

Top 10 RESOLVES

New Year's Resolution's for 2007

Members & Staff Resolve To:

- #1 Participate, advise, assist, and work collaboratively with the new administration of Governor Deval Patrick, who officially assumed office on January 4, 2007. Connect and work in concert with the new Patrick/Murray team to address the priority needs and opportunities confronting the Pioneer Valley region, its 43 cities and towns, and the region's 615,000+ residents.
- #2 Continue to support interstate plans and work activities that can advance the Connecticut Department of Transportation's proposed commuter rail project that would initially interconnect the Knowledge Corridor cities of New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, including modified plans for the redevelopment of Springfield's Union Station. Correspondingly, move forward with an analysis of the feasibility of extending commuter rail services beyond Springfield northerly to White River Junction in Vermont as well as along the east-west Boston-Springfield-Albany corridor.
- #3 Secure funds and begin the development of a Pioneer Valley Sustainability Plan in tandem with the establishment of a regionwide sustainability network that can advocate desirable policies and practices such as boosting local food production, reducing unnecessary energy and water usage, protecting and enhancing the quality of surface and groundwater resources, fostering a sensible land development pattern, and promoting renewable energy.
- #4 Finalize and adopt the 2007 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Pioneer Valley region in concert with the members of a re-configured and expanded Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which was successfully convened for the first time on January 10, 2007. Ensure that the region's highest priority short- and long-term transportation improvement projects are encompassed in this RTP so they can be advanced to implementation over the new plan's 25-year time horizon.
- #5 Launch the online version of the Commission's State of the Region indicators report using the agency's improved website as the primary distribution mechanism. Use these indicators as a means to engage and educate the public about the steps that must be taken in areas such as transportation, land use, economic development, environmental protection, and energy consumption in order for the Pioneer Valley to be capable of sustaining itself and a high livability quotient.
- #6 Initiate and complete both statewide and region-specific work activities that are designed to achieve expedited permitting in Massachusetts as required under the provisions of new state legislation, Chapter 205 M.G.L., which was recently signed into law. Within the parameters of this legislation, provide technical assistance to PVPC member communities based on needs and circumstances, and work with the administration of Governor Patrick to minimize unnecessary permitting delays and complications.
- #7 Complete the process of securing individual city and town endorsements of Valley Vision 2, the Commission's new regional land use plan, which was completed and released earlier this year in partnership with the Valley Development Council. Secure Commission adoption and move forward with the implementation of Valley Vision 2 through a variety of initiatives, such as supporting the state's first subregional Chapter 40R housing project involving Easthampton, Holyoke, and Westfield; presenting the region's first series of Smart Growth Awards; and completing a number of local smart growth planning projects.
- #8 Develop an in-house marketing and communications plan for the agency that can help guide and inform the Commission and its staff on a broad array of topics and on community endeavors that can benefit the agency and its numerous clients. Pursue a series of in-house training programs that can significantly improve the ability of Commission members and staff to communicate with its many customers and to maintain a highly positive, professional, and visible public image.
- #9 Develop a comprehensive database of the top 100 vehicle crash locations throughout the Pioneer Valley region that can be cross-referenced to planned or programmed transportation improvement projects designed to improve the safety at these locations. Use PVPC-led traffic safety studies to examine high-crash locations for which no proposed safety improvements have yet been identified. Support the implementation of the Commonwealth's just-completed Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- #10 Work with the Congress and federal leadership in Washington D.C., as well as a new session of the state Legislature, to advocate for important federal and state legislation that would serve the planning and development interests of the Pioneer Valley and its 43 member communities. Priority topics at the federal and state level will likely include, but not be limited to, financing statewide transportation needs, boosting and targeting local aid, enacting statewide land use reforms, strengthening adult education and immigration policies, advancing early childhood education initiatives, expediting the processing of surplus state land and property sales, fostering renewable energy incentives, promoting access to affordable high-speed broadband services in outlying rural towns, realizing increased financial support for public transit, and fostering affordable housing options.