

Economic Development – Draft Implementation Actions			
ID	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
ED-1	Consider and develop an accessory commercial use ordinance that allows small, low-impact commercial activities accessory to a residential use in appropriate zoning districts. The ordinance should expand opportunities beyond traditional home occupations while maintaining neighborhood character through appropriate performance standards.	Dept. of Community Development; Zoning; Town Council	Short
ED-2	Reevaluate the Limited Business (LB) zoning district to better distinguish neighborhood-scale uses from higher-intensity commercial activity. The Town should consider creating two LB districts, one appropriate for areas adjacent to residential neighborhoods and another suited to corridor locations such as Metacom Avenue, to ensure appropriate land-use transitions and buffering.	Dept. of Community Development; Zoning; Town Council	Short–Medium
ED-3	Advocate for state-level refinements to the new by-right adaptive reuse law to prevent unintended loss of commercial space in key business districts.	Town Council; Dept. of Community Development	Short–Medium
ED-4	Encourage appropriate reinvestment in aging commercial and industrial buildings, including exploration of grant programs, matching funds, or façade/rehab support.	Dept. of Community Development; Town Council	Medium
ED-5	Develop strategies to address high commercial rents and limited affordable space for small businesses.	Dept. of Community Development; Town Council; Business Community	Medium
ED-6	Create incentives and/or disincentives to encourage occupancy and reuse of vacant storefronts and underutilized commercial buildings.	Dept. of Community Development; Town Council	Short–Medium
ED-7	Consider participation in the Grow Smart “Main Street” program or similar technical-assistance initiatives to support downtown revitalization and small business development.	Dept. of Community Development; Town Administrator	Medium
ED-8	Continue to support downtown housing development as a strategy to enhance year-round economic activity and support local shops and restaurants.	Dept. of Community Development; Planning Board; Town Council	Ongoing
ED-9	Study long-term parking management options for downtown that protect walkability and historic character while addressing peak-season pressures.	Dept. of Community Development; Police Department	Medium
ED-10	Maintain and strengthen Explore Bristol as the Town’s primary tourism and visitor economy partner; explore funding and staffing models to expand capacity.	Town Administrator / Partners: Explore Bristol; Economic Development Partners	Ongoing
ED-11	Improve tourism-related infrastructure, signage, and visitor amenities in collaboration with Explore Bristol and downtown organizations to expand the local visitor economy.	DPW; Dept. of Community Development	Medium

ED-12	Support networking and cluster development among blue-economy firms to enhance industry synergy.	Town Administrator; Town Council	Ongoing
ED-13	Identify and pursue municipal actions that support Bristol's commercial fishing sector and working waterfront, including infrastructure improvements.	Harbor Commission; Public Works; Town Council	Medium
ED-14	Strengthen water-dependent uses through waterfront zoning updates, infrastructure maintenance, and partnerships with marine-service providers.	Harbor Commission; Dept. of Community Development; Town Council	Ongoing
ED-15	Maintain appropriate designated boat-transport corridors for moving vessels between boatyards and the waterfront to reduce conflicts, improve safety, and support Bristol's marine industries and working waterfront.	DPW; Police; Town Council	Ongoing
ED-16	Participate in the Ready, Set, Rhody vulnerability assessment for the Thames Street business district and incorporate the program's recommended resilience and infrastructure improvements into local economic development, capital planning, and downtown revitalization efforts.	Dept. of Community Development	Short–Medium –Long
ED-17	Partner with RWU to expand workforce pathways in marine trades, engineering, blue-tech, and hospitality, including apprenticeships and local job pipelines.	BWRSD; Dept. of Community Development	Ongoing
ED-18	Rezone preserved farmland and properties with agricultural conservation easements into the Agricultural zoning district.	Planning Board; Town Council	Short
ED-19	Promote and support enrollment in the Farm, Forest and Open Space (FFOS) program to maintain farmland and open space.	Assessor; Dept. of Community Development	Ongoing
ED-20	Facilitate leasing of publicly owned or conserved land for small-scale or community farming.	Town Council	Ongoing