

We've 
Moved To Congress!

60 Congress Street
in Springfield, that is...



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street • Springfield, MA • 01104-3419
Phone 413.781.6045 • Fax 413.732.2593 • www.pvpc.org

PVPC HAS MOVED

PVPC is now open for business at our new location at 60 Congress Street in Springfield. Please update your records and your GPS accordingly! Our telephone and fax numbers remain the same. And don't forget to mark your calendar for our open house, Thursday October 29, 2009, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you in our new home.

PVTA EARNS FTA APPROVAL

PVPC's Transportation and Transit section provided support to the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority during a recent review by the Federal Transit Administration, which conducts top-to-bottom reviews of transit agencies every three years. PVPC supported PVTA with document preparation and during interviews with auditors during the two-day site visit. The review produced just one relatively minor finding: that PVTA's special service to the Big E was not consistent with federal charter regulations. The charter policy has been remedied, and all other areas of PVTA management and operation are in good standing.

PVPC Contact: David Elvin

Send an e-mail to: delvin@pvpc.org

PET WASTE & WATER QUALITY

PVPC's Regional Stormwater Committee will conduct outreach to area residents this fall about pet cleanup to protect local water quality. Fliers about this important topic will be distributed at area Household Hazardous Waste Days and in local veterinary clinics. Pet waste left on the ground is picked up by stormwater and flushed by rainfall into storm drains and out to our waterways, making them unsafe for recreational activities such as fishing and swimming. Outreach to veterinary clinics will also include information about the dangers of lawn chemicals to pet health and water quality, along with the documentary *The Truth About Cats, Dogs, and Lawn Chemicals*, which showcases a local resident and organic lawn care advocate in Longmeadow as well as Safeground Organics, a Northampton-based organic land care company. For more information, visit www.Greenscapes.org and www.ThinkBlueMa.org.

PVPC Contact: Anne Capra

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FLOOD INSURANCE MAPS

PVPC is a Community Map Repository for FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which are used to determine areas that are potential flood insurance risks. The new preliminary maps are available for the public to review by appointment at PVPC. Any appeals or comments may be submitted through the appropriate local floodplain administrator before the maps become effective in 2010.

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PVTA CIVIL RIGHTS REPORT

As a recipient of federal transit funds, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority maintains an active Title VI Civil Rights Program, the section of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities that receive federal funds. This year, PVPC's Transportation and Transit Section assisted PVTA in its three-year update by producing an extensive program update describing the transit services provided by PVTA and containing a demographic assessment of service distribution. The report finds that in all parts of the region, PVTA service is equitably accessible to low-income and minority residents. The full Title VI Civil Rights report can be downloaded from the PVPC's website publications page at www.pvpc.org/resource_center/publications.shtml

PVPC Contact: David Elvin

Send an e-mail to: delvin@pvpc.org

PVPC UPDATE

Executive Committee:

Executive Committee members and officers for 2009-2010 elected at PVPC's annual meeting in June:

Chair: Henry Richard Butler (Wilbraham)

Vice Chair: George Kohout (Northampton)

Secretary/Clerk: Douglas Albertson (Belchertown)

Treasurer: Robert O'Brien (Springfield)
Asst. Treasurer: Mark Cavanaugh (South Hadley)

At-Large Members:

Henry A. Barton (Southampton)

Michael Marciniac (Palmer)

Marcus Phelps (Southwick)

Judith Terry (Chesterfield)

PLAN FOR PROGRESS UPDATE

This year, the Plan for Progress, the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), underwent a five-year update. While the original 2004 Plan for Progress document remains in effect, the 2009 CEDS Annual Report and Five-Year Update serves as a companion document that provides updated economic data and the latest priority-ranked listing of potential projects from our region that may seek EDA funding. It also includes a set of new sections that constitute the five-year update: a section relating the Plan to state and other local and regional economic development plans; the Plan for Progress' new Accountability System; a new set of indicators for the Urban Core cross-cutting theme; an entirely new strategy to develop a green regional economy; and a new emphasis on the Creative Economy in the Industry Clusters cross-cutting theme.

PVPC Contact: Lori Tanner

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PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT

PVPC has been hired by the Town of West Springfield to develop a pavement management report. PVPC staff will conduct road condition, budget, and plan analyses to aid in the effective allocation of tax dollars to road maintenance needs in the town. The goal of the PVPC local Pavement Management program is to provide the municipalities with the knowledge and ability to administer effectively the limited amount of available roadway improvement funds.

PVPC Contact: Amir Kouzehkanani

Send an e-mail to: amir@pvpc.org

UPPER BONDSVILLE DAM

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to conduct a study of the Upper Bondsville Dam that is owned by the Belchertown Land Trust. Working with the BLT, PVPC received the grant to review a course of action for the dam, which is on the Swift River between Belchertown and Palmer, downstream of the Quabbin Reservoir's Winsor Dam. The Upper Bondsville Dam, built in 1900, was used to supply power to one of the many industrial sites that once existed in the area. The project will entail a series of meetings to gather input from the public as well as collecting information regarding the impact of the dam upon the environment, the river and the community. The Massachusetts Environmental Trust's ability to provide grants to such important initiatives comes primarily from the 70,000 residents in Massachusetts who purchase special environmental license plates. The Trust's mission is to encourage cooperative efforts to raise environmental awareness, and to enable innovative approaches that can restore, protect, and improve water and water-related resources of the commonwealth. To learn more about the environmental license plates, visit www.MassEnvironmentalTrust.org.

PVPC Contact: Patty Gambarini

Send an e-mail to: pgambarini@pvpc.org

REGIONAL DAM SERVICES

PVPC is working to develop a program for dams that will offer specific services to municipalities throughout the region. New state regulations significantly increase the responsibilities of dam owners to register, inspect, and maintain dams in good operating condition, leading to increased financial burdens that are especially difficult where dams no longer provide a beneficial function, such as water supply or power generation. To determine what services would be of most use to municipalities at which dams, PVPC will be distributing a survey to city and town officials. The resulting information will allow PVPC to create a priority list of dams and a package of services for which regional requests for proposals will be developed. Services that could be regionalized include Phase 1 dam safety inspections, ownership research in cases where dam ownership is not clear, and site reconnaissance surveys and public outreach to determine possible options for the future at a dam that is in poor repair and presenting a threat to public safety.

PVPC Contact: Patty Gambarini

Send an e-mail to: pgambarini@pvpc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Joint Transportation Committee

*Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9
10:15 a.m. at PVPC office*

PVPC Commission

*Commission: Oct. 15, 5:30 p.m.
HCC Kittredge Center
Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m.
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
Executive Committee:
Oct. 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 30, 4 p.m.
PVPC office*

Plan for Progress

*Trustees: Nov. 18, 8:15 a.m.
Coordinating Council:
Oct. 21, Dec. 16
8:30 a.m. at PVPC office*