

TOP Ten RESOLVES FOR 2016

THE PIONEER VALLEY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Members & Staff Resolve to:

1. Contribute to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's efforts to develop a five year, statewide Capital Investment Plan encompassing a broad array of transportation investments that are to be advanced during the 2016-2020 timeframe. Correspondingly, advocate for the inclusion of PVPC's recommended list of ten, major and regionally significant transportation improvements that would generate substantial, long term benefits for the Pioneer Valley and its residents.
 2. Work in concert with multiple project partners to finalize and deliver a comprehensive, statewide Food System Plan to the Commonwealth, and more specifically to the Massachusetts Food Policy Council by January of 2016. In addition, continue to provide guidance, assistance and support required for the successful implementation of this new Massachusetts Food Systems Plan beginning in 2016.
 3. Develop, refine and issue an updated version of the PVPC's highly popular Pioneer Valley Regional Trails Map that can capture the expanding network of hiking trails located throughout our region. Similarly, complete and release an updated version of the PVPC's Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan – a product being produced as a joint venture of the PVPC and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).
 4. Secure local endorsements from the communities of Chicopee, Springfield, South Hadley, Ludlow and Granby that, in effect, designate the PVPC to serve as the lead sponsor for a major overhaul and updating of Westover Air Reserve Base's Joint Land Use Study (JLUS); a task which the PVPC last successfully completed back in 2004.
 5. Lend support to the Baker/Polito Administration's new "Community Compact" initiative and, where appropriate, apply the Commission's DLT resources, knowledge and expertise to enable select PVPC member cities and towns to analyze and ideally put in place 1 to 3 municipal best practices which the state deems eligible for free technical assistance under the provisions of its "Community Compact" initiative.
 6. Advocate in concert with the Administration, MassDOT, the Western Massachusetts legislative delegation and affected cities and towns to move forward with the recommendations emanating from the recently completed Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative (NNEIRI) which calls for establishing a viable Inland Route intercity passenger rail corridor that would interconnect Boston-Worcester-Springfield-Hartford and New Haven and, eventually, would re-establish a passenger rail link into Montreal.
 7. Maintain PVPC's leadership and support for the interstate New England Knowledge Corridor (NEKC) Partnership during 2016 and specifically focus PVPC efforts on lending support to: the launch of a trans Atlantic air service connecting between Bradley International Airport with Dublin; accelerated construction of Connecticut's proposed Hartford Line commuter rail service now slated to be operational in early 2018; continue operating the InternHere.com college student retention program; and, complete a major overhaul of the Knowledge Corridor's antiquated website.
 8. Complete the third and final phase of a Pioneer Valley Regional bike share project implementation plan which initially will be anchored by the communities of Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton and Amherst as well as the University of Massachusetts Amherst including the preparation and submission of an application for federal and state funds that could launch a kickoff phase of this regional bike project during 2017.
 9. Identify and recruit "lead implementers" from across the Pioneer Valley which are willing and able to coordinate in-region efforts to implement the Pioneer Valley's recently updated version of Plan For Progress, the Pioneer Valley's strategic economic plan. Correspondingly, strive to align these efforts with the Commonwealth's soon to be released Opportunities for All policy document which presents the Baker/Polito Administration's statewide economic/workforce development plan which aims to foster prosperity, vitality and sustainable growth throughout Massachusetts.
 10. Work with both the Congressional delegation in Washington, as well as the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor to shape and advance legislative initiatives, at the federal and state levels, that support and benefit the Pioneer Valley and its residents. At the federal level, for example, support a five year reauthorization of our nation's surface transportation law entitled "Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST)" Act that was recently enacted by Congress. At the state level, key legislative priorities for 2016 include statewide zoning reforms, a comprehensive economic development package, potential reforms to Chapter 90 local road funds, legislation enabling regional ballot initiatives and the release of state bond funds for key infrastructure projects such as Connecticut River CSO clean-up projects.
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