

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Members & Staff Resolve to:

- Work with legislators and public administrators at the state and federal levels to inform and advocate for policies and programs that will benefit the Pioneer Valley and its residents. This includes continued focus on championing smart policy and increased funding for transportation, economic and community development, and sustainability and resiliency work. A major focus will be the continued push for resources that allow the Commission to assist our member municipalities in overcoming the myriad of challenges and opportunities they face, assistance which our agency is uniquely capable of providing.
- Work with municipal officials, community organizations, state agencies and area nonprofits to support education and outreach activities to ensure that the 2020 U.S. Census results in a full and accurate count of Pioneer Valley residents. These activities will be coordinated with the U.S. Census Bureau through the Pioneer Valley’s regional Complete Count Committee.
- Accelerate region-wide efforts to advance climate action strategies and projects that can reduce green-house gas emissions consistent with the reduction targets that Massachusetts has adapted for years 2020 and 2050. This includes working with PVPC member communities to increase resilience and adaptation measures that can counteract the adverse impacts of climate change while protecting at-risk populations, critical infrastructure and other regional assets.
- Champion the need for multiple modes of transportation in the Pioneer Valley. This includes:
 - supporting the need for expanded passenger rail service in the Pioneer Valley through marketing the new Valley Flyer and encouraging ridership;
 - participating in MassDOT’s East-West Rail Study through membership on the Project Advisory Committee; advocating for PVTA to receive the funding necessary to both maintain existing transit service and expand transit service for the region; and
 - Identifying opportunities to enhance the existing regional transportation infrastructure to provide better access for bicycles and pedestrians, using such approaches as integration of complete streets, traffic calming, parking and connectivity into transportation improvements.
- Work with member communities in addressing the on-going diverse housing needs of the region. This will be accomplished by seeking new funding and expending current funds for:
 - infrastructure improvements (water, sewer, roads, sidewalks, drainage) in support of neighborhood housing;
 - housing rehabilitation of existing housing occupied by low-to-moderate income households;
 - housing improvements assistance to seniors allowing them to remain safely in their homes; and
 - removing architectural barriers in houses occupied by persons with mobility limitations.

PVPC will also work to develop long-term housing strategies designed to improve access to safe and healthy housing for all Pioneer Valley residents. Currently, the PVPC is undertaking this task by working on an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in the four core cities.
- Promote regional collaboration with all 43 member communities on projects of common interest, necessity and efficiency. The PVPC strives to work with communities on projects that have regional value inherent in their goals and priorities, including shared municipal services and the sharing and implementation of best practices.
- Collaborate with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies to actively support and implement the mission and objectives of the Commonwealth’s first Rural Policy Plan, which was issued in 2019. This includes supporting the establishment of a state office regarding rural policy planning.
- Continue integrating climate resilience considerations into various planning efforts, including identification of appropriate land for conservation, and maintain engagement with the Statewide Resilient Lands Initiative to assure the use of state of the art information and tools.
- Expand the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s assistance in the area of historic preservation and cultural resources planning through facilitation of regional educational programs; providing general technical assistance and support on historic preservation issues; and offering a longer term “fee for service” option for on-going support to local historical boards and commissions.
- Conduct a strategic planning process to collectively guide the future of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and its’ work. This will include engaging the 43 member communities, planning commissioners, staff of the PVPC and other community stakeholders.