The **Greater Lowell Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** is a guide for Greater Lowell's municipalities, nonprofits, agencies, education providers, and other strategic partners to enhance regional economic resiliency, sustainability, inclusivity, and success. It contributes to effective economic development in our communities through a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development planning process.

The CEDS can cover many types of economic development activities including, but not limited to, land use and permitting, housing, labor market and workforce development, water and wastewater infrastructure, education, healthcare, energy, marketing toward firms and visitors, supply chains, availability of capital, freight transportation, and, importantly, climate change, resiliency, and sustainability.

The **CEDS Committee** serves as

- A forum for discussion on these critical economic development topics
- A body that reviews documents such as the CEDS, its annual reports, and other economic development plans, and makes recommendations to the NMCOG Council, which adopts the plans
- A peer-exchange to coordinate economic development activities outside of the usual silos

The committee typically meets at 2 pm on the first Thursday of March, June, September, and December and additional days as needed. Meetings typically last from 1 to 1.5 hours and may be held via Zoom or at NMCOG offices in Lowell. The committee is always open to interested business owners, agency staff, and community members.

Each year, the Committee assists NMCOG staff in developing a **CEDS Annual Report**. This annual report includes a "Schedule of Goals" that include specific economic development activities NMCOG and partner agencies agree to coordinate on and work toward for the coming year. This prioritized activity list can also be used to support state and federal grant applications. The CEDS and its annual reports can be found at https://www.nmcog.org/ceds/

Committee members may be asked to review documents in advance of meetings, which is not expected to take more than five hours a year outside of meetings. Committee members may be also asked for updates related to CEDS activities to share with the group. Committee members are encouraged to suggest meeting topics or items of interest to NMCOG staff or to the committee as a whole.

There are no attendance or quorum requirements because the committee does not have policy-making power. However, if a committee member misses two meetings, NMCOG staff will reach out to determine if that member is still interested or having trouble with the meeting time or date.

Reach out to Christopher Glenn Hayes, AICP, Director of Housing and Economic Development, at chayes@nmcog.org with a statement of interest if you're interested in joining!