

Ideas from the APRIL 27, 2017 CEDS MEETING “Extra, Extra” Exercise:

What is the Valley like five years from now?

**Top themes:**

Equity and  
resilience  
are  
common  
threads

**Manufacturing (food and textiles), Renewable Energy, Transportation, Natural Resources (the Merrimack River, primarily), Skilled Workforce, Downtowns/Small businesses/Entrepreneurs**

- “Merrimack Valley is Alive and Well and Open for Business”
- Increased access to public transportation
- Boating and brews on the Shawsheen
- TOD in Andover’s downtown is built
- Bike, walk, hike and visit our many small town centers
- Merrimack Valley is the epicenter of food science and manufacturing (especially healthy food)
- Second hydro plant built on Merrimack River
- Downeaster comes to Lawrence – bringing more medical professionals!
- There will be more “definable” town centers that are connected and active
- Zoning has been strengthened in the PDAs
- Attract more Boston riders on the commuter rail (reverse commute)
- “A River Runs Through It – How Success Flows Through the Merrimack Valley through Connectivity”
- A growing and skilled workforce tapping into immigrants
- Region competes by building equity
- Transportation, housing, education and upward mobility
- Small and large businesses grow via adaptation and technology
- Small business entrepreneurship are growing
- Importing jobs and alignment with historical planning & infrastructure (Gateway Cities as the HUB)
- “Merrimack Valley: You Dream It, We Build It – Alignment of People, Innovation, and Natural Resources”
- “Merrimack Valley: Manufacturing Arm of Boston Innovation”
- Innovative workforce development fills thousands of previously vacant positions
- Merrimack Valley workforce attracts industry
- Merrimack Valley: Home of U.S. Manufacturing On-shoring
- Energy strategy becomes an economic development strategy
- Proximity to natural resources becomes an asset
- “It’s Now Cool to Ride the MVRTA – Redesign of the Bus Line Solves Many of the Areas Transportation Issues – The Last Mile is Covered”!!!

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**What is the Valley like five years from now?**

- **Innovation in connected learning- high schools and local industry connect**
- **Merrimack Valley wins award for social mobility**
- **Merrimack Valley battery powered – moving off the grid!**
- **“Textile Innovation Center is Running and Supporting a Robust Textile Industry”**
- **“Merrimack Valley Communities Awarded Best Value Lifestyle for the Money!”**
- **“Merrimack Valley Manufacturer’s Provide Free Child Care to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Workers!”**