain.

**2014 Update:** Corridor Management Plan is complete.

**2013 Update:** Corridor management alternatives analysis is on-going.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report. A corridor management analysis is programmed into BRPC's current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and should commence after October 1, 2012.

**South Street (Rte. 7/20) Improvements**

**2015 Update:** Construction completed

**2014 Update:** Construction completed

**2013 Update:** Construction on this project is on-going.

**2012 Update:** Construction on this project began.

**Route 8/Friend Street Intersection Improvements**

**2015 Update:** The project is under construction.

**2014 Update:** The project is at 100% design and construction is scheduled to start in 2015.

**2013 Update:** Project is still under design with construction expected to begin in 2014.

**2012 Update:** Project is at 25% design.

**Berkshire Medical Center (BMC) Area/ North Street Improvements**

**2015 Update:** Design work is on-going. The project is still programmed in the TIP for construction in 2017.

**2014 Update:** The Notice to Proceed for design work has been issued. The project is now programmed in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for construction in 2017.

**2013 Update:** Construction work and signalization improvements are still under construction.

**2012 Update:** This project is included in the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). No design. (MassDOT Project ID 606233).

**Route 7/20 Corridor Access Management Improvements**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report on the zoning bylaw. The feasibility study has not begun.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report on the zoning bylaws. The 2015 Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP) includes a feasibility study for the intersection realignment with West Mountain Road.

**2013 Update:** No significant progress to report on the zoning bylaws.

**2012 Update:** Both Pittsfield and Lenox developed similar zoning bylaws for a corridor management overlay district to help manage and reduce the number of access points onto Route 7/20.

#### **East Street Reconstruction**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** The project has been split into two different projects. MassDOT will pursue one part of the project and the City of Pittsfield will pursue the other. No additional progress to report.

**2013 Update:** The project is still in the design phase.

**2012 Update:** This project is at 25% design. No date for construction has been set.

#### **First Street Improvements**

**2015 Update:** Construction for this project has been moved back to 2017 in the TIP.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2013 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2012 Update:** First Street has been resurfaced. The intersection and signalization improvements are programmed in the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan (MassDOT Project ID 606233).

#### **Route 20 Traffic Improvements (Lee/Lenox) or pursuit of a new I-90 Interchange**

**2015 Update:** The corridor management analysis is complete.

**2014 Update:** The corridor management analysis is complete.

**2013 Update:** A corridor management alternatives analysis is on-going.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

#### **Westside Connector**

**2012 - 2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

#### **Route 8 Alternating Passing Lane (Cheshire/Lanesborough)**

**2012 - 2015 Update:** No significant progress to report. Project has not yet been placed on the TIP.

**Project Name: Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvements**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** The Pittsfield Municipal Airport does not comply with current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design requirements for runway safety areas. This two-phase project corrected those deficiencies and brought the airport in to compliance with applicable FAA regulations. (For additional information, see p. 81 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** This project was completed in October 2013.

**2012 Update:** Phase one of the project was substantially completed in August 2012. Phase two of the project was 50% completed as of August 2012. Major activities completed included the replication of wetlands impacted by construction, tree obstruction removal to comply with FAA air navigation clear zones, completion of FAA runway safety areas, completion of runway asphalt surfacing, grading for the new South Mountain Road realignment around the airport, and completion of the new Wild Acres facilities.

**Project Name: Alternative Energy and Energy Infrastructure Improvements**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Alternative Energy and Energy Infrastructure Improvements project is a consolidated project grouping of various energy proposals from throughout the county. (For additional information, see p. 84 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update:**

**Solarize Mass Program**

**2015 Update:** No Berkshire communities participated in the 2015 program.

**2014 Update:** Lee, Adams and Great Barrington/Egremont participated in the 2013 Solarize Mass program with 36 installations in Lee, 18 installations in Adams and 84 in Great Barrington/Egremont.

**2013 Update:** As of February 2013, fifty-nine (59) homes have installed residential solar photovoltaic systems under this program.

**2012 Update:** The City of Pittsfield and the Town of Lenox partnered with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to offer residents a program that encourages the adoption of small scale solar photovoltaic systems through a coordinated education, marketing and outreach effort combined with a tiered pricing structure that provides increased savings as more residents and business participate.

**Hydro-electric Facilities**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2013 Update:** (1) The Littleville Power Company constructed a new \$3 million hydropower plant in the Glendale section of Stockbridge, MA. The expanded hydropower plant is expected to generate 22% more energy than the existing facility. (2) The Crane Company installed a new 250 kW hydro-electric turbine at the Byron Weston Mill at a cost of \$ 2.7 million dollars.

### **Solar Photovoltaic Facilities**

**2015 Update:** (1) Williamstown has finalized purchase agreements with the developer of a solar photovoltaic project on the town's capped landfill. (2) The Town of Dalton has renewed its request for proposals for a photovoltaic facility on its closed landfill. (3) North Adams completed the installation of a 3.5 MW system on its capped landfill. (4) The towns of Lee and Lenox are jointly pursuing a solar installation on the closed landfill in Lee and other locations in the two communities.

**2014 Update:** (1) The solar developer with the Town of Lee and Town of Lenox filed for bankruptcy and the project is on hold. (2) The Town of Dalton is negotiating with a solar developer for the construction of a facility on its closed landfill and an adjacent property.

**2013 Update:** (1) The Town of Lee has contracted with a solar developer to construct three separate solar installations totaling 3 MW. The town projects a savings of \$1.57 million dollars over the life of the project (20 years). (2) The Town of Adams contracted with a solar developer to construct a 1.1 MW solar photovoltaic installation on its former landfill. The construction of the project is finished and the solar installation became operational in late summer of 2013. (3) The Town of Dalton issued a request for proposals for a solar photovoltaic installation on its 5.5 acre capped landfill. (4) The City of North Adams will soon issue a request for proposals for the construction of solar photovoltaic installations on a few city owned properties. (4) Many other municipalities are in various stages of considering solar photovoltaic systems on municipally owned land.

### **Regional Energy Plan**

**2015 Update:** The plan has been completed and adopted by BRPC.

**2014 Update:** BRPC adopted the Sustainable Berkshires Plan in March 2014. The Plan includes a detailed section on climate and energy. The plan is available on the BRPC website at [www.berkshireplanning.org](http://www.berkshireplanning.org)

**2013 Update:** The regional energy plan is in development as a part of the Sustainable Berkshires Regional Plan.

**Project Name: Regional Passenger Rail Improvements**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Regional Passenger Rail Improvements project, a project grouping of the east to west and Pittsfield to Connecticut passenger rail projects, will promote public and private investment and upgrades to the region's rail network to facilitate expanded passenger rail service. (For additional information, see p. 86 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** The Commonwealth completed its acquisition of the line in December 2014. BRPC applied for a Tiger 2 grant, on behalf of the Housatonic Railroad, to pay for upgrades to the tracks on the Connecticut portion of the Housatonic line. The Baker administration has affirmed its commitment to improve the Massachusetts portion of the line and construction will begin in the near future.

**2014 Update:** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts entered into an agreement with the Housatonic Railroad Company for the Commonwealth to acquire thirty-eight (38) miles of track in Berkshire County. This acquisition allows the Commonwealth to invest another \$35 million dollars to upgrade the tracks. In addition, BRPC completed its station location analysis and design study that recommends passenger rail station locations in Pittsfield, Lee and Great Barrington, with a fourth possible location in Sheffield.

**2013 Update:** The feasibility study is on-going with June 2014 as the anticipated date of completion. Funding for upgrades to the rails and safety improvements was provided in the FY'14 state transportation bill. However, the availability of the funds for this purpose is dependent on whether the State of Connecticut is willing to make a similar commitment to the restoration of passenger service along this corridor.

**2012 Update:** The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission applied for and was awarded a \$240,000 grant from the United States Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential passenger rail station locations in Berkshire County along a rail line owned by the Housatonic Railroad.

**Project Name: Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center**

**Location: Town of Adams**

**Project Summary:** The Town of Adams is the designated developer for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center. The Center is envisioned as a four-season outdoor recreation and environmental education destination. This project is expected to include high quality lodging and conference facilities, a campground (tent sites and cabins), a performing arts amphitheater, an environmental education center, Nordic ski center, and a multi-use trail system. (For additional information, see p. 87 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** The Town hired an engineering consultant to design the final phase of infrastructure improvements including water, sewer, gas, and roadway improvements. A total of \$250,000 was programmed into the Commonwealth's fiscal year 2016 Capital Budget to initiate the design of the Outdoor Center. An Order of Conditions was issued by the Adams Conservation Commission for the multi-use trail system, completing all major permitting for the project.

**2014 Update:** The Town of Adams signed a master lease with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation that enables the town to issue a Request for Proposals to continue development of Phase I of the Greylock Glen project.

**2013 Update:** The first phase of infrastructure improvements including: water, sewer, and natural gas will be completed by the end of 2013. The second/final phase of infrastructure improvements is expected to be completed in conjunction with the first phase of development.

**2012 Update:** The Site Master Plan as a whole, which includes all 1,063 acres, has been completed and a MEPA Certificate was issued to the plan on May 2010. Over the past year, 100% of the design plans have been completed for necessary infrastructure improvements to serve the Glen development. The Town was awarded \$2M from the 2011 Supplemental Budget for first phase of improvements. This work was bid in spring 2012 and construction started on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. In September the town applied for 2012 MassWorks funding (\$1.9M) to complete the second (final) phase of infrastructure improvements. Overall Project permitting is essentially complete: Wetlands delineation completed – ORAD issued by Adams Conservation Commission (Oct. 2011); Special Permit (PURD) issued for the Project by the Adams Planning Board (August 2012); NOI for Invasive Species Management Plan filed by DCR and is currently under Conservation Commission consideration.

Proposed Phase I: Campground and Multi-use Trail System: Marketing study for the Campground completed; Town now developing RFP for Campground developer/operator, initiating preliminary design work for Campground, and preparing draft leases to be executed with the Commonwealth and private developer partners. Expect to issue Campground RFP later in fall 2012.

Needed improvements at Route 8/Friend Street intersection are now at 25% design; design public hearing anticipated late in 2012. Construction for intersection improvements could begin as early as fall 2013. In September 2011, the Town issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for the lodge & conference center but received little response from hotel developers. It is now expected to be the final component of the entire project.



**Project Name: Former Commonwealth Sprague Site**

**Location: City of North Adams**

**Project Summary:** The former Commonwealth Sprague Site, on Brown Street in North Adams, is a site ripe for redevelopment. All structures on the property have been demolished, however, it is expected that certain infrastructure (utility) upgrades would be necessary to develop the site. The property is zoned for the development of industrial type uses. (For additional information, see p. 89 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2013 Update:** No new development has been proposed for this location. As of June 2013 the site remains vacant.

**2012 Update:** All of the former factory buildings (and other out-buildings) have been demolished, and the site has been leveled and cleared. The presence of contamination at the site is not known.

**Project Name: Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment**

**Location: City of North Adams**

**Project Summary:** The Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment project, a project grouping, is a multi-pronged redevelopment proposal to better use underutilized sites adjacent to Route 8. The project proposals in this grouping include:

**Gravel Bank Redevelopment.** A Super Walmart has been constructed on the 13.4 acre site.

**North Adams Plaza Redevelopment.** A 26.7 acre site slated for redevelopment as a commercial and/or industrial site. This site has been identified as a possible location for a new Lowes; however, it has not been developed to date.

**Old Route 8 Corridor Improvements.** This project is a right-of-way improvement project. This project includes the upgrading of paving, the widening of the roadway (to meet modern standards) and utility improvements. If completed, this project has the potential to improve access to the Gravel Bank site and will allow development of underutilized properties surrounding the road corridor.

(For additional information, see p. 90 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update(s):**

**Gravel Bank Redevelopment:**

**2013 Update:** The new Super Walmart opened its doors in April 2013. The store currently employs 180 full and part time workers.

**2012 Update:** Substantial progress has been made at this site. Wal-Mart started construction in spring 2012 on their new building located at this site. The opening of the store is slated for spring of 2013.

**North Adams Plaza Redevelopment:**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2013 Update:** The site remains vacant.

**2012 Update:** All buildings at the former N.A. Plaza have now been cleared. No development has occurred at this site.

**Old Route 8 Corridor Improvements:**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report. The project needs to be listed on the Transportation Improvement Plan.

**2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. The project needs to be listed on the Transportation Improvement Plan.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report. Future plans include obtaining illustrative design plans and having the project placed on a future TIP.

**Project Name: Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** This project proposes to construct and create a “Life Science Center” for training of technicians in the areas of bio-tech and semi-conductors clean room technology and to house a company or companies in related fields. (For additional information, see p. 91 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** A design group was selected and they are currently developing building and site designs. Land and building leases have been executed between the City of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield Economic Development Authority. Construction is expected to start in the fall of 2015 for an anticipated opening in 2016. Additional funds have been requested from EDA to supplement equipment costs and to install water lines, fiber optic cables, and traffic signals at the business park.

**2014 Update:** The City of Pittsfield will receive \$9.7 million from the Massachusetts Life Science Center for the construction of the 20,000 square foot Berkshire Innovation Center. The anticipated timeline for the Center’s construction and opening is two years. The focus of the Center has evolved from a life science center to a facility that focuses on business innovation not strictly limited to the life sciences.

**2013 Update:** Commitments for approximately 50% of project funding have been obtained; including a \$6.5 million earmark identified in Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2008, Section 2B. Match funds are expected to be secured in Summer 2014. A feasibility study is currently underway, slated for completion by the end of summer 2013. Preliminary building renderings have been prepared but specific design work will be complete in December 2013. An environmental analysis is anticipated to be complete by March of 2014.

**2012 Update:** Representatives from the William Stanley Business Park are currently working with the Massachusetts Life Science Center to develop a business model and strategic plan to qualify for the release of funding from a \$6.5 million earmark to construct a building at the site.

**Project Name: William Stanley Business Park**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** The William Stanley Business Park project proposes to redevelop 52-acres of the former General Electric Transformer Plant site, in Pittsfield, into a business/industrial park. Twenty six acres of the site have been prepared for redevelopment and are “shovel ready.” The remaining portion of the site is pending funding for the completion of engineering designs and the installation of infrastructure. To direct redevelopment efforts at the site the William Stanley Business Park of the Berkshire Master Plan was developed in 2003. (For additional information, see p. 92 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** One lot has been leased to the City of Pittsfield for the construction of the Berkshire Innovation Center, a \$9.7 million project, funded by the Massachusetts Life Science Center. The reconstruction of the Woodlawn Avenue bridge should be completed by the end of 2015. The Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) envisions the BIC facility as the centerpiece of an innovation campus.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report except the Berkshire Innovation Center (see above) will be constructed here.

**2013 Update:** Some infrastructure construction in the form of a new bridge and street improvements are anticipated to begin in the fall of 2014. The majority of infrastructure improvements are at 75% design stage, with expected completion in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015. In July 2013, Waterstone Retail Development proposed constructing a 200,000 square foot retail store at the site producing an estimated 200 full and part-time jobs that may alter the future plans of the business park.

**2012 Update:** The land (18+ acres) for the William Stanley Business Park was deeded from General Electric (GE) to the Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) in February 2012. The Mountain One Financial Center opened in April 2012; the 7,000 sq. foot building employs 25 workers.

**Project Name: Crane Stationery Mill Redevelopment**

**Location: Town of Dalton**

**Project Summary:** The Crane Stationery Mill Redevelopment project is an adaptive reuse proposal to utilize a 100,000 sf. multi-story mill being vacated by Crane & Company. There have been a number of developers interested in converting the structure into commercial (incubator) and residential space. (For additional information, see p. 93 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** A distillery and brewery pub are set to open in the fall of 2015. Several other tenants are occupying space in the building. The Berkshire Carousel group decided not to locate at the Stationery Mill. The owners are searching for funding to make the required accessibility improvements.

**2014 Update:** The Stationery Mill is partially occupied with a small number of commercial tenants. The Berkshire Carousel group hopes to operate a restored carousel and event space on the premises within the next year.

**2013 Update:** The Stationery Mill was sold in July 2013 to an investor group that has proposed converting the larger mill to a multi-tenant commercial space.

**2012 Update:** Crane & Co. has announced that it will be consolidating its stationery paper operations to its facility in North Adams. Crane & Co. will vacate the stationery mill on Flansburg Avenue in Dalton in the near future and list the building for sale/lease. The Town of Dalton has completed a redevelopment study of the building and has drafted a request for proposals that has been submitted to Crane & Co. for its consideration.

**Project Name: Hubbard Avenue Development Area**

**Location: City of Pittsfield, Town of Dalton**

**Project Summary:** The Hubbard Avenue Development Area project, a project grouping, is a development/redevelopment area that contains multiple project proposals that are interlinked. The project proposals in this grouping include:

**Hubbard Avenue Improvements.** A roadway improvement project that, involves limited straightening, road widening, turn lane enhancements, replacement of a railroad bridge, and possible widening the bridge over the Housatonic River and related intersection.

**Ashuelot Park Development.** This 56.15 acre site is identified as a development area in the Town of Dalton for an industrial park. The site contains an existing 275,000 sf. facility (209,000 sf. of manufacturing space and 66,000 sf. of office space) and the rest is undeveloped. A site plan laying out the build-out of the park and a Runoff Water Management Plan has been completed for the site.

**Schnopps-Roberts Site.** This 38.6 acre site is another identified development area in the Town of Dalton. Conceptually, the site is envisioned to be a business/industrial subdivision. Two initial planning studies for the build-out of the site have been completed.

For additional information, see p. 94 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update(s):**

**Hubbard Avenue Improvements:**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** The 2014 Massachusetts Transportation Bond Bill includes \$5 million towards the replacement of the Hubbard Avenue railroad bridge.

**2012 - 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Ashuelot Park Development:**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report. The building is still partially occupied.

**2014 Update:** The building is partially occupied by a metal fabricating company and other parts of the building are used for storage although space is still available for additional tenants.

**2013 Update:** The existing 275,000 sq. ft. building (Building #1) of the former Beloit Corp. Manufacturing Building was sold in July 2013 to a private party. The intended use of the building is a multi-tenant industrial space.

**2012 Update:** Crane & Co. will be vacating the existing building on-site as part of its stationery plant consolidation in North Adams. Future plans for the building and site are unknown at this time.

**Schnopps-Roberts Site:**

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2013 – 2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2012 Update:** The Town of Dalton through its Development and Industrial Commission is actively involved with the stakeholders of the property. The parties are working towards entering into a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the development of a small industrial park.

**Project Name: Sports Complex**

**Location: Town of Lanesborough**

**Project Summary:** The Sports Complex project, which is in a conceptual stage of development, is a development proposal looking to construct an enclosed sporting complex containing an estimated 450,000ft of synthetic surfaced playing fields to accommodate year round sporting activities and events. (For additional information, see p. 96 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2012 - 2015 Update:** No significant progress to report – project is inactive

**Project Name: Civic Center/Hotel**

**Location: Town of Lanesborough**

**Project Summary:** The Civic Center/Hotel project proposes to develop a multi-use regional convention and performance center, IMAX theater, hotel, community center and parking deck. The total project cost estimated for this project is \$34.5 million. (For additional information, see p. 97 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** Plans for an IMAX theater are being developed and the proposed expansion for a civic center is being evaluated.

**2014 Update:** The Berkshire Mall was sold to a commercial mortgage firm in 2014 because the previous owner defaulted on a mortgage forbearance agreement. The future of the project is unknown.

**2013 Update:** Proponents continued efforts to move this project forward. However, construction of some or all of phase 1 development has been pushed back and is now expected in 2014/2015.

**2012 Update:** This project has been summarized and is intended to be implemented in three phases.

New state of the art movie theaters, restaurants, and the inclusion of Berkshire Carousel are in the final stage of planning and design; construction on this phase of the project is expected to be completed 2013/2014.

The addition of an IMAX (or IMAX equivalent type theater) and other general enhancements to the overall shopping center and shopping experience. This phase of the project is currently in its planning and development stage.

Proposed expansion of the mall to include a Civic & Convention Center/ Hotel. This phase of the project is still in the early conception. Proponents of this phase are still evaluating and advancing ideas to further the implementation of the project.

**Project Name: New England Log Homes (NELH)**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** This project is a redevelopment proposal of the abandoned and contaminated former NELH brownfield site in downtown Great Barrington. The redevelopment proposal includes the remediation of known contaminants, development of mixed-use commercial and housing space, and the creation of a public gathering space along the Housatonic River. The total project site encompasses 8 acres of land and is estimated to cost \$25 million. (For additional information, see p. 98 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** Remediation at the site is still on-going and the groundbreaking for new development is scheduled for 2016.

**2014 Update:** The site is undergoing bioremediation to remove existing pollutants from the site before construction of the new development can occur in 2015. The current planned reuse is for 20,000 square feet of space for a grocery store, 20,000 square feet of office space, and 45 affordable and 35 market rate housing units.

**2013 Update:** Construction at the site is anticipated to begin in 2015. The 8 acre site is being remediated into a 30 unit continuing care facility, 40 units of affordable or market rate housing, and 40,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. Great Barrington is a State-designated Economic Target Area (ETA) and the site is located within an Economic Opportunity Area (EOA). The project proponents are awaiting the results of bio-remediation tests before finalizing its remediation plan.

**2012 Update:** The demolition stage for this project has been completed. The redevelopment program has been defined as: 45 units of affordable rental housing; 30-40,000 sq. foot commercial space; and 40 units of assisted living. Final site planning and design of the remediation plan has commenced.

**Project Name: River School Redevelopment**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** This project is a redevelopment proposal of the former Searles and Bryant School complex in Downtown Great Barrington. The redevelopment proposal includes 40 housing units (40% are below \$250,000 and 25% are statutorily affordable), 17,000 sf. of commercial space, and public space with an integrated river walk. (For additional information, see p. 99 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** Iredale Mineral Cosmetics is considering selling the former school to a developer. The developer's plans include the construction of a 90+ room hotel.

**2014 Update:** The redevelopment of the Searles School is still in the planning stages. The school is now owned by Iredale Mineral Cosmetics LTD.

**2013 Update:** The redevelopment of the Bryant School was completed and is the corporate headquarters of the Iredale Mineral Cosmetics. The proposed project for the other former Searles School building includes approximately 40 for-sale residential housing units, including 10 affordable units, and 10,000 sq. ft. of retail space. This site is located within an Economic Opportunity Area. There is also an alternative plan being explored that would replace the retail component of the proposal with



a new theater and art gallery. An environmental analysis of this project was completed this year. In 2014 engineering and design are expected to be completed.

**2012 Update:** The Bryant School redevelopment into the Iredale Mineral Cosmetics corporate headquarters is 50% complete. The anticipated date of completion for the project is spring 2013. The market-rate housing component at the Searles School is awaiting the return of the housing market. Affordable units are expected to be pre-developed in 2013. The development of additional commercial space is on hold.

**Project Name: Redevelopment of Great Barrington Fairgrounds**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** This project includes the redevelopment of the 57-acre historic Great Barrington Fairground and racetrack for mixed-use commercial, agricultural incubator, housing and open space/recreation uses. (For additional information, see p. 100 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** The non-profit entity still holds the rights to the fairgrounds site and continues to pursue several redevelopment strategies including a dog park.

**2014 Update:** Flood plain permits were obtained in July 2014 for the use of the site. The Great Barrington Farmers Market was held at the fairgrounds site this summer. A non-profit entity now owns the fairgrounds site and plans for a mix of community, educational, recreational, and agricultural uses. A small scale solar array may also be considered.

**2013 Update:** A private group of investors purchased the fairgrounds site. The new owners of the site would like to develop the site in a sustainable and community oriented manner. Environmental analysis for remediation and engineering/design are also anticipated to be completed this year. In 2014 permits are expected to be obtained.

**2012 Update:** The fairgrounds site is under contract to be purchased presently (October 2012). Preliminary redevelopment plans are currently underway. The number of jobs is still estimated at 20, but subject to change as the project progresses. The current redevelopment plan calls for substantial agricultural and educational components; as well as a five acre solar farm, and potentially a location to house seasonal workers. Projected completion for this development is expected in 2016.

**Project Name: Monument Mills Area Reuse Planning**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** The Monument Mills Area Reuse Planning initiative, a Town based effort, looks to work with various mill owners, interested developers and the community to develop a comprehensive redevelopment/reuse plan for underutilized mills throughout the village of Housatonic. Through this planning process, the Town would examine potential uses, infrastructure needs and deficiencies,

permitting and financing options to facilitate the redevelopment of approximately 250,000 sf. of underdeveloped space. (For additional information, see p. 101 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** The Town will finalize storm water engineering designs for the area in the fall of 2015. In September, the Town received \$842,569 in CDBG funds from the state to begin construction on the storm water improvements.

**2014 Update:** The Owner's proposed mixed-use historic redevelopment has received allocations of Massachusetts Historic Tax Credits but is not yet underway. The Town in 2014 received CDBG funds for engineering design to address stormwater infrastructure deficiencies that impact the mill area.

**2013 Update:** The proposed project will redevelop the National Historic Register property into approximately 100 mixed residential units, 12,000 sq. ft. for office and/or retail use, and integrated on-site parking, restaurant/café space, and a River Walk reconnecting the village to the Housatonic River. The site is located within an Economic Opportunity Area (EOA). In 2014 an environmental analysis and engineering/design are expected to be complete. In 2015 permits are expected to be obtained.

**2012 Update:** At this time the project remains in study and design. Private Property owners continue to study the feasibility and marketability of projects. The town has not been directly involved in this process. However, the town has convened its permitting staff, State DEP staff, and property owner representatives to discuss wetland, flood plain, and historic mill district redevelopment procedures and guidelines.

**Project Name: Redevelopment of Historic Great Barrington Firehouse**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** This project is the adaptive re-use and historic renovation of the former Great Barrington Fire House into a vocational education and job-training center. The new facility will provide young people and members of the community with educational training, jobs and career counseling. It is directed at being a catalyst for employment growth in Berkshire County. Vocational programs will include wood working, construction trades, high-tech and the culinary arts. In addition, the new facility will house a restaurant with an enlarged kitchen to be utilized for culinary classes. The Great Barrington Historical Society and Museum will occupy approximately 2,500 sf. in the renovated building. (For additional information, see p. 102 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report. The owner has not yet applied for the required land use approvals from the Town.

**2014 Update:** The Town sold the Firehouse in 2014 to the entity that has proposed an adaptive reuse project and historic renovation. Zoning permits will be sought in 2015.

**2013 Update:** A preliminary budget estimates total development will cost \$2 million. Transfer of site ownership from the Town to the project sponsor is currently underway and will be completed by the end of the calendar year. An environmental analysis for remediation is expected to be completed by the end of 2013 as well. In 2014 permits for the project are anticipated to be obtained.

**2012 Update:** An environmental assessment of the site has been completed. The site is under contract to be purchased presently (October 2012). Funding for this project has not changed and continues to be supported by multiple sources. The project is expected to be completed in 2014.

**Project Name: Housatonic School Redevelopment**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** The Housatonic School Redevelopment project (or Housatonic Commons Project) is the adaptive re-use of the former Housatonic Elementary School into a mix-use complex with 11 affordable housing units and 6,000 sf. of commercial/non-profit space for organizations (i.e. BRIDGE, Town Satellite Offices/Daycare Facility, etc.). The project will provide affordable workforce housing options for residents of southern Berkshire County, which is one of the largest impediments to attracting and retaining employees and overall workforce in southern Berkshire County. (For additional information, see p. 103 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** The Town is currently writing a request for proposals in order to sell or lease the building for redevelopment.

**2014 Update:** In 2014 the Town will again be soliciting for proposals through a RFP for sale or lease of the building. The project proponent requested this project be moved back to active status.

**2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. The project proponent requested that this project be moved to an inactive status.

**2012 Update:** Currently this project is still in the study and design phase. The town did not award the sale of the school and subsequently convened a School Re-Use Task Force to examine re-use options. The original project was deemed not viable and did not proceed. A task force of citizens has been established and met numerous times to produce a report to advise the Board of Selectman on next steps. The Board and Town Manager have revised the RFP to sell the building. That RFP will be issued with a new project selected through that process.

**Project Name: West Street Water Line Upgrade**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** The purpose of this project is to enhance and enable the growth of future and proposed industries along the West Housatonic Street corridor and to increase the capacity of water flow to the southwest section of the City of Pittsfield. The City's Master Plan, updated in 2009, identified the West Housatonic corridor as a critical corridor for future industrial growth. The West Street Water Line project will include the replacement of 5,000 ft. of existing 10-inch water main pipe with a 16-inch pipe. The increased pipe size will improve capacity to the corridor and the southwest section of the City through connections along Fort Hill Road. (For additional information, see p. 104 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report. The City has not pursued funding for this project. Inactive.

**2014 Update:** Project is fully designed and the city still needs to obtain \$1 million for the project.

**2013 Update:** At this time grant funding for the other half of this project has been secured. The City of Pittsfield will provide a 1 to 1 match with the EDA for \$1,030,000 dollars to complete these upgrades.

**2012 Update:** As of August 2012 the project is at 100% design. The City Council has authorized borrowing half the funding. The other half of the funding is being sought out through grants, but has not been secured at this time.

**Project Name: DownStreet Art Project**

**Location: City of North Adams**

The DownStreet Art program is a public art initiative designed to revitalize downtown North Adams, by harnessing existing arts organizations and events and transforming vacant and open spaces into arts destinations. The DownStreet Art program will be used to define the City of North Adams as a cultural haven. (For additional information, see p. 105 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** DownStreet Art has stayed consistent, opening 2 pop-up galleries and presenting over 30 different artists this season. The program served over 10,000 people this year and much work has been done to track the statistics and demographics of the patrons to help increase attendance.

**2014 Update:** No update provided.

**2013 Summary:** The program is currently embarking on its sixth season. Over 9 galleries are opening new exhibitions each month and 40 different artists are participating in the festival this summer/fall. Several businesses have opened encouraged by the increased foot traffic, including 2 new galleries on Main St. PRESS Gallery moved into an empty storefront next to Gallery 51, creating an entrance between the two for easy pass through. This collaboration enabled the PRESS Gallery to be open 7 days a week, to employ and serve more people.

**2012 Update:** DownStreet Art organized and completed its fifth edition. This year over 80 artists participated and approximately 10,000 people attended the festival that ran from June 26, 2012 through October 25, 2012. DownStreet Art is becoming very successful in making the sale of art a source of income for local artists.

**Project Name: McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements & Parking Garage Restoration**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** This project restored and upgraded the 15+ year old McKay Street parking structure and improved key pedestrian routes from the parking facility to Pittsfield's Central Business District. (For additional information, see p. 106 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2014 Update:** The project was completed July 2014 at a final cost of \$6.5 million dollars.

**2013 Update:** Update of the parking structure is almost complete. The City is now looks forward to Phase 3 and 4 for the McKay Streetscape update. These phases will coincide with the completion of construction down the City's main business corridor. Intent of this project is to enhance the pedestrian environment around McKay Street and increase connectivity from its parking facilities to Pittsfield's Central Business District. A survey has been completed for Phase 3 and design is at 25%. In September 2013 the City will be applying for a State MassWorks Grant to provide additional funding.

**2012 Update:** The project is currently at 40% completion. At this time concrete, painting, and electrical work have started throughout the structure. The contractor started with hydro-demolition work on the structure's roof. Upon completion of this first phase the contractor then moved to internal work necessary on lower levels. Weather permitting work will continue on the project through the winter months. The project is set to be at 100% completion on or before June, 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

**Project Name: Adaptive Reuse of Mills**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Adaptive Reuse of Mills initiative is a regional proposal to address the vacant and underutilized mills throughout the County. (For additional information, see p. 107 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** Plans have been developed for the redevelopment of the Eagle Mill in Lee. The project is at a standstill due to the inability of the developer to obtain historic tax credits. In North Adams, the Cariddi Mill has been sold to a developer who plans to redevelop the mill as a commercial, hospitality, and retail center. The Old Stone Mill in Adams has been purchased and the new owners are pursuing transforming it into a maker space.

**2014 Update:** The Columbia, Greylock and Niagra mill were purchased by Niagra Worldwide who is seeking tenants for the industrial space. Niagra is also exploring other potential reuse scenarios for the mills.

**2013 Update:** A project has been proposed by the Lee CDC to revitalize closed mills by redeveloping them for future production. Project proponents and interested investors hope to return large scale manufacturing to Lee and the surrounding communities. A project of this magnitude would require update to the existing railroad system for implementation. A new developer is pursuing the redevelopment of the Eagle Mill in Lee. The Rice Silk Mill project is complete.

**2012 Update:** In Pittsfield, the adaptive reuse of the H.S. Rice Silk Mill has turned that property into 45 new units of rental workforce housing. This project was completed in the 2012 fiscal year. In the wake of renovation of this property at 55 Spring Street in Pittsfield the city received a \$306,191 dollar Community Development Action Grant (CDAG) from the State's Department of Housing & Community Development; this funding was used to install new utility hookups for water and sewer. The grant also enabled the city to construct new sidewalks and curbs on the four streets surrounding the property; Spring, Willow, Cherry, and Burbank Streets.

**Project Name: City of Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Feasibility Study**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** This project will commission a master planning process for the development of a 25-30 acre industrial area to the south of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport on Tamarack Road. The project will include site investigation, site plan development and the design of infrastructure comprised of an access road, sewer and water utilities. (For additional information, see p. 108 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** There is no significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report. The feasibility study will include site investigation, site plan development, market analysis and the design of infrastructure comprised of an access road, sewer, water, electric, and communication utilities.

**2013 Update:** The Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Project is identified in the Airport Master Plan Update. The AMPU projects are a requirement of the FAA. In 2015 construction is expected to begin on the 30 acre industrial plot south of the airport. Estimated cost for this project is \$75,000 dollars. The retention of 2 FTE jobs is expected.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Project Name: Regionalization of the City of Pittsfield's Municipal Airport**

**Location: City of Pittsfield**

**Project Summary:** The City of Pittsfield would like to conduct a planning study to examine the possibility of regionalizing the City's municipal airport. The airport provides the only facility in the Berkshire County region that can accommodate general aviation and Class CII corporate jet aircraft. The project would help identify users of the facility, frequency and origin and destination information. This study will help determine the feasibility of pursuing regionalization of this facility. (For additional information, see p. 109 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2012 – 2015 Update:** No significant progress to report. The estimated cost of the planning study is \$50,000.

**Project Name: Berkshire Farm-to-School Feasibility Study**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Berkshire Farm-to-School feasibility study has three primary objectives, which include:

Assess Berkshire County's public schools' food budgets, food facilities, purchasing process, and most popular foods to analyze potential demand for food producers in the county to provide products.

Evaluate Berkshire County's farmers, farmland, and farm products to analyze the potential for Berkshire County farms to supply food to the region's schools.

Review Berkshire County's food processing industries and infrastructure to analyze the capacity to receive food "off the truck" from farms and process/package it to specifications of school food service.

(For additional information, see p. 110 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2012 -2015 Update:** No significant progress to report – inactive status

**Project Name: Regional Economic Development District**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** This project proposes to establish an Economic Development District, compliant with the Economic Development Administration's requirements, covering all of Berkshire County. (For additional information, see p. 111 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** A draft of the bylaws to govern the Economic Development District (EDD) have been written. BRPC will begin outreach to the Berkshires communities in the fall of 2015. A majority of the communities must agree to support the EDD.

**2014 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2013 Update:** The CEDS Committee has reviewed information concerning the creation of an EDD and explored the formation of a governing board for the EDD.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission plans to assess the feasibility of creating an Economic Development District in Berkshire County.

**Project Name: Housatonic Railroad Station Planning Feasibility Study**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** This study would examine and identify potential locations for the development of a railroad station to accommodate the proposed Pittsfield to Connecticut passenger rail project. To evaluate each possible site the study would assess issues and impacts arising from access, parking, and future commercial services and development needs that would support passenger rail service. (For additional information, see p. 112 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** The project was completed in 2014.

**2014 Update:** BRPC completed the feasibility study in September 2014. The report recommends that passenger rail stations be located in Pittsfield, Lee, and Great Barrington and potentially in Sheffield.

**2013 Update:** BRPC is currently exploring station locations in Southern and Central Berkshire County and holding public meetings for input. Funds have been allocated in the State budget for rail and safety improvements. The anticipated timeline for track improvements is approximately 3 years from start to finish.

**2012 Update:** The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission applied for and was awarded a \$240,000 grant from the United States Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential passenger rail station locations in Berkshire County along a rail line owned by the Housatonic Railroad.



**Project Name: Downtown Parking Strategy**

**Location: Town of Great Barrington**

**Project Summary:** This project looks to commission a Parking Strategy for downtown Great Barrington. Components of this study will include the development of conceptual plans, cost estimates, and strategies for increasing the parking supply to meet the needs of downtown businesses, while maximizing parking efficiency. The Town has already identified two key sites of interest adjacent to the Town Hall as possibilities to increase the parking supply. (For additional information, see p. 113 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**2014 Update:** The Town will be working in 2014-2015 with the Chamber of Commerce and private sector developers to identify future parking needs, including parking supply, signage, and wayfinding strategies. The project proponent requested the project be listed as active.

**2013 Update:** This project has been listed as inactive at the request of the project proponent.

**2012 Update:** This project is currently in the study and design phase. The town has convened a task force of business and community members to study downtown parking, inventory spaces, and evaluate options. If a full parking strategy or feasibility/ engineering of a certain sites are identified, grant funding maybe sought.

**Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** This Berkshire Creative Initiative proposal is a grouping of multiple initiatives that will enhance and grow the creative economy of Berkshire County. The proposals in this grouping included:

**Berkshire Product Initiative:** The Berkshire Product Initiative looks to expand sales capacity of creative economy businesses, headquartered in the Berkshires, to design, manufacture and distribute original products. This will be achieved through the development of a unified Berkshire brand and outreach to a broader market.

**Seed Fund Network:** The Seed Fund Network will provide start-up funds for new businesses or established businesses looking to expand into new markets. This program is proposed to have resources contributed from various sources to fund projects within \$20,000-\$150,000 dollar range. This funding will require a large education component. But it could potentially provide start-up funds for more than just creative businesses and be expanded to help fund any small business or start-up business around the county.

**Creative Lives Here Initiative:** The Creative Lives Here Initiative will support the development of the “Creativity Lives Here” marketing package, which includes: (1) help other regions to identify, recognize and strengthen their creative economy; (2) promotion of the creative industry within Berkshire County; (3) the development of a brand unique to the Berkshires that highlights its creative and innovative economy; and (4) efforts to attract new creative businesses to the region.

**Berkshire Creative Challenge:** The Berkshire Creative Challenge is a mechanism to connect Berkshire County manufacturers and businesses with local designers, engineers and creative workers to stimulate innovative research and development for existing and/or new product lines.

**Berkshire Festival:** The Berkshire Festival is a two-week, open-access, county-wide celebration of cultural and lifestyle, uniting an anticipated 100 arts organizations, businesses and nonprofits through innovative partnerships and collaboration to highlight the wealth of Berkshire County attractions while infusing the region with a new wave of audiences and patrons.

(For additional information, see p. 113 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update(s):****Berkshire Product Initiative:**

**2015 Update:** Berkshire Creative has been exploring various ways to increase the production of original Berkshire-made goods, expand the capacity of businesses already manufacturing products within the Berkshire creative economy, and provide access to broader markets for both increased sales and wider distribution of the “Berkshire-made” brand.

In the summer of 2014, Country Curtains and Berkshire Creative worked together to create “Berkshire Artisan Originals,” a subset of County Curtains’ website which features a curated selection of Berkshire-made art and artisanal products for purchase. This project has allowed Country Curtains to expose hidden Berkshire talent and foster the growth of market-ready artists whose products prove to be popular and tell the “Berkshire-made” story. 35 artists’ products were reviewed in an initial selection round, with several dozen items initially chosen to be available for sale that included both one-of-a-kind pieces as well as limited editions in the following categories: paintings, photographs, glass works, pottery, handbags, textile arts, jewelry, and wood crafts.

The Berkshire Creative Resources Conference, to be held on November 12, 2015, is a day devoted to business development and best practice sharing for artists, creative entrepreneurs, and independent cultural non-profits in the Berkshires. Attendees will be connected to over 30 professional services and industry experts through a variety of panels, workshops, speakers, and networking opportunities. Panel and workshop topics include marketing and visual identity development, collaboration and training, business structure, copyright law, budgeting, creative space, and grant writing. The information and resources made available through these programs will provide the tools, skills, knowledge, and inspiration to grow and improve capacity of creative economy businesses.

**2014 Update:** No update provided

**2013 Update:** This project is under redevelopment. A number of methods to achieve Berkshire product accessibility are under review.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Seed Fund Network:**

**2015 Update:** No update provided

**2014 Update:** No update provided

**2013 Update:** Berkshire Creative is in the early stages of developing a new pitch-based fund access program in which individuals and companies will have the opportunity to publicly present a new or expanded product or service to a group of investors, venture capitalists, and lenders.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Creative lives Here Initiative:**

**2015 Update:** Berkshire Creative’s participation in the Massachusetts Creative Economy Network has enabled the organization and its regional partners to continue developing programs that both promote creative industry and encourage the growth of new creative enterprise in the county. Several key projects that launched in 2014/2015 include the Makers’ Mill, the first fiber and printmaking

makerspace in North Adams; the Western Massachusetts Film & Media Exchange, an annual event that showcases talent and provides resources for film and media companies in the Berkshires; and The North Adams Project, a new Assets for Artists program that seeks to grow the creative economy and enrich the cultural community of North Adams by permanently relocating artists to the city. In 2015, Berkshire Creative merged with 1Berkshire and designation as the Berkshire Region Lead Organization was transferred to 1Berkshire.

The Berkshire creative economy continues to be publicized and advocated for on a local, state, and national level. This includes highlighting stories about creative individuals living and working in the Berkshires on Berkshire Creative's website and social media platforms, as well as telling those stories verbally. Berkshire creative economy practitioners have continued to participate in meetings, conferences, and committees including the National Creative Economy Coalition, MASSCreative's Create the Vote Steering Committee, and EforAll and Massachusetts Creative Industries Summits.

**2014 Update:** No update provided

**2013 Update:** The Creative Lives Here Initiative has achieved success in branding the Berkshire creative economy within the County and provided information about and an awareness of the impact the creative industries have on the overall Berkshire economy. In October 2013, Berkshire Creative achieved designation as the Berkshire region's Lead Organization in the Creative Economy Network of Massachusetts, which will allow Berkshire Creative to develop relationships with various economic development organizations and private companies state-wide who are building their own creative economy initiatives and networks

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Berkshire Creative Challenge:**

**2015 Update:** Berkshire Creative completed its sixth Creative Challenge in 2014 with host Main Street Hospitality Group (MSHG). A total of 6 local creatives submitted applications to be a part of the logo and brand design challenge for Hotel on North, a new boutique hotel in downtown Pittsfield. 3 finalists toured the hotel and met with MSHG's creative team to understand the vision and scope of the project. Then, each submitted a proposal that outlined their creative approach and gave examples of work they have done. One winner was selected, who was hired to fully realize and complete the project.

**2014 Update:** No update provided

**2013 Update:** Berkshire Creative completed its fifth Creative Challenge with host Rennie & Rose in December 2011. A total of 14 local Creatives submitted applications to be a part of the challenge and of these; eight applicants were invited to participate in the full program. All eight participants later submitted designs for review, and two were selected as the Creative Challenge winners.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Berkshire Festival:**

**2015 Update:** Inactive

**2014 Update:** Inactive

**2013 Update:** This project has been moved to the inactive list at the request of the proponent.

**2012 Update:** Financial estimates have been received and a marketing plan has been developed

**Project Name: Berkshire Hills Internship Program**

**Location Regional**

**Project Summary:** The Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) is administered by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). This program is a unique and important hands-on training program for the youth of Berkshire County that could be expanded. The program is an intensive arts management internship program that combines hands-on work experience with classes taught by arts administration faculty, "TalkBacks" with the area's leading arts professionals, and the chance to fully participate in cultural events throughout Berkshire County. Through the B-HIP, students are able to experience educational and career advancement opportunities in one segment of the region's economic clusters industries: Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Service. (For additional information, see p. 115 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2015 Update:** No update provided

**2014 Update:** No update provided

**2013 Update:** The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the program included another 14 recent graduates and matriculated students from the U.S. and around the world. Participants interned at The Clark, MASS MoCA, Shakespeare & Company, IS 183, Pittsfield Performing Arts Center, and Williams College Dance Department. To date a total of 119 students have participated in the program since its inception. Of which 15 alumni (13%) are currently employed in the Arts, and 23 alumni (19%) received job offers from the Internship Program.

**2012 Update:** MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center successfully organized and completed the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the summer arts management course called Berkshire Hills Internship Program (BHIP). The program involved 14 students and recent graduates from the U.S. and abroad.

**Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative**

**Location: Regional**

**Project Summary:** This Berkshire Creative Initiative project proposal is a grouping of two initiatives that will enhance and grow the creative economy of Berkshire County. The project proposals in this grouping include:

**Creative Industry Workforce Pathways:** The Creative Industry Workforce Pathways is a collaborative effort between Berkshire Creative, the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board and the partners of the Berkshire Compact to develop a profile of the jobs and occupations within the county's creative economy and strategize training and education programs to fill industry's needs.

**Creative Education Initiative:** The Creative Education Initiative will organize regional education partners, members of the Berkshire Compact and a leadership team from the creative economy to develop a study to analyze the creative offerings within the k-12 schools throughout the county. The group will then identify ways to improve and expand these offerings.

(For additional information, see p. 116 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update(s):**

**Creative Industry Workforce Pathways:**

**2015 Update:** This project has not yet been implemented.

**2014 Update:** No update provided.

**2012 - 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Creative Education Initiative:**

**2015 Update:** This project has not yet been implemented.

**2014 Update:** No update provided.

**2012 - 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report.

# Appendix “F”

2014-2015 CEDS Committee Members

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Last Updated - 10.14.15

Name	Title / Representing	EDA Criteria Fulfilled	Public or Required	Private Sector
Roger Bolton	Executive Committee Member Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Regional Planning Agency	X	
Brenda Burdick	General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems	Business & Industry*		X
Heather Boulger	Executive Director Berkshire County Regional Employment Board	Workforce Development*	X	
Timothy Geller	Executive Director Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire	Economic Interest*		X
Keith Girouard	Senior Business Advisor Massachusetts Small Business Development Center	Economic Interest*		X
Gwendolyn Hampton-VanSant	Executive Director Multicultural Bridge	Community Leader* Minority Group*	X	
J. Michael Hoffman	Vice President, Commercial Loan TD Bank	Business & Industry* Economic Interest*		X
Michael Nuvalie	Community Deveopment Director City of North Adams	Local Government*	X	
Chris Rembold	Town Planner Town of Great Barrington	Local Government*	X	
Janis Akerstrom	Community Development Director City of Pittsfield	Local Government*	X	
Jonathan Butler	Berkshire Chamber of Commerce	Business & Industry* Economic Interest		X
Robert Wilson	Assistant Business Agent International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 7	Labor Group*	X	
James Stakenis	Vice President, Administration & Finance Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Higher Education*	X	
Lauri Klefos	Lauri Klefos, President & CEO Berkshire Visitors Bureau	Business & Industry* Economic Interest		X
Ian Rasch	Director of Development Allegrone Companies	Business & Industry*		X
Michele Butler	Private Individual	Private Individual*	X	
Ruth Blodgett	Berkshire Health Systems	Business & Industry*		X
Rob Hoogs	Foresight Land Services	Business & Industry*		X
Julia Dixon	Berkshire Creative	Business & Industry* Economic Interest		X
Bill Mulholland	Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation	Business & Industry		X
		<b>Total</b>	9	11