Building Economic Resilience in Your Community: Linking Economic Development and Hazard Mitigation Planning

March 17, 2015
2:00—3:15 pm ET
Today’s Presentation

- Who we are
- Why link economic development and hazard mitigation planning?
- Overview of the CEDS
- Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Linking the Two Planning Processes
- Implementing the Recommendations
- Q & A
About Us

Megan McConville
Program Manager

Josh Human
Director

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Project Manager

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Regional Planning Manager
To strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, partnerships, and solutions of the nation’s regional development organizations.
National membership organization for the network of over 520 regional development organizations (RDOs) throughout the U.S.

RDOs are also known as Councils of Government, Regional Planning Commissions, Economic Development Districts, and by other names.

They strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional strategies focusing on economic and workforce development, transportation, infrastructure, business lending, and more.
NADO Research Foundation

Founded in 1988, the NADO Research Foundation is the non-profit research affiliate of NADO.

Shares best practices from small metropolitan areas and rural America through training, peer exchange, research, and other capacity-building activities.

Focus Areas:
- Regional Resilience
- Rural Transportation
- Sustainable Communities
- Economic Development
- Organizational Support
Projects we’re involved in...

- Sustainable Communities Capacity Building Program (EPA/HUD)
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Development (FEMA)
  
  Local, state, and university in accordance with DMA 2000

- Recovery/Resiliency Planning (KyEM/EDA/HUD)

- Statewide Disaster Planning System Development (KyEM/EDA/HUD)
  
  Community Hazard Assessment & Mitigation Planning System (CHAMPS)

- G.I.S. Based Vulnerability Assessments

- Community Planning Guidance for Pandemic (DHS)
Center for Hazards Research and Policy Development

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

Community Guidance for Multi-Sector Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Resilience System Planning
State-level Community Recovery Plan

Community Recovery Planning Guide

Executive Order for Council for Community Resiliency & Recovery
The Sustainable Communities Learning Network

- UofL Center for Environmental Policy and Management (CEPM) leads a team comprised of:
  - Members of the Environmental Finance Network including:
    - New England Environmental Finance Center
    - Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland
    - Southwest Environmental Finance Center
    - University of Louisville Center for Hazards Research and Policy Development
    - University of Louisville Center for Infrastructure Research
  - Our team’s technical assistance focuses on:
    - Building capacity of nearly 400 Sustainable Communities and EPA grantees
    - Fostering peer-sharing to encourage coordination of sustainability practices
    - Helping grantees integrate best practices into their planning efforts
Webinar Logistics

- Please type any questions you have for the speakers in the question box on the side panel throughout the presentation.

- The webinar is being recorded and will be posted along with the PowerPoint slides on the NADO website (www.nado.org) and the Sustainable Communities Learning Network (www.sclearningnetwork.org).

- Please contact Megan McConville (mmcconville@nado.org) or Andrea Pompei Lacy (andrea.pompei@louisville.edu) if you have any questions after the presentation.
Why link economic development and hazard mitigation planning?
Our Definition of Economic Resilience

The ability of a region or community to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from any shocks to its businesses and overall economy, including:

• Natural disasters or hazards (i.e. flooding)
• The closure of a large employer (i.e. a factory, power plant)
• The decline of an important industry (i.e. textiles)
• Changes in the workforce (i.e. youth outmigration, skill specialization)
• Climate change (i.e. increasing temperatures, decreasing water availability)
One Approach to Building Economic Resilience: Coordinating CEDS and Hazard Mitigation Plans

**CEDS**
Contributes to effective economic development through locally-based planning process.

**Mitigation**
Effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impacts of hazards.

**Economic Resilience**
Benefits of Plan Coordination

- Supports business and economic development that is safe and resilient to known hazards.
- Builds capacity and relationships that can lead to a quicker, stronger recovery in the event of a disaster.
- Makes each plan more effective and likely to achieve its objectives.
- Promotes creative thinking about new funding sources for programs and projects.
- Allows leaders to market the region to businesses as safe and prepared for future disasters.
Overview of the CEDS
What is a CEDS?

“Simply put, a CEDS [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy] is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. A CEDS is the result of a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region.”

-EDA CEDS Content Guidelines, www.eda.gov/ceds
Updated CEDS Content Guidelines

• Content Guidelines: [www.eda.gov/ceds](http://www.eda.gov/ceds)

• NADO webinar: [www.nado.org/recording-now-available-for-ceds-content-guidelines-webinar/](http://www.nado.org/recording-now-available-for-ceds-content-guidelines-webinar/)
• A **summary background** explaining the current economic condition of the region and potential for future development activities;

• A **SWOT analysis** that identifies and analyzes the region’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats;

• A **strategic direction and action plan** with detailed goals, objectives, and proposed projects built off of the summary background and SWOT analysis; and

• An **evaluation framework** guiding the implementation of the strategy.
Integrating resilience into the CEDS can take multiple forms.

- Analysis of regional vulnerabilities in SWOT assessment;
- Inclusion of regional disaster preparedness and recovery efforts;
- Strategies to diversify the economy and/or realign the workforce to support emerging industries;
- Resilience objectives built off of statewide initiatives or related regional planning efforts;
- Or, all of the above.
Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning
Why mitigation?

Mandates a Plan

Communities must have an approved plan in order to be eligible for Post-Disaster HMGP funding (projects and planning).

Establishes a process

What hazards affect our community?
What can we do to reduce losses from events?

Enables multi-sector participation

Encourages stakeholder involvement at all levels from initial planning to implementation of hazard mitigation activities

Enables community representation

Encourages equitable planning processes by including stakeholder involvement of vulnerable populations.

Mitigation contributes to more resilient communities
Benefits of Hazard Mitigation Planning

To allow the community to commit to a planning framework that leads to development patterns that do not increase risks from known hazards OR leads to redevelopment that reduces risk from known hazards.
Elements of a Hazard Mitigation Plan

A well-constructed HMP should include the following elements:

- An inclusive **Planning Process** that allows for equitable representation by diverse community groups;

- A **Risk Assessment** conducted to determine the potential impacts of hazard to the people, economy, built, and natural environments of the community;

- A **Mitigation Strategy** that contains an action plan for how the community will reduce potential losses as identified in the risk assessment; and

- A **Plan Maintenance** process that establishes an approach to track the plan’s implementation progress.
## Elements of a Hazard Mitigation Plan

### Sample Planning Process Steps:

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*Table Source: Local Mitigation Plan Development Timeline, CHR.*
Elements of a Hazard Mitigation Plan

Use assessment results to drive other planning initiatives.

- Identifying vulnerable areas
- Target action areas
**Elements of a Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**Natural Hazard** - source of harm or difficulty created by a meteorological, environmental, or geological event.

**Exposure** - the people, structures, facilities, and systems that have value to the community.

**Vulnerability** - characteristics of community assets that make them susceptible to damage from a given hazard.

*Figure Source: Modified from FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook as adapted from U.S. Geological Survey and Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience Models.*
The below table is an example of a format used to organize mitigation action items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Hazards Addressed</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Offices Responsible</th>
</tr>
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<td>1.2.1</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Conduct outreach with the land use planning and development community for the purpose of incorporating mitigative building and development best practices into existing plans, policies, and procedures.</td>
<td>Emergency Management Code Enforcement Planning Building Inspection Homebuilder's Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table Source: Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2011.*
Convening a steering committee to ensure plan implementation and identify areas of continued collaboration will be helpful for maintaining the HMP.

Photo Source: CHR
Linking the Two Planning Processes
Comparing Plan Components

CEDS
Contributes to effective economic development through locally-based planning process.

Mitigation
Effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impacts of hazards.

Economic Resilience
Comparing Plan Components

CEDS
Contributes to effective economic development through locally-based planning process.

• Summary Background
• SWOT Analysis
• Strategic Direction/Action Plan
• Evaluation Framework

Economic Resilience
Comparing Plan Components

- Planning Process
- Risk Assessment
- Mitigation Strategy
- Plan Maintenance

**Mitigation**
Effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impacts of hazards.

**Economic Resilience**
Recommendations for Planning Process

• Include economic development and business partners, such as:
  • City and county economic developers;
  • Owners/managers of small, medium, and large businesses;
  • Chamber of Commerce representatives;
  • Small business development professionals; and
  • Insurance providers.

• Review CEDS and other economic development plans, projects, and programs.

• Establish a Regional Resilience Council
Incorporate economic variables into the risk assessment model:

- Business locations;
- Centers of economic activity;
- Critical infrastructure for economic development; and
- Age of commercial building stock.

Supplement with a qualitative analysis of economic risks.

- Gather feedback from stakeholders
- Gather information on specific risks to major industry clusters identified in the CEDS.
Flood Resilience Score:

The Hazard Resilience Score Maps combine areas that have lower resilience levels with areas that have high hazard vulnerabilities. These maps should be used to address strategies toward building more resiliency in specific areas that are vulnerable to specific hazard types.
Incorporate strategies into future plans:

- Target new development to low-risk areas;
- Preserve and enhance open space and other natural resources;
- Adopt and enforce building codes and development standards;
- Retrofit major roadways in floodprone areas;
- Install back up power generation at critical facilities; and
- Provide information to agricultural entrepreneurs, extension agents, and small business development specialists.
Recommendations for Mitigation Strategy

• Work with local emergency managers, Chamber of Commerce, and Small Business Development Centers to offer hazard vulnerability audits to small businesses;

• Use existing programs and networks to facilitate business-to-business mitigation mentoring;

• Development agreements with alternative water providers; and

• Offer expanded development rights to developers and building owners in hazard areas for performing mitigation retrofits.
Form an implementation steering committee that includes at least one economic development representative;

Continue to coordinate CEDS and HMPs through the maintenance process and identify areas for alignment in future plans;

Align five-year update cycles so they are on the same schedule; and

Create database to track progress on mitigation actions and projects.
Tap Into Hazard Mitigation Stakeholders’ Knowledge

- Engage hazard mitigation planning team members, emergency managers, land use planners, floodplain administrators, public works staff, and others with expertise on natural hazards in your CEDS planning process.
- Include a hazard mitigation stakeholder on the CEDS strategy committee
- Conduct targeted outreach to hazard mitigation stakeholders to gather feedback on goals and strategies
• Engage emergency managers, land use planners, and others familiar with critical infrastructure and hazards in your SWOT analysis, or conduct a separate SWOT with those stakeholders.

• Use the HMP risk assessment to identify natural hazard threats to include in the SWOT analysis.
  – Use risk assessment maps as visual aids to inform discussions during the SWOT analysis process.

• Consider threats related to the impacts of climate change on the region.

• Consider the secondary and tertiary threats related to the interaction of natural hazards and climate change with the regional economy.
  – Threats to individual businesses
  – Supply chain vulnerabilities
  – Industry-specific threats

• Include strengths and opportunities related to resilience.
• Incorporate strategic direction and actions that flow from the SWOT and risk assessment results.

• Strategies should strive to achieve multiple benefits when possible, and avoid contradicting each other at least.
Summary Background

- Write the summary background after performing the SWOT analysis and developing the economic vision for the region.
- Point to relevant key findings of the SWOT and risk assessment, highlighting the potential impacts of natural hazards on regional economic drivers.

CEDS
- Demographic and/or socioeconomic data;
- Environmental, geographic, climatic, cultural, and/or natural resource profiles;
- Infrastructure assets that relate to economic development including water, sewer, communications, energy distribution, and transportation systems;
- Emerging or declining clusters and their past, present, and projected impacts on the region’s competitive advantage and economic development capacity;
- The relationship of the regional economy to the economy of the broader area or state, with particular regard to local advantages and disadvantages;
- Factors that directly affect economic performance in the region such as workforce availability and preparedness, state and local laws, financial resources, energy costs, and land use patterns; and
- Other factors that relate to economic performance such as housing, health services, public safety, and educational, cultural, and recreational resources.
Implementing the Recommendations
About the Kerr-Tar Region

Quick Facts on Kerr-Tar Regional Council

- Five county region in the North Carolina Piedmont, north of Research Triangle Park (RTP)
- 21 local government members
- Serve as a staff extension of our local governments, also:
  - Transportation planning
  - Alternative energy/fuels
  - Mobility management
  - Hazard mitigation planning
The 2014 work plan tasked updating a hazard mitigation plan for city of Roxboro and Person County into a multi-jurisdictional plan.

NADO Research Foundation and the Center for Hazard and Policy Research worked with Kerr Tar to develop a technical memo on syncing hazard mitigation planning and CEDS activities to foster improved community resiliency.
Implementing the Recommendations

• Broader engagement strategies – Reaching out to non-traditional stakeholders, particularly small business owners
• Business continuity planning outreach – Educating our communities on the impacts of short and long term natural and man made hazards
• Establish a resiliency council – Build regional dialogue between planners, emergency services, economic developers, and citizens-at-large
• Build a case for resiliency in other planning documents – Provide tailored research and reference information for easy-to-make resiliency planning in local government comprehensive and land-use plan updates.
Questions?

Please type your questions in the question box on the side of your screen.

The webinar recording and slides will be available at www.nado.org and www.sclearningnetwork.org (for SCLN members).

Resources:
• EDA CEDS Content Guidelines: www.eda.gov/ceds/
• NADO/EDA CEDS Content Guidelines webinar: www.nado.org/recording-now-available-for-ceds-content-guidelines-webinar/
• NADO CEDS Resilience Library: www.nado.org/resources/ceds-library
• FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook: www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31598