

Members & Staff Resolve to:

1. Pursue competitive state funds for several new and promising regionalization projects in the Pioneer Valley with the potential to save scarce public dollars and/or significantly enhance the efficiency and overall quality of municipal services delivered through a shared-services approach. Pursue these opportunities in 2012 using a new \$4 million Regionalization Incentive Fund created by the Governor and state Legislature as part of the current state budget.
 2. Prepare and release, in concert with a broad array of partnering organizations, an updated and revised 2012 version of PVPC's State of the People Report using data compiled from the 2010 U.S. Census and other reliable sources in an effort to create a portrait of the "human conditions" specific to our region's 620,000-plus residents.
 3. Adopt as a new component of the Plan for Progress the eight action strategies that have been recommended in order to leverage and maximize both the local and regional economic development and jobs potential of the \$100 million Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center currently under construction in downtown Holyoke. Concurrently, play a lead role in advancing the implementation of these action strategies beginning in 2012.
 4. In collaboration with the Capitol Region Council of Governments, plus numerous other partners, complete and issue a series of first-year work products linked to the cross-border New England Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Project, including a Regional Housing Plan, a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Market Analysis, and a Food Security Plan, among others.
 5. Assist and support the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Pan Am Railways as they jointly undertake the initial phase of a \$73 million reconstruction and major upgrading of our region's main north-south rail corridor beginning in Spring 2012. Simultaneously, continue to lend assistance to the cities of Springfield, Holyoke, and Northampton as they advance plans to design and implement train stops within their respective communities.
 6. Organize and launch a multifaceted celebration of the Planning Commission's 50th anniversary starting in April 2012 through a varied menu of events, products, forums, and collaborations that highlight PVPC's past priorities and present activities and accomplishments, along with current efforts to address future regional needs and interests, thereby helping to shape a successful and competitive 21st century region.
 7. Support and contribute to a series of important statewide MassDOT planning projects that are now underway, including the new strategic transportation plan WeMove Massachusetts, a detailed assessment of and recommendations for public transit services offered through the commonwealth's 13 regional transit authorities (e.g., the PVTA) titled Beyond Boston, and a detailed rail corridor and passenger feasibility analysis of the east-west "Inland Route" interconnecting Boston, Worcester, and Springfield and ultimately linking with New York City to the south and Montreal to the north. Continue providing support for collaborative efforts by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Connecticut Department of Transportation and Massachusetts Department of Transportation to secure federal funds required to upgrade the NECR/Central Corridor to accommodate 286,000 pound rail cars through a multistate, public-private partnership.
 8. Working with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), Western MA Connect, local governments, Internet service providers, and others, address a number of critical planning issues tied to the objective of bringing affordable high-speed broadband services to more than 120 communities mostly concentrated in western Massachusetts in order to strengthen the regional economy, improve educational opportunities, and enhance the delivery of a broad array of government services by leveraging MBI's \$72 million MassBroadband 123 investment initiative.
 9. Strive to enhance the safety, security, and overall resilience of our region by improving communication and coordination between and among first responders for both natural and man-made disaster planning efforts and by facilitating the development of tornado recovery and local hazard mitigation plans in several PVPC communities that have recently received federal or state assistance funds.
 10. Work with both the Congressional delegation in Washington, as well as the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Patrick, to shape and advance legislative initiatives at the federal or state level that support and benefit the Pioneer Valley and its member communities and people. Key 2012 emphasis areas include zoning reforms, supplemental community development funding, a multi-year state transportation bond bill, economic development/workforce initiatives, implementation of the commonwealth's recently enacted casino gaming law, refinements to the Community Preservation Act (CPA), enactment of a new federal transportation law, and reauthorization of the Federal Economic Development Administration, among many others.
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