

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

2014 Performance Report

BERKSHIRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration on November 25, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1. Introduction	3
Section 2. Existing Regional Conditions & Regional Trends	4
Section 3. Goals & Objectives Performance Report	13
Section 4. Priority Projects & Status Report	20
Section 5. Performance Measures	23

APPENDICES

Appendix “A” - 24 Month Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Appendix “B”- Most Recently Available Data on Per Capita Income and Stats America Unemployment Data from the American Community Survey

Appendix “C” - Economic Distress Criteria Map

Appendix “D” – 2014 Active Priority Projects Matrix

Appendix “E” – Priority Project Updates

Appendix “F” - 2013-2014 CEDS Committee Members

Funding for this report was provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ District Local Technical Assistance Fund

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 2014 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 forty-four (44) projects listed on the Priority Project List.

The 2014 Annual Performance Report was endorsed by the Berkshire CEDS Committee on 11/04/14 and by the BRPC Full Commission on 11/20/14.

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, 2012)

Median Household Income - Berkshire County					
Municipality	1999	2009	2012	% Change (1999-2012)	% Change (2009-2012)
Adams	\$32,161	\$38,340	\$40,039	24.5%	4.4%
Alford	\$49,632	\$82,500	\$75,417	52.0%	-8.6%
Becket	\$46,806	\$42,031	\$43,397	-7.3%	3.2%
Cheshire	\$41,981	\$57,419	\$49,388	17.6%	-14.0%
Clarksburg	\$43,362	\$52,054	\$59,219	36.6%	13.8%
Dalton	\$47,891	\$57,222	\$49,891	4.2%	-12.8%
Egremont	\$50,000	\$51,856	\$53,015	6.0%	2.2%
Florida	\$43,000	\$53,333	\$49,191	14.4%	-7.8%
Great Barrington	\$45,490	\$52,843	\$50,882	11.9%	-3.7%
Hancock	\$45,347	\$74,205	\$75,536	66.6%	1.8%
Hinsdale	\$42,500	\$60,766	\$63,158	48.6%	3.9%
Lanesborough	\$46,496	\$66,458	\$65,509	40.9%	-1.4%
Lee	\$41,556	\$50,599	\$53,467	28.7%	5.7%
Lenox	\$45,581	\$60,604	\$51,266	12.5%	-15.4%
Monterey	\$49,750	\$41,625	\$39,625	-20.4%	-4.8%
Mount Washington	\$53,125	\$65,833	\$59,375	11.8%	-9.8%
New Ashford	\$51,250	\$69,583	\$65,833	28.5%	-5.4%
New Marlborough	\$46,875	\$57,917	\$66,875	42.7%	15.5%
North Adams	\$27,601	\$35,401	\$36,510	32.3%	3.1%
Otis	\$51,488	\$63,750	\$65,313	26.9%	2.5%
Peru	\$44,531	\$66,250	\$63,864	43.4%	-3.6%
Pittsfield	\$35,655	\$43,188	\$42,076	18.0%	-2.6%
Richmond	\$60,917	\$87,682	\$87,143	43.1%	-0.6%
Sandisfield	\$45,972	\$62,411	\$62,708	36.4%	0.5%
Savoy	\$41,477	\$55,500	\$57,000	37.4%	2.7%
Sheffield	\$45,082	\$47,145	\$55,278	22.6%	17.3%
Stockbridge	\$48,571	\$55,096	\$54,952	13.1%	-0.3%
Tyringham	\$60,250	\$93,750	\$76,442	26.9%	-18.5%
Washington	\$54,583	\$68,906	\$71,818	31.6%	4.2%
West Stockbridge	\$51,000	\$68,750	\$72,500	42.2%	5.5%
Williamstown	\$51,875	\$63,045	\$72,125	39.0%	14.4%
Windsor	\$51,389	\$74,750	\$76,125	48.1%	1.8%
Berkshire County	\$39,047	\$48,907	\$47,513	21.7%	-2.9%
Massachusetts	\$50,756	\$64,509	\$66,658	31.3%	3.3%
US	\$41,994	\$51,914	\$53,046	26.3%	2.2%

Source: 2000 US Census, 2007-2011 ACS, 2008-2012 ACS

OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The median income for Berkshire County households **decreased** by 2.9% between 2009 and 2012. The median income for households across the state increased by 3.2% during this same time period. The cumulative rate of inflation over this time period was 7.0%.
- The median income for Berkshire County households increased by 21.7% between 1999 and 2012. However, the short term trend for median household income in Berkshire County is negative (see above).
- The median income for Berkshire County households in 2012 remained well below the median income for households across the state (\$66,658) and for households nationwide (\$53,046).

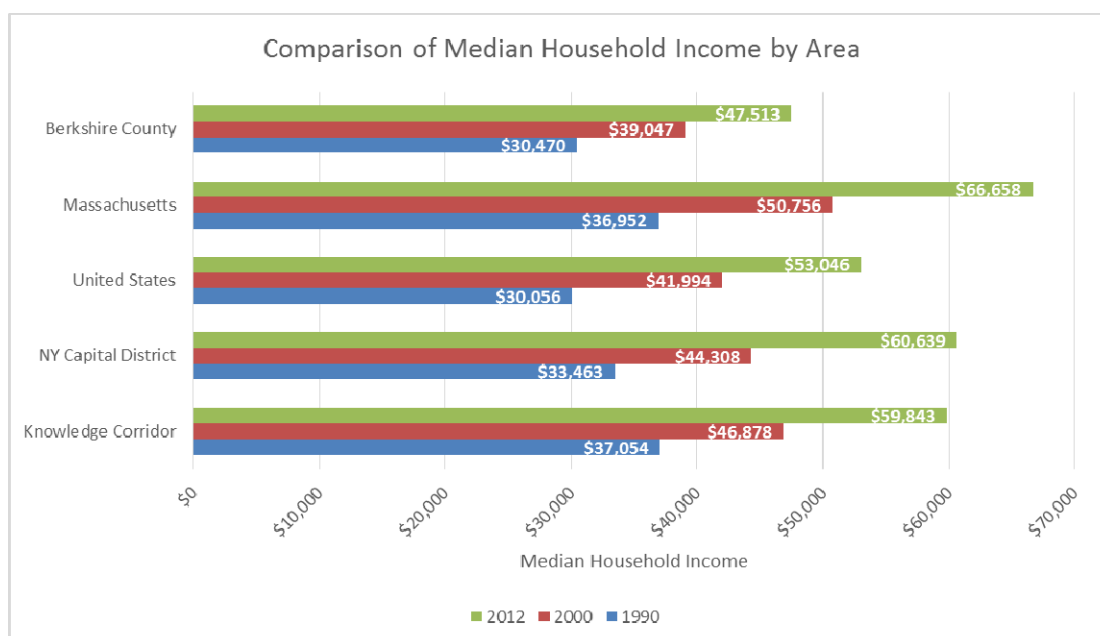
TABLE 2.2 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY AREA (1990, 2000, 2012)

Area	Median Household Income		
	1990	2000	2012
Knowledge Corridor	\$37,054	\$46,878	\$59,843
NY Capital District	\$33,463	\$44,308	\$60,639
United States	\$30,056	\$41,994	\$53,046
Massachusetts	\$36,952	\$50,756	\$66,658
Berkshire County	\$30,470	\$39,047	\$47,513

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2006-2010

* 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, 2012)



OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The median income for Berkshire County households in 2012 remains below the median household income of the surrounding areas in both Massachusetts and New York.
- Of all the areas identified in Table 2.2, Berkshire County had the smallest increase in median household income between 2000 and 2012 (\$8,466). The Knowledge Corridor experienced an increase of \$12,965 in median household income and the NY Capital District experienced a \$16,331 increase in median household income during the same time period.

B. EMPLOYMENT IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

TABLE 2.3 EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (2000 – 2013)

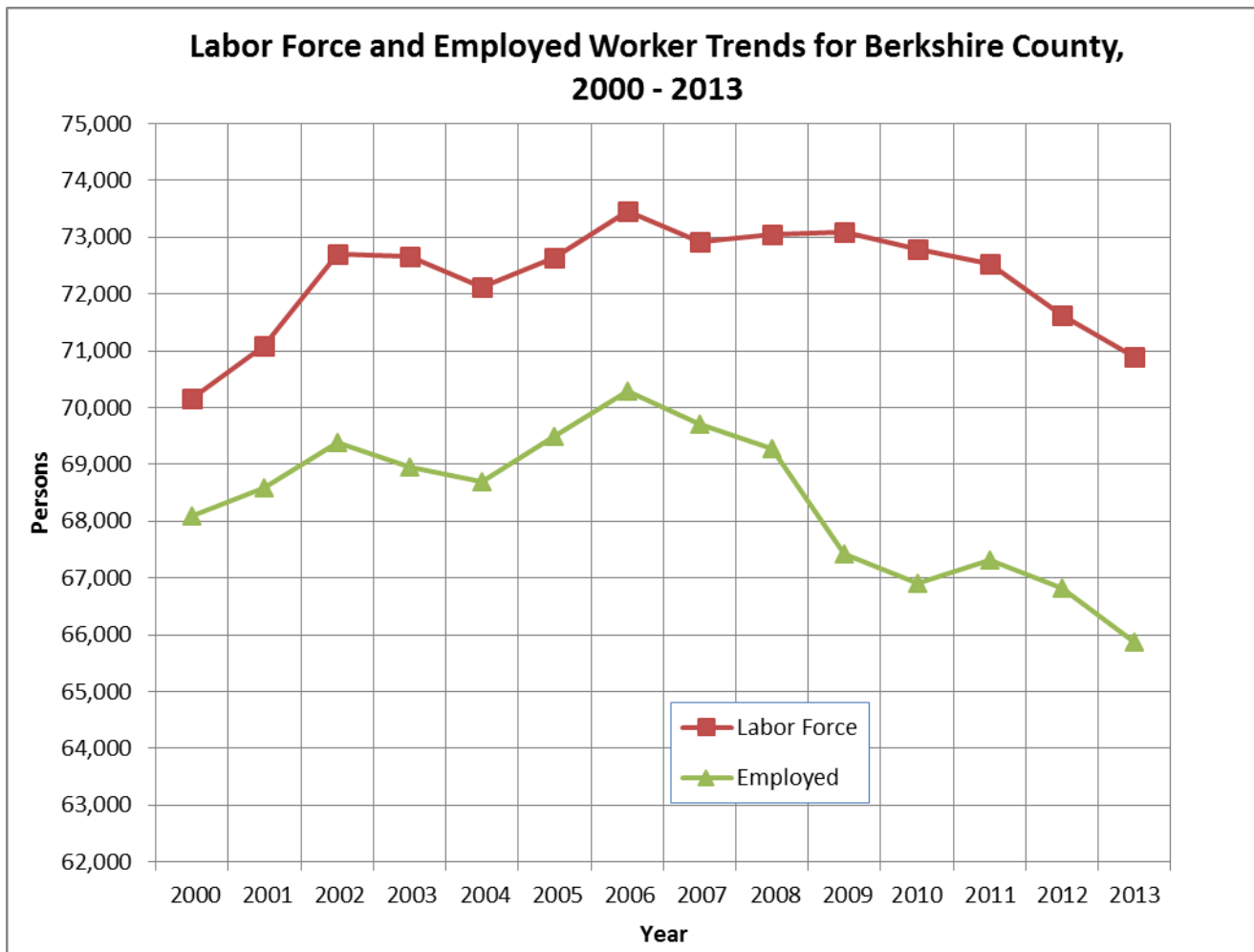
Year	Month	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment		
					Area Rate	Massachusetts Rate	U.S. Rate
2000	Annual	70,160	68,092	2,068	2.9	2.7	4
2001	Annual	71,082	68,590	2,492	3.5	3.7	4.7
2002	Annual	72,706	69,395	3,311	4.6	5.3	5.8
2003	Annual	72,654	68,958	3,696	5.1	5.8	6.0
2004	Annual	72,125	68,705	3,420	4.7	5.2	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	4.8	4.6
2007	Annual	72,929	69,717	3,212	4.4	4.5	4.6
2008	Annual	73,055	69,288	3,767	5.2	5.3	5.8
2009	Annual	73,092	67,425	5,667	7.8	8.2	9.3
2010	Annual	72,790	66,909	5,881	8.1	8.3	9.6
2011	Annual	72,532	67,309	5,223	7.2	7.3	8.9
2012	Annual	71,631	66,814	4,817	6.7	6.8	8.1
2013	Annual	70,888	65,873	5,015	7.1	7.1	7.4

Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics

OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The 2013 unemployment rate in Berkshire County (7.2%) increased 0.4% from the unemployment rate in 2012 (6.7%).

FIGURE 2.2 LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2000 – 2013)

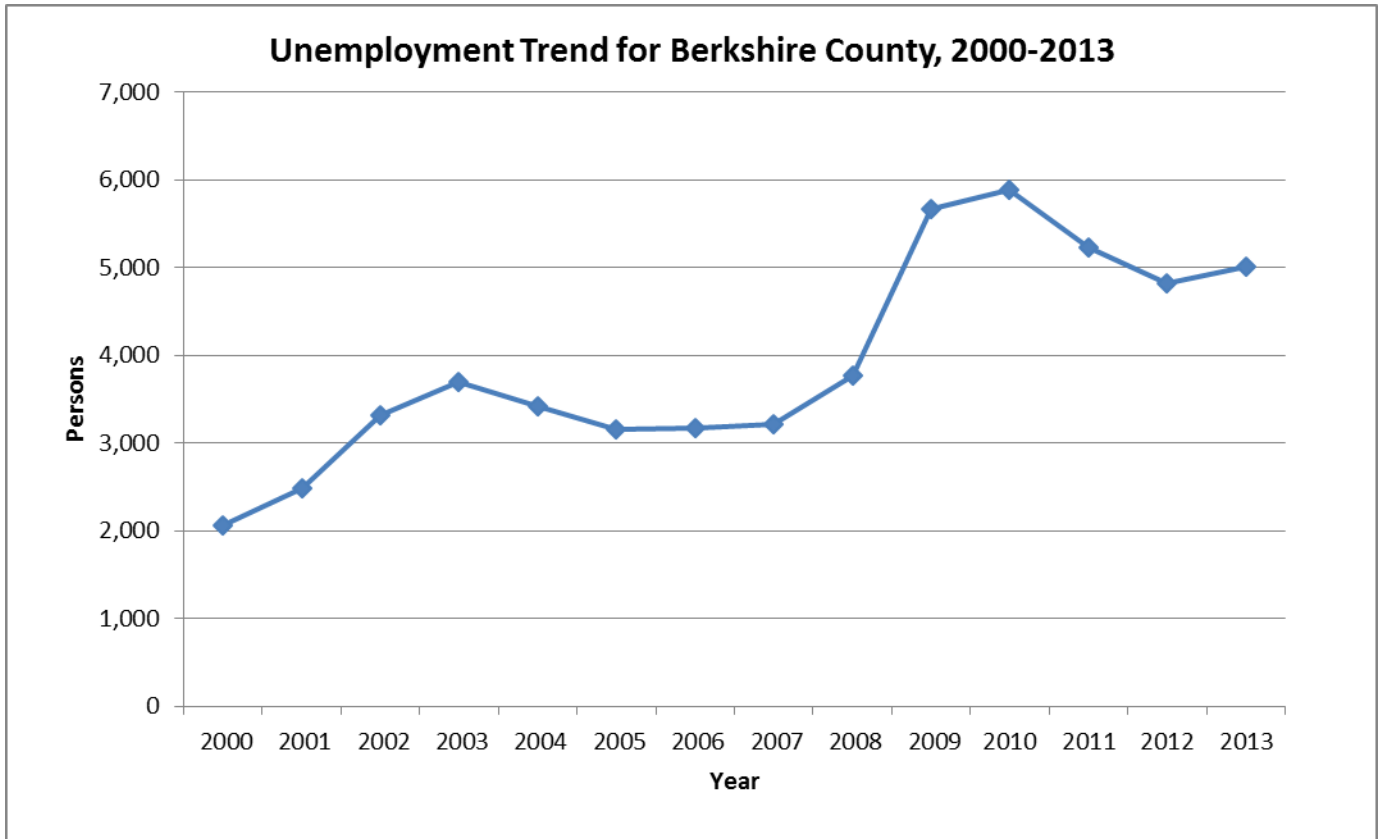


Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics

OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The labor force in Berkshire County continues to shrink. Since 2006, the number of people in the labor force in Berkshire County has decreased by 2,579. Between 2011 and 2013, the labor force in Berkshire County decreased by 1,644 people.
- The number of people employed in Berkshire County has been decreasing since 2006, except for a small increase in 2011. The decrease in the number of people employed in Berkshire County continued in 2012 and 2013.
- Over the past seven years (2006-2013), the number of people employed in Berkshire County has decreased by 4,419.

FIGURE 2.3 UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2000 – 2013)



Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics

OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- The number of unemployed persons in Berkshire County peaked in 2010 and declined in 2011 and 2012; however, in 2013 the number of unemployed persons increased.

(intentionally blank)

C. OTHER TRENDS IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

TABLE 2.4 NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2009 & 2013)

Industry Sector Descriptions	Number of Establishments		# Change (2009-2013)	% Change (2009 - 2013)
	2009	2013		
Total, All Industries	4,816	4,829	13	0.3%
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	29	32	3	10.3%
21 - Mining	8	8	0	0.0%
23 - Construction	596	519	-77	-12.9%
31-33 - Manufacturing	171	164	-7	-4.1%
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	99	92	-7	-7.1%
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	72	72	0	0.0%
22 - Utilities	14	13	-1	-7.1%
42 - Wholesale Trade	128	113	-15	-11.7%
44-45 - Retail Trade	692	648	-44	-6.4%
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	98	98	0	0.0%
51 - Information	89	83	-6	-6.7%
52 - Finance and Insurance	166	161	-5	-3.0%
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	140	116	-24	-17.1%
54 - Professional and Technical Services	354	342	-12	-3.4%
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	15	19	4	26.7%
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	250	234	-16	-6.4%
61 - Educational Services	92	97	5	5.4%
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance**	398	992	594	149.2%
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	109	110	1	0.9%
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	489	495	6	1.2%
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin**	821	418	-403	-49.1%
92 - Public Administration	157	167	10	6.4%

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 self-employed workers 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 2013, the following economic sectors lost ten (10) or more establishments:
 - Construction
 - Wholesale Trade
 - Retail Trade

- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional and Technical Services
- Administrative and Waste Services
- Between 2009 and 2013, the Health Care and Social Assistance and Public Administration sectors are the only economic sectors that gained ten (10) or more establishments.
- Between 2009 and 2013, the Manufacturing (non-durable goods) sector lost seven (7) establishments.

TABLE 2.5 AVERAGE MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2009 & 2013)

Industry Sector Descriptions	Average Monthly Employment		# Change (2009-2013)	% Change (2009 - 2013)
	2009	2013		
Total, All Industries	60,540	60,995	455	0.8%
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	177	196	19	10.7%
21 - Mining	108	54	-54	-50.0%
23 - Construction	2,956	2,822	-134	-4.5%
31-33 - Manufacturing	4,910	4,594	-316	-6.4%
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	1,798	1,840	42	2.3%
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	3,112	2,755	-357	-11.5%
22 - Utilities	313	298	-15	-4.8%
42 - Wholesale Trade	902	1,088	186	20.6%
44-45 - Retail Trade	8,469	8,693	224	2.6%
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	1,119	1,086	-33	-2.9%
51 - Information	1,014	908	-106	-10.5%
52 - Finance and Insurance	2,042	1,902	-140	-6.9%
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	624	455	-169	-27.1%
54 - Professional and Technical Services	2,575	2,660	85	3.3%
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	222	207	-15	-6.8%
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	2,082	1,958	-124	-6.0%
61 - Educational Services	7,352	7,877	525	7.1%
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance**	11,453	12,361	908	7.9%
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,870	2,017	147	7.9%
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	6,844	7,140	296	4.3%
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin**	3,068	2,190	-878	-28.6%
92 - Public Administration	2,440	2,488	48	2.0%

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 455 people between 2009 and 2013.

- Between 2009 and 2013, the average monthly employment for the following sectors decreased by more than 100:
 - Construction (non-durable goods)
 - Manufacturing
 - Information
 - Finance and Insurance
 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
 - Administrative and Waste Services

- Between 2009 and 2013, the average monthly employment for the following sectors increased by more than 100 jobs:
 - Wholesale Trade
 - Retail Trade
 - Educational Services
 - Arts Entertainment and Recreation
 - Accommodation and Food Services

- The average monthly employment for the Manufacturing sector decreased by 316 between 2009 and 2013, with non-durable goods decreasing by 357 and durable goods increasing by 42.

TABLE 2.6 AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES – BERKSHIRE COUNTY (2009 & 2013)

Industry Sector Descriptions	Average Weekly Wages		# Change (2009-2013)	% Change (2009 - 2013)
	2009	2013		
Total, All Industries	\$743.00	\$784.00	\$41	5.5%
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$432.00	\$438.00	\$6	1.4%
21 - Mining	\$1,073.00	\$929.00	(\$144)	-13.4%
23 - Construction	\$900.00	\$959.00	\$59	6.6%
31-33 - Manufacturing	\$1,173.00	\$1,254.00	\$81	6.9%
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	\$1,062.00	\$1,025.00	(\$37)	-3.5%
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	\$1,238.00	\$1,407.00	\$169	13.7%
22 - Utilities	\$1,466.00	\$1,610.00	\$144	9.8%
42 - Wholesale Trade	\$849.00	\$974.00	\$125	14.7%
44-45 - Retail Trade	\$489.00	\$499.00	\$10	2.0%
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	\$681.00	\$745.00	\$64	9.4%
51 - Information	\$792.00	\$839.00	\$47	5.9%
52 - Finance and Insurance	\$1,074.00	\$1,334.00	\$260	24.2%
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$609.00	\$636.00	\$27	4.4%
54 - Professional and Technical Services	\$1,223.00	\$1,319.00	\$96	7.8%
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$1,515.00	\$1,194.00	(\$321)	-21.2%
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	\$687.00	\$752.00	\$65	9.5%
61 - Educational Services	\$797.00	\$845.00	\$48	6.0%
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	\$833.00	\$838.00	\$5	0.6%
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$453.00	\$476.00	\$23	5.1%
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	\$333.00	\$353.00	\$20	6.0%
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	\$476.00	\$493.00	\$17	3.6%
92 - Public Administration	\$815.00	\$856.00	\$41	5.0%

OBSERVATION & TRENDS:

- Between 2009 and 2013, the Mining sector, Durable Goods Manufacturing sector, and Management of Companies and Enterprises sector experienced a decrease in average weekly wages.
- Between 2009 and 2013, the average weekly wages increased by \$41 in all industries combined in Berkshire County. This increase represents a 5.5% increase in average weekly wages. However, for this same time period the average statewide experienced a 9.8% increase and the cost of living increased by 8.59% suggesting that Berkshire County continues to lag behind other areas in wage growth.

D. ECONOMIC DISTRESS CRITERIA FINDINGS FOR THE 2014 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.

*Note: If the latest data from the American Community Survey is used then **eighteen (18) census tracts** in Berkshire County meet the economic distress criteria as to unemployment. Please see Appendix “B” for more information.*

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

Eight (8) census tracts in Berkshire County 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 more 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:

- ✓ 1 Berkshire (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.
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission completed the *Sustainable Berkshires Regional Plan* that will guide public and private initiatives and investments in the region for the next twenty to thirty years.
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Franklin County Community Development Corporation and Franklin Regional Council of Governments partnered on an EDA funded initiative to provide technical assistance to businesses along the Route 2 corridor in Western Massachusetts that were adversely affected by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, resulting in the expansion of a small business loan program to northern Berkshire County.

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 that examines the critical and emerging industries and identifies the necessary skills that the workforce must possess to support the identified industries. (A 2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. E-5 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The City of North Adams and the Town of Great Barrington developed and adopted new comprehensive plans that will guide land use and development decisions in those municipalities for at least the next ten years.
- ✓ 1Berkshire provides local data to the Council for Community and Economic Research (CCER) that helps populate the national cost of living index published by the CCER.

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

Representative Activities:

- ✓ 1Berkshire maintained a site and building locator website to assist interested parties in identifying buildings and sites in Berkshire County that are available for lease or purchase. On November 4, 2014 the site locator had 94 properties listed as available for sale or lease
- ✓ 1Berkshire launched the Nonprofit Business Network to provide networking and educational opportunities for nonprofit business professionals in Berkshire County; facilitate collaboration on projects; and to represent the entire nonprofit sector in matters requiring advocacy from a larger entity.
- ✓ 1Berkshire provided eight business incubator spaces to assist sole proprietors or micro-business proprietors with the transition into a commercial space.
- ✓ The Town of Lee granted Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing, LLC a 15 year tax increment financing agreement valued at \$739,590 for the company to purchase and modify a 116,000 square foot building for its use. The firm is investing \$9.2 million to acquire the property, retrofit the building and pay for other start-up costs.

- ✓ The Unistress Corporation was awarded a \$70 million contract to provide precast concrete panels for the Tappan Zee Bridge project in New York. Unistress plans to invest \$ 6 million to expand its facilities and hire 100 new workers.

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

Representative Activities:

Upgrading Skills of the Current Workforce:

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board continues to administer the Commonwealth's Workforce Training Fund grants and Hiring Incentive grants. These grants are awarded to regional firms to implement worker training programs. During fiscal year 2014, 15 companies received \$466,153 to train 589 workers and generated \$725,000 in training resources.
- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board continued its Industry Sector Initiative that promotes the development of strategies to address critical workforce needs and shortages in the Berkshire region. In the past five years, the BCREB helped to generate \$8.2 million; leveraged \$2.5 million and trained 397 people in Advanced Manufacturing, Green Technology and Healthcare which assisted 37 companies with their workforce needs. During FY14, the BCREB secured an additional \$350K to assist the healthcare sector with training.
- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board was elevated to High Performing Workforce Board status by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2010 due to the success of its workforce, education and training programs.

Developing the Skills of Unemployed/Underemployed Residents:

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, BerkshireWorks, Berkshire Community College and McCann Technical School continued its Industry Sector Initiative that promotes the development of strategies to address critical workforce needs and shortages in the Berkshire region. Strategies were developed to assist the STEM, Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare industries.
- ✓ BerkshireWorks Career Center provided services to 4,750 people and 650 companies during fiscal year 2014.

Pipeline Development:

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, in partnership with 12 local high schools and 4 colleges, continues to offer its Connecting Activities Internship Program that connects high-school students and post-secondary students with industry training programs and internships to help students develop work-readiness and industry specific job skills. The Program consists of an internship program, a career awareness program, STEM programming and subsidized work experiences. Approximately 500 youth participate in the internship program, 1500 youth participate in the career awareness program, 1,000 youth participate in the STEM programming and 50-100 youth participate in a subsidized work experience.
- ✓ The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, in partnership with a number of public school districts and colleges, continued to participate in the Berkshire Compact. The Compact is a county-wide initiative focused on promoting a diverse range of educational opportunities in the region. The premise of the Compact is that everyone regardless of their circumstances should have the opportunity to aspire to higher education. During fiscal year 2014, the Compact arranged for 1,200 6th grade students from 20 schools to visit 4 college campuses; implemented Wee Read program for 1500 children to promote literacy; and implemented a Youth Leadership program for 30 high school juniors.
- ✓ The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts continued operation of the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) that provides unique and hands-on training to the youth of Berkshire County in the field of arts management (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. 35 for a complete update).

Post-Secondary/Vocational Training Opportunities:

- ✓ During fiscal year 2014 Berkshire Community College and BerkshireWorks Career Center received \$250,000 to implement medical coding, technology pathways and hoisting machinery license certificate programs.
- ✓ Berkshire Community College and McCann Technical School established seven training programs focusing on “green” facilities and photovoltaic installations. Fifty-seven people participated in the programs.
- ✓ Berkshire Community College and McCann Technical School developed and trained 288 people in the healthcare industry.
- ✓ The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts continued operation of the Berkshire STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Pipeline 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. MCLA hosted a Science Fair and STARlab Planetarium for students.

- ✓ Pittsfield Adult Learning Center implements post-secondary training in the electric and metal fabrication trades.

Basic Skills/Work Readiness Efforts:

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board and BerkshireWorks implemented its first Work Readiness Curriculum workshops for 150 area youth during fiscal year 2014.
- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board and Berkshire Chamber of Commerce worked to enhance the work-readiness programs in the high schools.
- ✓ Berkshire Community College is implementing a Work Keys training program

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 connecting 1,200 key community anchor institutions like schools, libraries and public safety facilities across Massachusetts to high speed broadband internet. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. E-8 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Housatonic Railroad Company completed a station location and design analysis study to identify potential passenger rail stations in Berkshire County. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. E-13 of this Report for a complete update).
- ✓ 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. The City of Pittsfield is also providing \$250,000 from its General Electric Economic Development Fund. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. E-17 of this Report for a complete update).
- ✓ The Commonwealth of Massachusetts began a \$5.5 million project to re-construct Tyringham Road, a major connector road between Tyringham and Lee. This important infrastructure project began in June 2014 and should be completed next year.
- ✓ The Town of Lee began a \$441,000 project to refurbish the Willow Street Bridge that links Onyx Specialty Papers (a large employer in the town) with Route 102.

- ✓ The Town of Adams began work on a nearly \$2 million project to replace its aging water infrastructure along Route 8. The project is funded through a USDA loan.
- ✓ The Town of Great Barrington began its Main Street Reconstruction project that will reconstruct approximately ½ mile of Route 7 (Main Street) in the downtown area. The work includes the replacement of the roadway and pavement and infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, drainage, traffic signals and landscaping.
- ✓ The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute completed its \$145 million renovation that included the construction of a new 44,400 square foot Visitor, Exhibition and Conference Center; renovation of the existing museum building; and a new landscape design.
- ✓ The \$6 million dollar Route 7/Pittsfield South Street Reconstruction Project was completed. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. E-9 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Town of Adams signed a lease with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation that enables the town to issue a Request for Proposals to continue development of the Greylock Glen area. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg.E-13 of this Report for a complete update).
- ✓ The City of Pittsfield and the Towns of Clarksburg and Sheffield received a total of \$ 6.1 million for road infrastructure projects through the state MassWorks grant program (Pittsfield - \$4.5 million, Clarksburg - \$920,000, Sheffield - \$675,000).
- ✓ The information technology bond bill passed by the state legislature and signed by the Governor in August 2014 provides \$50 million to work on last mile solutions to the lack of broadband internet in the region. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. E-8 of this Report for a complete update)

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. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. E-1 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Town of Lee and BRPC began work on an EPA Brownfields Area Wide Planning Grant to assist the town with assessing the potential contamination issues and planning for the future use of their vacant mill sites.
- ✓ The Dalton Redevelopment Authority completed the cleanup of a contaminated site that will be made available for redevelopment.

- ✓ The Southern Berkshire Community Development Corporation (SBDC) is moving forward with the remediation of contaminants at the New England Log Homes site. The SBCDC is employing an innovative bioremediation technique for this purpose. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. E-21 of this Report for a complete update).
- ✓ A developer has secured the rights to the Eagle Mill in Lee and developed conceptual plans to re-use the mill as a mixed-use commercial and residential building.
- ✓ Niagra Worldwide, a Wisconsin based firm, purchased three former mills in Lee and Lenox (Columbia, Greylock and Niagra) and is currently seeking tenants for the mills.

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 2014 BERKSHIRE CEDS ANNUAL REPORT

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

Completed Projects

- ✓ Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvement Project (pg. E-11)
- ✓ Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment – Gravel Bank Redevelopment (pg. E-16)
- ✓ McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements & Parking Garage Restoration (pg. E-25)
- ✓ Regional Telecommunications Network - MassBroadBand123 Middle Mile Fiber Optic Network (pg. E-8)
- ✓ Berkshire Museum 21st Century Energy Project (pg. E-3)

Projects Representing the Greatest Needs Regionally

- 🚧 Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (pg. E-7)
- 🚧 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Brownfields Program (pg. E-1)
- 🚧 Keep Berkshires Farming (pg. E-6)
- 🚧 Workforce Training Fund & Express Program (pg. E-5)
- 🚧 Berkshire Labor Market Blueprint (pg. E-5)
- 🚧 Connecting Activities High School Internship Program (pg. E-6)
- 🚧 Industry Sector Initiatives (pg. E-6)
- 🚧 Berkshire Compact for Education & Berkshire County STEM Pipeline Network (pg. E-7)
- Regional Telecommunications Network (pg. E-8)
- Regional Highway Access Improvements, including a north-south Limited Access Highway serving central and northern Berkshire County (pg. E-9)
- Alternative Energy & Energy Infrastructure Improvements (pg. E-12)
- Regional Passenger Rail Improvements (pg. E-13)
- Regional Economic Development District (pg. E-27)

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-2)
- ✚ First Street/ Common Park Rehabilitation Project (pg. E-2)
- ✚ Hancock Shaker Village Renovations (pg. E-3)
- ✚ Mohawk Theater Restoration (pg. E-4)
- ✚ Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway (pg. E-4)
 - Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Center (pg. E-13)
 - Former Commonwealth Sprague Site (Brown Street) (pg. E-15)
 - Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment (pg. E-16)
 - Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park (pg. E-17)
 - William Stanley Business Park (pg. E-17)
 - Crane Stationary Mill-Redevelopment (pg. E-18)
 - Hubbard Avenue Development Area (pg. E-19)
 - Berkshire Mall/ Civic Center/ Hotel (pg. E-20)
 - New England Log Homes Site (NELH) (pg. E-21)
 - River School Redevelopment Project (pg. E-21)
 - Redevelopment of the Historic Great Barrington Fairgrounds (pg. E-21)
 - Monument Mills Area Reuse Planning (pg. E-22)
 - Redevelopment of Historic Great Barrington Firehouse (pg. E-23)
 - West Street Water Line Upgrade (pg. E-24)
 - Housatonic School Redevelopment (pg. E-23)
 - Downtown Parking Strategy (Great Barrington) (pg. E-28)
 - Downstreet Art Project (pg. E-24)

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

- Adaptive Reuse of Mills (pg. E-25)
- City of Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Feasibility Study (pg. E-20)
- Regionalization of the City of Pittsfield’s Municipal Airport (pg. E-26)
- Berkshire Creative Initiatives (pg. E-29)
- Berkshire Hills Internship Program (pg. E-31)
- Berkshire Creative Initiative (pg. E-31)

Inactive Past Priority Projects

- Sports Complex (pg. E-20)
- Berkshire Farm to School Feasibility Study (pg. E-27)
- Berkshire Creative Initiative – Berkshire Festival (pg. E-29)

B. 2014 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 – 2014

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 st Century Energy Project	35 (Berkshire Museum)	Construction
	Total to Date :	499	

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

Job Category (# of jobs)	2013 Average Weekly Wage (Berkshire County)
23 - Construction (292)	\$959.00
44-45 - Retail Trade (180)	\$499.00
53 - Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (2)	\$636.00
52 – Finance and Insurance (25)	\$1334.00

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 2013 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	
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 st Street Commons Rehabilitation Project	\$ 4.8 million		On-going
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	On-going

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		On-going
2014	Adams Water Main Replacement	\$2.0 million		On-going
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	On-going
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	On-going
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
2012-2014	Total to Date	\$ 164.1 million	\$ 509.1 million	

Note: The total public investment listed in the 2013 Annual Performance Report was incorrectly reported as \$167.1 million – the correct total is \$95.1 million.

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.

- ✓ North Berkshire Healthcare filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy and abruptly closed North Adams Regional Hospital. Berkshire Health Systems purchased its assets including North Adams Regional Hospital for \$4 million as part of the bankruptcy proceedings and has since reopened the hospital.
- ✓ According to the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network's Berkshire Office it assisted with eighteen (18) new business starts in 2013 and helped to create forty-five (45) jobs and retain 21 at risk jobs.
- ✓ Crane sold its Technical Materials Division to Neenah Paper, Inc. of Georgia for \$72 million.

5. What economic sectors are those businesses in?

The bankruptcy and subsequent sale occurred in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector
The sale occurred in the Manufacturing sector

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

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?

The process of gathering the most recent data for the region has been greatly improved since the launch of the Berkshire Benchmarks website. The Berkshire Benchmarks website is a web based

data clearinghouse of data related to the region. The website allows users to perform simple queries to access the data and see how things have changed.

Appendix "A"

24 Month Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Twenty-Four Months Prior to Submission of the 2014 Performance Report

Series ID	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	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	24 Month	
																									Average	
Adams	8.9	7.7	7.5	8.4	9.1	10.9	9.8	9.7	8.4	8.3	8.8	8.8	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.7	9.3	9.3	9.1	8.6	8.7	7.0	7.3	8.4	8.7	
Alford	2.7	2.2	2.5	1.8	3.9	6.0	5.2	4.3	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.4	2.1	3.5	3.9	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.9	3.6	2.9	1.8	2.0	2.0	3.1	
Becket	7.6	8.3	7.8	7.7	8.3	10.1	8.2	7.6	6.7	6.0	7.0	7.5	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.6	6.8	7.7	7.0	6.8	6.1	4.0	4.8	5.9	7.0	
Cheshire	6.9	7.2	6.6	6.5	7.5	8.3	8.0	8.1	7.4	7.3	6.9	6.3	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.5	8.6	8.9	9.4	9.6	8.2	6.6	6.6	7.1	7.4	
Clarksburg	6.7	8.0	6.8	5.7	7.0	8.7	7.5	6.2	5.9	8.0	7.4	7.3	8.9	7.4	6.7	7.4	7.1	7.3	6.6	6.1	8.8	6.9	7.2	7.8	7.2	
Dalton	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.8	6.5	7.5	6.7	7.2	6.7	6.1	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.3	5.7	6.3	6.5	6.6	5.7	4.4	5.0	5.6	6.2	
Egremont	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.2	5.1	4.9	4.5	3.6	3.9	4.4	3.9	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.6	3.7	3.6	2.7	2.5	3.1	3.7	3.8	
Florida	6.3	6.7	7.4	7.9	8.6	9.0	7.9	8.3	7.8	6.1	8.2	9.8	9.8	9.0	10.0	10.4	8.4	7.4	7.5	8.1	8.3	6.1	7.4	7.8	8.1	
Great Barrington	5.6	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.9	7.9	6.7	6.7	6.1	5.8	6.1	5.7	4.8	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.6	7.1	6.7	6.9	5.7	4.4	4.6	4.1	5.8	
Hancock	5.0	4.5	3.6	2.1	3.6	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.6	5.0	6.2	4.3	2.7	3.3	4.6	4.1	4.3	5.5	4.8	5.5	4.4	5.0	5.5	6.1	4.4	
Hinsdale	7.9	7.3	7.1	8.2	8.4	10.4	9.1	8.9	8.1	7.2	7.2	8.8	9.1	8.0	8.0	8.6	8.8	10.0	11.1	10.8	9.1	8.3	8.2	9.5	8.7	
Lanesborough	5.8	6.7	5.9	5.5	6.1	7.3	7.2	6.8	6.0	6.7	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.6	6.8	7.1	8.1	8.6	8.0	6.2	5.2	5.6	6.1	6.5	
Lee	3.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.6	7.1	6.9	6.8	5.8	4.9	4.8	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.7	4.7	3.7	3.9	3.9	5.2	
Lenox	4.5	5.3	5.2	4.8	6.1	6.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.1	6.1	5.4	4.8	5.2	6.4	6.3	6.3	5.6	4.5	4.5	4.2	5.5	
Monterey	2.8	3.6	3.6	4.1	4.9	5.4	5.2	4.3	3.8	2.7	4.4	4.2	3.1	2.7	3.4	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.7	
Mount Washington	1.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.9	1.8	1.7	6.3	4	1.7	4.2	4.2	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.6	0.9	1.8	2.5	4.7	3.2	2.8	
New Ashford	4.8	5	3.6	2.9	5.7	5.7	7	7	5.7	5	4.2	3.5	3.5	2.2	5.8	3.6	6.4	5	6.4	6.4	6.5	7.6	4.8	6	5.2	
New Marlborough	4.2	4.2	4.9	6.5	7.2	8	7.6	7.6	5.6	5	5.8	6.7	5.7	5.7	6	4.8	4.8	6.6	6	6.1	4.4	4.1	3.4	3.6	5.6	
North Adams	7.6	8.1	7.4	7.6	8.5	10.6	9.5	9.4	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.5	8	8.7	8.7	9.4	8.8	8.4	8.4	7.9	8.2	8	8.5	
Otis	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.6	8	7.1	7.3	6.7	6.1	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.9	4.5	4	4.2	5.4	5.6	5.4	4.6	3.5	3.6	3.3	5.2	
Peru	2.4	2.8	3.4	3	4.6	7	6.6	6	5.8	5.2	4.9	6.1	5.6	5.8	4.9	7.3	7.1	9.2	10.2	9.8	8	5.2	5.9	5.5	5.9	
Pittsfield	7.0	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.6	8.7	8.1	8.0	7.4	7.8	8.1	7.7	7.3	8.2	7.9	7.8	7.8	8.1	8.0	7.6	6.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	7.5	
Richmond	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.6	3.5	4.3	4.9	4	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.4	4.9	4.9	4.7	5.3	5.5	5.1	4.2	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.9	
Sandisfield	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.7	5.6	7.7	7.5	7.1	5.5	5.2	4.3	3.8	3.5	4.6	5.4	5.9	5.7	7.2	5.9	6.7	5.1	4.5	4.8	3.9	5.3	
Savoy	9.9	9.3	8.4	9.2	11.4	13.4	13.8	11.5	11.3	8.9	8.5	7.9	8.9	9.7	9.3	10.6	12.5	15	14.3	11.8	9.1	6.1	5.3	6.9	10.1	
Sheffield	4.1	4.2	4.8	4	5.2	7	7	7.3	5.1	4.1	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.2	4	4.3	4.5	5.8	6	6.4	3.8	3	3.4	3.7	4.8	
Stockbridge	4	4.5	3.6	4.6	4.5	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.9	4.7	5.1	5.1	4.7	4.3	2.9	3.1	4.3	4.5	
Tyringham	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.8	3.4	1.7	4	2	1.7	2.9	3.4	1.7	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.3	
Washington	5.3	4.6	4.6	5.5	4.6	8.9	7.3	8.3	7.7	8.5	5.7	6.7	8	5.9	6.5	7.1	6.8	7.4	8.6	6.8	4.7	4.6	5.9	8.9	6.6	
West Stockbridge	4.6	4	4.4	3.6	5	6.4	6	5.8	5.7	5.4	4.8	3.3	3.3	4.3	3.8	5.4	5.5	5.8	6.3	6.3	5	2.6	2.6	3.1	4.7	
Williamstown	5	5.3	5.3	5	5.6	6.7	5.6	5.1	5.6	6.2	7.6	6.6	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.1	5	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.8	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	
Windsor	6.8	6.1	6.0	6.9	5.4	7.3	6.2	5.3	4.2	5.2	7.2	7.3	8.7	7.3	6.2	5.5	7.6	7.1	8.8	7.5	6.4	5.0	4.5	5.4	6.4	
Berkshire County	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.3	7.0	8.3	7.6	7.5	6.8	6.8	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.1	6.3	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.8	
US	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	7.2	

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Appendix “B”

**Most Recently Available Data on Per Capita Income and
Stats America Unemployment Data (5 Year American Community Survey Data)**

Economic Distress Criteria—Primary Elements

	Region	U.S.	Threshold Calculations
2012 Unemployment Rate (5 Year ACS)	7.1	7.4	-0.3
2012 Per Capita Money Income (5 Year ACS)	\$28,939	\$28,051	103.17%

Economic Distress Criteria—Geographic Components

	Unemp. Rate 2011 ACS	Threshold Calculation (1)	PCMI 2011 ACS	Threshold Calculation (2)	
Census Tract 9001	13.5	6.1	\$16,596	59.2%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9002	17	9.6	\$15,531	55.4%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9003	13.4	6	\$27,654	98.6%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9004	15.5	8.1	\$22,992	82.0%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9005	6.6	-0.8	\$38,751	138.1%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9006	11.9	4.5	\$16,771	59.8%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9007	9.8	2.4	\$24,896	88.8%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9008	6.7	-0.7	\$36,759	131.0%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9009	8.1	0.7	\$29,851	106.4%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9011	3.4	-4	\$28,130	100.3%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9111	7.6	0.2	\$33,834	120.6%	Lanesborough
Census Tract 9121	8.7	1.3	\$26,540	94.6%	Dalton
Census Tract 9131	11.6	4.2	\$33,066	117.9%	Lenox
Census Tract 9141	10.3	2.9	\$29,606	105.5%	Lee
Census Tract 9201.01	8	0.6	\$30,990	110.5%	Williamstown
Census Tract 9201.02	5.6	-1.8	\$46,969	167.4%	Williamstown
Census Tract 9213	9.3	1.9	\$17,696	63.1%	North Adams
Census Tract 9214	15.1	7.7	\$21,729	77.5%	North Adams
Census Tract 9215	11.5	4.1	\$24,596	87.7%	North Adams
Census Tract 9221	7.3	-0.1	\$22,268	79.4%	Adams
Census Tract 9222	13.7	6.3	\$21,840	77.9%	Adams
Census Tract 9223	13.4	6	\$27,779	99.0%	Adams
Census Tract 9231	6.4	-1	\$30,223	107.7%	Cheshire
Census Tract 9241	6.7	-0.7	\$35,772	127.5%	Stockbridge
Census Tract 9251	7	-0.4	\$34,378	122.6%	Great Barrington
Census Tract 9261	3.5	-3.9	\$36,025	128.4%	Sheffield
Census Tract 9311	3.5	-3.9	\$28,391	101.2%	Clarksburg
Census Tract 9313	7.2	-0.2	\$27,163	96.8%	Florida / Savoy
Census Tract 9314	6.9	-0.5	\$28,930	103.1%	Peru / Windsor
Census Tract 9322	10.7	3.3	\$35,768	127.5%	Becket / Washington
Census Tract 9323	7.1	-0.3	\$29,255	104.3%	Hinsdale
Census Tract 9332	6.3	-1.1	\$40,127	143.1%	Monterey / Tyringham
Census Tract 9333	5.5	-1.9	\$33,966	121.1%	New Marlborough
Census Tract 9334	9.3	1.9	\$36,081	128.6%	Otis / Sandisfield
Census Tract 9342	3.9	-3.5	\$36,397	129.8%	West Stockbridge
Census Tract 9343	5.5	-1.9	\$42,485	151.5%	Alford / Egremont / Mount Washington
Census Tract 9351	5.9	-1.5	\$43,254	154.2%	Hancock / New Ashford / Richmond
Census Tract 9352	11.4	4	\$26,729	95.3%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9353	8.5	1.1	\$20,355	72.6%	North Adams

Source: American Community Survey 2008-2012


Note: Using the most recent ACS data for per capita median income and unemployment, a number of census tracts in Berkshire County meet EDA's economic distress criteria based upon per capita income. The qualifying census tracts are highlighted in yellow.

(1) & (2) see Section 2 (D) of the Report for more information on the threshold calculations based on EDA's criteria for determining if an area is economically distressed.


Appendix “C”


Economic Distress Criteria Map

Economic Distress Criteria

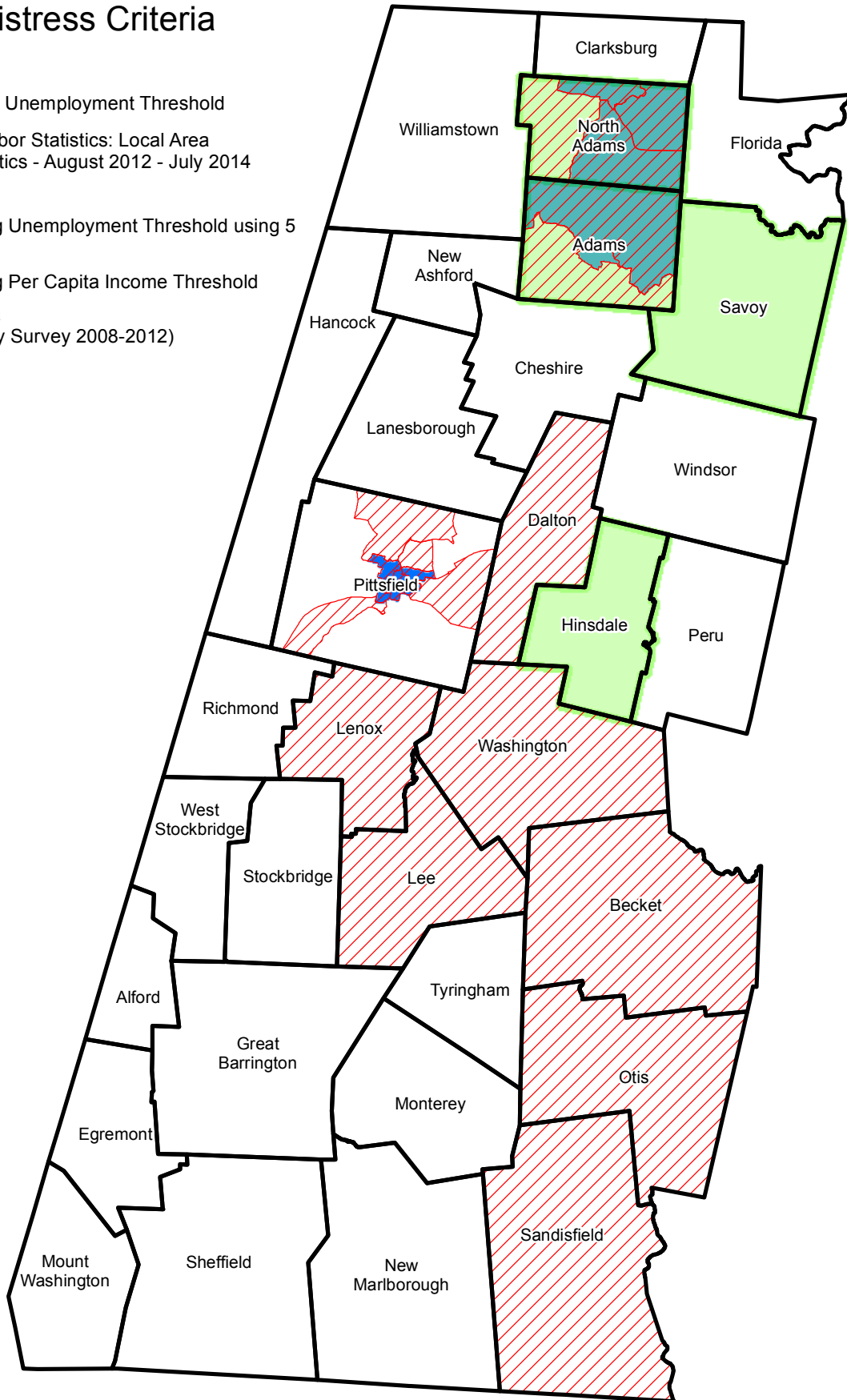
 Towns meeting Unemployment Threshold

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: Local Area Unemployment Statistics - August 2012 - July 2014

 Tracts Meeting Unemployment Threshold using 5 year ACS data

 Tracts Meeting Per Capita Income Threshold

Source: StatsAmerica (American Community Survey 2008-2012)



Appendix “D”

2014 Active Priority Projects Matrix

2014 ACTIVE PRIORITY PROJECTS - Economic Significance & Stage of Development/Implementation

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

KEY	BLUE TEXT = PHYSICAL PROJECT
	RED TEXT = PROGRAM, STUDIES, EDUCATION, OTHER

Appendix “E”

2014 Annual Priority Project Updates

ANNUAL PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES – 2014

*****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).

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).

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 municipally owned 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).

Project Name: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Brownfields Program

Location: Regional

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).

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).

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).

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

Project Name: First Street Common Park Rehabilitation Project

Location: City of Pittsfield

multipurpose court, landscaping improvements, park lighting and perimeter fencing is fully funded and will be completed in November 2014.

Project Name: Berkshire Museum 21st 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 museums 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 envelop & 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).

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 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

Project Name: Hancock Shaker Village Renovations

Location: City of Pittsfield, Town of Hancock

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 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).

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 Art's 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 Museum and Heritage State Park. (For additional information, see p. 27 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

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).

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

Project Name: Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway

Location: City of North Adams, Town of Adams

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 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).

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

Project Name: Berkshire Labor Market Blueprint

Location: Regional

Project Summary: This projects 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).

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 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 investment. (For additional information, see p. 29 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

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

Project Name: Industry Sector Initiatives

Location: Regional

Project Summary: The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board 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).

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).

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).

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 6th 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 *Wee Read Berkshire County* program. (For additional information, see p. 31 of the 2013 Berkshire CEDS Annual Report).

2014 Update: During fiscal year 2014, 1,200 6th grade students from 20 schools visited 4 college campuses; the Wee 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 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: 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. 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: 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

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 the current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and should commence after October 1, 2012.

South Street (Rte. 7/20) Improvements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 **2014 Update:** No significant progress to report. **2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

Route 8 Alternating Passing Lane (Cheshire/Lanesborough)

2014 Update: No significant progress to report.

2013 Update: No significant progress to report.

2012 Update: No significant progress to report.

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

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

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

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

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

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).

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).

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

Location: Town of Adams

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 7th, 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).

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 disinvested and 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:

2014 Update: No significant progress to report.

2013 Update: The site remains disinvested and 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:

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).

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).

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 1st 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 GE to PEDDA 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).

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:

2014 Update: The 2014 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:

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:

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 on these two properties.

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 - 2014 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).

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).

Project Name: New England Log Homes (NELH)

Location: Town of Great Barrington

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/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).

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 proposed project for the 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 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).

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 this summer. A non-profit entity now owns the Fairground 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 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 are 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).

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).

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).

2014 Update: In 2014 the Town will again be soliciting for proposals through an 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).

2014 Update: Project is fully designed and the city still needs to obtain \$1 million dollars 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. Half of the funding has been authorized to be borrowed by the City Council. 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).

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, 30th 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).

Project Update(s):

Project Name: Adaptive Reuse of Mills

Location: Regional

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).

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 – 2014 Update: No significant progress to report. Estimated cost of planning study is \$50,000. In 2016 the project is expected to be implemented.

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 -2014 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).

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).

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).

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:

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:

2014 Update: No update provided.

Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative

Location: Regional

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. The program will have an educational component -including but not limited to public speaking, business planning, and funding options- as well as a members-only benefit such as coaching services.

2012 Update: No significant progress to report.

Creative lives Here Initiative:

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. According to a January 2013 survey conducted by Berkshire Creative, about 75% of all respondents agreed that Berkshire Creative has enabled the creative economy to be valued as a vital part of business and economic development, and 70% agreed that more emphasis has been placed on the economic impact of the Berkshire creative 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. Berkshire Creative continues to support growth of the creative economy and promote the "Creativity Lives Here" brand through its programs, events, and communications.

2012 Update: No significant progress to report.

Berkshire Creative Challenge:

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:

2014 Update: No update provided – remain 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).

2014 Update: No update provided

2013 Update: The 12th 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 11th 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):

Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative

Location: Regional

Creative Industry Workforce Pathways: 2014 Update: No update provided. **2012 - 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report.

Creative Education Initiative: 2014 Update: No update provided. **2012 - 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report.

Appendix "F"

2013-2014 CEDS Committee Members

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Last Updated - 09.18.14

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	
Doug Clark	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
		Total	9	11