



# BRATTLEBORO DEVELOPMENT CREDIT CORPORATION

## 2024 SoVermont Zone CEDS Public Input Form

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on our 2024-2029 Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which outlines what goals, strategies and objectives should guide our work as a region for the next 5 years.

Input from Southern Vermonters -- including community volunteers, municipal leaders, business owners, and anyone else who is interested in shaping the direction of the region -- is critical to informing this important strategic plan that helps us achieve the vision of the [Southern VT Economic Development Zone](#): ***"In 2030, the Zone will be home to a resilient, creative, and inclusive community in which businesses and people thrive and prosper."***

Please review the draft CEDS [here](#), and share your thoughts with us below. You may also upload a document with notes and comments.

When possible, please include page numbers in your comments for easy reference.

Comments must be submitted by December 4, 2024.

### Name

alex  
First

lockie  
Last

### Email

alexjlockie@gmail.com

*We will use your email only to reach out with clarifying questions (if needed) unless you ask to be added to our mailing list.*

### Would you like to be added to the BDCC email list?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Already subscribed

### Do you live or work in Southern Vermont?

- ☒ Yes, I live here  
☐ Yes, I work here  
☐ Neither

### Town where you live

dummerston

**Occupation**

Editor

*Field or organization is helpful in understanding the range of professions and industries we're hearing from.*

**Community board or volunteer affiliations**

*For instance, planning commission or Meals on Wheels volunteer, if relevant. This is helpful in understanding the range of community perspectives behind the public input we receive.*

**Comments, reactions, and suggestions on the 2024-2029 draft CEDS**

The CEDs is great and obviously a lot of time and effort went into it. I'm not 100% sure of the context and purpose of this document, and I see how a broad conceptual document might make sense for lots of applications, but this one sure does lack specifics. Lots of "foster connection" and "continue to invest" action items that are not actionably specific.

My 2 cents: Southern Vermont is old and not diverse with a heavy tax burden. The few young enterprising people we have are often drawn to other areas. Drug and crime problems chase people away and prey upon the young people and working class people we need to staff businesses. Nobody can hire here, there's plenty of business ideas and no one to work the counter. Restaurants can't even open on Monday or Tuesday due to staffing issues.

The Southern Vermont Young Professionals programs work and are a hit. Fund them heavily, encourage them to do media like podcasting and video projects with local outfits like BCTV and 107.7FM. Tap into that local expertise to build a thriving local nightlife scene. Brattleboro doesn't need another apothecary and economic leaders shouldn't worry themselves with trying to make conditions right for twee speciality shops. How about a store that sells basic staple clothing for cheap? It might not be someone's "dream" or "passion" to sell bags of socks, but it would stop people from heading to Walmart in Hinsdale.

Have the chambers of commerce and other member orgs that contributed to CEDs reached out to Paul Belagor's operation? It might be time to invite big businesses and developers in and embrace their ideas for growth. The CEDs document places a lot of emphasis on abstract concepts and circular talk among nonprofits or government organizations. It's time to go "Shark Tank" mode.

If this isn't the venue to address crime and public drug use, I understand, but that needs to be addressed as part of the complete picture.

I don't think Southern Vermont is that unique besides the location and people all being so outrageously good looking. I think people want to make money and have places to spend it, like restaurants, bars and music/event venues. They want cheap places to live. They might tell you they don't want a cell phone tower built or a bunch of earth moved for a sewer system, but they desperately want dense, affordable housing and connectivity. The same people that complain about a cell tower will later privately be grateful when they can make a call in an emergency situation. Don't let excessive "community input" make the perfect the enemy of the good. No one complains about broken eggs if the omelette is good.

Thank you for the hard work you do and being open to comment.

Have a great day and please, find the young, inspired people among your ranks and empower them to try things.

*Please include page numbers when relevant for easy reference.*

**Optional Upload: Comments Document**

*If you'd prefer to type your comments in a document and upload them here, please feel free to do so.*