



Southwest Region Planning Commission
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Agenda Item III

Date: June 3, 2020
To: Economic Development Advisory Committee
From: Staff

RE: Southwest Region CEDS: Project/Program Nominations

Background

The *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southwest New Hampshire* (CEDS) is a planning document that establishes goals, objectives and priority projects intended to guide regional economic development activities. Originally adopted by the EDAC in 2006, the CEDS has undergone periodic, partial revisions since . The last CEDS update occurred in 2015.

With EDAC's concurrence, SWRPC solicited nominations for consideration as CEDS priority projects and programs. Priority projects and programs include those that promote economic development and are well-aligned with CEDS goals and objectives. Inclusion in the CEDS may improve a priority project or program's eligibility for funding support and in some cases, including programs overseen by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, priority designation in the CEDS is a requirement.

SWRPC received 23 nominations for new priority projects and programs and staff has reviewed these according to the project scoring criteria outlined in the CEDS document. Project summaries - attached in the pages that follow - include scoring criteria and CEDS goals with which each nomination aligns. Summaries also include other information for EDAC's reference. One proposal, for Stone Mountain Business Park in Winchester, is already included in the CEDS, and was consequently not reviewed.

In reviewing nominations staff finds that they are well-aligned with CEDS scoring criteria and goals.

Recommendation

Approve nominations for designation as new priority projects and programs in the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southwest New Hampshire*.

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Winchester Street Redevelopment Project
Lead Entity:	Monadnock Economic Development Corporation
Project Location:	41 Winchester Street, Keene, NH
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	The project entails the lease of land from the University System of New Hampshire on which a subsidiary of MEDC will construct two new buildings that MEDC will lease to Keene State College (KSC). The \$28 million project will focus on job training, workforce development and the cultivation of public-private partnerships between KSC and precision manufacturing companies throughout the region.
Timeframe:	Construction commencing at the end of 2020 or early 2021.
Estimated Cost:	\$28 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities. <p>Proposal indicates strong coordination between the primary project partners: MEDC and Keene State College.</p>
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Arts and Culture Corridor
Lead Entity:	Monadnock Economic Development Corporation
Project Location:	Gilbo Avenue, starting at School Street, running east across Main Street, through the “Railroad Land” to Water Street, Keene, NH
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	<p>The goal of the project is to enhance the presence of arts and culture in downtown Keene. To implement this plan MEDC intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct at least three new structures including a covered pavilion on Gilbo Avenue, a new skate park and a mixed-use artist live and work building on the Railroad Land. • Work with the Monadnock Food Co-op to complete their expansion which will also result in a small outdoor performance venue within the existing amphitheater on the Railroad Land. • Purchase three existing buildings in proximity to Gilbo Avenue. Renovate one of these buildings to accommodate artist live and workspaces as well as an arts gallery, re-purpose the second building as a small (200 seats) indoor performance venue, and re-purpose the third building as a visitor center. • Purchase a portion of Gilbo Avenue from Saint James Street to Main Street from the City of Keene and close this section to vehicles in order to create an active and pedestrian friendly setting. • Purchase, redesign, and redevelop Railroad Square to extend the pedestrian mall/common area across Main Street from Gilbo Avenue and through the Railroad Land. • Create an operating entity to oversee scheduling of events, occupancy and upkeep of the facilities and common space within the corridor while also coordinating the purchase and placement of art throughout the development.
Timeframe:	Initial phases will commence in late 2020 through 2021 into 2022.
Estimated Cost:	\$30 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal C: Balance housing opportunities with trends in income, employment and community character. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Promoting the Monadnock Region
Lead Entity:	Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce
Project Location:	Cheshire County and western Hillsborough County
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	The Monadnock Region has the opportunity, through an initiative created and invested in by leaders from throughout the region, of creating a brand and marketing itself to people who represent potential employees, new businesses, students, visitors, and residents. In order to carry out the multi-year, multi-platform plan to brand and market the region, the Promoting the Region (PTR) task force seeks \$800,000 in marketing, business and philanthropic funds, payable over a four-year period. At the end of this four-year period, investors and donors will have reliable data to show whether, and by how much, the marketing has succeeded in attracting more employees, businesses, students, tourists, and others. The ultimate goal is to enable the Monadnock Region to improve its long-term economic prospects and ensure that the region is considered to be a destination of choice for business, study, tourism, and residence.
Timeframe:	The design of the project began its exploratory phase in early 2019, when it reached out to stakeholders throughout the Monadnock Region to form a "Promoting the Region" (PTR) taskforce to assess support of the concept. Considerable concept support was identified through community outreach, which led the way to project design and identification of a branding consultant/agency. The fundraising phase began in early 2020, but has been sidelined during the COVID-19 pandemic. Revised estimates are that the fundraising effort will ramp up again in May 2020, with the research and branding phases estimated to begin in the Fall of 2020, followed by the marketing/promoting phase in early-mid 2021.
Estimated Cost:	The estimated cost is \$200,000 per year, for four years = \$800,000 total.
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Safety and Program Space Improvements
Lead Entity:	Keene Senior Center
Project Location:	70 Court Street, Keene, NH
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	With approximately 20% of the people in Cheshire County age 65 or older and growing, many seniors are socially isolated. The Senior Center is committed to expanding capacity to reach more of them. The Senior Center currently has space and safety issues that limit its capacity. Approximately 40% of its potential program space is utilized for reception purposes due to the existing location of the handicapped access ramp, which does not meet current safety standards. This project involves relocating the entrance with a new handicapped access ramp built to current safety standards. Relocation of the entrance, along with a new interior hallway, will allow the program space to be increased by 67%, which will also become an important safety issue in an age where social distancing has become more critical.
Timeframe:	Phase 1 – Development of architectural conceptual drawings -completed 4/30/20. Phase 2 – Development of detailed drawings and bid documents – estimated completion date 5/15/20. Phase 3 – Construction – Estimated start date 6/1/20; estimated completion date 7/31/20.
Estimated Cost:	\$133,100
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	Aligned goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal F: Promote the concept of Regionalism
Other Comments:	Reducing social isolation can improve mental health and reduce healthcare costs.

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Broadband Expansion
Lead Entity:	Town of Jaffrey
Project Location:	Underserved areas of Jaffrey
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility
Project Overview:	Gap analysis of served/underserved areas; explore options of extending fiber optic; strengthens remote learning access and workforce training and development; provide economic development for small business and business star-ups and home-based workers; also investigate the opportunities for a regional cooperative of 2 or more towns to build out the infrastructure.
Timeframe:	2021-2022
Estimated Cost:	\$1-1.5 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities. • Goal F: Promote the concept of Regionalism.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Cold Stone Spring Public Water System
Lead Entity:	Town of Jaffrey
Project Location:	Jaffrey and Peterborough
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	<p>The Town of Jaffrey has been investigating areas of Town for the potential of a groundwater source since 1979. In summary, the Town has investigated a total of 38 surface and ground water supplies within the Town of Jaffrey. There has not been any new source potential found within Town. The Cold Stone Springs property, located in Sharon, New Hampshire, has been studied for development as a groundwater source since the 1970s. In 2007 approval was granted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for a private ground water supply as bottled spring water and municipal water supply. Permitting was renewed in 2013 for the purpose of public water supply. Total capacity for water withdrawal is 576,000 gpd with each well limited to no more than 288,000 gpd. In 2017 Barking Dog LLC approached the Towns of Peterborough and Jaffrey regarding the purchase of the Cold Stone Springs well properties. The towns have been working through an intermunicipal agreement for purchase and development of infrastructure related to the treatment and distribution of the supply.</p>
Timeframe:	2020-2023
Estimated Cost:	\$12.6 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal C: Balance housing opportunities with trends in income, employment and community character. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities. • Goal F: Promote the concept of Regionalism.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Gilbo Ave Utility Replacements in support of Arts and Culture Corridor
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Gilbo Avenue, Keene, NH
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	Replace existing aging underground utilities on Gilbo Ave (water, sewer and drain lines and systems) necessary to support the Arts and Culture Corridor.
Timeframe:	Currently scheduled in the FY21 – FY27 CIP for construction in FY21
Estimated Cost:	\$1,972,100
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Marlboro Street Corridor Improvements – Phase II
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Marlboro Street from Optical Avenue to Main Street including access to the Industrial Heritage Trail.
Stage of Development:	Implementation: project/program is ready to begin or has recently begun
Project Overview:	Marlboro St Phase II is the second phase of a project to improve this important corridor and encourage redevelopment in southeast Keene. The project is paired with zoning changes to encourage redevelopment of underutilized and brownfield properties. The design is based on a locally funded 2015 Complete Streets study. Improvements will address connectivity, walkability, pedestrian use, traffic flow, and enhance the appeal of the street and connect to the Industrial Heritage Trail. The project will be funded with a NHDOT Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Grant. Marlboro Street Phase I is currently under construction. Project is listed in NH Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan as Project #42515.
Timeframe:	NHDOT Funding for this project depends on the date design is completed. The earliest construction date is 2024. Design is currently underway with 100% City funds. Construction will be 80% Federal/20% City.
Estimated Cost:	\$726,100
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Winchester Street Reconstruction
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Winchester Street from the NH Route 101 roundabout to the bridge over the Ashuelot River. It includes reconstruction of the Winchester Street intersections with Key Road, Pearl Street, Island Street, and replacement of the red-listed Island Street Bridge.
Stage of Development:	Implementation: project/program is ready to begin and is scheduled to go out to bid in July 2020.
Project Overview:	Reconstruction of the street segment and intersections referenced in the project location. Project is listed in the NH Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan as Project #10309B.
Timeframe:	FY20 Design Completion, Construction FY20 and FY21
Estimated Cost:	\$7,917,000
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Parking Garage/Intermodal Transportation Center on Gilbo Ave.
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	North side of Gilbo Ave. between St James Street and School Street
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility
Project Overview:	Construct a multi-level parking structure and transportation center on Gilbo Ave. A recent parking study for downtown Keene showed a deficit of parking spaces to support existing business and events. The additional uses proposed by the Arts and Culture Corridor, expansion of the Colonial Theater and other activities will exacerbate this deficiency.
Timeframe:	TBD
Estimated Cost:	\$13-18 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Public Wireless/Smart Cities in Downtown Area
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Downtown Keene including Keene State College.
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility
Project Overview:	Upgrades to utilities that are needed to work in conjunction with the Arts and Culture Corridor and its new businesses, public spaces and buildings. A key aspect of this is the introduction of public WiFi and broadband Internet access throughout the corridor and all of downtown.
Timeframe:	The Project does not have a specific timeline but is intended to be connected to the Arts and Culture Corridor project and associated City of Keene projects that support the MEDC proposal for Gilbo Avenue.
Estimated Cost:	\$1.9 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Expansion of Broadband Infrastructure to Unserved/Underserved Areas
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Hurricane Rd., Langley Rd., Daniels Hill Rd., Chesterfield Rd. in Keene
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility
Project Overview:	<p>The City of Keene has been in regular communication with residents who have no broadband Internet options in their homes. Providers of cable, fiber and wireless Internet services have declined to provide broadband (25Mb/3Mb) service to these homes and opted to invest their resources in communities and neighborhoods where there are either seed funds such as State funding programs or where the density promises a greater ROI. This includes the incumbent local providers.</p> <p>The residents are authors, college students, primary school students, medical professionals, and others who have been left behind in the COVID-19 Stay at Home orders. Even under normal circumstances, homework assignments, virtual meetings and consultations, online sales, and other basic activities are not possible with the lack of broadband options to these homes.</p> <p>City staff discussed possible options with Consolidated Communications, Spectrum and WiValley and received cost estimates for deployment of fiber to the utility poles along the identified streets where broadband is not currently available. The cost does not include customer premise equipment, residential drops, or labor which may be included by select providers in the best case scenario.</p>
Timeframe:	TBD
Estimated Cost:	\$392,702
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal C: Balance housing opportunities with trends in income, employment and community character. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Transportation Heritage Trail
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Cheshire Rail Trail, Keene
Stage of Development:	Continuation of the existing Cheshire Rail Trail between Eastern Avenue and the Swanzey Town line with bridge crossings of Route 101, Branch River (using the existing Stone Arch Bridge) and Swanzey Factory Rd.
Project Overview:	The Transportation Heritage Trail will be the next phase in the ongoing development of Keene’s trail system. This section will begin at the terminus of the previously completed Industrial Heritage Trail (IHT). While the IHT celebrates Keene’s history as an industrial and manufacturing hub, the Transportation Heritage Trail (THT) will pay homage to the evolution of transportation technology through the decades. The central feature of this project will be the adaptive reuse of three historic bridges. To the west, the trail will reuse the Robert J. Prowse Memorial Bridge to cross NH Route 101. This bridge previously carried traffic over Interstate 93 in Londonderry and is being made available for reuse by the NHDOT. In the center, the trail will feature the existing Stone Arch Bridge, which will be rehabilitated with historically appropriate railings. The City anticipates reusing Island Street Bridge (a Baily truss bridge) to carry the trail over Swanzey Factory Road. Along the trail, the historic bridges will form the context for educational signage and static displays related to the history of transportation and how transportation systems have shaped today’s built environment. This project will be coordinated with the Town of Swanzey and their funding plan to improve the rail trail south of Swanzey Factory Rd.
Timeframe:	Design in FY 24 and construction in FY26 and FY27
Estimated Cost:	\$2.5 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Lower Winchester St. Reconstruction
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Lower Winchester St. from the Route 101 Roundabout to the Swanzey town line.
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	The City has several gateway entrances into the City. One of these gateways is Winchester Street from the Swanzey Town Line to the NH Rte. 101 Roundabout. This is an area of commercial, residential and industrial activities. This gateway has not been upgraded in over 30 years. This project would involve the reconstruction of Winchester including improvements to the eight intersections along the corridor, reconfiguration of traffic lanes to improve traffic flow, the construction of sidewalks and improvements for bicycle facilities. There would be landscaping improvements to highlight the business corridor. The Winchester Street Bridge over Ash Swamp Brook would also be replaced as part of this project. The proposed funding is an 80% State with 20% coming from the City of Keene. There will also be Municipal Owned Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement (MOBRR) and State Aid Bridge Funding for the replacement of the Winchester Street bridge over Ash Swamp Brook.
Timeframe:	Currently scheduled in the FY21 – FY27 CIP for construction in FY25 and FY26
Estimated Cost:	\$9,056,295
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Recreation Center Renovation
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	312 Washington Street
Stage of Development:	Preliminary: project goals/objectives confirmed, partners committed, gathering resources
Project Overview:	<p>The Keene Recreation Center, last renovated in 1987, is an essential facility for the City and its residents. In addition to the sports programs for youth and adults, the Center serves a vast array of residents, young and old, in their drive to stay healthy and active and pursue various recreation activities. Following a Feasibility Study in 2017 looking at the addition of a Senior Center at the Recreation Center site, the City undertook investigations into improvements to the existing Rec Center facility. It identified a number of critical repairs and improvements including renovation of the Multi-purpose Room. The multipurpose room serves as a true community space, hosting programs from square dancing, archery, taekwondo, craft fairs, and a municipal polling location, just to name a few. This room also serves as an Emergency Shelter space for the community and its residents. This much-used room needs extensive repair to the floor, walls and windows and installation of insulation and other energy conservation measures. Repair and upgrade to the lobby, bringing the public restrooms to current ADA standards and replacement of boilers is also proposed. All designs will incorporate the City’s goals for the use of 100% renewable energy by 2030 (electricity) and heating/cooling (2050). Because the Rec Center serves as an Emergency Shelter and POD (Point of Distribution) location for Cheshire Medical Center, the proposed improvements are a critical part of the City preparedness for natural disasters and pandemics such as Covid19.</p>
Timeframe:	Currently scheduled in the FY21 – FY27 CIP for construction in FY24
Estimated Cost:	\$1.5 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Patricia T. Russell Park
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Patricia T. Russell Park, Carpenter St. Keene
Stage of Development:	Implementation: project/program is ready to begin or has recently begun
Project Overview:	Patricia T. Russell Park, located outside the downtown footprint along Beaver Brook and the Cheshire Rail Trail, plays a significant role in restoring recreational opportunities to the east side of the City. Through a public process of meetings and online discussion boards with the Conway School of Landscape Design, a definitive statement from the community highlighted that the park needs to be developed for multigenerational use to create a safe place for recreation. Specific design elements include a playground, multiple seating opportunities, walking trail, parking, pavilion, vegetated buffer along the brook, connection to the rail trail, and an athletic field. The field would remain the centerpiece of the park and would require a delineated pitch to improve the storm drainage back to Beaver Brook. These enhancements to the field will provide a quality turf experience for the multiple user groups that currently utilize the field. The vision for this project will create a valuable asset for the east side and the entire community. In 2020, the design phase will kick off a yearlong process toward development through a steering committee and multiple opportunities for public engagement. In addition to City support, funding through grants will be sought through various local, state and federal resources.
Timeframe:	Currently scheduled in the FY21 – FY27 CIP for construction in FY22
Estimated Cost:	\$1.3 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Keene Downtown Improvements
Lead Entity:	City of Keene
Project Location:	Downtown Keene focused on Main Street and surrounding commercial areas
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility.
Project Overview:	Downtown Keene is the economic engine for Keene and the region and represents the spirit and place of Keene. It is important to continue investment to support the businesses and community and keep the area relevant and vibrant. The infrastructure, telecommunication, electrical, water, sewer, and stormwater date back over 120 years. The last major downtown revitalization occurred in 1988. Downtown has expanded into the Railroad Street area to 93rd Street, south to the Main/Marlboro/Winchester intersection and is projected to expand into Roxbury Street and Gilbo Avenue areas. The features that give downtown its unique spirit need to be considered when expanding the downtown area. This project provides funding for design work that includes the review of the various infrastructure components and building services along with assessing function and aesthetics interest. In addition to infrastructure replacement and other improvements, the funding will include improvements to existing treatments along Main Street or expanding the "Downtown Vibe" into new areas and coordination with the Arts and Culture Corridor project.
Timeframe:	Design in FY21 and Construction from FY22 to FY25
Estimated Cost:	\$2.4 million
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal B: Prepare for future development • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Agriculture Business Development
Lead Entity:	Cheshire County Conservation District
Project Location:	Cheshire County
Stage of Development:	Implementation: project/program is ready to begin or has recently begun
Project Overview:	The goal of this program is to strengthen agricultural businesses by improving profitability. This will be done through increased access to necessary equipment and infrastructure and farm viability planning assistance. Farm Viability planning will include business planning, succession planning, and market development. This work will ensure agriculture is a growing sector of the Monadnock Region's economy.
Timeframe:	Work is ongoing. Infrastructure Development work currently includes a shared agricultural equipment program and grants for on-farm infrastructure & equipment investments. We are looking to expand this program and explore opportunities for additional infrastructure in 2021. Business planning and Succession planning started in 2020. and the Business Development training for agricultural businesses will be enhanced in 2021.
Estimated Cost:	Overall program costs are undefined. The program does have financial support, though we will be seeking additional funds in 2021. Current support includes the following: USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant - \$43,000 in 2021 grant for business planning Monadnock Food Co-op - funding through an annual donation and contributions from patrons of approximately \$15,000 for on the farm infrastructure development You Have Our Trust Fund through the NH Charitable Foundation - \$90,000 gift for business and succession planning and farmland conservation, \$10,000 gift for investments in on-farm infrastructure development
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	Aligned goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal A: Maintain a high-quality labor force. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Fire Pond Infrastructure Development to Support Business Development
Lead Entity:	Town of Swanzey
Project Location:	Town of Swanzey
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility
Project Overview:	The Town will work with private partners in the development of strategically located fire ponds in the community to provide water necessary for fire suppression needs. The development of this infrastructure will directly assist in new businesses development and expansion of existing businesses. Depending on the particular circumstances, this project may take the form of the Town's direct involvement in designing and constructing a fire pond or the development of a tool kit that can be used by a group of businesses for developing a fire pond.
Timeframe:	1-3 years
Estimated Cost:	TBD
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	West Swanzey Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvements and Expansion
Lead Entity:	Town of Swanzey
Project Location:	West Swanzey Route 10 corridor from Keene municipal line to Winchester municipal line, with an emphasis on the village center of West Swanzey.
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility
Project Overview:	Expansion and improvement of public water and sewer infrastructure along the Route 10 corridor in West Swanzey to help support existing businesses and facilitate economic development. It is anticipated that this project would include the completion of an engineering feasibility study and the eventual construction of the improvements recommended by that study. At this time, the public water infrastructure within the Village of West Swanzey is owned and operated by a private entity.
Timeframe:	TBD
Estimated Cost:	TBD
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	The Local Crowd Monadnock
Lead Entity:	Monadnock Food Co-op
Project Location:	Southwest NH
Stage of Development:	Implementation: project/program is ready to begin or has recently begun
Project Overview:	<p>The Local Crowd (TLC) Monadnock is a community-based crowdfunding program that empowers individuals to support the businesses, organizations and initiatives that grow wealthier and healthier communities in our region. TLC Monadnock leverages the power of crowdfunding to cultivate a stronger ecosystem of investors, service providers and local economy champions investing in a local, green and fair economy in the Monadnock Region.</p> <p>TLC Monadnock began in 2017 as part of a two-year study to build support networks for entrepreneurs in rural communities. During the pilot, they focused on five communities most economically impacted by the closure of Vermont Yankee, a nuclear power plant.</p> <p>TLC Monadnock gave preference to campaigns aligned with regional master plans that contributed to a healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable community. They supported efforts to build more resilient communities, including campaigns that focused on sustainable agriculture, local art, renewable energy, and alternative transportation. As of January 2020, TLC Monadnock raised \$126,567 from 1,017 supporters for 18 crowdfunding campaigns.</p> <p>When the pilot ended in 2018, TLC Monadnock was one of four communities invited to participate in a research study called TLC 4SE (pronounced Force) Incubator funded by the National Science Foundation. This project built on the initial success and supported social entrepreneurs through crowdfunding, education and additional support. TLC Monadnock also provided additional support to campaign leaders from underserved communities and campaigns addressing systemic community issues in innovative ways. TLC Monadnock also expanded to include all towns in the Monadnock Region.</p>
Timeframe:	Ongoing
Estimated Cost:	The current budget is \$20,000 a year. This budget includes the costs associated with hosting, administering and promoting the platform and for providing direct assistance to campaign creators.
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities.
Other Comments:	

2020 CEDS Priority Projects and Programs Proposal Review Sheet

Project Name:	Swanzy Broadband Initiative
Lead Entity:	Town of Swanzy
Project Location:	Town of Swanzy
Stage of Development:	Exploratory: concept development, discussions w/key project partners, assessing feasibility
Project Overview:	The Town of Swanzy will assess current broadband coverage within the community and develop and implement a strategy for extending the broadband network to underserved residential and business customers.
Timeframe:	1-3 years
Estimated Cost:	TBD
Notes on Aligned Goals/Criteria	<p>Aligned goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal B: Prepare for future development. • Goal D: Strengthen the economic base. • Goal E: Support climate for helping business to create a diverse range of employment opportunities. • Goal F: Promote the concept of Regionalism
Other Comments:	