

# Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

MOVING THE REGION'S AGENDA

# 2014



# Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Since 1962, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been the designated regional planning body for the Pioneer Valley region, which encompasses 43 cities and towns in the Hampden and Hampshire county areas. PVPC is the primary agency responsible for increasing communication, cooperation, and coordination among all levels of government as well as the private business and civic sectors in order to benefit the Pioneer Valley region and to improve its residents' quality of life.

Although PVPC is a public sector agency, it is not a direct arm of the federal or state governments. Rather, it is a consortium of local governments that have banded together under the provisions of state law to address problems and opportunities that are regional in scope. As a result, PVPC's planning area is designated as a special district under the provisions of state enabling legislation.

PVPC is funded through modest annual assessments from its member communities, state and federal grant programs, fees for administering community development block grants, and matching funds.

## PVPC Executive Committee/Commission Officers

Chair:	<b>Walter Gunn</b> (Longmeadow)
Vice Chair:	<b>Judith Terry</b> (Chesterfield)
Secretary/Clerk:	<b>Douglas Albertson</b> (Belchertown)
Treasurer:	<b>George Kingston</b> (East Longmeadow)
Assistant Treasurer:	<b>Mark Cavanaugh</b> (South Hadley)
At-Large Members:	<b>Lynn Arnold</b> (Holland) <b>Henry A. Barton</b> (Southampton) <b>Marilyn Gorman Fil</b> (Monson) <b>Michael Marciniac</b> (Palmer)

## Executive Director

**Tim Brennan**



**City and town members of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission:**

**Agawam**  
Population Trends 28,608  
Median 1-Family Sale \$175,000

**Amherst**  
Population Trends 39,016  
Median 1-Family Sale \$269,250

**Belchertown**  
Population Trends 14,719  
Median 1-Family Sale \$236,500

**Blandford**  
Population Trends 1,240  
Median 1-Family Sale \$144,950

**Brimfield**  
Population Trends 3,660  
Median 1-Family Sale \$150,000

**Chester**  
Population Trends 1,351  
Median 1-Family Sale \$120,000

**Chesterfield**  
Population Trends 1,235  
Median 1-Family Sale \$152,000

**Chicopee**  
Population Trends 55,490  
Median 1-Family Sale \$137,000

**Cummington**  
Population Trends 870  
Median 1-Family Sale \$217,500

**Pelham**  
Population Trends 1,321  
Median 1-Family Sale \$170,000

**Plainfield**  
Population Trends 646  
Median 1-Family Sale \$138,000

**Russell**  
Population Trends 1,788  
Median 1-Family Sale \$175,000

**South Hadley**  
Population Trends 17,773  
Median 1-Family Sale \$180,750

**Southampton**  
Population Trends 5,932  
Median 1-Family Sale \$237,000

**Southwick**  
Population Trends 9,575  
Median 1-Family Sale \$182,685

**East Longmeadow**  
Population Trends 15,896  
Median 1-Family Sale \$220,000

**Easthampton**  
Population Trends 16,007  
Median 1-Family Sale \$207,250

**Goshen**  
Population Trends 1,056  
Median 1-Family Sale \$125,000

**Granby**  
Population Trends 11,316  
Median 1-Family Sale \$188,000

**Granville**  
Population Trends 1,605  
Median 1-Family Sale \$199,000

**Hadley**  
Population Trends 5,270  
Median 1-Family Sale \$295,000

**Hampden**  
Population Trends 5,156  
Median 1-Family Sale \$221,000

**Hatfield**  
Population Trends 3,275  
Median 1-Family Sale \$252,500

**Holland**  
Population Trends 2,487  
Median 1-Family Sale \$110,000

**Springfield**  
Population Trends 153,552  
Median 1-Family Sale \$98,000

**Tolland**  
Population Trends 14,964  
Median 1-Family Sale \$180,000

**Wales**  
Population Trends 1,864  
Median 1-Family Sale \$125,000

**Ware**  
Population Trends 9,859  
Median 1-Family Sale \$124,750

**West Springfield**  
Population Trends 28,574  
Median 1-Family Sale \$174,900

**Westfield**  
Population Trends 41,399  
Median 1-Family Sale \$185,000

**Holyoke**  
Population Trends 40,135  
Median 1-Family Sale \$144,400

**Huntington**  
Population Trends 2,172  
Median 1-Family Sale \$159,950

**Longmeadow**  
Population Trends 15,835  
Median 1-Family Sale \$275,000

**Ludlow**  
Population Trends 21,195  
Median 1-Family Sale \$167,500

**Middlefield**  
Population Trends 527  
Median 1-Family Sale \$103,750

**Monson**  
Population Trends 8,679  
Median 1-Family Sale \$165,000

**Montgomery**  
Population Trends 858  
Median 1-Family Sale \$269,000

**Northampton**  
Population Trends 28,592  
Median 1-Family Sale \$240,000

**Palmer**  
Population Trends 12,152  
Median 1-Family Sale \$150,000

**Westhampton**  
Population Trends 1,603  
Median 1-Family Sale \$228,000

**Wilbraham**  
Population Trends 14,337  
Median 1-Family Sale \$240,000

**Williamsburg**  
Population Trends 2,476  
Median 1-Family Sale \$265,000

**Worthington**  
Population Trends 1,164  
Median 1-Family Sale \$160,000

Census data from 2012

## Check the Record of the Top Ten Resolves for 2014

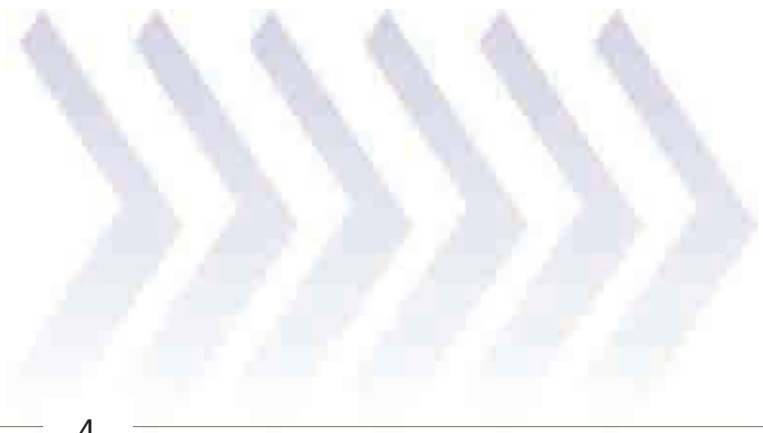
- 
 1. Complete, refine, adopt and release the Planning Commission's ten year review and overhaul of the Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress working in collaboration with the Plan for Progress Coordinating Council and numerous other public, business and civic sector partners.
- 
 2. Organize, prepare and publish the draft and final versions of a Bistate Action Plan that encompasses the interstate Knowledge Corridor working in concert with PVPC's lead Sustainable Knowledge Corridor partner the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). Continue to work with member communities and others to successfully implement the recommendations outlined in PVPC's adopted Our Next Future Action Plan focused on the Pioneer Valley region.
- 
 3. Using District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) and other available resources, continue to advance municipally-based shared service projects which have the potential to improve the quality and/or reduce the cost of providing local services that are currently offered only on an individual community basis.
- 
 4. As part of an RPA agency team which includes the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Franklin Region Council of Governments (FRCOG), initiate the development of a Statewide Strategic Food Systems Plan under the provisions of a new contractual agreement recently awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources and the Massachusetts Food Policy Council.
- 
 5. Complete a comprehensive overhaul and updating of the PVPC's website working with professional web design firm and launch this new PVPC website early on in calendar year 2014. Supplement this website initiative with the development of a strategic communications plan for the agency and its core functions.
- 
 6. Support and contribute to a series of statewide, legislatively mandated MassDOT activities and initiatives that will be underway in 2014 including development of a 5 year Capital Improvements Plan; a Project Selection Advisory Council; a Transportation and Asset Management Advisory Council; a Value Capture Commission; and work with MassDOT and the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to prepare Regional Transportation System Performance Measures as required by federal law.
- 
 7. Complete technical assistance and support services being provided to the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) and its consultant to complete a Comprehensive Service Analysis of all of the PVTA's current fixed route bus services inclusive of the issuance of a final report with findings and recommendations. Correspondingly, complete work on the design for a new and more user friendly PVTA system map.
- 
 8. Work with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute to complete the draft and final versions of a multi- year Talent/Workforce Action Strategy for the interstate Knowledge Corridor as well as a Growth Business Study for the Connecticut portion of the Knowledge Corridor with oversight provided by the Hartford Springfield Economic Partnership.



9. Closely monitor MBTA/MassDOT's progress on the final phase of rebuilding our region's main north-south rail corridor from Springfield northward to the Vermont border with an \$83 million investment of federal and state resources. Continue to assist with the development of rail passenger facilities in Springfield, Holyoke and Northampton which are scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2014. Correspondingly, maintain participation in and lend support to: MassDOT's Inland Route Rail Study; ConnDOT's New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail project and advocacy efforts designed to expand rail passenger runs between Springfield and Greenfield beginning in 2015.



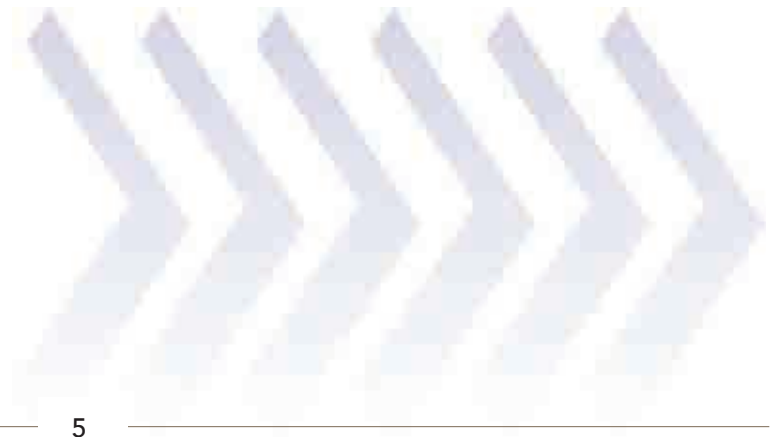
10. Work with both the Congressional delegation in Washington, as well as the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor, to shape and advance legislative initiatives at the federal and state levels that support and benefit the Pioneer Valley and its residents. Key 2014 emphasis areas at the state level include: Recapitalization of Brownfields Redevelopment Fund; enactment of H3658 which promotes municipal collaboration and regionalization; passage of multiyear transportation and environmental bond bills, and approval of statewide zoning reforms and water infrastructure financing legislation. At the federal level, key initiatives include reauthorization of the: "MAP-21" federal transportation law; the Economic Development Administration; the EPA Brownfields Program; plus enactment of the Federal Water Resources Development Act; among others.



## Overview

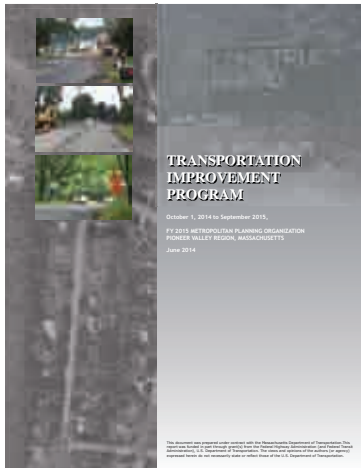
During 2014, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission undertook numerous projects and tasks on behalf of its 43 member communities and the region as a whole. As these work activities have significantly influenced our Valley's future economic prosperity, they have also protected its character and natural resources. These major accomplishments are highlighted in this report.

The commission continues to engage in work projects that are interdisciplinary and collaborative, drawing upon the contributions of staff across the spectrum of planning and related areas of expertise. Such projects are listed under the subject categories that most closely define them.





## Transportation



Worked in cooperation with federal, state and local officials to develop and amend the 2014–2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pioneer Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). During the development process, staff performed significant analysis to ensure that projects being funded in the TIP meet both federal and state goals, including GreenDOT goals. The TIP is a fiscally constrained document which schedules all transportation improvement projects, defines funding sources, and lists regional priorities. PVPC staff worked in consultation with local cities and towns to update the status of all projects included on the TIP. New projects were prioritized using the regional project evaluation criteria and updated project information was added into the TIP as necessary. PVPC staff worked with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to release the document for public review and endorsement by the MPO.

Scheduled monthly Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meetings and its Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee to discuss current transportation issues in the region. The committee is composed of locally appointed representatives of the 43 municipalities in the Pioneer Valley and is designed to assist the MPO in incorporating citizen participation into the transportation decision-making process. The JTC plays a vital role in the development of all federally required documents including the RTP, TIP, and UPWP.

In coordination with the Pioneer Valley MPO, MassDOT, FHWA, and FTA, completed an update to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC). The update, which included an extensive public outreach process, was necessary to bring the TEC in compliance with the latest federal transportation law, MAP-21, and MassDOT's GreenDOT Initiative while promoting regional equity. The TEC is used to rank federal aid-eligible transportation improvement projects. Every project is ranked by its TEC score, and projects are funded based on this score and available funding for the current federal fiscal year.

Prepared the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for federal fiscal year 2015. The UPWP outlines the annual transportation technical work program to be performed using federal and state planning dollars through September 30, 2015.

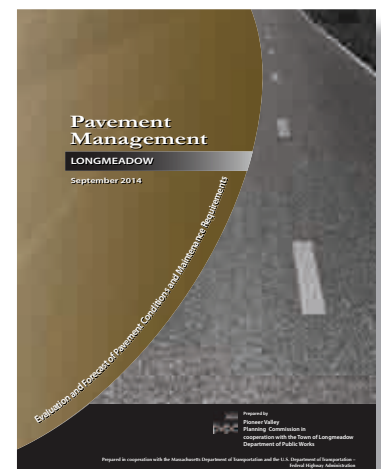
Completed Phase II of a Transportation and Community System Preservation study for the Merrick and Memorial neighborhoods of West Springfield. This study is a multidisciplinary effort of PVPC and the Town of West Springfield to look at how transportation and redevelopment can work together to improve the quality of life for residents and the economic vitality of businesses in these two neighborhoods. Phase I of this study was completed in 2004 with the issuance of a Redevelopment Plan. Phase II of the study offers recommendations that are geared to improve the efficiency of the regional transportation system, increase employment and business activity, and encourage new development and redevelopment that enhances the livability and the quality of life for people who live and work in the Merrick and Memorial neighborhoods.

Coordinated and convened a total of five focus groups to assist in the update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Pioneer Valley MPO. These focus groups will assist in the development of the goals and objectives of the RTP as well as the development of regional performance measures. The focus groups considered the following transportation planning topics: Bicycle and Pedestrian; Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change; Freight; Infrastructure; and Transit.

Updated pavement distress data on the federal-aid eligible roadways in West Springfield, Northampton, Ludlow, Amherst, and Agawam. A priority listing of roadway maintenance and construction projects was developed based on a benefit/cost ratio. This existing pavement distress information on all federally aided roadways is used to report on a community's backlog of repairs.

Finalized the Pavement Management System Update Report for the Town of Longmeadow. Staff completed pavement distress data collection in Town of Belchertown.

Performed a total of 153 counts as part of PVPC's annual traffic counting program. The data collection effort included 71 vehicle counts for the member communities, 39 vehicle counts requested by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and 43 peak hour turning movement counts. Bicycle and pedestrian counts were also completed for the Springfield Riverwalk and Southwick Rail Trail.





Reviewed statewide project submittals and attended the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) consultation meetings for CMAQ funding eligibility. Submitted e-mail ballot for project votes during midyear evaluation as requested by MassDOT.

Finalized the Interstate Route I-91 Corridor Existing Conditions Report and its appendices. This study reviews previous corridor studies, updates transportation data, analyzes traffic volumes and safety patterns, and develops short-term improvement recommendations for I-91 from the Connecticut state line to Exit 5.

Performed a comprehensive update of socio-economic data to develop a new 2010 base year for PVPC's regional transportation model. This included the development of new traffic analysis zones and changes to the regional roadway network. The model produces estimates of daily traffic flow on the major roadways in our regional transportation network.



Developed the City of Springfield's first Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This effort was coordinated through a CDC Community Transformation Grant that included a significant transportation component under the new "Live Well Springfield" initiative.

Coordinated efforts to improve access to the Springfield Riverwalk and the development of the McKnight Neighborhood Trail. This effort included expanded meetings and consultations in populations with limited English proficiency (LEP) and expanded outreach to traditionally underserved neighborhoods.

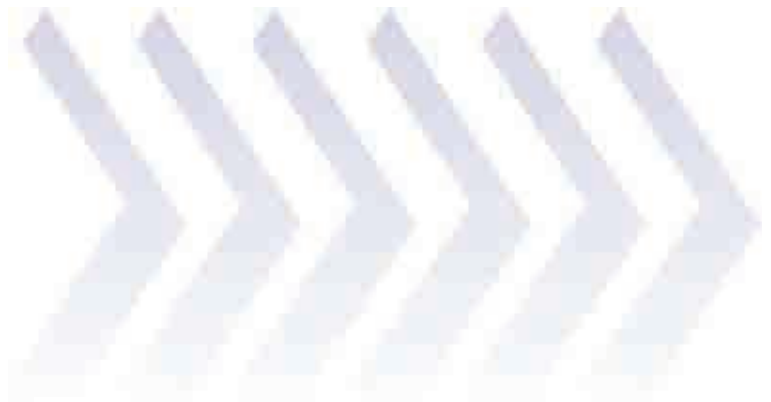
Assisted in efforts to reconstruct and refurbish the Norwottuck Rail Trail including the coordination of meeting notices/minutes and coordination among committee members.

Completed an assessment of vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety in the Depot Street/Sheep Pasture Road/Powder Mill Road area of the town of Southwick. Transportation staff reviewed the operational and safety characteristics of the study area to develop a series of recommendations to improve access, connectivity, and safety for all modes of travel.

Performed a transportation gap analysis for Cooley Dickinson Health Care. The gap analysis reviewed the existing level of transportation services to the main campus of Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. The goal of the analysis was to enhance access to services and other places that contribute to a healthier and higher quality of life in the Cooley Dickinson service area.

Collected travel time data throughout the region for use in transportation studies as well as the Congestion Management Process (CMP). Monthly observations were also collected at all regional park and ride lots. Analyzed all travel time data to assist in updating the severity of congestion along all CMP corridors as well as the top regional bottlenecks.

Participated in roadway safety audits (RSAs) for the City of Holyoke, the Interstate 91 Viaduct in the City of Springfield, the Town of Agawam, and the Town of Ludlow. PVPC staff assisted in collecting traffic count and crash data to develop the RSA. Staff also participated in each site visit to identify factors that may contribute to crashes at each location.



## Transit

Conducted and completed a Comprehensive Service Analysis (CSA), in which ridership trends were studied, PVTA stakeholders and riders consulted, and route alternatives proposed, culminating in a final report making recommendations to improve mobility on PVTA and eliminate counterproductive routes.

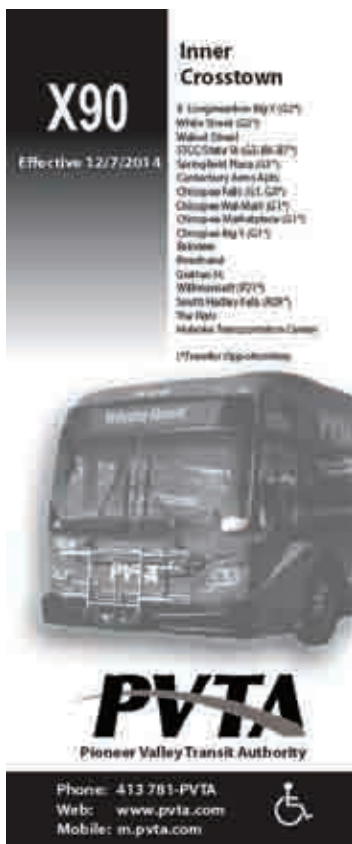
Completed a Title VI analysis for PVTA's CSA. PVPC's analysis identified the crucial objective of the CSA and the fall service changes informed by streamlining of PVTA's route network. Through an extensive review of existing and proposed routes, the study documented the impact of eliminating duplicative service and minor route deviations that increase travel time without significantly improving access. Overall, a total of 48.7 discontinued route miles were analyzed and weighted against the benefits of service improvements and system efficiencies.

Implemented the recommendations of the CSA by posting notices at discontinued bus stops, composing new schedules, and inaugurating new bus routes and services. CSA recommendations went into effect beginning August 25, 2014.

Updated and revised 42 of PVTA's 43 printed bus schedules for Fall 2014, consistent with the recommendations of the CSA. Six new schedules were established for six new routes: the 14E, 33, X90, X92, X98, and 10S. The R29 route was reinstated and the Owl Shuttle was merged with the new 10S.

Studied the time travel benefits of crosstown service along two corridors: one from East Longmeadow to Chicopee via White, Walnut, Federal, and Liberty streets; and one from Ludlow to Holyoke via Interstate 90. Both corridors showed substantial potential for reducing travel times throughout the bus network as a whole. Service on the former corridor was inaugurated on August 25, 2014, as the new X90 route.

Drafted a diagrammatic system map of PVTA bus services, updated to include all service changes put into effect following the CSA. The system map is currently under review by PVTA.



Conducted random service quality spot checks as part of the Mystery Rider program, in which mystery riders board both fixed route buses and paratransit vans unannounced and monitor the performance of the drivers, taking note of cleanliness, customer service skills, handling of the bus, on-time performance, and other quality issues.

Monitored PVTA buses for schedule on-time adherence at selected points throughout the service area, performing over 500 observations each quarter.

Investigated possibilities for bus stop consolidation in Springfield and Chicopee by establishing an ideal stop spacing of one quarter-mile. Bus stops were sorted into corridors and matched into inbound-outbound pairs based on location. Ridership at each stop-pair was examined to verify the usefulness of a one quarter-mile minimum spacing. Approximately 50 percent of stops in Springfield were recommended for consolidation.

Continued availability of Quick Response (QR) code information by PVTA for every bus schedule at high ridership locations, including bus terminals, university campuses, and participating high schools. These QR codes can be scanned and a copy of the individual schedule can be downloaded to a phone with a data plan.

Facilitated meetings with PVTA paratransit riders to identify and discuss the concerns of ADA and senior riders.

Assisted PVTA in the production and reporting of quarterly reports of their fixed route performance measures for the entirety of FY14. Continued distribution of quarterly PVTA performance measure reports to MassDOT.

Determined PVTA routes best suited to providing access to mobile farmers' markets in Springfield during the summer. Informational fliers were designed, printed, and distributed to encourage transit use for accessing farmers' markets.

Assisted PVTA in designing the South Hadley Flex Route. South Hadley will be the pilot program for the first Flex Route in the PVTA system and, if successful, can be a model for service in towns currently with little to no fixed-route transit service. PVPC assistance involves analysis

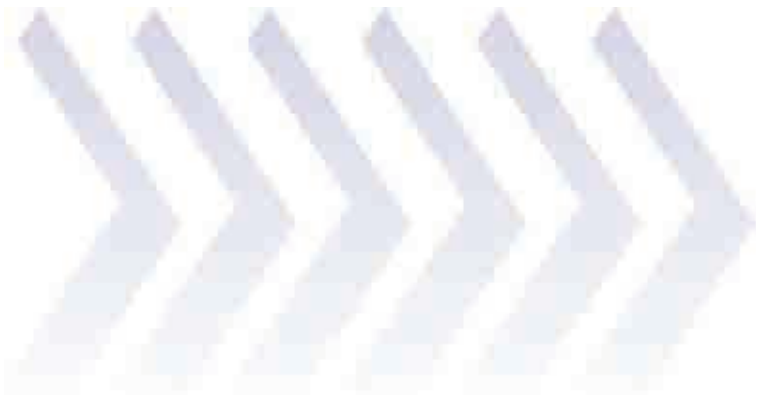


of population densities in South Hadley, input from meetings with PVTA and South Hadley, and physical design of the flex route by comparing other successful flex routes in the U.S.

Developed the Bus Stop Improvement Plan for the PVTA. This will be a comprehensive plan to set guidelines to prioritize bus stops and shelters that need renovation or replacement. Bus stop analysis will then be performed using the aforementioned guidelines to identify bus stops in the PVTA system for repairs.

Began work on the update of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan to reflect MAP-21 changes for federal funding. The plan will also be updated with goals for the region determined through Regional Coordinating Council meetings.

Participated and hosted meetings for the formation of the Pioneer Valley Regional Coordinating Council (PVRCC). The PVRCC addresses paratransit and community transportation service gaps and makes recommendations to decision makers about regional transportation priorities. The PVRCC provides an opportunity for a wide range of local stakeholders to come together to identify unmet needs, articulate regional priorities, and build coalitions around new projects in mobility and transportation.



## Municipal Development

Facilitated over \$6.5 million in public infrastructure, public facilities, housing rehabilitation, septic system repair, planning and design, and social/public services projects in the following communities:

**Agawam**—Participation in housing rehabilitation, oversight of the initiation of an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, housing authority improvements at Colonial Haven (electrical upgrades and window replacement, and oversight of engineering and design for Springfield Street sidewalks and crosswalks.

**Amherst**—Completion of neighborhood surveys in compliance with U.S. Department of HUD methodology to determine qualifying areas for CDBG funding.

**Belchertown**—Continuation of the rehabilitation of housing units under the Belchertown Regional Community Development Fund Program. In conjunction with the project consulting engineer, completion of infrastructure improvements to the Belchertown, Granby, and Hadley housing authorities under the FY 2012 Community Development Fund Program.

**Chester**—As part of the Southern Hilltowns Community Assistance Program, continuation of housing rehabilitation for eligible residents; participation in the domestic violence prevention program, adult literacy, food pantry support, supplemental case management services, and other social service programs. Initiation and substantial completion of the Maple Avenue/Maple Street roadway and sidewalks improvements project. Initiation of the Hampden Street water line replacement project. Implementation of the Healthy Homes Program for seniors.

**East Longmeadow**—Participation in housing rehabilitation, oversight of the initiation of an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, initiation of housing authority improvements at Quarry Hill (door replacement and security upgrades).

**Easthampton**—Continuation of the housing rehabilitation program for eligible residents.





**Granby**—Continuation of the rehabilitation of housing units under the Belchertown Regional Community Development Fund Program. In conjunction with the project consulting engineer, completion of the infrastructure improvements to the Belchertown, Granby, and Hadley housing authorities under the FY 2012 Community Development Fund Program.

**Hadley**—Continuation of the rehabilitation of housing units under the Belchertown Regional Community Development Fund Program. In conjunction with the project consulting engineer, completion of infrastructure improvements to the Belchertown, Granby, and Hadley housing authorities under the FY 2012 Community Development Fund Program.

**Hardwick**—Continuation of rehabilitation of housing units under the Ware River Valley Community Assistance Program. Completion of the Phase I High Street and Taylor Street infrastructure improvements project, oversight of the Prospect Street-Broad Street infrastructure improvements engineering and design project, oversight of the Senior Center planning project, oversight of a distressed properties assessment and re-use planning study, and participation in social services (adult literacy, domestic violence prevention, and family support services).

**Hatfield**—Oversight of a grant to conduct a building assessment, market analysis, and reuse study for the former Center School Building.

**Longmeadow**—Initiated a senior center assessment study to assist the town in determining the facility needs of its aging population.

**Middlefield**—As part of the Southern Hilltowns Community Assistance Program, continuation of housing rehabilitation for eligible residents; oversight of domestic violence prevention planning, adult literacy, food pantry support, supplemental case management services, and other social service programs. Initiation and completion of the senior center roof and related improvements project.

**North Brookfield**—Participation in housing rehabilitation and the initiation of a neighborhood infrastructure planning project.



**Russell**—As part of the Southern Hilltowns Community Assistance Program, continuation of housing rehabilitation for eligible residents; oversight of domestic violence prevention planning, adult literacy, food pantry support, supplemental case management services, and other social service programs. Completed the Phase II Pine Hill Water Improvements Project.

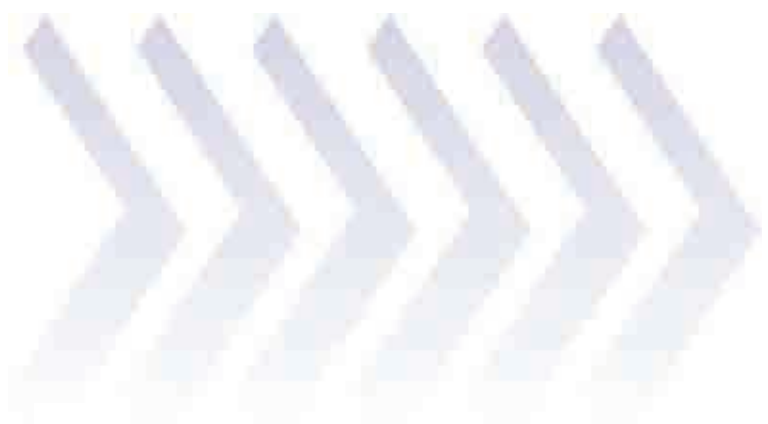
**Spencer**—Continuation of the Spencer Housing Rehabilitation Program and oversight of a of a distressed properties assessment and re-use planning study.

**Sturbridge**—Initiation of the FY13 DHCD Reserve Fund Program resulting in the creation of a wastewater treatment facility for the Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative Corporation.

**Wales**—Initiation and substantial completion of the Woodland Heights storm drainage and roadway improvements project. Rehabilitation of approximately six units of housing.

**Ware**—Continuation of rehabilitation of housing units under the Ware River Valley Community Assistance Program. Provision of adult literacy programs and family support services. Continuation of a domestic violence prevention program. Initiation of the High Street infrastructure improvements project, completion of the property assessment and re-use planning project, and continued implementation of a domestic violence prevention program.

**Warren**—Continuation of rehabilitation of housing units under the Ware River Valley Community Assistance Program, oversight of a distressed properties assessment and re-use planning study, and participation in social services (adult literacy, domestic violence prevention, and family support services).



**FFY 2014 CDBG Programs**—Applied for and received over \$5.0 million in FFY2014 CDF Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Development Block Grant Funds on behalf of the municipalities of Russell, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Ware, Hardwick, Warren, Spencer, Leicester, and Charlton. Work on these projects and programs was initiated in the fall of 2014. Specific programs include:

**FFY2014 CDF**—Town of Russell (Chester, Huntington, Middlefield): \$1,063,467 for sidewalk improvements in Huntington, approximately 16 units of housing rehabilitation, a regional ADA planning project, and social services (case management and support services, food pantry, adult education center, domestic violence prevention).

**FFY2014 CDF**—Town of Ware: \$799,984 for the High Street improvements project, Prospect Street infrastructure design project, and domestic violence prevention.

**FFY2014 CDF**—Town of Warren (Hardwick, Ware): \$905,176 for the Pleasant Street improvements project in Warren, the rehabilitation of approximately six units of housing, and social services (adult learning).

**FFY2014 CDF**—Town of Spencer: \$712,695 for the Mechanic Street improvements project and the Chestnut Street infrastructure design project.

**FFY2014 CDF**—Town of Hardwick: \$800,000 for the Taylor/High/Main/Joslyn Road Street improvements project and social services (domestic violence prevention, senior services).

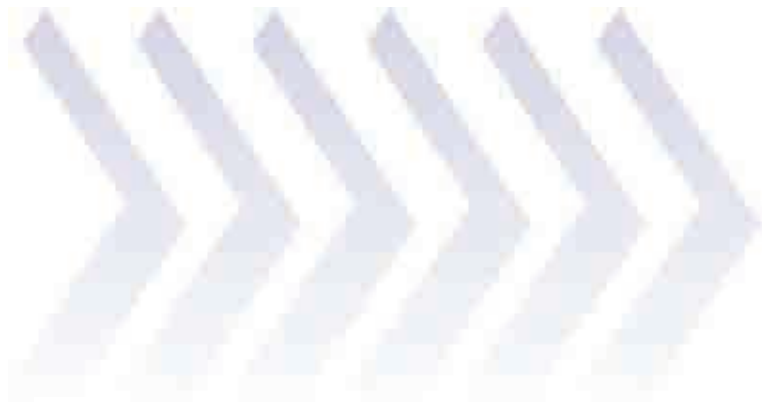
**FY2014 CDF**—Town of Leicester (Charlton): \$758,056 for the rehabilitation of approximately two units of housing, housing authority improvement projects, barrier removal at Charlton Town Hall, and an accessibility design project for Leicester town hall.

## Housing Rehabilitation and Development

Administered and implemented over \$1.5 million in Department of Housing and Community Development Community Development Fund housing rehabilitation and septic system improvements in the towns of Ware, Warren, Hardwick, Russell, Middlefield, Chester, Wales, Easthampton, Agawam, East Longmeadow, Spencer, Belchertown, Granby, Hadley, and North Brookfield.

Continued to serve as the Region 1 service provider under the commonwealth's Home Modifications Loan Program for those with disabilities. Over \$300,000 was loaned to borrowers to allow them to remove private property architectural and other health barriers to their homes. To date, PVPC has lent over \$4 million to eligible and qualified borrowers under this program since 2005.

Provided construction monitor services to homeowners under the CEDAC/MRC Home Modifications Loan Program.



## Housing Planning

Worked to implement the new Regional Housing Plan, completed in 2013, and integrated into "Our Next Future," the region's sustainability action plan. Work included coordinating a regional housing committee and facilitating four working sessions for housing advocates and municipal planners in the region: "Training on Enhancing Housing Choice," "Western Mass Housing Workshop," "Developing an Array of Housing Options," and "Innovative Land Use Taxation Models."



Developed a model framework for completing a housing plan that satisfies DHCD's requirements for a Housing Production Plan while utilizing data and findings from the Regional Housing Plan. Met with Belchertown, Easthampton, Pelham, and Hatfield to discuss developing housing plans based on this framework. All but Belchertown committed to developing a housing plan.

Provided technical assistance to Belchertown on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU); Belchertown adopted an ADU bylaw in Spring 2014.

Provided technical assistance to Southampton on an inclusionary zoning bylaw which they adopted in 2014.

Helped Agawam establish a local housing committee by creating an informational overview of the purpose and tasks, and by developing a draft ordinance to establish the committee for City Council adoption. The Agawam City Council voted to establish a local housing committee in May 2014.

Completed a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA) for the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor.

Completed the Easthampton Housing Production Plan and the Pelham Housing Production Plan.

# Brownfields

Continued implementation of a regional brownfields site assessment program awarded by EPA in late 2012. Under the \$400,000 program, site assessment activities were initiated and/or completed at 12 sites in eight communities: Chicopee (two sites), Hadley, Holyoke, Middlefield, Northampton, Springfield (four sites), Ware, and Westfield. Nearly all funds under this program have now been spent or committed to ongoing projects. Roughly 80 percent of program funds were utilized or committed at projects within Areas of Brownfields Interest designated under PVPC's Regional Brownfields Plan, a component of PVPC's HUD-funded Knowledge Corridor project. The assessment program will expire at the end of September 2015.

Completed work under PVPC's EPA-funded brownfields revolving loan fund, which closed at the end of December 2014 after a 15-year performance period. In 2014, site cleanup activities were initiated and/or completed at four sites in three communities: Chicopee (Uniroyal site, led by the City of Chicopee), Holyoke (Automania and Hart Wool sites, both led by the City of Holyoke), and Springfield (Gunn Block site, led by DevelopSpringfield). Commitments this year exceeded \$800,000 in new and amended loans and subgrants. In 2014 all RLF program funds were utilized or committed at projects within Areas of Brownfields Interest designated under PVPC's Regional Brownfields Plan.

Pursued community outreach and collaboration efforts through public meetings of PVPC's Brownfields Advisory Committee/Loan Review Subcommittee, capacity-building or site-specific meetings or teleconferences with more than a dozen member communities and several non-profits/developers, and participation at several regional economic development gatherings.

Participated in the MassDEP-led Brownfields Support Team for the Ludlow Mills redevelopment project. Collaborated with several state and federal agencies to provide technical assistance to WestMass Development in its cleanup and redevelopment of this large-scale former industrial site.

More information about PVPC's brownfields program is available at [www.pvpc.org/brownfields](http://www.pvpc.org/brownfields).



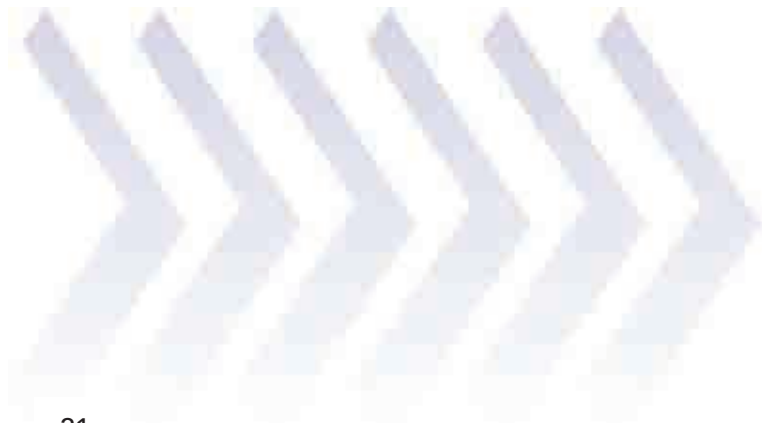


## Domestic Violence Prevention

**Ware** —Implemented domestic violence prevention project and coordinated the Ware Domestic Violence Task Force. Major projects included implementation of a new collaboration with Mary Lane Hospital designed to improve screening and referrals for patients who have experienced domestic and sexual violence; provision of direct services for victims including a weekly support group and individual advocacy services; implementation of a healthy relationship prevention campaign at Ware High School including classroom-based activities, student writing prompts, and a student-created public service ad campaign using student art and writing; production of a show for local TV on the impact of domestic violence on parenting and brain development; training for local professionals on children who witness domestic violence; implementation of a new interfaith initiative to support those who work with abuse victims; coordination of Ware-based agencies through monthly Task Force meetings; and ongoing implementation of a community education and outreach campaign through use of newspaper, cable, and back-to-school nights.

**Russell/Middlefield/Huntington**—Implemented domestic violence prevention project and coordinated the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force. Major projects included: support and expansion of local domestic violence advocacy services through a collaboration with Hilltown Community Health Centers and Safe Passage; development and implementation of a community-wide education campaign based on the results of an extensive community survey; support of a student-led group to provide leadership on healthy relationships and anti-bullying projects at Gateway High School; dating violence prevention trainings for students at Gateway High School; implementation of a scholarship in honor of domestic violence victim Karen Hart; collaboration with and support for local and state police departments; service coordination through a semi-annual provider networking meeting and monthly task force meetings, and community education and outreach through back-to-school nights, visits to health center staff meetings, brochures and public service ads throughout the community, and use of local newspapers for letters to the editor, opinion pieces and public service ads.

**Warren**— Provided direct services for victims including a weekly support group and advocacy services, and included Warren in several Ware Task Force initiatives including improved procedures for reaching victims at Mary Lane Hospital, training for professionals that serve Ware victims, and inclusion of the Warren faith community in an interfaith initiative on domestic violence.



## Historic Preservation Planning

Continued the process of obtaining state and federal tax credit certification applications for two former Catholic convents, a former Catholic school, and a former public school in Holyoke.

Completed inventory forms for the Carew Street Baptist Church, Springfield, and the John Rose House, Granville.

Conducted Section 106 reviews for Department of Housing and Community Development rehabilitation work in the towns of Agawam, East Longmeadow, Russell, Chester, Middlefield, Huntington, Easthampton, Ware, Warren, Hardwick, Wales, Spencer, and North Brookfield.

Continued a multi-phase project in Amherst to potentially expand and create historic districts, survey cemeteries, and survey outbuildings.

Assisted with the development of historic roadway signs for the Jacobs Ladder Scenic Byway.

Continued to meet with numerous historic commissions throughout the region to evaluate their preservation priorities, plan future preservation efforts, and offer technical assistance.

Provided Local Technical Assistance on historic preservation issues to Northampton, West Springfield, and Southwick.

Helped form and coordinated meetings of the Western Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition, an organization which provides educational and networking opportunities for historic commissions and historic district commission members. PVPC has partnered with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Preservation Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission to continue this series into 2015.

## Scenic Byway Planning

Completed a marketing campaign for the seven scenic byways of Western Massachusetts, the slogan for which is "Slow Roads, Great Adventures." The campaign has involved advertising throughout the Northeast and includes the new website [www.bywayswestmass.com](http://www.bywayswestmass.com), a brochure, logos for each of the byways, and a single logo for the collection of byways. Roadway and interpretive signs have also been developed. Installation of signs will likely occur in 2015. PVPC collaborated with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, local byway advisory group representatives, MassDOT representatives, tourism bureau partners in western Massachusetts, and consulting firm New Arts Collaborative on this project.

Completed work on a collaborative Tri-state Bike Map project to identify and map the best bicycle routes for various level riders along the Connecticut River Byway in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Bike racks were procured and installed for various locations along the Byway in Hadley and South Hadley.

Initiated work on three new national scenic byway grants and projects: developing recreational trails and river access at six sites along the Connecticut River Scenic Byway, updating the corridor management plan for the Connecticut River Scenic Byway, and exploring recreational trail linkages in the Route 112 and Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway region.

Began work to identify potential routes to link existing trails for walking journeys in the Route 112 and Jacob's Ladder Trail scenic byways. The project team also includes the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Trustees of Reservations. Initial work has entailed identifying potential routes, initiating conversations with public land owners, and mapping potential routes on public lands.

PVPC, working with key byway advisory group members and consultants, began work along the Connecticut River Scenic Byway to enhance recreational opportunities. As part of another scenic byway project, PVPC is developing recreational access in Lee along the Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway.

## Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Natural Hazards Planning

**WELCOME**  
to the  
**Hampden County  
Public Health  
Improvement Forum**  
November 13, 2014

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Large Conference Room

Supported by  
the Pioneer Valley  
Planning Commission  
**PVPC**



Continued to serve as the fiscal and administrative agent for the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC), a group of municipal public health professionals representing the 19 cities and towns in Hampden County focusing on public health emergency preparedness.

Continued to provide administrative and program oversight of county-wide Medical Reserve Corps program and several Special Populations Preparedness Planning efforts, including the development of standard operating procedures for first responders and an ongoing effort to link faith-based organizations with emergency personnel to increase awareness and communication in preparing and responding to emergency situations.

PVPC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Planner continued to develop emergency preparedness plans for all coalition communities, including the development of a regional sheltering plan; conducted discussion, communications, and exercise drills to test these plans; presented components of the region's preparedness program throughout the region; and provided trainings and educational materials to enhance the region's capacity to respond to emergencies. The coalition will partake in a first-of-its-kind regional multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency emergency dispensing tabletop exercise to test their updated written plans while engaging key community partners.

Engaged in ongoing interaction with the HCHC communities, local Medical Reserve Corps coordinators, and special populations consultants to further develop preparedness plans and community education throughout the region.

The PHEP planner leveraged the services of the Regional Shared Nurse to engage "offline" coalition communities to sign up for and become "online" users of the state's disease surveillance and reporting system, MAVEN. This resulted in Hampden County being 100 percent in compliance with the state's unfunded mandate for municipalities to report and monitor communicable diseases through the MAVEN system.

Through collaboration with the Western Region Homeland Security Council, the PHEP planner garnered regional shelter supplies and equipments totaling over \$150,000. Four coalition communities have

signed written MOUs between the town/city and the council to host these equipments.

Completed a rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of two municipal recommendations in the Pioneer Valley Climate Action/Clean Energy Plan in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Williamsburg, and Springfield.

In collaboration with the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC), worked with local emergency preparedness and response professionals and with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assess and report on the number of people that could be “received” and sheltered in our region in the event of a major disaster affecting population centers around the region, and advanced mass receiving work to include establishing standard operating procedures for emergency pass-through stations for people fleeing disasters and traveling through the region.

Assisted the WRHSAC with publicity and outreach to municipal officials and not-for-profit and business leaders to ensure understanding and awareness of resources available from WRHSAC and local emergency responders.

Continued to work with local emergency management directors, departments of public works staff, and other concerned municipal officials and volunteers to facilitate development of local hazard mitigation plans—four new (in Granville, Longmeadow, Montgomery, and Wales) and five updates (in Agawam, Easthampton, Hampden, Southwick, and Ware). Having a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan is required to apply for hazard mitigation grant funds.

Secured funding on behalf of 21 additional municipalities in the region to facilitate new and or updated local hazard mitigation plans: Amherst, Belchertown, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, East Longmeadow, Goshen, Hadley, Hatfield, Holyoke, Huntington, Ludlow, Northampton, Palmer, Pelham, South Hadley, Southampton, Tolland, Westhampton, Wilbraham, and Williamsburg.

Completed facilitation of a Natural Hazard Mitigation plan for the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



## Environmental and Water Quality

Worked with state legislators and the Connecticut River Clean-up Committee to secure a line item for \$10 million in state funds in the newly adopted Environmental Bond bill to support Connecticut River clean-up.

Continued to coordinate regular meetings and activities of the Connecticut River Clean-up Committee, including work to administer federal grants for clean-up of combined sewer overflows on the Connecticut River, which now total over \$20 million.

Continued sixth year of work on a \$1.34 million EPA Targeted Watersheds grant for the tri-state Connecticut River Watershed Initiative. The grant, one of only 13 nationwide and the only one given in New England, includes ten major projects, from real-time water quality monitoring to stormwater management to Smart Growth tools for water protection. PVPC is managing this project with major partners including the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Massachusetts Water Watch Partnership, and U.S. Geological Survey. Work included:

- Coordinating seventh year of a volunteer water quality sampling program for bacteria pollution in the river
- Continuing to expand the new Connecticut River website, which includes water quality monitoring data, river recreational access maps and data, and regional hiking trails information at [www.connecticutriver.us](http://www.connecticutriver.us)
- Completed and submitted final report for project to EPA.

Continued public education about stormwater pollution in the 13 cities and towns participating in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. The group is transitioning from the Think Blue campaign to a new public education campaign called Soak up the Rain. A new website and materials are under development. PVPC continues to facilitate meetings of this regional group and is helping to identify ways to help communities meet forthcoming new federal permit requirements.

Coordinated several region-wide workshops on stormwater management. This included collaborations with EPA Region 1 to provide a workshop for municipal officials and developers, two workshops for property owners on best stormwater management practices around

homes and businesses, and a workshop for municipal officials on stormwater financing. PVPC also hosted an EPA/MassDEP information session on the 2014 draft MS4 stormwater permit.

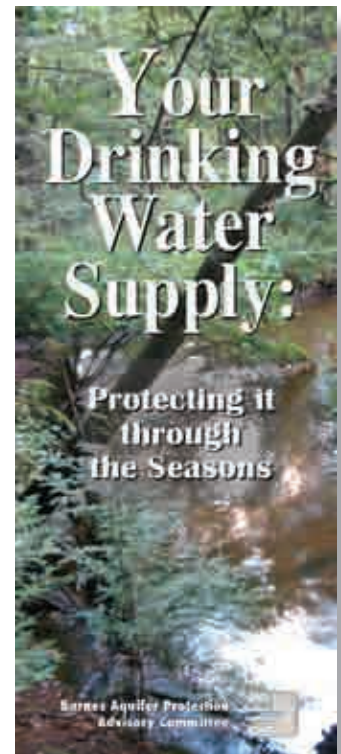
Received funds through a Clean Water Act settlement to initiate a new project to develop rain gardens in Springfield. Selected a consultant to design rain gardens and project sites.

Completed the Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Plan. The plan, part of the larger bi-state Sustainable Knowledge Corridor project, explores the benefits of and opportunities for capturing rain near where it falls with green infrastructure stormwater management facilities, including bioretention systems/rain gardens, infiltration systems, green roofs, and porous asphalt. Worked on Green Infrastructure Plan implementation projects, including developing a model Green Streets and Green Infrastructure policy for Northampton.

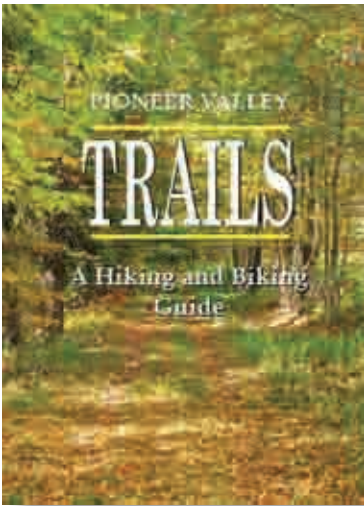
Continued to facilitate the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) and to comment on Developments of Regional Impact over the aquifer's Zone II recharge area in Easthampton, Southampton, Holyoke, and Westfield.

Continued work with the Town of Belchertown to address water quality issues at Arcadia and Metacomet lakes and to undertake preliminary design and programming to address sources. The project is made possible by a grant from MassDEP with federal funding from the Mass DEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning program.

Received a grant funding award from the Mass DEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning program to begin work on the Chicopee River in Ludlow, Chicopee, and Springfield to identify the degree to which illicit connections and urban stormwater are contributing to bacteria impairments on the Chicopee River and associated tributaries. The project will complement the ongoing work to eliminate combined sewer overflows and improve flow from hydropower operations. As the project will organize and train a watershed team, this work will also help build capacity towards a revived watershed group for the Chicopee River.



## Greenways and Trails



Sold more than 2,000 copies of a new "Pioneer Valley Trails" regional trails map and hiking guide, which illustrates and describes hiking and biking trails across the Pioneer Valley region. Established and expanded a new regional trails map website that contains more detailed trails information.

Worked with Chicopee and an engineering consultant to coordinate completion of 25 percent design/engineering plans for the Connecticut Riverwalk, Chicopee segment.

Coordinated regular meetings of the regional Connecticut Riverwalk Advisory Committee, with representatives from Agawam, Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, and West Springfield.

Continued to provide services to municipalities and land trusts through the Pioneer Valley Compact for Conservation, including services on land protection and wetlands protection.

## Built Environment and Urban Design

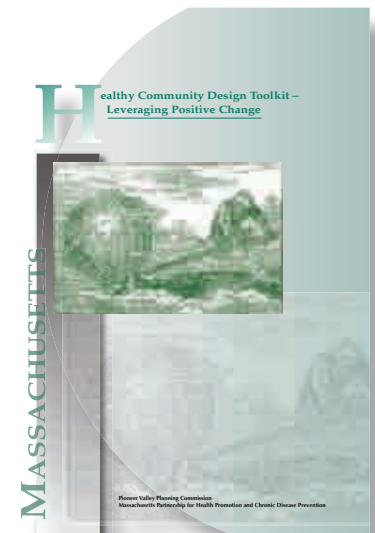
Concluded the two-year, two-million dollar infusion of federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Live Well Springfield initiative in Springfield to promote healthy eating via expanding mobile markets, providing nutrition education, catalyzing ongoing efforts to bring a full-line grocery store to Mason Square, and encouraging healthy behavior with an emphasis on walking, bicycling, and rowing, focusing on the development a Complete Streets Bicycle and Pedestrian plan.

Concluded a collaboration with HAP, Inc. in Springfield to implement the Vibrant Neighborhoods initiative in the Springfield Old Hill neighborhood, focusing on community development and housing promotion.

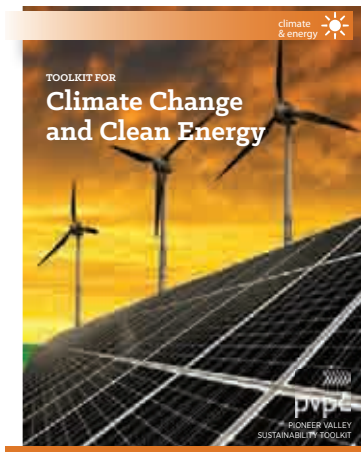
Revised the Healthy Community Design toolkit to include a focus on healthy community design for older adults in collaboration with the Massachusetts Councils on Aging and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Made presentations at various webinars and conferences.

Continued to collaborate with MDPH to “operationalize” the Healthy Community Design Toolkit by developing an electronic version of it to be housed on the MDPH website.

Secured funding on behalf of West Springfield and Palmer to participate in the Mass in Motion MDPH initiative to promote community health by improving residents’ ability to be physically active and to access healthy food.



## Sustainability, Clean Energy, and Climate Action



Completed the third and final year of work on the three-year, \$4.2 million bi-state Knowledge Corridor Sustainable Communities project in cooperation with the Capitol Region Council of Governments in Hartford, Connecticut. Accomplishments included:

- Completed a new bi-state action agenda, “One Region, One Future,” which has been adopted by the bi-state Knowledge Corridor Consortium
- Completed a new video to present the “One Region, One Future” action agenda to the public
- Completed a new “Pioneer Valley Sustainability Toolkit” that contains hundreds of fact sheets, model bylaws, and policies designed to help communities implement our sustainability strategy
- Completed a new regional action plan, “Our Next Future,” which has been formally adopted by PVPC
- Completed work on three catalytic projects, including Depot Square revitalization in Holyoke, Court Square redevelopment in Springfield, and the Connecticut Riverwalk in Chicopee
- Completed new regional element plans for green infrastructure, housing, climate action and clean energy, brownfields, food security, environment, land use, and sustainable transportation
- Completed work on implementation strategies for all eight element plans.

Continued to staff the Pioneer Valley Sustainability Network ([www.pvsustain.org](http://www.pvsustain.org)), a self-sustaining membership organization whose members work for a sustainable, just, and regenerative future for our region.

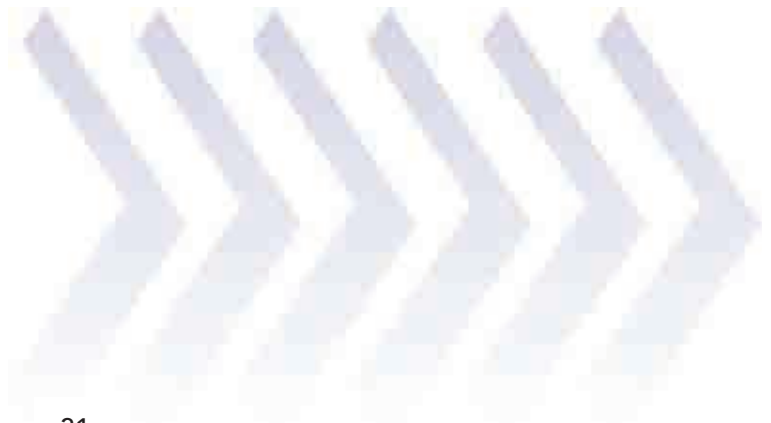
Continued running the annual Pioneer Valley Bay State Bike Week, nine days of events in May that celebrate bicycle riding and commuting. This year expanded the number of participants to over 1,400 and the number of events to 50. Participation was also greatly increased in Springfield with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club.

Completed the newly updated Pioneer Valley Climate Action/Clean Energy plan. Continued work to implement the plan, assisting with the region’s transition to clean, safe, sustainable energy sources and working to reduce the impacts of climate change. Provided Green Communities certification assistance to the towns of Williamsburg and Longmeadow. Our region has 15 designated Green Communities.

Completed development of a new Climate Change Toolkit on local strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts.

Concluded work in collaboration with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center on behalf of the towns of Amherst and Hadley and the cities of Easthampton and Holyoke to develop a Road Map for Clean Energy as part of a Massachusetts Clean Energy Center pilot project on Community Energy Strategies.

Concluded three-year project in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources on a U.S. Department of Energy pilot project to assist homeowners in eight municipalities—Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Palmer, Belchertown, Monson, Wilbraham, Springfield, and Hampden—to receive no-cost home energy assessments and to implement retrofit work to save them money while also reducing energy use and concomitant greenhouse gas emissions.





## Master Planning and Zoning

Developed the Healthy Community Design toolkit in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Made presentation to the Mass in Motion coordinators and provided technical assistance on implementation to two communities.

Developed a model medical marijuana zoning bylaw that has now been utilized by over half of PVPC member communities in developing their own zoning bylaws to regulate registered marijuana dispensaries in their communities. Many other communities from the Cape to the Berkshires have also used it as their model.

Continued to provide technical assistance to communities to develop and implement smart growth strategies from Valley Vision, the region's land use plan. Provided targeted technical assistance to Hatfield in adopting mixed use development zoning and creating green development performance standards; to Granby and Agawam in adopting Mixed Use Development Districts; to Easthampton on updating its Transfer of Development Rights Bylaw; to Southampton on inclusionary zoning; and to Middlefield on Village Center Zoning.

Completed update and expansion of the Valley Vision toolbox.

Continued to coordinate meetings of the Valley Development Council, the implementation committee for Valley Vision. PVPC worked to involve VDC members in developing a model medical marijuana facility zoning bylaw, and in maintaining involvement in state zoning reform legislation. The VDC also began working with the Western Massachusetts Chapter of The American Institute of Architects in developing an FY15 Smart Growth Regional Award Program utilizing award categories based on the "Our Next Future" plan, and with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (MA EOHED) and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (MA EOEEA) on updating the region's Land Use Priority Protection and Land Use Priority Development maps. VDC Speaker Forums included "Form-Based Code" (Joel Russell, Executive Director of the Form-Based Codes Institute, and Shawn Rairigh, Planning Administrator for West Springfield), Mass Audubon's "Building Resilient Communities" (E. Heidi Ricci, Senior Policy Analyst, Mass Audubon; Scott Horsley, President, Horsley Witten Group; Cathy Bozek, Aquatic Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy), and "Innovative Storm Water Planning" (Hiram Peck,

Director of Community Planning and Development for Simsbury, CT and Jonathan Ford, Senior Project Manager-Community Design at Horsley Witten Group).

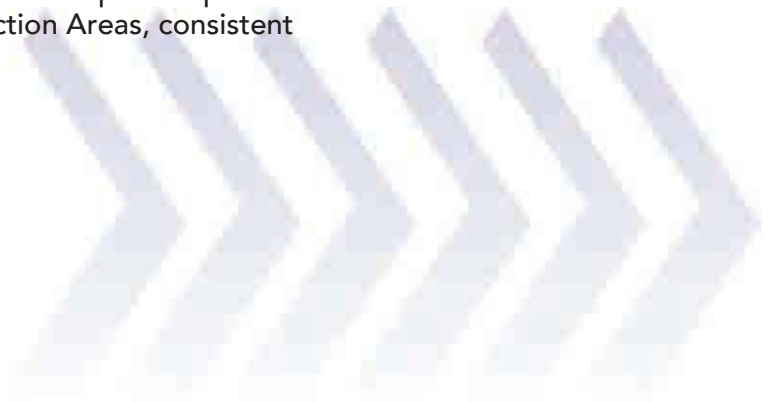
Continued work on PVPC's Planning Board Assistance program, which is designed to offer part-time "town planner" services for communities without professional planning staff on a fee-for-service basis, including:

- Worked with the Hadley Planning Board and Long Range Planning Committee for the tenth consecutive year to provide part-time town planner services under this program. Tasks completed for Hadley included a revised table of use regulations, updated subdivision regulations including performance guarantee process, clarifying vehicular egress and access to a lot and common driveways, medical marijuana bylaw, and development of commercial design guidelines for the Village Center Overlay District.
- Worked with the Cummington Planning Board on reorganization and recodification of their zoning bylaws.
- Worked with the Southampton Planning Board on revising and updating their subdivision regulations.
- Worked with the Granby Planning Board on reviewing Special Permit and subdivision applications and plans.

Completed the Town of Southampton's Master Plan.

Worked with the Monson Planning Board on implementing portions of the recently completed community plan for Monson Center by developing zoning bylaws for mixed use and mixed residential/business uses, parking, and commercial design and landscaping standards.

Initiated work with EOHEd and EOEEA on the Land Use Priority Plan project, an effort to update the Valley Vision land use plan maps for Priority Development Areas and Priority Protection Areas, consistent with state objectives.



## District Local Technical Assistance

PVPC received District Local Technical Assistance funding in FY14 through the state Legislature, with support of the governor. This funding allowed PVPC to offer free technical assistance to all member municipalities in two categories: Sustainable Development and Municipal Partnerships.

Under the Sustainable Development program, PVPC provided local technical assistance to nine communities:

- Agawam—Coordinated preparation of plans for complete/green streets, parking, and bicycle-pedestrian amenities in preparation for an infrastructure grant to support a new mixed use center.
- Amherst and South Hadley—Prepared model inclusionary housing zoning bylaws, a pilot for the region.
- Brimfield—Prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan update.
- Holyoke—Prepared recommendations for flexible parking to support rehabilitation of vacant buildings.
- Ludlow—Prepared an open space residential design bylaw.
- Monson—Prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan update.
- Northampton—Zoning for bicycle and pedestrian amenities.
- Palmer—Prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan update.
- Plainfield—Prepared mixed use village center zoning, commercial design guidelines, and bylaws to utilize town buildings as business incubator space.
- South Hadley—Worked on two additional sites for compact housing and mixed use.
- Southwick—Prepared a Master Plan update, including strategies for downtown revitalization.
- Worthington—Prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan update.
- Northampton, Holyoke, Amherst, Springfield—Prepared a regional bike share feasibility analysis and implementation framework.
- Northampton, Easthampton, Hatfield, Williamsburg—Worked with water suppliers to craft emergency water supply interconnections agreements.

For a summary of work completed under the DLTA Municipal Partnerships program, see the Municipal Shared Services Program category in this report.

## Municipal Shared Services Program

This program was developed in response to increasing community requests for assistance in identifying opportunities for efficiency and economy of scale, and to recent state program policies and resources encouraging and incentivizing municipalities and schools to pursue collaboration, partnerships, and shared service opportunities. PVPC member communities have expressed interest in shared service collaborations covering a range of shared municipal support service opportunities including shared inspectional services, shared grant writing, shared information technology services, regional municipal accountant services, bulk purchasing and procurement services, shared public health services, shared police personnel, and shared Conservation Agent services.

Since the inception of this program in 2012, projects of note include studies of school regionalization, shared emergency dispatch operations, regional sealers of weights and measures services, and shared local public health services, as well as working with towns in a regional school district desiring opportunities for working more collaboratively on school budget and related matters. Throughout 2014, new projects were developed and are ongoing efforts within the region. These include:

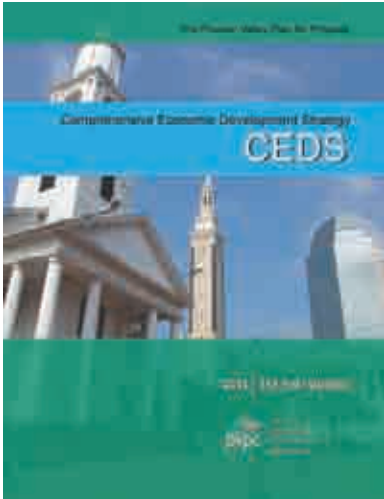
- **Hampden County Shared Public Health Nurse Assistance Program**—PVPC continues to work with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and member municipalities to identify and meet needs and opportunities for increasing the responsiveness and service delivery levels of local boards of health. This program is in its second year and has expanded to include additional communities as well as to complete a county-wide Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA will further aid in identifying unmet health needs that can be addressed by local public health boards within Hampden County. Not only will this health assessment help address the needs of these communities, but its findings will help shape the efforts of the Oversight Committee of this program in improving the overall public health nursing services in the county. The completion of the CHA will provide PVPC and the Oversight Committee with comprehensive data for the county that can be used in future public health initiatives such as those that will arise during the establishment of a casino situated within the Hampden County. The 12 participating communities of this expansive service delivery effort include West Springfield, Southwick, Blandford, Palmer, East Longmeadow, Granville, Ludlow, Monson, Hampden, Brimfield, Tolland, and Montgomery.

- **Shared Conservation Agent**—PVPC is working with the Town of Southamptton and the City of Easthampton to implement a shared Conservation Agent service program to assist the municipalities with improving service efficiency. The growing developments and other conservation priorities within the two communities are outpacing what the Conservation Commissions can handle on a volunteer basis with no Conservation Agent on staff. Using District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), PVPC studied the existing structure of the Conservation Commissions of both communities to assess and identify needs and opportunities for improving conservation efforts. The study determined that there is a need for shared professional Conservation Agent services to provide assistance to the existing active Conservation Commissions in Southamptton and Easthampton to meet their regulatory responsibilities, such as enforcement and permitting of wetlands regulations; open space planning, preservation, and stewardship; public education; and coordination with community groups for natural resource protection. The outcome of the study resulted in the submission of a CIC grant application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance. These funds will aid Easthampton and Southamptton by paying for startup costs associated with implementing a successful shared Conservation Agent program.
- **Shared Police Personnel**—The towns of Williamsburg and Chesterfield share borders, characteristics, and police officers. Both are rural communities with part-time police departments. Several part-time officers work in both departments, and there is considerable interaction between the two agencies. The Town of Chesterfield has reached a critical point as its part-time Chief of Police, who has served the town for more than 40 years, is approaching mandatory retirement age. Chesterfield officials reached out to their counterparts in the Town of Williamsburg to discuss the possibility of sharing the services of a police chief or consolidating their police services into a regional department to reduce costs and improve efficiency. PVPC was engaged by the towns to seek consultant services to conduct an analysis that will determine whether the municipalities' police departments could benefit from cross-jurisdictional sharing of personnel or regionalization.

- **Regional Municipal Accountant Services**—This program is being developed to respond to the needs of several small communities for professional accounting services. These services include warrant input, journal entries, reconciliation of cash and receivables, year-end closing entries, free cash certification, assistance with tax rate recapitulation, and Schedule A preparation. The idea of this regional municipal accountant program is to develop a cost-effective and efficient contractual base service through PVPC that will maintain accurate record keeping, timely report filing, and compliance with state and federal laws. PVPC is currently developing this program with four communities.
- **Regional Bike Share Feasibility Study**—PVPC is working collaboratively with four communities (Holyoke, Springfield, Amherst, and Northampton) and several area colleges (UMass Amherst, Springfield College, Springfield Technical Community College, Mt. Holyoke College, Hampshire College, Amherst College, and Smith College) to complete a feasibility study for establishing a pilot-scale regional bike share program, an alternative mode of urban transportation that would stand readily available at central locations and can be used for a fee, free from the worries of ownership of the bicycles. The focus area is primarily in and around the transit and commuter rail stations with links to the region's college network. The goal is to have a completed plan and its feasibility with recommendations for possible implementation by the end of 2014.
- **Regional Roundtables**—PVPC has hosted two Regional Roundtable luncheons that focus on pressing issues affecting local governments across the Pioneer Valley region. The first was focused on the recent changes to the flood regulations. Thomas Young from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was the keynote speaker for this event. The second was focused on energy aggregation. Hearing officers of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities were the keynote speakers at this luncheon and several energy aggregation brokers were present to engage in the conversation. The purpose of these roundtable events is to give local leaders an opportunity to receive updates and information on these pressing matters and engage in a regional dialogue with their counterpart as to how these issues can be solved together.



## Economic Development



Conducted the 2014 Ten-Year Update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which summarizes major economic development accomplishments from 2004-2014 and sets forth a new set of strategies for the upcoming decade based on the Plan for Progress. The CEDS update also provides the most recent economic data for the region and a priority-ranked listing of potential capital projects for the region. The report is available online at [www.pvpc.org](http://www.pvpc.org) under "Core Plans."

Worked with Plan for Progress Coordinating Council members to prepare the 2014 Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress, a regional economic development plan for the next decade. Held focus groups and feedback sessions with regional leaders and representatives from public, private, and civic sectors to refine the plan.

Conducted disaster recovery activities for Pioneer Valley businesses impacted by the natural disasters of 2011, including a revolving loan fund operated by Common Capital, technical assistance and support from the Business Growth Center in Springfield, and disaster resilience planning. Activities are being conducted over a three-year period with a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Assisted in developing new City2City Pioneer Valley program which will take place during 2014-15. Obtained \$25,000 in grant funding to operate the program, including facilitating a trip by Pioneer Valley leaders to a similar region that has implemented successful initiatives leading to economic growth.

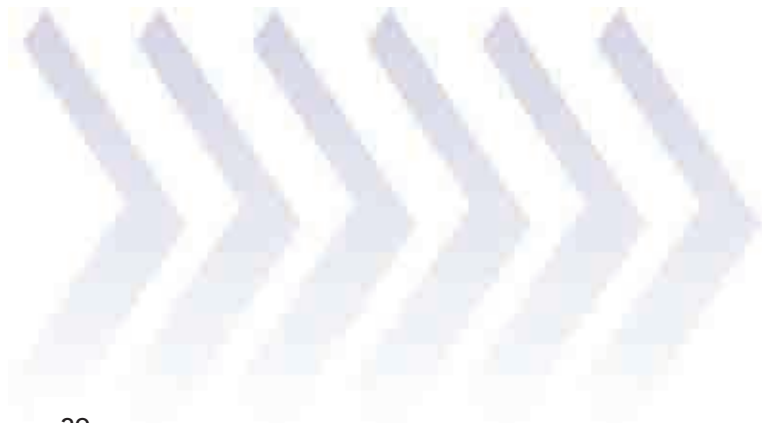
Worked with HAPHousing under a Barr Foundation grant to conduct outreach and provide assistance to business owners in the South End of Springfield who will be displaced if the MGM casino is built.

Continued to serve on Leadership Pioneer Valley (LPV) Board of Directors as the program transitioned to independent, non-profit status. Thirty-four participants graduated in June 2014 from LPV, for a total of 114 graduates to date. Worked with members of the LPV Classes of 2012 and 2013 to sponsor events and activities for alumni and the general public. Assisted LPV in recruiting and enrolling participants for the Class of 2015.

Provided assistance to the cities of Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, Ludlow, and Northampton in support of their highest priority projects submitted for inclusion in the 2014 CEDS for potential EDA funding.

Secured new planning grant from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) to provide logistical and technical support to the Pioneer Valley's EDA-designated Economic Development District, including a regular annual update of the CEDS.

Continued participation in the BusinessWest-sponsored Western Massachusetts Business Expo at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, an annual conference and exhibition that features over 100 exhibitors.



## Regional Information and Policy Center

Responded to about 35 requests for information or data coming from the media, other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

Revised and updated the socio-economic profile chapter for the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) annual report, along with updates about the Plan for Progress region-wide indicators accountability system.

Continued to provide data management and strategy development support for the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation's Reading Success by 4th Grade campaign focused on their work with the Results Based Scorecard. Supported Springfield focused strategy teams in the areas of school readiness, summer learning, and school attendance.

Conducted revisions and technical upgrades of the State of the Region database and completed annual updates for indicators in the database, which includes economic, social, health, and demographic information for municipalities, counties, and the region annually. Municipal profiles, which were updated with 2013 Census data (among other sources), available within the PVPC website's Communities pages and can be found at [www.pvpc.org/data](http://www.pvpc.org/data).

Launched the Pioneer Valley Data Portal, an online website that allows public access to the PVPC regional database. Winner of the 2014 National Association of Development Organizations' 2014 Innovation Award, the site allows users to query the database, combining data from many sources into one PDF or excel spreadsheet for download.

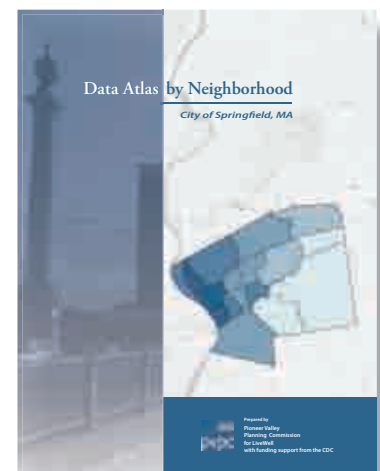
Continued to work with ROADS partners to manage and update the Pioneer Valley Data Portal, a shared database that allows all ROADS partners to make use of each others' data, creating consistency and efficiency across organizations. This constituted the fourth year of the Regional Organizations' Advanced Data Sharing (ROADS) partnership, a collaboration between key staff at the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts, and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Partners will continue to explore joint economic development publications and data indicators and hope to expand on that area in the coming year.

Created new data pages on the re-designed PVPC website, which provides access to the Pioneer Valley Data Portal for direct downloads of data as well as an interactive map of the region where users can click on a community and see basic information and data profiles about that community. Each community page also contains a feed of new projects and news articles that have been posted about that municipality. Continued upgrades to these pages are planned for the coming year.

Produced the extensive Springfield Data Atlas as a product for LiveWell Springfield. Based on the award-winning 2013 State of the People of the Pioneer Valley report, this product focuses on the health and well-being of the people in Springfield and compares data by neighborhood, city-wide, and regionally. The project provides written analysis, graphs, and maps, as well as access to download image files that people in the community can use in their own reports and grant applications. The full report and image files can be found online at <http://www.pvpc.org/content/springfield-neighborhood-data-atlas-released>.

Continued to maintain the website for the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor initiative. The website has been the public face of the Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Initiative in this region and includes a sustainable data report card. Continued to maintain data on the section of this website focused on the question of "How are we doing?" which engages visually interactive tools to examine sustainability indicators. While the grant period has ended, the site will be maintained for an additional year.

Continued to provide technical assistance and data support needs to all departments of PVPC.



## GIS Mapping and Graphics

Oversaw and implemented a complete overhaul of PVPC's website. The old-school coded web site was scrapped for a completely modernized data-driven content management system (CMS) based on the powerful Drupal platform. The most important benefits of this new website platform include the ability to search site content and files for specific tags or keyword/phrases, improved site structure and organization, improved user interface, ease of access to important information, and creating content that is much easier for PVPC staff to update and manage in a timely manner. All these improvements directly support PVPC's efforts to make it easier for the public to find the information they seek pertaining to projects PVPC is working on and offers a much improved user experience.



Restored online GIS mapping services, including a host of maps for PVPC key projects over the last year. Interactive web-based maps were published for projects including Live Well Springfield, PVPC's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and analysis of food bank service areas, to name a few key projects.

Designed and published numerous documents, including the Unified Transportation Work Program, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update, Data Digests, community development applications, traffic counts, and traffic safety and transportation studies, among others.

Completed several products for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA). Updated the PVTA System Field Guide for bus operators and revised and reprinted PVTA seasonal route schedules. Completed a series of bus schedule signs for posting at select bus stops and shelters.

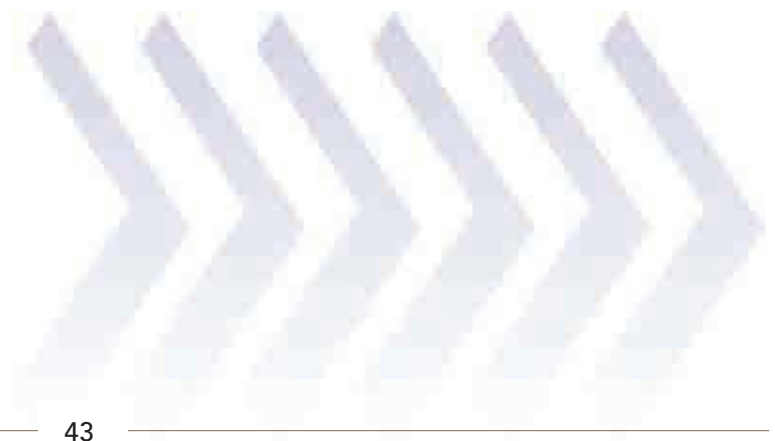
Collaborated with MassGIS, Massachusetts regional planning agencies, and member communities in cooperative development and distribution of digital spatial data and provision of technical support.

Provided continued support and website management for Sustainable Knowledge Corridor and ConnecticutRiver.us.

Provided mapping and spatial analysis for PVPC projects, including pre-disaster mitigation, renewable energy strategies, pavement management and parking studies, corridor management, scenic byway,

traffic analysis, accident locations, transit service, environmental justice and ADA compliance, pedestrian and bicycle system development, best management practices for water supply and watersheds, and municipal open space plans. Findings were integrated into maps and analytical models to determine logical possibilities for future development, protection of resources, and delivery of services across our regional landscape.

Provided mapping, GIS, publication design, and publishing services to Pioneer Valley region communities, businesses, and organizations.





## Communication and Outreach



Produced PVPC's 52nd annual meeting at Judd Gymnasium at Springfield College. The meeting's keynote speaker was national public health, planning, and transportation consultant Mark Fenton, a vocal advocate for non-motorized transportation, a frequent consultant on bicycle and pedestrian community plans, and a recognized authority on public health issues and the need for community, environmental, and public policy initiatives to encourage more walking, bicycling, and transit use. Regional Recognition Awards were presented to State Senator Stephen M. Brewer; Deborah S. Dachos, Director of Planning and Community Development for the Town of Agawam; and David Kielson, Select Board Member Emeritus for the Town of Chesterfield.

Provided public outreach and publicity support for projects and events such as the "Our Next Future" regional action plan; the Regional Organizations Advanced Data Sharing (ROADS) partnership; the Plan for Progress; Bay State Bike Week; Live Well Springfield; Springfield's Complete Streets Plan, Hampden County Shared Public Health Nurse Assistance program; meetings, workshops, and forums; grant awards; solicitation of public input on open space, economic development, community, and visioning plans; staff awards and recognition; and release of significant reports and other products.

Continued work in developing an innovative strategic communications plan to harness a broad spectrum of communications platforms to support PVPC's mission and projects.

Working with staff in PVPC's Graphics section, continued to integrate social media channels into communications and outreach efforts. Continued to provide updates to the PVPC website through events listings, project announcements, public input solicitation, and other information.

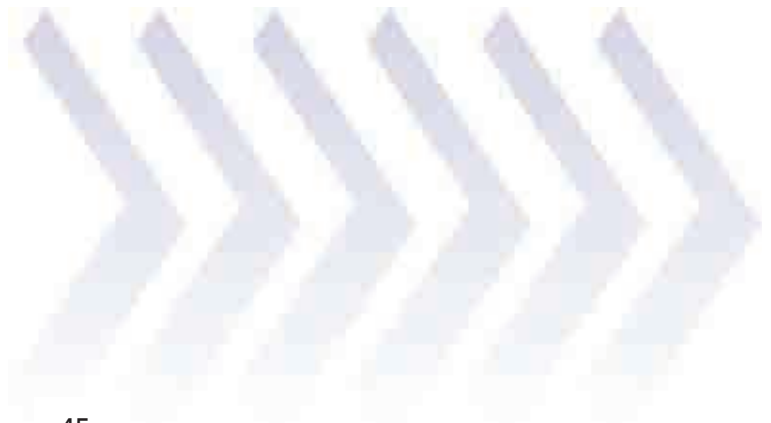
Provided writing, editing, and style services in support of numerous PVPC reports, plans, studies, publications, and other products, such as newspaper guest columns, informational and marketing copy, and specialized language and usage applications.

Provided creative and production services and support for various PVPC and partner projects and initiatives.

Continued to produce the Regional Reporter, PVPC's electronically distributed quarterly newsletter of agency news, events, meetings, information, and announcements.

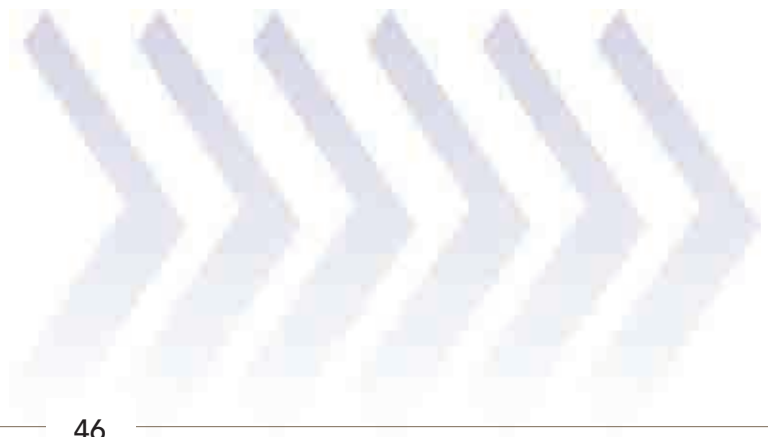
Updated, produced, and distributed PVPC's information kit to media, public officials, civic leaders, member communities, and the general public. Updated, produced, and distributed the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) information kit to provide concise information about the association as a whole, as well as its 13 individual member regional planning agencies.

Continued outreach efforts to local media to secure coverage of significant planning-related events, initiatives, projects, and partnerships.



## Community Preservation Act Planning Assistance

Assisted the Town of West Springfield with the development of their mandatory Community Preservation Plan, a municipal document that facilitates implementation of the Act in that municipality.



# A Sampler of Local Technical Assistance

## **Agawam**

Provided data and technical assistance for the Agawam Connector Loop Project. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Responded to requests for Connecticut Riverwalk sign layout and mapping. Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Tennessee Pipeline Connecticut Expansion Project. Assisted housing authority with Community Preservation Act application to restore a building in North Agawam. Prepared Open Space and Recreation Plan letter verifying consistency with regional plans and provided related support. Performed one daily traffic count.

## **Amherst**

Assisted with development of inclusionary housing provisions to encourage future mixed income developments. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided demographic data for school project. Provided data and data source direction for Town-Gown study regarding where to get business/commercial data for Amherst and comparable communities. Assisted with development of inclusionary housing provisions to encourage future mixed income developments. Provided inventory of Community Preservation Act projects. Provided data and information about population projections for a housing study. Provided information on bike share programs, assisted the Transportation Committee on bicycle path alternatives adjacent to local roads, and reviewed a bicycle roundabout assessment. Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for a proposed project. Performed four daily traffic counts.

## **Belchertown**

Provided data on low and moderate income housing for Belchertown and surrounding communities for grant application. Provided population projection data. Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for the Belchertown State School Redevelopment project. Assisted with PARC grant application for the purpose of reconstructing four tennis courts and possibly two basketball courts at a recreation area located on State Street.

## **Brimfield**

Responded to requests from the Brimfield Trail Committee regarding development of the Grand Trunk Rail Trail.



### **Chester**

Performed two daily traffic counts. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

### **Chicopee**

Assisted the City in advancing design plans for the Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway project, and in addressing options for access to the Delta Park area. Performed 11 daily traffic counts and five peak hour turning movement counts.

### **Cummington**

Worked with the Planning Board in reorganizing and recodification of zoning bylaws. Performed two daily traffic counts.

### **East Longmeadow**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided historic pavement condition information for federal aid eligible roadways.

### **Easthampton**

Assisted the Planning Board in revising Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Zoning Bylaw. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Assisted the Office of Community Development in documenting usage on the Mahan Rail Trail and forecasting the impact of trail closure during construction. Participated in a joint meeting held in Easthampton to coordinate efforts with Farmington Canal Greenway, Mahan, Southwick and Northampton to jointly market the bike path corridor and strengthen resources related to trail maintenance, management, and development. Performed three daily traffic counts.

### **Goshen**

Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for the Upper Highland Lake Dam Repairs project. Performed two daily traffic counts.

### **Granby**

Assisted with the completion of historic resources mapping for submittal to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Assisted the Planning Board in conducting Public Hearing and Town Meeting on Zoning Bylaw revisions for Mixed Use Development, Village Center, Signage, Business Park, and Professional Office Overlay Districts. Assisted Town with information on funding opportunities for economic development. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance.

**Granville**

Performed one daily traffic count. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

**Hadley**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for the Pride Stores Refueling Station, Convenience Store, and Retail Development. Assisted in procuring bike racks for various locations along the Route 47 Scenic Byway. Performed one daily traffic count.

**Hampden**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance.

**Hatfield**

Provided information on Chapter 43D, Local Expedited Permitting. Assisted the Town in developing curb-cut regulations. Assisted Town Administrator in adoption of Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting and related requirements. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance.

**Holland**

Provided information on the Permit Extension Act. Provided information on developing Engineering Consultant RFQ/RFP. Assisted Planning Board with questions related to ANR lots and grandfathering. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Assisted with preparation of Holland's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Holyoke**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided assistance in developing downtown transit-oriented development zoning ordinance. Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for the Hadley Falls Station Downstream Fish Passage Project. Performed five daily traffic counts and five peak hour turning movement counts.

**Huntington**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided technical assistance for implementation of recommendations from the 2013 County Road Planning Report. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.





### **Longmeadow**

Provided information on 40B/Comprehensive Permitting and Local Initiative Program. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided data on largest employers in the town and region as well as other employment data for the Town. Prepared Green Communities grant application to fund streetlight conversion to LED. Performed one daily traffic count.



### **Ludlow**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Assisted Historical Commission with creation of Programmatic Agreement between the Ludlow Historical Commission, WestMass Development, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission to advance the redevelopment of Ludlow Mills. Performed one daily traffic count.

### **Middlefield**

Assisted Planning Board in Zoning Bylaw Revisions for Table of Uses, Village Center Zoning and Home-Based Business. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

### **Monson**

Assisted Planning Board in conducting Public Hearing and Town Meeting on Zoning Bylaw revisions for Mixed Use Development, Parking, and Commercial Design Standards. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided additional zoning technical assistance to follow up on 2013 DLTA open space planning project.

### **Montgomery**

Provided information about county roads and related zoning and legal issues to the Planning Board.

### **Northampton**

Assisted Historical Commission in preparation of application to secure Certified Local Government (CLG) status. Assisted with the preparation of a nomination application to the National Register of Historic Places for the Pomeroy Terrace Historic District. Performed seven daily traffic counts and one peak hour turning movement count.

### **Palmer**

Prepared Open Space and Recreation Plan letter verifying consistency with regional plans and provided related support.

**Plainfield**

Performed two daily traffic counts.

**Russell**

Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

**South Hadley**

Coordinated the planning efforts related to a bicycling and walking plan for South Hadley and met with municipal officials and the Citizen Transportation Committee to formulate a scope of work. Assisted with procurement of bike racks for locations along the Route 47 Scenic Byway. Performed three daily traffic counts. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

**Southampton**

Provided information on past sidewalk recommendations to the Conservation Commission. Assisted with development of inclusionary housing provisions to encourage future mixed income developments. Performed three daily traffic counts. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

**Southwick**

Provided Planning Board with model Common Driveway Bylaw. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Performed 16 daily traffic counts and 12 peak hour turning movement counts. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

**Springfield**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided data and map for 10-mile radius around target area in Springfield. Provided data about small businesses in the City and region. Provided extensive data and data source advice for community health-related grant work. Provided assistance with neighborhood visioning and design in Old Hill Neighborhood. Provided assistance toward adoption of the Community Preservation Act. Performed 14 daily traffic counts and 10 peak hour turning movement counts.

**Tolland**

Assisted Planning Board in developing a Scenic Upland/Ridgeline Overlay District Zoning Bylaw. Performed two daily traffic counts.



**Wales**

Provided information about PVPC Technical Assistance Programs. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

**Ware**

Performed five daily traffic counts and 10 peak hour turning movement counts. Provided grant writing assistance for community development projects.

**West Springfield**

Assisted Town with advancing design plans and funding for the Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway. Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided assistance on zoning regulations for large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities. Performed eight daily traffic counts.

**Westfield**

Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for the Lozierville and Meadows Old Town Road Improvements project. Performed two daily traffic counts.

**Westhampton**

Performed three daily traffic counts.

**Wilbraham**

Reviewed the Notice of Project Change for the Cedar Ridge Active Adult Community Project. Performed seven daily traffic counts.

**Williamsburg**

Provided model Medical Marijuana Bylaw and assistance. Provided and discussed data regarding asthma rates and elderly data for the community. Performed three daily traffic counts.

**Regionwide Local Technical Assistance**

Responded to approximately 35 requests for information and data from the media, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

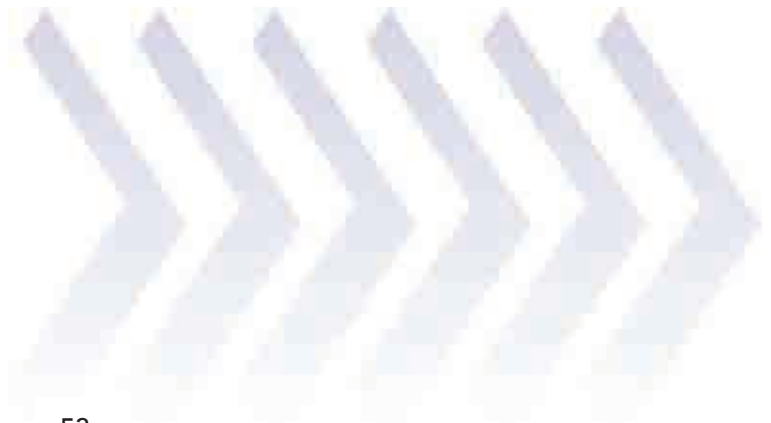
With the assistance of members of the Valley Development Council, PVPC produced a Model Medical Marijuana Zoning Bylaw. This model regulation to regulate Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (RMDs) has now been used by more than half of PVPC's member communities to

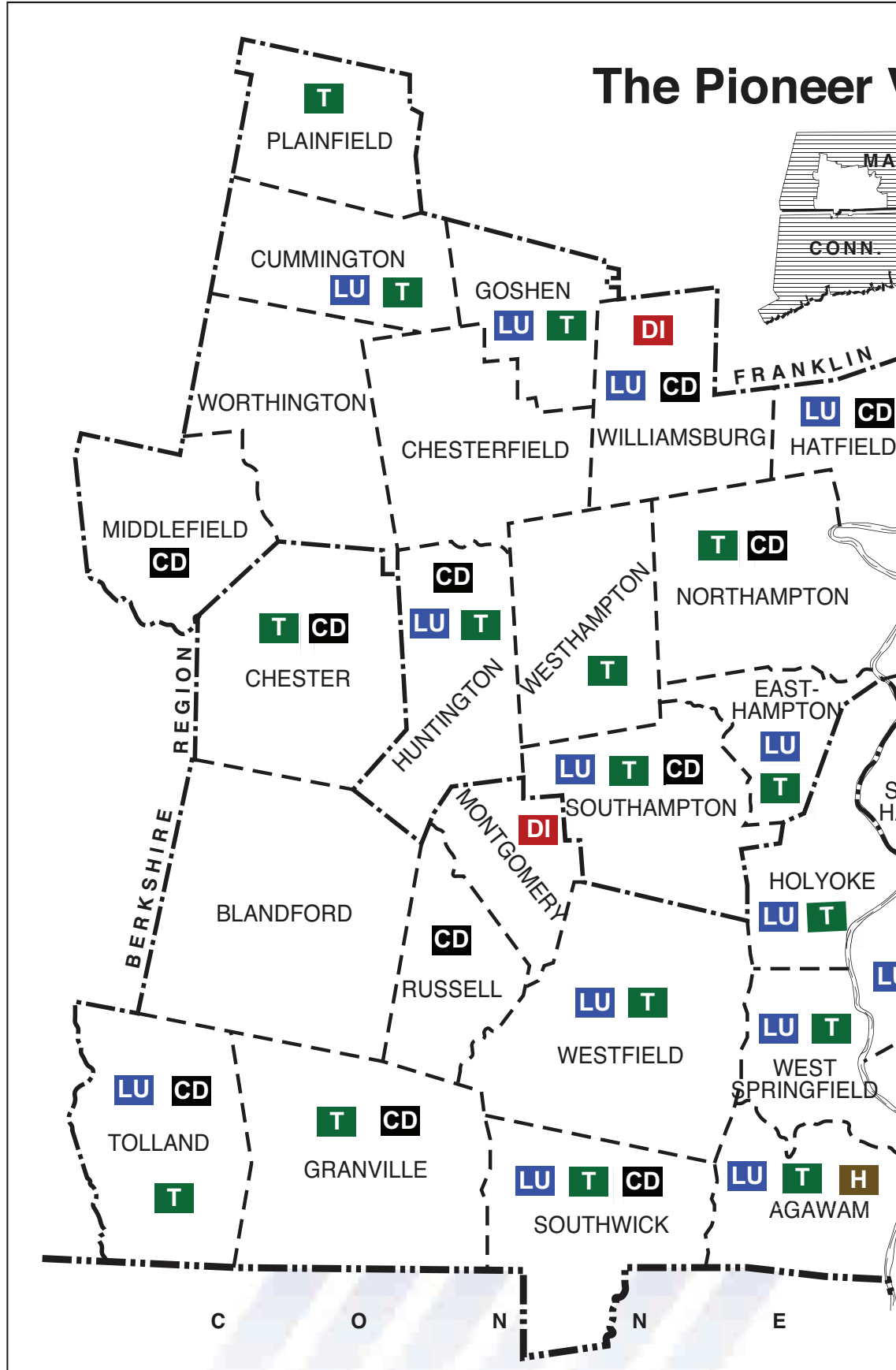


adapt and craft their own zoning bylaws to regulate these dispensaries. In addition, many communities, from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, have also used PVPC's model bylaw as a starting point for their own local regulation.

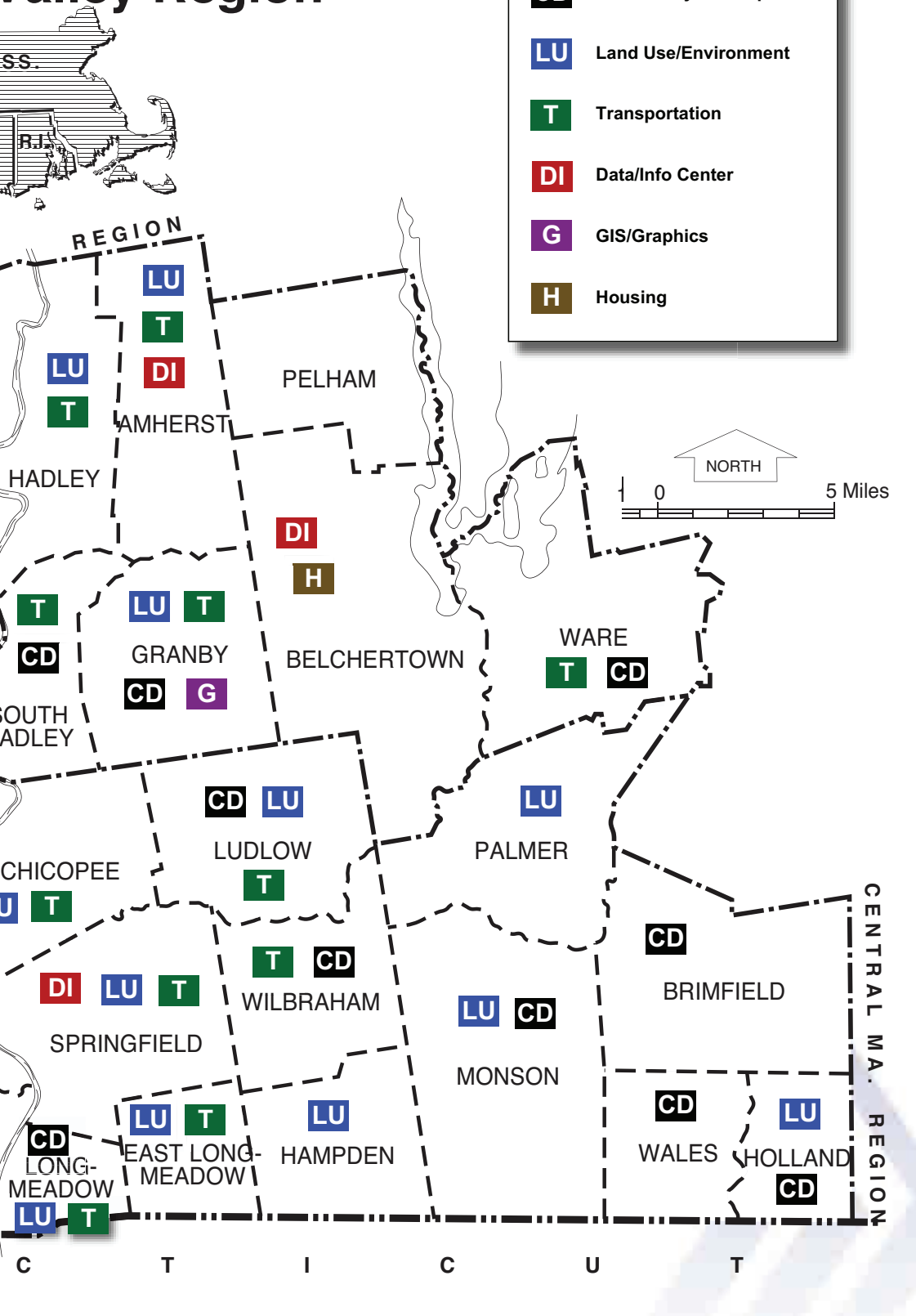
### **Regional Services and Innovations**

Hosted a Regional Roundtable Luncheon featuring speakers offering legislative updates and news about the availability of direct local technical assistance, as well as resources for seeking grant funding for PVPC member municipalities.





# Valley Region

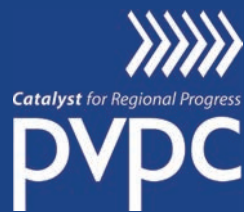




**PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION COMMISSIONERS AND ALTERNATES**

(As of December 17, 2014)

<b>Community</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>Agawam</b>	Mark Paleologopoulos	David Chase
<b>Amherst</b>	Bruce Carson	Aaron Hayden
		John Tucker
		Constance Kruger
<b>Belchertown</b>	Daniel Beaudette	Douglas Albertson
<b>Blandford</b>	T.J. Cousineau	Mary Mangini
<b>Brimfield</b>	John Field	Stephen FleshmanDiane Panaccione,
		Susan Hilker
<b>Chester</b>	Lyle Snide	Eugene Bishop
<b>Chesterfield</b>	Judy Terry	Daniel Henshaw
<b>Chicopee</b>	Vacant	Vacant
<b>Cummington</b>	Brian Gilman	Mark Malinak
<b>Easthampton</b>	Jesse W. Belcher-Timme	Jessica Allan
<b>East Longmeadow</b>	George C. Kingston	Ralph Page
<b>Goshen</b>	Joseph Frye	Theresa Johnson
<b>Granby</b>	James Trompke	Christopher Martin
<b>Granville</b>	Vacant	Vacant
<b>Hadley</b>	William E. Dwyer, Jr., Esq.	Vacant
<b>Hampden</b>	Philip Schneider	John Matthews
<b>Hatfield</b>	Robert Bartlett, Jr.	Marcus Boyle
<b>Holland</b>	Dori Ference	Lynn Arnold
<b>Holyoke</b>	Mimi Panitch	Eilen Regan
<b>Huntington</b>	Karon Hathaway	Linda Hamlin
<b>Longmeadow</b>	Walter Gunn	Stephen Crane
<b>Ludlow</b>	John Pedro	Raymond E. Phoenix
<b>Middlefield</b>	Vacant	Alan Vint
<b>Monson</b>	Vacant	Marilyn Gorman Fil
<b>Montgomery</b>	Sonia Valentine	Vacant
<b>Northampton</b>	Debin Bruce	Wayne Feiden
<b>Palmer</b>	Michael Marciniac	Linda Leduc
<b>Pelham</b>	Judith Eiseman	Vacant
<b>Plainfield</b>	Edward Morann	Robert Persing
<b>Russell</b>	Vacant	Vacant
<b>South Hadley</b>	Mark Cavanaugh	Richard L. Harris
<b>Southampton</b>	Paul Diemand	Henry A. Barton
<b>Southwick</b>	Robert M. Johnson	Alan Slessler
<b>Springfield</b>	Vacant	Scott Hanson
<b>Tolland</b>	Vacant	Vacant
<b>Wales</b>	Vacant	Jeffrey Vannais
<b>Ware</b>	Fred Urban	Vacant
<b>Westfield</b>	Jane Magarian	Jay Vinskey
<b>Westhampton</b>	Vacant	Vacant
<b>West Springfield</b>	Bev Brown	William Reichelt
<b>Wilbraham</b>	Tracy Plantier	David Sanders
<b>Williamsburg</b>	Robert Barker	Stephen Snow
<b>Worthington</b>	Jay Dwight	Vacant



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
60 Congress Street – Floor 1  
Springfield, MA 01104-3419  
[www.pvpc.org](http://www.pvpc.org)