ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

Regional Transportation Plans must provide information on the efforts to consult with state and local agencies responsible for environmental, land use, and preservation in the development of the RTP. In addition, the RTP must include a discussion of the types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities. This chapter demonstrates how these requirements have been integrated into the RTP for the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

The Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization must consult “as appropriate” with state and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation to develop the long range transportation plan. PVPC scheduled an environmental consultation meeting on Tuesday May 28, 2019. Invitations were sent to a number of federal, state, and local agencies to review the draft transportation improvement projects included as part of the RTP. PVPC staff was available for questions and
comments from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Transportation Improvement projects were mapped over several environmental maps including:

- Habitat – Road linkage importance for regional habitat connectivity.
- Habitat – Link importance for regional habitat connectivity.
- Wetlands
- 500 Year Flood
- 100 Year Flood Zones
- Valley Vision Priority Development Areas
- Valley Vision Priority Protection Areas
- Massachusetts Historic Commission Historic Inventory Areas
- Environmental Justice Minority Census Block Groups
- Environmental Justice Low Income Census Block Groups
- Disabled Residents Aged 65+ Census Block Groups
- Disabled Residents Aged 20-64 Census Block Groups

An online interactive version of this map is located through the following link: https://tinyurl.com/pvp.crt.pupdate2019. A copy of the complete project listing and Map Key is included as part of the Appendix to the RTP.

Two of these maps are shown in Figures 17-1 and 17-2. A complete list of agencies invited to participate in the Environmental Consultation is presented in Table 17-1. Each of these agencies will also be sent a draft copy of the RTP. Comments received as part of Environmental Consultation have been summarized in Chapter 3 of the RTP.
Figure 17-1 – RTP Projects and Massachusetts Wetlands
Figure 17-2 – RTP Projects with 100 and 500 Year Flood Zones
In addition to the above list, a meeting notice for the Environmental Consultation was posted on the PVPC website and in the Republican (the local newspaper) in both English and Spanish.