

# FY 2026 Regional Agency Mitigation Fund Grant Application

### **Application Instructions:**

- I. All applications <u>must</u> be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2026 grant round.
- II. Each Agency may only submit <u>ONE</u> application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. All attachments should directly follow the relevant project form.
- IV. Be sure to fill in all the information requested on the application. Applications that are left incomplete will not be accepted.
- V. All applications must submit a detailed scope of work and timeline for implementation of the project identified in the application.
- VI. All applications must contain appropriate backup materials that support the application.
- VII. The Grant Manager will be responsible for compiling the information for the quarterly reports and the submittal of the quarterly reports.
- VIII. The application must be signed by the agency's CEO or an individual with signatory authority.
- IX. The Regional Agency Grant is broken into three segments. Please only fill out the section relevant to your application.
  - a. Part A Regional Planning
  - b. Part B Regional Public Safety
  - c. Part C Regional Workforce Development
- X. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to <a href="MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov">MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov</a> or as a response to the COMMBUYS BID- BD245-1068-1068C-1068L-107735

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2026 Application Guidelines visit https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/ **Grant Manager Information:** 

Applicant: Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Vendor Code:

Name: Lizeth Gonzalez

Title: Director of Economic & Community Development

Email Address: lgonzalez@srpedd.org

Telephone: 508-824-1367

Address: 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780

## **Budget Summary**

Use the space below to provide an overview of all projects to be covered by this funding. You may add as many items as is pertinent to your application (you can add rows by right clicking on the row and selecting "add row"). Please provide a category, name, brief description, and amount for each item. Please use the appropriate category below for your agency.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount			
A. Regional Planning	Plainridge Park Regional Mobility Network Analysis	SRPEDD will conduct a mobility and transportation analysis to better understand regional commute patterns — identifying from where Plainridge Park Casino visits originate — to gain an updated and more nuanced understanding of localized impacts to the Category 2 region, including the communities of Attleboro, Foxborough, Mansfield, North Attleboro, Plainville, and Wrentham.  The Plan will utilize these findings to offer mitigative solutions that address potential traffic increases related to Plainridge Park Casino visits. These solutions will help meet the needs of Category 2 communities, while also improving the commuting experience to PPC for staff and visitors.				
B. Regional Public Safety						
C. Workforce Development						
	Total Request \$235,000					

Are you requesting a waiver for any program requirement?  $\square$  Yes  $\square$  No

## **Applicant Certification**

I. If yes, you must fill out a CMF Regional Agency Waiver Form. The waiver form can be found as Appendix F to the RFR on COMMBUYS or online at <a href="https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/">https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/</a>. Applications without a completed waiver form will not be considered for a waiver.

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.

As Lands	_ 1/30/2025
Signature:	Date:
Lizeth Gonzalez, Director of Economic and Community Development	
Name and Title of Signatory:	

Part A-Regional Planning - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, drawings etc.

Project Name:					
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.					
Name: Lizeth Gonzalez	Name:				
Title: Director of Economic and Community	Title:				
Development					
Department: Comprehensive Planning	Department:				
Email Address: <u>lgonzalez@srpedd.org</u>	Email Address:				
Telephone: 508-824-1367	Telephone:				
Address: 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780	Address:				

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact and that the issue is regional in nature (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

Gaming establishments provide both economic benefits and drawbacks to their nearby communities. According to the communities surrounding Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), the casino serves as a magnet for patrons that may not otherwise visit the region. According to research undertaken by the Gaming Commission, the operation of PPC generated approximately \$176 -\$186 million annually, largely from Massachusetts residents who would have otherwise gambled out-of-state. Most of this revenue stayed in Massachusetts, resulting in 2,417 net new jobs, \$143.7 million in personal income, and \$362.4 million in economic activity.

Alongside these distinct benefits, PPC and its neighboring communities likely experience increased traffic, and have expressed traffic concerns — with a 9% increase in traffic volume and a 40% increase in traffic complaints in the years shortly after PPC's opening (Christopher W. Bruce MGC Report Jan 14, 2018; SEIGMA Fact Sheet, June 2019). Increased traffic is also typically associated with increased air pollution, congestion, and safety issues.

While these real and / or perceived traffic impacts are typical alongside any economic generator, Plainville and the nearby Category 2 Communities have a unique opportunity, through a community-led process, to address transportation-oriented traffic, safety, and environmental concerns while beautifying and clarifying circulation to and from the PPC for residents, as well as local and regional visitors to PPC.

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

SRPEDD, in collaboration with municipalities within the Category 2 region, would:

- (a) pursue an in-depth transportation analysis to gain a deeper understanding of the routes local and regional commuters take to the PPC;
- (b) identify locations for traffic and safety mitigation strategies; and
- (c) propose ideas for future, low-cost, and actionable pilot projects alongside more permanent, long-term solutions.

The project will contain three major phases:

- (1) a network analysis of trips generated, and vehicle miles travelled to the casino;
- (2) detailed data analysis and public outreach to better understand objective data and commuter sentiment for roads that absorb the most trips; and
- (3) strategic recommendations for improvements to these key thoroughfares, including safety, appearance, environmental improvements, such as tree plantings, and appropriate wayfinding/branding for PPC.

Altogether, these activities take steps to address the traffic-related impacts from Plainridge Park Casino referenced in Section I.

#### Phase I: Network Analysis

This first phase will utilize a combination of data (cellphone data, zip code data, license plate surveying, and survey results) to better understand commuters' experience, on-the-ground traffic counting, existing Gaming Commission research, and other complementary data sources to identify the general area (Town and/or Zip Code) from which individuals travel to PPC. Utilizing Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Network Analysis capabilities, SRPEDD will analyze the likely path of travel from the most significant travel origin points. From this travel route analysis, SRPEDD will be able to identify critical roads that experience higher traffic volumes related to PPC business operations.

#### Phase II: Outreach and Analysis

The second phase of the project will include presentations of the findings from Phase I to key stakeholder groups and the public to gather feedback related to which roads experience increased trips, the potential traffic and safety concerns individuals may have, and potential strategic interventions that individuals feel would benefit these routes. The project team will use this phase to identify major conflict points for traffic, safety, and potential air quality impact (with a nexus to PPC determined as a function of any potential increased traffic volume). The project team will then utilize this data to offer a range of potential interventions through qualitative surveying, a firm understanding of best practices, and commitment towards addressing factors with a direct nexus to the PPC.

#### Phase II: Recommendations

The third phase will build from the data gathered in the initial two phases, integrating best practices alongside community recommendations, local knowledge, and the on-the-ground, site specific research to identify temporary, short-term, and inexpensive recommendations to pilot improvements along critical corridors, as well as long term permanent recommendations that will provide improved

commuter experiences, increased safety, improved environmental outcomes, and ultimately a more beautiful and pleasant visit to major thoroughfares leading to PPC. Additional recommendations will look at trip reduction – partnering with local organizations, such as GATRA, and will also encourage carpooling and ride sharing, reducing both the overall vehicle miles travelled on these routes, and providing increased safety for those travelling along these critical and frequented routes.

SRPEDD, as the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is uniquely situated to provide these types of transportation analyses and enjoys a unique and longstanding relationship with both State agencies, such as MassDOT, and all our local communities. Through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) — both run by the MPO and staffed through SRPEDD's Transportation Department — the organization has a long history of successfully outlining and implementing transportation projects in the Southeast region. While the proposed project is unique in its level of analysis and its relationship to the Casino, it closely aligns with the work that SRPEDD conducts across its departments.

### Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Project Development and Administration	June 2025 – June 2027		42,000
Data Collection	June 2025 – June 2027		52,000
Network Analysis	June 2025 – June 2027		34,000
Mapping, Visualizations	June 2025 – June 2027		32,300
Planning Vision, Goals, and Implementation	June 2025 – June 2027		44,200
Public Engagement	June 2025 – June 2027		25,500
Direct Costs	June 2025 – June 2027		5,000
	TOTAL:		235,000