

2015

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



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



Check the Record of the Top Ten Resolves for 2015



1. Develop, refine, finalize and secure Planning Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) endorsements of an updated version of the *Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan*, along with a new, updated transportation project evaluation criteria/scoring system, both of which are aligned and consistent with our region's needs as well as applicable federal and state requirements.



2. Launch implementation efforts directly linked to the just-released *One Region, One Future* bistate action plan which is designed to foster a connected, competitive, vibrant and green interstate Knowledge Corridor that is well-positioned for sustained economic strength, expansion and success.



3. Finalize and deliver an updated version of the Pioneer Valley's Land Use Priority Plan by working in concert with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, PVPC member cities and towns and other partners to reliably identify the region's Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Preservation Areas (PPAs) thereby creating a new tool for informed decision making at all levels of government. Complete publication, rollout and presentation of the Commission's new, ten year *Plan for Progress* document encompassing 2015-2025 and recruit lead implementors.



4. Work in concert with MassDOT, the MBTA, affected cities and towns and other partners to successfully complete the final phase of reconstructing the Pioneer Valley's main north-south rail corridor including high level passenger platforms in Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield; signal system upgrades, bikeway tunnel and signage from Springfield north to the Vermont state line. Simultaneously, pursue analysis and advocacy campaign that could significantly boost the level of passenger rail service available on this travel corridor over the next 3 to 5 years.






5. Establish a strong, collaborative relationship and working rapport with Governor-elect Baker and his Administration as well as the new members and leaders in the Massachusetts State Legislature, all who formally assumed public office in January of 2015.



6. Continue to participate and assist MassDOT as the state moves forward in 2015 with the advertisement and award of the estimated \$230 million, 3 year rehabilitation of the Route I-91 Viaduct Project in Springfield including MassDOT's companion, long range alternatives study. Support completion of the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative which incorporates the Inland Route connecting Boston, Springfield, Hartford, and Montreal.



7. Advance in partnership with affected cities and towns as well as numerous other public and private sector partners, the initial, pilot phase of a regional bike share system by addressing essential components including capital and operating costs, potential vendors, procurement, branding and viable funding sources, among others.

-  8. Maintain PVPC leadership and support of the New England Knowledge Corridor Partnership and use the Partnership's 15th anniversary as a means to elevate the Knowledge Corridor visibility including the public's awareness and understanding of the Knowledge Corridor's relevance and importance to the strength, vitality and overall competitiveness of this integrated interstate economy. Complete and release the final version of the Growth Business Study for the Connecticut portion of the Knowledge Corridor working with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute.
-  9. Pursue a number of innovative planning initiatives and products that build the PVPC's expertise and capabilities in a number of emerging areas including clean energy, health impact assessments, food security, region wide data sharing, emergency response, municipal shared services and last mile broadband access alternatives, among others.
-  10. Work with both the Congressional delegation in Washington, as well as the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor, to shape and advance legislative initiatives at the federal and state levels that support and benefit the Pioneer Valley and its residents. At the federal level, for example, a key initiative will include an extension or reauthorization of the "MAP-21" federal transportation law beyond May of 2015. At the state level, key priorities include statewide zoning reforms, enabling regional ballot initiatives and advancing transportation and environmental bond funding commitments for significant, in-region projects such as Connecticut River clean-up projects.



Overview

During 2015, 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.

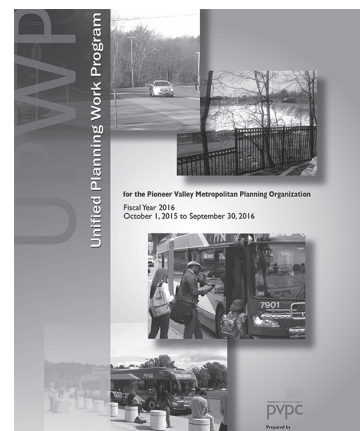
The commission continues to engage in work projects that are interdisciplinary and collaborative, drawing upon the contributions of staff across the spectrum of planning and related areas of expertise. Such projects are listed under the subject categories that most closely define them.



Developed and amended, as necessary, the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pioneer Metropolitan Planning organization. The TIP is a fiscally constrained document which schedules all transportation improvement projects, defines funding sources, and lists regional priorities. During the development process, staff performed significant analysis to ensure that projects being funded in the TIP met both federal and state goals, including GreenDOT goals. PVPC staff worked in consultation with federal, state, and local cities and towns to update the status of all projects included on the TIP. All projects were prioritized using the new 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.

Developed the draft and final versions of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for federal fiscal year 2016. The UPWP outlines the annual transportation technical work program to be performed using federal and state planning dollars.

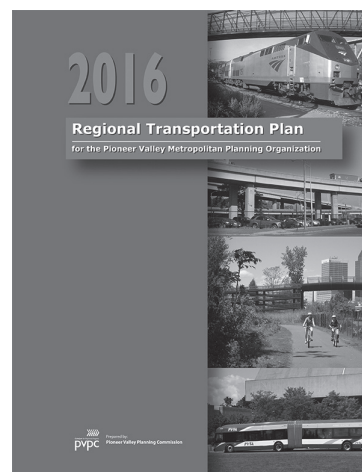
PVPC Transportation staff, in coordination with the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), MassDOT, FHWA, and FTA, completed an update to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) for the purpose of integrating current state and federal requirements. The TEC is the system utilized by the MPO to prioritize Federal Aid-eligible transportation improvement projects. Every project is ranked by TEC score, and projects are funded based on score from highest to lowest based on available funding for the current federal fiscal year. PVPC staff developed a web page to provide support data needed for various sections of the TEC at <http://www.pvpc.org/projects/transportation-evaluation-criteria-information-center>. The new TEC was designed to be completed by the entity responsible for the project development. A new TEC form was completed for each proposed transportation improvement project, and all new TEC forms were reviewed by the TIP sub-committee on March 26, 2015. The results of this process were used to develop the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.



Scheduled monthly Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meetings for the purpose of soliciting input on various transportation topics. The JTC is an advisory group composed of locally appointed representatives from our 43 municipalities as well as public and private transportation/transit providers. PVPC staff also completed a comprehensive JTC membership update and coordinated monthly meetings for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the JTC.

Updated the Congestion Management Process (CMP) as part of the Regional Transportation Plan update. The CMP is a tool used by PVPC to identify and evaluate congestion in the region as well as to monitor locations that have been improved as part of previous completed transportation improvement projects. This CMP update included the integration new travel time, bridge, safety, and transit data for the purpose of generating a listing of corridors by congestion severity. This analysis also allows the identification of the top areas of localized congestion or "bottlenecks" in the region.

Developed draft and final versions of the Regional Transportation Plan for the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RTP). The RTP is the region's long-range transportation planning document that is the basis for all federally funded transportation improvement projects and planning studies. In order to advance the vision and goals of the RTP, a series of problem statements were developed to define the overarching issues that must be advanced through the implementation of the RTP. A new addition to the RTP is a series of performance measures and targets to track key transportation areas and improve the overall decision making process. The RTP also includes an analysis of the expected transportation revenue sources and prioritizes transportation improvement projects that can be implemented over the life of the plan. The 2016 RTP was endorsed by the MPO on July 28, 2015.



Updated pavement distress data on the federal-aid eligible roadways in 33 of the 43 communities including the entire region's urbanized area as part of the commission's regional Pavement Management System. A priority listing of roadway maintenance and construction projects was developed based on a benefit/cost ratio.

Finalized the local Pavement Management System report for the Town of Belchertown. PVPC was hired by the communities of Palmer, Hadley, Ware, and Holland to develop a pavement management report for these towns. PVPC staff completed pavement distress data collection in all of these communities during 2015.

Performed a total of 152 counts as part of PVPC's annual traffic counting program. The data collection effort included 71 vehicle counts for member communities, 46 vehicle counts requested by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and 35 peak hour turning movement counts. Bicycle and pedestrian counts were also completed for the Springfield Riverwalk and Southwick Rail Trail.

Worked in cooperation with MassDOT to successfully apply for funding for the Holyoke and Northampton Police Departments to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. One of the main goals of the Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is the reduction in transportation fatalities and serious injuries by 20 percent over the next five years. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Pilot Program provides funding for local police departments to stop motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians who are observed to demonstrate unsafe behavior through the disregard of existing traffic laws. This local enforcement process allows police officers to engage with the public to explain why they were stopped, distribute safety literature, and determine why people could be disobeying traffic laws. PVPC staff will also work in cooperation with the local police departments, MassDOT, the Department of Public Health/Mass In Motion, and others to improve walking and bicycling safety and to develop recommendations to improve the infrastructure for walking and bicycling.

Participated in a bicycle and pedestrian safety audit for Union Station Redevelopment project in the City of Springfield. Staff also participated in roadway safety audits (RSAs) for intersection improvement projects in the communities of Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, and Ware. Site visits were coordinated for each location to identify factors that may contribute to crashes at each location and develop a series of recommendations to improve safety.

Assisted the Town of South Hadley with the development of a municipal Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, including a public survey and public visioning session to set townwide priorities.

Drafted and secured approval for a new intergovernmental compact on a bike sharing program for the region. Sought corporate sponsorship and state/federal grants to help launch a pilot scale bike share program serving Northampton, Amherst, Holyoke, Springfield, and UMass.

Reviewed regional project submittals for eligibility for congestion mitigation and air quality (CMAQ) funding. Staff completed air quality conformity determinations for each location and applied for CMAQ funding from MassDOT. PVPC also attended the statewide CMAQ consultation meeting to determine CMAQ funding eligibility for transportation improvement projects throughout Massachusetts.

The MPO completed a 2015 update to the Title VI/ Environmental Justice Plan and Language Access Plan. In cooperation with FHWA, FTA, and MassDOT, the region's Title VI Plan outlines how the MPO meets Title VI and Environmental Justice compliance. This plan discusses the efforts the MPO makes to include specialized populations in the regional planning process. This plan also discusses the demographic breakdown of the MPO region and identifies how the MPO mitigates against and avoids impacts to low-income, minority, limited-English-speaking, disabled, and elderly populations in its planning process and development of numerous planning documents. This plan will also include a procedure that allows members of these populations to file complaints should any MPO stakeholders feel that they were subject to discrimination under Title VI guidelines and accompanying policies.

Prepared necessary documentation to facilitate and participated in a joint review of the transportation planning process for the MPO by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Completed every four years, this review assesses the extent to which the MPO meets the requirements of metropolitan planning regulations and develops recommendations to improve the regional transportation planning process.

Participated in the ongoing working group meetings to develop a series of long range improvements for the I-91 Viaduct. PVPC staff responded to requests and inquiries by consultants retained by MassDOT regarding regional model data, traffic data, and projections for use in the I-91 Viaduct Study.

Participated in the Interstate 91 Deck Replacement Survey to provide MassDOT with information on where and when users typically travel on I-91, other highways, and local streets in the project area. This survey was aimed to assess travel patterns and conditions, especially during the peak travel hours of the typical weekday morning and afternoon commute.

Worked in cooperation with the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) to enhance/upgrade the PVPC regional transportation model for use in the I-91 Viaduct Study. This consisted of the preparation of new input data and updates to land use and socio-economic data throughout the region.

Completed a study of existing transportation conditions along the Route 202 corridor from Route 21 to Stadler Street in the Town of Belchertown. Transportation staff performed data collection to identify the existing transportation and safety conditions for this area and performed analyses to develop a series of recommendations to improve traffic flow and to increase safety.

Assisted the City of Northampton in securing funding for development of an Equity-Focused Complete Streets plan.



Developed PVTA's first flex shuttle pilot program in South Hadley, the Tiger Trolley. This shuttle will undergo a yearly review of ridership to determine if this model can be applied to more rural areas that do not typically warrant traditional fixed route service.

Completed a 2015 Title VI program update for PVTA. This document is a comprehensive report on the PVTA and their adherence to FTA guidelines and regulations regarding Title VI requirements.

Drafted a diagrammatic system map of PVTA bus services, updated to include all service changes put into effect following the Comprehensive Service Analysis (CSA). The system map has been approved by PVTA and brochures have been distributed to the public as of the spring of 2015.

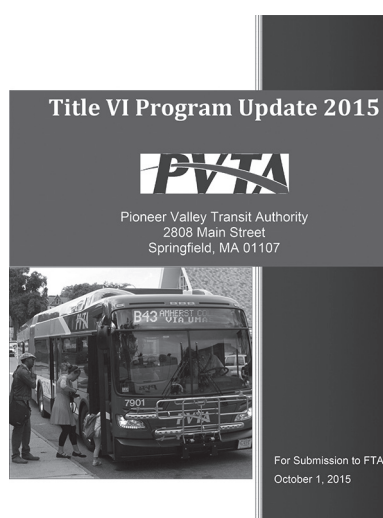
Conducted random service quality spot checks as part of PVTA's ongoing Mystery Rider program. Under this program, mystery riders board both fixed route buses and paratransit vans unannounced and monitor the performance of the drivers, taking note of cleanliness, driver's customer service skills, driver's handling of the bus, on-time performance, and other quality issues. PVPC staff worked with PVTA's Mystery Facilities Inspection program, in which PVTA's two major properties—the Springfield Bus Terminal the Holyoke Transportation Center are inspected twice a week by PVPC staff for general cleanliness, updated posted materials, bus arrival announcements, overall upkeep, and maintenance of the property.

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 to provide and maintain Quick Response (QR) code information for every PVTA 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 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and senior riders.



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

Developed PVTA Route Profiles, which describe in detail each PVTA fixed route including ridership, schedule, service patterns, and performance measures.

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 analyses will then be performed using the aforementioned guidelines to identify bus stops in the PVTA system for repairs.

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.

Completed the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan to reflect MAP-21 changes for federal funding. The plan was updated with goals for the region determined through Regional Coordinating Council meetings.

Facilitated community outreach through PVTA Bus Rider forums in which PVPC and PVTA staff attended various locations in the region to speak with passengers regarding service.

Facilitated PVTA meetings to discuss route changes to the P20, P21, 45, and 46 schedules. Updated and revised 34 of PVTA's 43 printed bus schedules for Fall 2015. One of PVTA's routes, the P20, was separated into an express and a local route.

Developed a Disparate and Disproportionate Impact Policy for the PVTA regarding fare changes. This policy would ensure that any fare or fare media change would be equitable among all populations in the region including low income and minority populations.

Performed monthly service guidelines analysis for PVTA to monitor performance measures of all fixed route services.

Completed a PVTA Southern Region System Survey. This report required distributing more than 1,700 on-board surveys to PVTA passengers to collect ridership information such as demographics, travel patterns, and customer characteristics. Once completed, this report will also assist in developing other analysis in the future such as a Fare-Equity analysis for a potential PVTA Smartcard transition.

Prepared and posted signs to inform passengers of stop closures and service changes where appropriate. Closures and service changes occurred both due to PVTA initiatives and non-PVTA projects, such as the construction for the MGM casino.

Verified time savings for paratransit passengers by comparing paratransit trip times to equivalent fixed-route trip times. Paratransit trips were typically found to take half the time of their fixed-route equivalents.

Contributed to the Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis conducted by AECOM for the Boston Road and State Street corridors in Springfield. PVPC staff participated in public forums, promotional events, and data collection/analysis.



Municipal Development

Facilitated over \$7.0 million in ongoing and new public infrastructure, public facilities, housing rehabilitation, septic system repair, planning and design, and social/public services projects in the following communities:

Ongoing Projects

Agawam—Participation in housing rehabilitation, oversight of the substantial completion of an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, completion of window replacement work at the Agawam Colonial Haven Housing Authority development, initiation of electrical work at the Agawam Colonial Haven Housing Authority development, initiation of security and door improvements at the East Longmeadow Quarry Hill Housing Authority development, completion of window replacement work at the Agawam Colonial Haven Housing Authority development, and completion of the oversight of engineering and design for Springfield Street sidewalks and crosswalks.

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. Completion of the Maple Avenue/Maple Street roadway and sidewalks improvements project, the Hampden Street water line replacement project, and the Healthy Homes Program for seniors.

East Longmeadow—As part of the Agawam Community Development Program, participation in housing rehabilitation, substantial completion of an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, and initiation of security and door improvements at the East Longmeadow Quarry Hill Housing Authority development, completion of window replacement work at the Agawam Colonial Haven Housing Authority, development of engineering and design for Springfield Street sidewalks and crosswalks.

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

Hardwick—Continuation of rehabilitation of housing units under the Ware River Valley Community Assistance Program. Completion of the Phase II Taylor/High/Main/Joslyn Streets Improvements Project, completion of the Prospect Street/Broad Street engineering project, completion of the senior center planning project, completion of the distressed properties study, and participation in social services (domestic violence prevention, senior services).

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.

North Brookfield—Participation in housing rehabilitation and the completion 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. Initiated oversight of the \$1.0 million Massworks engineering and construction project on Carrington Road.

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

Sturbridge—Completion of the oversight of the FY13 DHCD Reserve Fund Program resulting in the construction of a wastewater treatment facility for the Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative Corporation.

Wales—Completion of the Woodland Heights storm drainage and roadway improvements project and substantial completion of the Wales housing rehabilitation program.

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. Completion of the High Street infrastructure improvements project and a property assessment and re-use planning project. Continued implementation of a domestic violence prevention program.

Warren—Continuation of rehabilitation of housing units under the Ware River Valley Community Assistance Program, completion of 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).

New Projects

Activity on one FFY2013 CDF DR-13 and five FFY2014 CDF projects was substantially worked on in 2015. This included over \$5.0 million of CDF Department of Housing and Community Development Community Development Block Grant Funds involving the municipalities of Russell, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Ware, Hardwick, Warren, Spencer, Leicester, Charlton, and Brimfield. Specific programs and work activities 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). The Huntington Sidewalk Improvements Project is completed. The regional ADA planning project is substantially complete.

FFY2014 CDF—Town of Ware: \$799,984 for the High Street improvements project, Prospect Street infrastructure design project, and domestic violence prevention. The High Street Improvements Project is completed. The Prospect Street Infrastructure Design Project is substantially complete.

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). The Pleasant Street in Warren is substantially complete.

FFY2014 CDF—Town of Spencer: \$712,695 for the Mechanic Street improvements project and the Chestnut Street infrastructure design project. Both the Mechanic Street and Chestnut Street projects are substantially complete.

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

FY2014 CDF—Town of Leicester (Charlton): \$758,056 for the rehabilitation of approximately two units of housing, housing authority improvement projects in both Leicester and Charlton, barrier removal at Charlton Town Hall, and an accessibility design project for Leicester town hall. The housing authority improvement projects are complete. The Leicester Town Hall design project is substantially complete. The Charlton Town Hall barriers removal project is partially complete.

FFY2013 DR—Town of Brimfield: \$236,500 to provide direct assistance to Hollowbrook Farm, LLC. The funding will allow the owner to repair the barn, clean up the fields and trails, and replace lost equipment necessary to operate the business. The project will also allow for rehabilitation of a housing unit to bring it into code compliance and put it back into use as housing. The equipment has been purchased and delivered. Work initiated on the pre-bid development for securing a design-build company for the build-out of the residential unit.

New Awards

PVPC applied for and received over \$5.0 million in FFY2015 CDF Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Development Block Grant Funds for the municipalities of Ware, Hardwick, Warren, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Russell, Huntington, Chester, Middlefield, Wales, Brimfield, Holland, South Hadley, and Granby. Specific programs and activities which PVPC will oversee and administer include:

FFY2015 CDF—Town of Russell (Chester, Huntington, Middlefield): \$922,009 for infrastructure improvements in Russell, the rehabilitation of approximately three units of housing, and social services (case management and support services, food pantry, adult education center, domestic violence prevention).

FFY2015 CDF—Town of Ware (Hardwick): \$878,801 for an environmental hazards study at the former senior center site in Hardwick, the rehabilitation of approximately 16 units of housing, and social services (adult learning, health services, elder services, and domestic violence prevention).

FFY2015 CDF—Town of Warren (North Brookfield, Brookfield): \$955,136 for a senior center planning and services project (Brookfield), a domestic violence prevention services program (Warren), public works improvements to Highland Street in Warren, engineering and design for North Common Street in North Brookfield, and the rehabilitation of approximately 10 units of housing.

FFY2015 CDF—Town of Huntington: \$886,540 for the Maple Street and Pleasant Street infrastructure improvement projects.

FFY2015 CDF—Town of Wales (Holland, Brimfield): \$571,547 for the rehabilitation of approximately 16 units of housing rehabilitation and social services (domestic violence prevention, food pantry).

FY2015 CDF—Town of South Hadley (Granby): \$850,614 for the rehabilitation of approximately 20 units of housing, sidewalk improvements to Newton Manor (South Hadley Housing Authority), and social services (mobile food pantry).

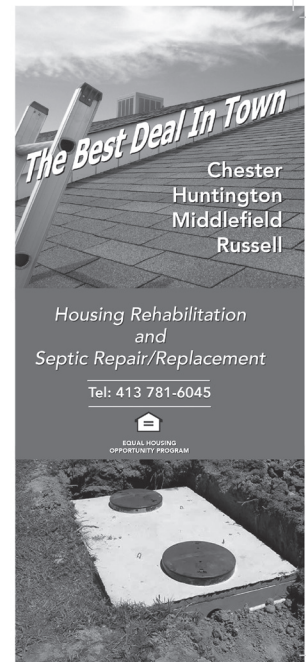


Housing Rehabilitation and Development

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, North Brookfield, Leicester, and Charlton.

Continued to serve as the Region 1 service provider under the Commonwealth's Home Modifications Loan Program for those with disabilities. Nearly \$500,000 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 \$4.1 million to eligible and qualified borrowers under this program since 2005.

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





Housing Planning

Continued working to implement the Pioneer Valley Regional Housing Plan of 2013. Work included facilitating quarterly meetings of the Regional Housing Advisory Committee and ad-hoc working groups on various topics, including comments to HUD requested on federal regulatory changes to small area fair market rates (SAFMRs) for the Housing Choice program. Participated in CHAPA annual conference.

Provided assistance to Town of Agawam's newly established Housing Committee with briefings on recommendations of the Pioneer Valley Regional Housing Plan. PVPC was selected by Town of Agawam to produce a municipal housing needs assessment in partnership with JM Goldson Associates and RKG Associates; held project kickoff in November.

Prepared a successful application to DHCD's Planning Assistance Toward Housing (PATH) program for Town of South Hadley and began work on a municipal housing production plan funded by that program.

Produced a municipal housing production plan for the Town of Hatfield.



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. All funds under this program have been spent or committed. 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 expired at the end of September 2015.

Worked on initiating close-out of PVPC's EPA-funded brownfields revolving loan fund, which closed at the end of December 2014 after a 15-year performance period.

More information about PVPC's brownfields program is available at 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. The buildings are expected to open in the fall and winter of 2015.

Began the process of obtaining state and federal tax credit certification for the Carew Street Baptist Church in Springfield.

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.

Submitted a National Register nomination for the Pomeroy Terrace Historic District in Northampton.

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

Completed the cultural resources chapter of the Connecticut Scenic River Byway plan update.

Drafted a preservation restriction for the North Hadley Village Hall.

Obtained a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant for the Chester Historical Commission and the Chester Historical Society for work on the Chester Methodist Church.

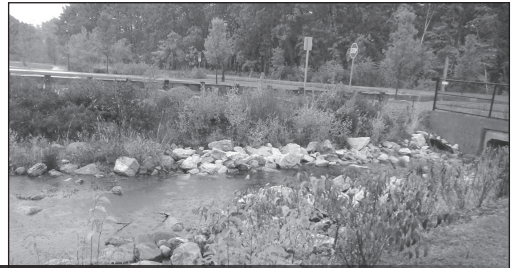
Spoke at the Massachusetts Statewide Historic Preservation Conference as part of the "Preservation Toolbox" session.

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

Initiated historic preservation planning projects in the Cities of Holyoke, Pittsfield, and Worcester.

Provided local technical assistance on historic preservation issues to the towns of Chester, West Springfield, Holyoke, Hadley, and Ludlow.

Continued to coordinate meetings of the Western Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition, an organization that provides educational and networking opportunities for historic commission 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 successful series.



Green Infrastructure and Forestry

Initiated urban tree planting project to reduce stormwater and combined sewer overflows in Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke, which will result in nine green streets designs and over 2,000 urban trees planted.

Developed a new concept for federal Forest Legacy designation for the highlands region west of the Connecticut River, working in partnership with Kestrel Land Trust, municipalities, land conservation organizations, and many others.

Constructed three rain gardens for Soak up the Rain in Springfield, helping to reduce pollution and flooding, protect water resources, and beautify neighborhoods. This pilot work for the Pioneer Valley is part of the Springfield Rain Gardens Program, a project with the Regenerative Design Group, and is funded by a settlement agreement reached by Clean Water Action, a non-profit citizens' group.





Scenic Byway Planning, Greenways, & Trails

The Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway received funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation Scenic Byway Program and Massachusetts Department of Transportation to make upgrades to property along the Byway in the town of Lee owned by the Lee Land Trust. The Blanche Barlow Acres Recreation Access Project includes the construction of a new driveway and parking area to allow access to an extensive system of hiking trails on the property. Upgrades will also include a picnic area, bike rack, and interpretive signage to provide visitors with information on the rich history of the site and its importance in the history of the town of Lee. PVPC staff have worked with the Scenic Byway Committee and Land Trust to provide project management and procurement assistance. Final design plans were approved in October and construction will begin in the spring of 2016.

Coordinated a locally based advisory group representing byway communities and local trail advocates to identify routes that link existing trails for walking journeys in the Route 112 and Jacob's Ladder Trail scenic byways region. The defined route, called the Highlands Footpath, establishes a walking journey from October Mountain State Forest in Lee to DAR State Forest in Goshen. Work will continue in the coming years through local trail organizations and a regional group to be called the Highlands Footpath Collaborative. PVPC will continue to facilitate this group for the near future. The team for this project also includes the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Trustees of Reservations.

Completed and printed a new Tri-state Bike Map, which identifies and maps 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.

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

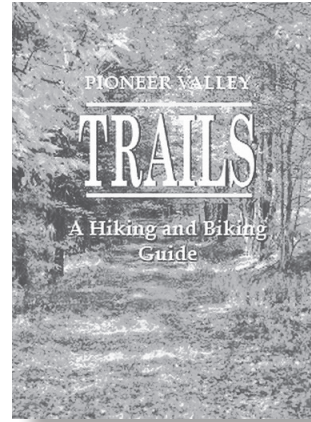
Continued to provide services to municipalities and land trusts through the Pioneer Valley Compact for Conservation, including services on land protection and wetlands protection.

Worked to develop detailed plans for recreational trails and river access at six sites along the Connecticut River Scenic Byway, including the River to Range Trail in South Hadley, a North Hadley car-top boat access area, a trail on Mount Warner, the Red Rocks Trail, a new trailhead for the New England National Scenic Trail, and exhibits for a new Scenic Byway Waypoint Center at the Porter Phelps Huntington House Museum.

Worked to develop a newly updated Corridor Management Plan for the Connecticut River Scenic Byway, in conjunction with the CT River Byway Area Committee.

Worked to update the “Pioneer Valley Trails” regional trails map and hiking guide in preparation for printing and release of a second edition. Sold more than 2,500 copies of this 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 design/engineering plans for the Connecticut Riverwalk, Chicopee segment.





Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Natural Hazards Planning

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.

PVPC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff and consultant continued to develop emergency preparedness plans for all coalition communities; 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. Through collaboration with the Western Region Homeland Security Council, staff are working to further develop plans for three potential regional shelter locations in the county. HCHC member communities participated in a regional project to strengthen the capacity of faith-based organizations to provide assistance to their members in the event of an emergency.

Continued to provide administrative and program oversight of county-wide Medical Reserve Corps. Engaged in ongoing interaction with the HCHC communities and local and regional Medical Reserve Corps coordinators to further develop preparedness plans and community education throughout the region.

Staff continued to leverage resources and the services of the Regional Public Health Nurse housed in the Ludlow Health Department to assist smaller Coalition communities in utilizing 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.

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 advance sub-regional shelter planning in Hampden County.

Continued to assist municipalities with resilience planning via facilitation of new and updating existing local Hazard Mitigation plans. Hazard Mitigation plans help local municipalities with risk management and resilience planning. Plans were completed for Longmeadow, Granville, Southwick, Montgomery, Wales, Agawam, Easthampton, Hampden, Northampton, Wilbraham, Tolland and Ware. Plans are underway for 23 other cities and towns.



Environmental and Water Quality

Worked with the governor's office, state officials, and state legislators and the Connecticut River Clean-up Committee to seek the release of \$10 million in state funds in the newly adopted environmental bond bill to support Connecticut River clean-up.

Worked with the Connecticut River Clean-up Committee to seek MassDOT assistance under the Impaired Waters Program to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff from interstate highways to combined sewer overflow systems.

Continued education and outreach about stormwater impacts in the 13 cities and towns that participate in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee through a Soak up the Rain Pioneer Valley campaign. This campaign has involved continuing development of a website, production of lawn signs for rain gardens and porous paving, and several hands-on workshops where property owners learned how to design and build rain gardens. PVPC continues to facilitate meetings of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee and is working to help communities meet forthcoming new federal permit requirements. This has included:

- Developing substantive comments to EPA for the Committee on the requirements within the last draft permit
- Researching baseline information for messaging about bacteria and nutrients
- Beginning to revise the green infrastructure/LID code review checklist to address federal stormwater permit requirements
- Participating in a statewide coalition of stormwater coalitions to identify and share in approaches that reduce the burden on municipalities of requirements within the forthcoming stormwater permit

Worked with the Town of Pelham to obtain an EPA waiver from the requirements of the forthcoming federal stormwater permit. Pelham was to be one of six newly regulated communities in the region. The waiver request was based on three factors: only 266 people living in the urbanized area and drainage area outletting to Amethyst Brook, which is not listed as impaired and is instead listed as Category 2; attaining uses for aesthetics; and fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife.

Organized and hosted a stormwater financing conference for Pioneer Valley communities to help advance thinking about covering costs under the new federal stormwater permit. Geared toward chief elected officials and DPW directors, the conference featured a roundtable discussion of experiences from leaders in Westfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, and Northampton, and presentations on effective community engagement and evaluating municipal stormwater costs. The work of this conference was supported with funding from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1.

Financing Your Municipal Stormwater Program

ONE DAY - FREE WORKSHOP
Wednesday, September 24, 2014
Kittredge Center
Holyoke Community College
Holyoke, MA

Who should attend:
Mayors
City Councilors
Boards of Selectmen
Boards of Public Works
DPW Managers
Stormwater Managers
Residential & Commercial Stakeholders
NGOs

Registration is Required by
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
E-mail: Patty.Gambarini@pgambarini@pvpc.org

Continued to facilitate the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) and commented on plans for Developments of Regional Impact over the aquifer's Zone II recharge area in Easthampton, Southamptton, Holyoke, and Westfield. Specific work this year included reviewing revisions to Westfield's water protection overlay zoning district to provide comments that promote improved protection of drinking water sources, building understanding about geothermal wells and potential impacts on drinking water supply, producing and distributing a brochure for boards of health use on best practices for drinking water supply protection by property owners, and advancing land protection for a property in Southamptton located in an important contribution area to Easthampton's wells.

Completed work with the Town of Belchertown to advance improved water quality at Arcadia and Metacomet lakes with a lake monitoring program, aquatic vegetation survey, education and outreach to property owners, and preliminary design and programming to address key sources of pollution. The project is made possible through a MassDEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant. PVPC worked with the Town of Belchertown to secure additional funding through the MassDEP 319 program for final design and construction of a stormwater management BMP structure along Federal Street at Arcadia Lake.

Began 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. Sampling site selection and a Quality Assurance Project Plan has been completed so that monitoring can begin in April of 2016. The project complements ongoing work to eliminate combined sewer overflows and also helps build capacity toward a revived watershed group for the Chicopee River. This project is supported with funding from a MassDEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant.

Received a Mass DEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning grant award to conduct water quality monitoring and source tracking along the Manhan River in Easthampton and Southamptton. The Manhan is listed by the state as impaired for recreational purposes due to high *E. coli* levels. This project aims to identify potential non-point sources of contamination, such as land uses or stormwater runoff, and also to build citizen interest in the Manhan through the potential development of a watershed organization.



Sustainability, Clean Energy, and Climate Action

Completed and widely distributed, in electronic format, a new "Pioneer Valley Sustainability Toolkit" that contains hundreds of fact sheets, model bylaws, and policies designed to help communities implement our sustainability strategy, including sections on:

- Climate Action and Clean Energy
- Environment
- Smart Growth
- Green Infrastructure
- Food Security

Continued facilitating the annual Pioneer Valley Bay State Bike Week, nine days of events in May that encourage people to try bicycling as a means of transportation and to celebrate bicycle riding and commuting.

Worked in collaboration with the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition, Partners for Healthier Communities, the Springfield Green Committee, and the City of Springfield Parks, Buildings, and Recreational Management to develop a framework to produce a Climate Action and Community Resilience Plan for the City of Springfield in 2016.



Successfully completed the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and Massachusetts Workforce Alliance. The plan is the first statewide food system planning effort since 1974. PVPC lead the statewide stakeholder participation process, which directly engaged more than 1,500 individuals in all regions of Massachusetts. PVPC is now looking forward to participating in implementation activities relevant to our region.

Served on steering committee for a Food For Good statewide conference about hunger at UMass Amherst. Recruited panelists and led breakout session on transportation barriers to accessing healthy food.

Assisted the City of Springfield with targeted civic engagement, focusing on under-represented communities in the downtown, North End, South End, and Mason Square neighborhoods for climate resilience planning.



Built Environment and Urban Design– Health in All Policies

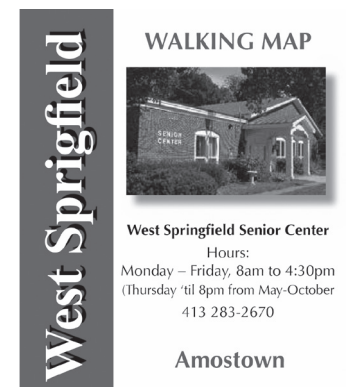
In collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, PVPC implemented the Healthy Community Design Toolkit (written by PVPC in 2012) by conducting regulatory audits of three communities in Massachusetts. Audits considered zoning, community plans, open space plans, and municipal policies to identify opportunities to improve healthy community design in order to promote increased physical activity and access to healthy food. Made a presentation to the Mass in Motion coordinators and provided tailored recommendations for next steps to the three communities. Presented to the Massachusetts Council on Aging at their annual conference on how to use the Healthy Community Design Toolkit to facilitate a healthy built environment for older adults. Continued to collaborate with the MDPH to “operationalize” the Toolkit by developing an electronic version of it to be housed on the MDPH website.

Advanced work to promote healthy behavior and improve access to healthy food in West Springfield and Palmer as part of the Massachusetts Mass in Motion initiative. Work included a health in all policies regulatory analysis for Palmer, a bicycling assessment, and work on a community garden and a community garden ordinance. In West Springfield, work focused on development of a health chapter to be included in the next Master Plan update and safe route to school planning at the Coburn School. Walking maps for the town centers were developed for both communities.

Assisted the City of Springfield with planning for a Pedestrian Wayfinding system in the downtown and organized two days of educational sessions with Gil Penalosa, 880 Cities Founder; developed tracking system for monitoring implementation of the Springfield Complete Streets plan and prepared poster presentation for Moving Together conference.

Collaborated with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council on two rapid health impact assessments (HIA). One evaluated proposed street improvements to Pleasant Street in Northampton; the other assessed the potential health impacts of multi-community land use priority mapping in Massachusetts (for example, PVPC’s recently completed Land Use Priority Plan).

Collaborated with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to create and coordinate a statewide community of practice for Massachusetts regional planning agencies that are incorporating public health considerations in their efforts. PVPC made various webinars and workshop presentations.





Master Planning and Zoning

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 the town of Southwick by conducting a workshop on Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B programs and the process for withdrawing properties from them; to the town of Ware by developing low impact development stormwater management guidelines; to the town of Southampton in passing a demolition delay bylaw; and to the town of Pelham in drafting a two-family dwelling bylaw,

Continued to coordinate meetings of the Valley Development Council, the implementation committee for Valley Vision. VDC speaker forums included "Zoning Reform Legislation—Ramping Up for the Next Legislative Session" (State Representative Stephen Kulik), "Planning for Healthy Design—An Introduction to Healthy Planning, the Links Between Planning and Health, and Tools Available to Planners" (Sarah C. Bankert, Coordinator, Healthy Hampshire; Ben Woods, MDPH; Wayne Feiden, Northampton Director of Planning and Sustainability; Douglas Albertson, Belchertown Town Planner; and Barry Keppard and Noemie Sportiche from MAPC's Public Health Section), "Commercial Gas Connection Moratorium" (from Columbia Gas: Steve Bryant, President; Mike Kane, Director of Government Affairs; Andrea Luppi, Manager of Communications and Community Relations; Sheila Doiron, Director of Communications and Community Relations; from Berkshire Gas: Chris Farrell, Manager of Corporate Communications and Government Relations; Rick Nasman, Senior Director of Operations; Gabe Joseph, Residential Sales and Marketing Representative).

The VDC and PVPC sponsored an all-day Form Based Code 101 class, presented by the Form Based Codes Institute, which was attended by 43 professional planners and board members from throughout our region.

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 for the eleventh consecutive year to provide part-time town planner services under this program. Tasks completed included a revised Table of Density and Dimensional regulations, floodplain zoning, developing a Definitions Section, and providing technical assistance on general planning related matters.
- Worked with the Southampton Planning Board completing and adopting new subdivision regulations, assisting the Board in the review of one Definitive and one Preliminary Subdivision plan, and provided technical assistance on general planning-related matters.
- Worked with the Granby Planning Board on reviewing and processing 12 Special Permit applications and two subdivision plan applications, and provided technical assistance on general planning related matters.
- Worked with the South Hadley Planning Department on a study to identify parcels suitable for higher density residential development with design guidelines. In tandem with this, PVPC also assisted the town in obtaining a DHCD Planning Assistance Towards Housing (PATH) grant for developing a Housing Production Plan.
- Worked with the town of Spencer in providing professional technical assistance on general planning-related matters to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, serving as acting Town Planner.

Completed work with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs 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.

Continued assisting the cities of Chicopee and Holyoke in administering the second year of their Distressed Properties Identification and Revitalization (DPIR) Program under the Attorney General's office. More than 90 REO properties were identified and inventoried for the two cities for action by their Distressed Property Committees. This program has been extended by the Attorney General's Office for an additional two years.

Also see related efforts under District Local Technical Assistance.



District Local Technical Assistance

PVPC received District Local Technical Assistance funding in FY15 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—Completed a concept plan for streetscape improvements to support a new mixed-use center. Assisted with an RFP for engineering design, and preparation for an infrastructure grant application.
- Blandford—Explored options for re-use of a surplus MassDOT land parcel, including a visioning session and survey of town residents.
- Hadley—Developed components of a new Master Plan, including public participation.
- Hatfield—Developed a permitting guidebook for expedited permitting.
- Holland—Developed components of a new Master Plan, including public participation.
- Longmeadow—Updated Longmeadow's Long-Range plan with a focus on municipal space needs and economic development.
- Pelham—Developed zoning recommendations for a new mixed center.
- South Hadley—Prepared components of a multi-family housing study.
- Springfield—Managed public outreach process for the city's Round 1 and Round 2 applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Disaster Resilience Competition.
- West Springfield—Evaluated options for a Municipal Housing Trust. Updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Westfield—Developed affordable housing strategies for two- and three-family homes.
- Regional Stormwater Committee—Worked with Connecticut River Stormwater Committee to develop a program of stormwater messaging.
- Regional Bike Share—Prepared advanced feasibility analysis for Regional Bike Share program.
- Forest Legacy—Prepared application for new Forest Legacy area for western Massachusetts.

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.

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, shared local public health services, shared conservation agent services, shared police personnel, regional municipal accounting services, and working with towns in a regional school district desiring opportunities for working more collaboratively on school budget and related matters. Throughout 2015, new projects were developed and are ongoing efforts within the region. These include:

- **Regional Municipal Accountant Services**—PVPC's Regional Municipal Accountant Services is a fee-for-service program that offers professional financial management services for the prudent and proper supervision of the financial affairs of towns. 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. Through this program, municipalities can expect maintenance of accurate record keeping, timely report filing, and compliance with state and federal laws in the effort to help local governments enhance their municipal accounting functions and performance. Currently, the Town of Chesterfield is the only municipality trying out our pilot scale program and we look to do additional outreach to other communities near the end of the fiscal year to prepare for the new fiscal year.
- **Regional Bike Share Feasibility Study**—The communities of Northampton, Amherst, Holyoke, and Springfield, along with the University of Massachusetts, are working with PVPC to advance a pilot scale bike sharing program in the Pioneer Valley. A regional Bike Share Advisory Committee has been formed and meets monthly to work on details for this project. To date, an intergovernmental compact to collaborate on bike share in the region has been drafted, a feasibility analysis has been completed, a federal grant has been applied to for bike share equipment, and a consultant has been hired to complete an advanced feasibility analysis. There are still many steps ahead before a program can be launched, including refining the recommended business, operating, and governance models; selecting a bike share equipment model (dock-based or "smart" bike); confirm station locations; securing corporate sponsorship and advertising commitments; securing funding for operations; and identifying necessary agreements and permits. Alta Planning and Design has been secured as a consultant to assist in these tasks.
- **Regional Municipal Support Services**—As the regional metropolitan planning agency for Hampden and Hampshire counties, PVPC has a vested interest in helping municipalities meet their needs and desires. Through our support services specifically, we look to offer our communities assistance with meeting specific municipal needs. Municipalities often have one-person departments, and a turnover can create a disruption of important services. Replacing key positions can be a lengthy process, and municipal functions are often disrupted as remaining staff are asked to perform

several jobs—usually at the expense of service provision. Reliable interim coverage is important to maintain quality municipal services to residents and businesses. Maintaining services not only achieves consistency, but also keeps the municipality in compliance with laws and regulations while helping to ensure the efficient use of public finances to meet community needs and desires. PVPC has been developing a support services program to provide area municipalities with qualified administrative, inspectional, planning, and community preservation support on an “as-needed” basis during moments of temporary, back-up, supplemental, and emergency situations.

- Forest Legacy Area project—Springfield and Westfield submitted a DLTA request for technical assistance to help establish a new forest legacy area through a presentation of a proposal to the Massachusetts Forest Legacy committee. This inter-municipal collaboration project will assist Springfield and Westfield to better protect regional water supply resources, while simultaneously promoting economic development through increased forestry production and forestry jobs.
- Chicopee Landfill Closure Alternatives—The City of Chicopee requested DLTA support from PVPC to analyze alternatives and plan for the anticipated closure of the Chicopee landfill in mid-2017. The Chicopee landfill, a regional facility that services Chicopee and a number of other communities, is the last remaining regional landfill in western Massachusetts. For many years Chicopee benefited from a favorable contract for disposal of its solid waste. The contract, initially negotiated in the mid-1980s, currently allows the City to dispose of its solid waste at a rate of \$36.62 per ton, which is about half of today’s market rate. In addition, Chicopee’s host community status allows the collection of a host community fee that generates revenue of about \$1 million per year on average. In 2017, disposal rates will double and the host community revenue will no longer exist after the anticipated closure. To offset this final impact, Chicopee must consider a number of issues and a range of disposal alternatives. Consideration must be given to regional disposal options as well as local operational changes. Moving forward, decisions must be made so that contract options and operational changes can be implemented ahead of the landfill closure. Though a final direction may not be obvious at this time, the solution for Chicopee will most certainly consist of a combination of disposal options that address each facet of the waste stream (trash, yard waste, bulk waste, hazardous waste) in a unique way. To help deal with, and sort through, the multiple issues and options related to the landfill closure, the City has applied for DLTA through PVPC, whose staff have been working closely with the mayor-appointed Landfill Closure Alternatives Committee to research and identify options for Chicopee to consider.
- Regional Roundtables—PVPC has hosted three Regional Roundtable luncheons that focus on pressing issues and other information that affect local governments across the Pioneer Valley region. The first roundtable, focusing on parking management and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council’s statewide parking meter procurement program, was keynoted by MAPC representatives. Roundtable #2 highlighted the Community Compact Cabinet, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker’s first Executive Order. Deputy Commissioner Sean Cronin of the Massachusetts Division of Local Services was the keynote speaker for this luncheon. The last roundtable was a legislative briefing for local leaders by John Robertson, Legislative Director from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The purpose of these roundtable events is to give local leaders an opportunity to receive updates and information on these matters and engage them in a regional dialogue with their counterparts as to how these issues can be solved together.



Conservation 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. Also assisted the Town in updating their Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Pioneer Valley Compact for Conservation served Hatfield and the Winding River Land Conservancy in 2015. In Hatfield, assistance was provided through the Compact to update their Open Space and Recreation Plan and identify grants to assist with a land aggregation and trails project near the town's reservoir area. For Winding River, two conservation restriction monitoring site visits and reports were completed.



**West Springfield
Community Preservation Committee**



Completed and rolled out the new Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress: 2015-2025, the region's economic development plan, through a wide variety of media, including public television, public radio, newspaper, business magazines, and social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter). PVPC partnered with WGBY-TV Channel 57 to create a series of episodes to be aired on their "Connecting Point" show, and the new Plan for Progress was highlighted on WAMC public radio and in articles in BusinessWest and the Republican. PVPC received a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2015 Innovation Award for the rollout, which informed hundreds of Pioneer Valley residents and businesses about the Plan.

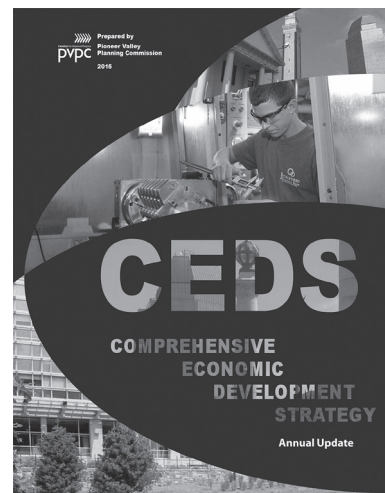
Coordinated and led City2City Pioneer Valley trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee, with 30 local and regional Pioneer Valley leaders. The group met with local officials, economic development and chamber of commerce executives, and other local leaders spearheading high-speed broadband, riverfront revitalization, business mentoring, regional plan collaboration, and other projects. City2City is a program that brings Pioneer Valley civic leaders to similar regions in the U.S. that have implemented successful economic and community development initiatives.

Represented the Pioneer Valley at a NADO convening of local, regional, and federal leaders in Washington, D.C., "Making Resilience the New Normal," and assisted NADO in developing a publication for NADO's Lessons from the Storm: Case Studies on Economic Recovery and Resilience series: "Southwestern Massachusetts: Strengthening Businesses and Communities through Disaster Recovery."

Continued disaster recovery activities for Pioneer Valley businesses impacted by the natural disasters of 2011, including a revolving loan fund operated by Common Capital. Worked with PVPC's GIS section to complete a set of maps of tornado recovery projects in the city of Springfield. 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).

Advocated for the needs of Pioneer Valley urban communities, both Gateway Cities and others: on request, provided economic data, analysis, and mapping to the state Office of Housing and Economic Development regarding economic conditions in these communities.

Conducted the 2015 Annual Update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which provides the most recent economic data for the region and a listing of potential capital projects for the region. The report is available online at www.pvpc.org under "Core Plans."



Held City2City Pioneer Valley event featuring Dr. Katherine Newman, University of Massachusetts Amherst Provost and Senior Vice Principal for Academic Affairs, titled "Turnaround Cities: What Does it Take?"

Continued to serve on the Leadership Pioneer Valley (LPV) Board of Directors. Thirty-one participants graduated in June 2015 from LPV, for a total of 145 graduates to date.



Secured annual 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.

Participated 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

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

Produced data companion to 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. & 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, including convening a meeting of summer learning programs across the city to review and discuss results from city-wide survey, and conducted second round of survey for summer learning within the City of Springfield.

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 are now embedded within the PVPC website's Communities pages as well as provided as separate PDFs, which were updated with 2014 Census data (among other sources). These can be found at <http://www.pvpc.org/community-profiles>.

Continued maintenance of 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 fifth 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. This year, we added a new member to the partnership, Partners for a Healthier Community, bringing a new health lens to the collaboration. 2015 work focused on developing a more robust public website for accessing and using ROADS data with a wide variety of web-based tools.

Completed extensive data collection and analysis for an update of the community indicators report produced by the United Way of the Pioneer Valley. The report covered topics of demographics, education, income, health, and basic needs for the population in the UWPV coverage area.

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. Although the grant period has ended, the site continues to be maintained.



Conducted analysis of the economic impact Westfield State University has on the local community and greater region.

Provided data and analysis for eight Community Health Needs Assessments for the Coalition of Western Massachusetts Hospitals.

Continued to provide technical assistance and data support needs to all departments of PVPC, including tasks such as providing data and analysis for grant applications, housing, transportation, and master plans



GIS Mapping and Graphics

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, including:

- Work maps for staff conducting project field work
- Commuter travel time contours
- EDA/Develop Springfield initiatives
- Mass. In Motion walking tour maps for West Springfield and Palmer
- Connecticut River Watershed and CSO project mapping
- Regional Trails Systems updates
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan updates
- District Local Technical Assistance programs
- Rte. 47 Scenic Byway
- Zoning, recreation and opens space plan updates
- Easthampton Trails impacted by microburst
- Motor Vehicle Crash Location mapping
- Environmental Justice compliance
- New PVTa Transit Route System map
- Regional Transportation Plan update
- Bike Linkage mapping
- Assistance in statewide efforts to identify potentially underutilized state-owned properties.

Continued several ongoing activities, including completion of 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.

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



Communications and Outreach

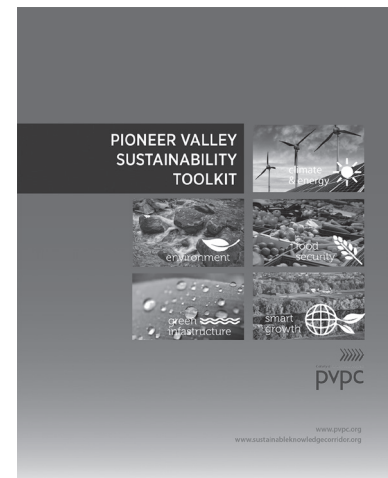
Produced PVPC's 53rd annual meeting at Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley. The meeting's keynote speaker was Bryan Reimer, Ph.D., a Research Scientist in the MIT AgeLab and the Associate Director of The New England University Transportation Center at MIT. His research seeks to develop new models and methodologies to measure and understand human behavior in dynamic environments utilizing physiological signals, visual behavior monitoring, and overall performance measures. Dr. Reimer leads a multidisciplinary team of researchers and students focused on understanding how drivers respond to the increasing complexity of the operating environment and on finding solutions to the next generation of human factors challenges associated with distracted driving, automation, and other in-vehicle technologies. Regional Recognition Awards were presented to Natalie M. Blais, District Communications Director Emeritus for U.S. Congressman James McGovern, for her work to realize several important transportation initiatives in the Pioneer Valley and beyond; to Brooks Fitch, Coordinating Council Board Member of the Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress, for his active involvement in the Plan for Progress and economic development in the region; and to Al Stegemann, District 2 Highway Director Emeritus, Massachusetts Department of Transportation, for helping to advance numerous transportation projects in the Pioneer Valley.

Provided public outreach and publicity support for projects and events such as the Pioneer Valley Sustainability Toolkit; "Our Next Future" regional action plan; State of the Region Conference; the Plan for Progress; Bay State Bike Week; Mass in Motion; Regional Transportation Plan; 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.

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.

Worked with staff to explore enhanced communication and outreach methods.



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.



A Sampler of PVPC's Local Technical Assistance

Agawam

Provided technical assistance with proposed CPA-funded housing rehabilitation program for income-eligible seniors. Responded to requests for Environmental Justice data collection and mapping. Assisted Town in preparing plans for, and applying for funds to advance plans for redevelopment of Walnut Street Extension. Assisted with finalizing local Hazard Mitigation Plan, addressing MEMA and FEMA comments. Reviewed APR acquisition request by MDAR. Reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Report for one proposed project. Provided extensive employer data.

Amherst

Provided data on agriculture revenues as a portion of all industries by county for the state. Assisted Town in advancing plans for a bike sharing program. Performed daily traffic counts at eight locations.

Belchertown

Completed an assessment of the intersection of Turkey Hill Road with Summit Street.

Blandford

Assisted Town officials in responding to MassDOT request for Town input on disposition of surplus property.

Brimfield

Prepared a successful \$571,547 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Brimfield, Holland, and Wales.

Chester

Assisted the Chester Historical Commission with a successful grant application for a Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Projects Fund grant for the Old Methodist Church. Prepared a successful \$922,009 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, which included funds for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Middlefield, Russell, Chester, and Huntington. Performed one daily traffic count.

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. Assisted City in advancing plans for a bike sharing program. Assisted in facilitation of landfill closure advisory committee and researched relevant best practices for landfill operation. Assisted City in review and letter of support for municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan. Performed one daily traffic count.

Cummington

Provided Planning Board with sample quarrying regulations and MAGIS NHESP map.

East Longmeadow

Assisted Town in clarification of relationship between solar bylaws and Green Community designation. Assisted town in review and letter of support for municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan. Assisted Conservation Commission with trail re-routing on Hendrick Street parcel necessary because of microburst storm damage. Performed daily traffic counts at three locations.

Easthampton

Assisted with finalizing local Hazard Mitigation Plan addressing MEMA and FEMA review comments. Performed daily traffic counts at six locations. Provided GIS mapping of microburst area and trails in the area of concern.

Goshen

Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for one proposed project.

Granby

Prepared a successful \$850,614 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, which included funds for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Granby and South Hadley. Produced permitting guide to assist individuals and businesses in application processes. Performed daily traffic counts at six locations. Performed a total of five peak hour turning movement counts.

Granville

Assisted with finalizing local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Performed daily traffic counts at two locations.

Hadley

Provided technical assistance to Historical Commission with preservation restriction for North Hadley Village Hall. Prepared grant application for Federal Lands Access funding to support trails development in town. Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for one proposed project. Performed daily traffic counts at five locations. Performed a total of 16 peak hour turning movement counts.

Hampden

Assisted with finalizing local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Performed daily traffic counts at three locations.

Hatfield

Assisted Planning Board in questions regarding parking and commercial development regulations.

Holland

Assisted ZBA on pre-existing nonconformity application issue. Prepared a successful \$571,547 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Holland, Brimfield and Wales. Assisted Town in review and letter of support for municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Holyoke

Provided technical assistance to the Historical Commission with a workshop on completing Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory forms. Assisted City in advancing plans for a bike sharing program. Performed daily traffic counts at three locations.

Huntington

Provided ZBA training to Board of Selectmen. Prepared a successful \$886,540 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for infrastructure improvements. Performed daily traffic counts at two locations.

Longmeadow

Provided ongoing assistance on Quinnehtuk Road issue, including review of historic traffic information and data collection to develop recommendations on the need for traffic calming along this street. Provided data and information about major employers in the town.

Ludlow

Performed daily traffic counts at six locations.

Middlefield

Prepared a successful \$922,009 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development which included funds for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Middlefield, Russell, Chester, and Huntington.

Monson

Performed daily traffic counts at three locations.

Montgomery

Assisted with finalizing local Hazard Mitigation Plan, addressing MEMA and FEMA review comments.

Northampton

Designed a poster for Northampton's Amtrak station to show neighborhood attractions and transit connections. Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for one proposed project. Provided technical assistance with updating a National Register nomination for the Pomeroy Terrace Historic District. Assisted City in advancing plans for a bike sharing program. Assisted City with climate adaptation planning process stakeholder meetings with AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team. Performed daily traffic counts at eight locations. Performed a total of two peak hour turning movement counts.

Palmer

Participated in intercity rail forum and provided information on Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative study to Redevelopment Authority. Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for one proposed project. Provided GIS trail mapping.

Pelham

Assisted in obtaining waiver on forthcoming EPA stormwater permit. Performed a daily traffic count at one location. Provided GIS mapping for EPA MS4 waiver.

Plainfield

Provided mapping and environmental resource impact analysis for properties within 100 feet of proposed Tennessee Gas pipeline alignment.

Russell

Assisted Town with questions on MassWorks grant application. Prepared grant applications for MA Recreational Trails and Federal Lands Access funding to support trails development in town. Prepared a successful \$922,009 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, which included funds for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Middlefield, Russell, Chester, and Huntington as well as infrastructure improvements in Russell.

South Hadley

Participated in panel discussion on Chapter 40B Housing. Assisted in development of 40R South Hadley Falls Smart Growth Zoning District. Prepared a successful \$850,614 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, which included funds for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in South Hadley and Granby as well as sidewalk improvements to the Newton Manor Housing Authority project in South Hadley. Performed daily traffic counts at 19 locations. Performed a total of six peak hour turning movement counts.

Southampton

Provided GIS mapping support for Conservation Commission rail trail planning efforts.

Southwick

Assisted the town in its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application for culvert and bridge improvements. Performed daily traffic counts at 12 locations. Performed a total of two peak hour turning movement counts.

Springfield

Responded to requests for assistance to develop a proposal for Complete Streets. Conducted outreach events at public housing complexes in Springfield along the X90 transit corridor, distributing schedules and vouchers for free trips. Coordinated efforts to improve access to the Springfield Riverwalk and the development of the McKnight Neighborhood Trail. Reviewed opportunities to increase levels of walking and bicycling in the city and to identify barriers or obstacles in the built environment. Provided child poverty data for grant application. Provided market analysis data for specific downtown area. Provided extensive information about data sources and reports for Springfield economic development plan. Assisted Stone Soul with feasibility analysis, space planning, and strategic planning associated with their long-awaited permanent headquarters. Assisted City in advancing plans for a bike sharing program. Assisted City in application for National Disaster Resilience grant funds. Assisted Springfield Housing Authority with land use data request. Performed daily traffic counts at nine locations. Used GIS to provide summary land use statistics.

Tolland

Performed daily traffic counts at three locations. Provided GIS mapping to support community application for Hazard Mitigation Grant.

Wales

Prepared a successful \$571,547 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Wales, Holland, and Brimfield.

Ware

Provided Special Permit training to Planning Board. Assisted with finalizing local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Prepared a successful \$878,801 FY15 Community Development Fund application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, which included housing rehabilitation and social services to benefit residents in Ware and Hardwick.

West Springfield

Reviewed the Environmental Notification Form for one proposed project. Provided data on West Springfield and Springfield MSA population for economic development purposes. Helped with search for major employers data.

Westfield

Assisted in obtaining waiver on forthcoming EPA stormwater permit. Performed daily traffic counts at six locations.

Westhampton

Performed a daily traffic count at one location.

Wilbraham

Performed daily traffic counts at two locations.

Williamsburg

Performed daily traffic counts at three locations. Performed a total of three peak hour turning movement counts. Met with the Williamsburg trial committee to discuss project development and funding.

Worthington

Performed daily traffic counts at two locations.

Regionwide Local Technical Assistance

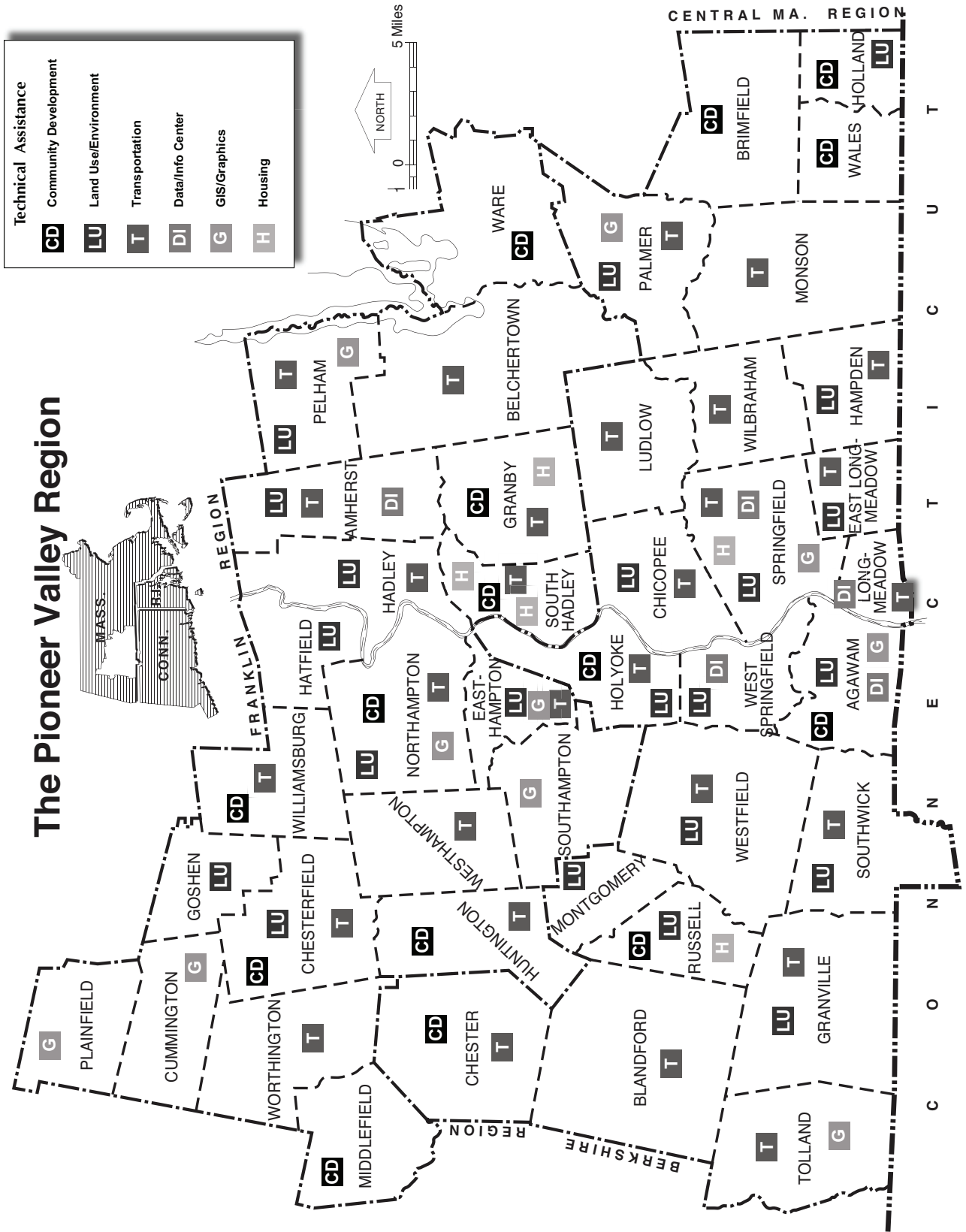
Responded to approximately 35 requests for information and data from the media, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

Performed public outreach on proposed Public Record Law revisions.

Assisted with requests by communities for archived transportation data, including counts, travel time, bridge, and crash data. Monitored regional Park and Ride lot use.

Participated in multi-state working group facilitated by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to draft scoping comments about Kinder Morgan's proposed natural gas pipeline.

The Pioneer Valley Region



PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION COMMISSIONERS AND ALTERNATES

(As of December 01, 2015)

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

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



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
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Springfield, MA 01104-3419
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