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November 15, 2018

TO: Local Units of Government, Economic Development Organizations, Interested Parties

FROM: Peter Van Steen, Transportation Planner 

SUBJECT: **2019 Call for Projects Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update**

The CUPPAD Regional Commission is presently in the process of developing an update to its regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report. This report, submitted to the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), includes a listing of economic development projects within the six-county area. **We are asking for your nomination of projects to be included on the regional economic development project list. We are seeking projects that are both infrastructure/developmental or non-developmental/ planning in nature. Projects that are listed the 2018 list will be included on the 2019 list, unless completed or the community tells us otherwise.**

We have aligned our CEDS effort with the Central UP Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI), thus projects selected by the Regional Prosperity Alliance will also be included in the CEDS update.

The CEDS identify projects that could possibly be funded with federal and/or state dollars through either the EDA or other federal or state agencies. Projects that create jobs, are innovative, encourage partnerships, encourage collaborative funding and involve a collaborative effort between communities have greater potential of being funded than projects that do not. Additionally, projects should be able to demonstrate local investment i.e. obtain adequate matching funds.

EDA funds must be expended on projects owned by non-profits or by governmental units and should provide service to more than one business (example: A water main that will provide service to more than one business may qualify for EDA funding. A water lead serving only one property would not qualify for EDA funding.). However, since other federal and state agencies may use the CEDS as acceptable regional planning documents, any project that creates jobs, encourages economic development or infrastructure improvements should be submitted.

**It is worth the effort to submit project nominations even if you do not intend to apply for an EDA grant, as you may seek grant funding from other sources, such as Rural Development. Those agencies will inquire of us if the project is on a Regional List. If the project is still in the planning stage, please submit the project with as much information as possible.**

Please complete the enclosed project nomination form detailing projects to be included in the 2019 CEDS Update and return to CUPPAD at our address: 2950 College Ave., Escanaba, MI 49829 or email to pvansteen@cuppad.org by **December 14, 2018**. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 906.786.9234.

Enclosure