**EDA-AURO and SWREDA**

**Concept for Peer Exchange & Review**

In light of the Economic Development Administration’s responsibility to manage standards**, financial accountability and program performance** of each Economic Development District (EDD) *within three years of an investment*, the Austin Regional Office (AURO) conducts peer reviews with the aid of development professionals from within an AURO EDD. **The EDA-AURO Peer Review process is aided by the Southwest Region Executive Directors Association**, dba the Southwest Region Economic Development Association. This is accomplished as part of the SWREDA scope of work for strategy development.

The primary responsibilities of an EDA designated Economic Development District (EDD) include the maintenance and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, particularly as related to a District Organization’s performance toward the retention and creation of jobs and development of EDA projects.

EDA-AURO and SWREDA desire to utilize the required Peer Review process both as a **performance and accountability tool** and as an **opportunity to enhance capacity of the EDDs** throughout the region. Districts are the core of EDA's delivery mechanism, serving local communities as vital providers of professional capacity and technical assistance. Each EDD must be reviewed at least once during each three-year planning grant period and are subject to be called on to conduct reviews, as well, for EDDs from other states.

SWREDA ***surveys*** provide a method for peer-matching between organizations, considerate of director and planner professionals’ expertise at each of the EDDs, staffing size, program alignment, and/or program interest and development. This establishes a ***match***of two EDDs for the purpose of conducting an ***exchange****.*

**Performance** will be reviewed in **two parts** to allow for performance documentation and professional practitioner exchange.

1. The **delivery of electronic or other transmission of performance documentation** relative to the Peer Exchange Review shall be delivered to AURO for sharing with the Peer Reviewers/Peer Match.
2. The review is conducted as a Peer Exchange. This allows for the accomplishment of **dual reviews** between EDDs sharing a commonality.

**This will advance the process and foster collaboration between and among the network of Economic Development Districts within the Austin Region.** Further, this will create opportunities for efficiencies of time and money. Simply put, the process follows this pattern: