

# Major Accomplishments

Developed the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). During the development process, staff performed significant analysis to ensure that projects selected for funding in the TIP met all requirements and goal set forth by our federal and state partners. PVPC staff worked in consultation with FHWA, FTA, MassDOT, and local cities and towns to update the status of all projects included on the TIP. All projects were prioritized using the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC). Updated project information was added as necessary. PVPC staff also worked with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to release the document for public review and endorsement by the MPO. The TIP is a live document and was amended several times during the Federal Fiscal Year.

Staff coordinated monthly Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meetings in order to enhance regional collaboration between municipalities. The JTC is a platform for transportation professionals to discuss issues and strategies for better executing their duties within their municipality and within the region. The JTC is a recommending body to the Pioneer Valley MPO. PVPC staff also coordinated monthly meetings for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the JTC.

The transportation section coordinated regular meetings of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO implements and oversees the transportation planning process in the Pioneer Valley region. All major transportation planning documents such as the TIP, UPWP and Regional Transportation Plans are reviewed and endorsed by the MPO.

As part of the Green House Gas (GHG) initiative tied to GreenEPA, PVPC Staff analyzed all projects being considered for funding in the TIP. Additionally, projects being considered for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding received additional analysis to confirm the project would result in a net air quality improvement.

PVPC staff performed an analytical review of the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC). As a 3 year follow up to the implementation of the new PVMPO TEC process, PVPC performed a comprehensive review of the scoring criteria. The analysis consisted of the review of each project over the last 3 years in order to identify trends in the scoring process. Staff analyzed the TEC several ways: by individual criteria, as scoring by project type, and by urban and rural community designation. The TEC was formally updated to provide transparency and consistency in impacts related to Title VI and Environmental Justice.

Transportation staff continued to serve as a member of MassDOT I-91 Viaduct Long Range Alternatives Planning Study Working Group. Staff attended all working group meetings, followed project updates, reviewed the draft planning scenarios, and provided comments on the evaluation methodology used for the three preferred improvement alternatives.

The chief elected official in MPO communities representing Subregion #2 (Agawam, Southwick, Westfield, and West Springfield) were contacted to determine their interest in serving on the MPO. This effort consisted of a postcard mailing to gauge interest and vote to select the new MPO member and alternate member to represent these four communities.

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## GIS/Graphics

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The regional transportation model was utilized to identify existing and potential future areas of traffic congestion. Staff utilized the model to identify areas of high congestion along major roadways for the base 2010 model year and future build 2040 model year.

A study of the Route 147 corridor within the Towns of Agawam and West Springfield was completed to analyze traffic pattern changes resulting from upcoming construction projects. The area of study included the West Springfield, the Agawam-Sullivan Bridge, and the West Springfield and Agawam. The study identified areas for potential lane closures, lane shifts, and other construction projects.



Trail in Easthampton, Redstone Rail Trail in East Longmeadow, Norwottuck Rail Trail in Hadley, Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway in Springfield, Mass Central Rail Trail in Northampton, Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway in Agawam. These off-road multi-use trails were counted using

## Economical Development

## Transportation

## Land Use/Environmental

## Community Development



Walter Gunn, Chair



Tim Brennan, Executive Director

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.

#### 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)             |
|                      | T.J. Cousineau (Blandford)        |
|                      | Marilyn Gorman Fil (Monson)       |
|                      | Michael Marciniec (Palmer)        |

|                    |             |
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| Executive Director | Tim Brennan |
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## Check the Record of the Top Ten Resolves for 2017



1. Contribute to the completion of the Massachusetts *State Rail Plan Update* and advocate for the inclusion of 3 projects of interstate significance: expanded passenger rail service on the north-south Knowledge Corridor; phased implementation of an east-west rail link connecting Boston-Worcester-Palmer-Springfield-Hartford-New Haven and Montreal, and; upgrading the Massachusetts segment of the New England Central freight rail corridor to achieve the present-day 286,000 pound weight standard.



2. Work with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and other partners to proactively respond to Governor Baker's recently issued Executive Order 569 which lays out a comprehensive strategy that can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as safeguard Massachusetts residents, municipalities and businesses from the intensifying, adverse effects of climate change.



3. Utilize state resources provided by the Department of Energy Resources in order to assist eligible PVPC cities and towns to attain state-designation as a "Green Community" as well as to advance clean energy and efficiency projects in previously designated "Green" communities that will reduce energy consumption, save money and sustain the Commonwealth's accelerated transition to a clean energy future.



4. Seek funding assistance needed to implement several important and time sensitive shared-service projects in 2017 including initiatives designed to reduce the regulatory and cost burdens required in order for cities and towns to comply with federal regulations calling for better management of water quality impacts tied to stormwater as well as mandates to tightly control nitrogen loading at municipal wastewater treatment plants.



5. Initiate work, in collaboration with state and local officials, to compile and distribute reliable information which can assist those Pioneer Valley communities that choose to proactively address the statewide legalization of recreational marijuana based on the recent affirmative vote in favor of Massachusetts Ballot Question #4.



6. Provide assistance and technical support needed in 2017 to launch the initial phase of the regional ValleyBike Share Project including municipal commitments, sponsor agreements, vendor recruitment/selection process and required state approval(s) from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.



7. Partner with the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development and assist and support DHCD's efforts to: (a) implement modifications that streamline and improve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for eligible communities; (b) refine and finalize state regulations that will afford communities the option of establishing new "Starter Home Zoning Districts," and; (c) support ongoing efforts to eliminate homelessness among adults, families and veterans throughout Massachusetts.



8. Collaborate with the applicable Regional Planning Agencies across Massachusetts in order to help address priority action items that are agreed to in 2017 by the Commonwealth's Rural Policy Advisory Commission and, in particular, take a lead role in fostering shared services between and among our region's smaller, rural towns.



9. Support and advance Complete Streets initiatives and projects in cities and towns throughout the Pioneer Valley including the completion of design and engineering plans for PVPC-lead green streets/infrastructure demonstration projects located in downtown Holyoke and Chicopee plus Springfield's "X" neighborhood.



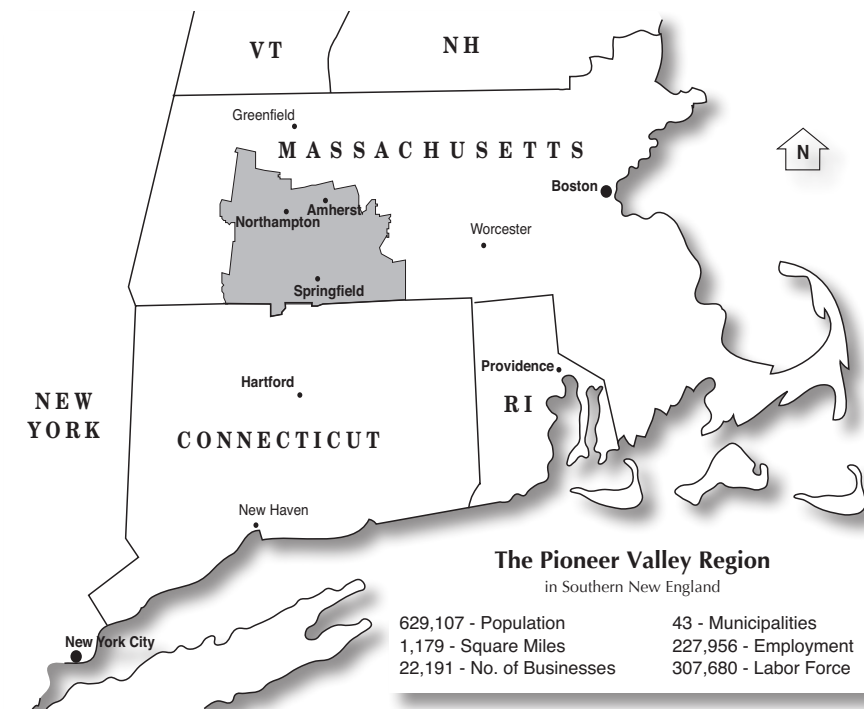
10. Work with the Congressional delegation in Washington, as well as the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor, to shape and advance legislative initiatives at the federal and state level that can benefit the Pioneer Valley and its residents. At the federal level, for example, support legislation to extend the EPA brownfields program; authorize the Water Resources Development Act, enact a comprehensive House-Senate energy bill, and; to create and advance a major nationwide infrastructure investment package. At the state level, key legislative priorities for 2017-18 include statewide zoning reforms, legislation enabling regional ballot initiatives, transit operating assistance for Regional Transit Authorities including the PVTA, Chapter 90 local roads funding and the release of state environmental bond funds to maintain progress on Connecticut River CSO clean-up projects.





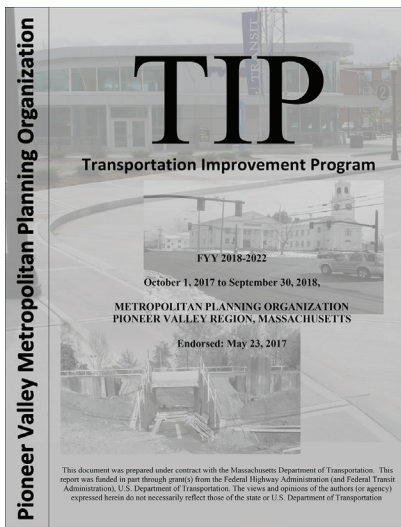
During 2017, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission undertook numerous projects and tasks on behalf of its 43 member communities and the region as a whole. As these work activities have significantly influenced our Valley's future economic prosperity, they have also protected its character and natural 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.





MassLive



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A study of the Route 147 corridor within the Towns of Agawam and West Springfield was conducted to analyze traffic pattern changes resulting from two upcoming construction projects. The area of study included Memorial Avenue in West Springfield, the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge over the Westfield River, and Springfield Street in Agawam. A series of scenarios were developed including lane reductions, lane additions and traffic flow changes at various stages of construction along the corridor.

PVPC staff participated in a statewide committee to develop Socio-Economic Projections for the upcoming 2020 Regional Transportation Plans. This consists of monthly meeting to review the methodology used to develop population, household, and employment forecasts for the Commonwealth and individual planning regions for 2020, 2030, and 2040 forecast years.

As part of our ongoing regional pavement management program, the transportation section surveyed pavement distress data on all federal-aid eligible roadways in communities of Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Holyoke, Ludlow, and South Hadley. A priority listing of roadway maintenance and construction projects was developed based on a benefit/cost ratio for each of the roadway segments.

The PVPC conducted a Roadway Safety Audit (RSA) for the intersections of Main Street with Liberty Street and Frank B. Murray Street in Springfield. This RSA was organized as a follow up study to the Bike and Pedestrian Road Safety Assessment for the area surrounding Union Station in Springfield, Massachusetts in the fall of 2015 by a private consultant on behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). A multidisciplinary team consisting of representatives from state, regional, and local agencies participated in the study and several short and long term recommendations were identified to improve traffic operations and safety at these locations and in the vicinity of the new Union Station.

The Pioneer Valley SafetyCompass summarizes crash data trends for each of the 43 communities in the region. This

report helps identify traffic safety patterns and historic trends to assist communities in developing recommendations for locations with a significant number of crashes. Each profile includes a list of top crash locations,

a summary of the predominant safety data, a map of all crash locations from 2012 - 2014, and detailed

information on non-motorist crashes and fatal crashes within the community. This task was developed to help the communities outside of the urban core which typically did not have any locations that appear in the regional Top 100 High Crash Intersections report. As a result each community now has access to their top crash locations to assist in advancing necessary safety improvements.

Main Street (Route 10) and South Street Transportation Safety Study  
Final Report



Prepared under the direction of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization for:  
City of Easthampton

Prepared by:  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
60 Congress Street  
Springfield, MA 01104

Prepared in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission expressed herein do not reflect those of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

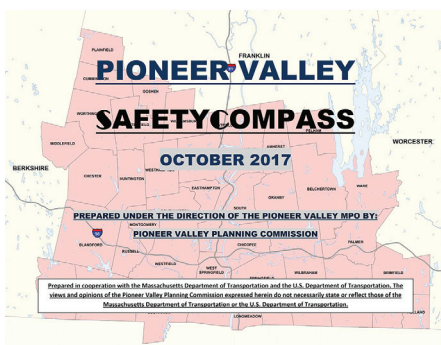
A transportation safety study was completed for the intersection of Main Street (Route 10) with South Street in the City of Easthampton. As a part of the study, detailed traffic volume, intersection geometry, land use, and traffic safety data was acquired. This information was reviewed to identify appropriate recommendations for the

unsignalized intersection to reduce congestion and improve safety. A number of recommendations were made to improve intersection visibility, pedestrian accommodations, and consolidate site driveways.

PVPC entered into a contract with the Town of Southampton to perform local pavement management services. To date staff has completed pavement distress data collection and will begin analysis and reporting on potential improvement scenarios.

The regional traffic counting program performs both automatic daily counts and peak hour turning movement counts for MassDOT, regional congestion and safety studies, and at the request of local communities. In the 2017 calendar year, PVPC performed a total of 104 counts. This data collection effort included 37 vehicle counts for the member communities, 58 vehicle counts requested by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and 9 peak hour turning movement counts.

PVPC expanded bicycle facility counting in 2017 with the installation of permanent count stations on the Manhan Rail Trail in Easthampton, Redstone Rail Trail in East Longmeadow, Norwottuck Rail Trail in Hadley, Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway in Springfield, MassCentral Rail Trail in Northampton, Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway in Agawam. These off-road multi-use trails were counted using

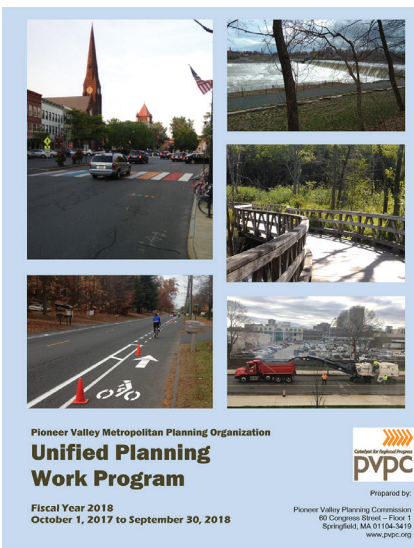




a new TRAFx infrared trail counter. The TRAFx counter are capable of counting people, walkers, hikers, joggers, inline skaters, horseback riders, and bicyclists, on trails, paths, and sidewalks. In 2017 PVPC's counting program also implemented an "on-road" bicycle count program to record the use of bike lanes throughout the region. Using a new TRAX Cycles Plus automatic traffic data recorder, staff can now accurately count mixed bicycle and automotive traffic. With the assistance of community representatives to the Joint Transportation Committee, 5 bike lane locations were selected for 2017.

The PVPC participated in multiple roadway safety audits (RSAs) for intersection improvement projects in the communities of Springfield and West Springfield. RSAs identify factors that may contribute to safety problems and develop a series of recommendations to improve safety. The RSA is conducted as a "team" approach to provide insight from engineers, planners, emergency responders and local officials on the factors that contribute to crashes at a given location.

All transportation planning activities that will be performed by the transportation section must be included as part



of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This federally mandated document was updated for federal fiscal year 2018 which runs from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. The UPWP identifies how the proposed planning activities align with current federal and state goals and initiatives. The transportation

section worked with both the JTC and MPO to develop, review and endorse the current UPWP in May of 2017.

PVPC hosted a FHWA workshop on planning and developing bike lanes as part of resurfacing projects. The FHWA 1-day workshop; "Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects" helped participants understand how they can integrate bicycle facilities into their routine resurfacing programs, specifically through the use of "Road Diets." Participants learned why bicycle facilities should be included when resurfacing a roadway; including the role that planning and street design play in bicycle safety. The training focused on best practices

for including bicycle facilities on roadways. The class of 50 broke into smaller groups for a bike network planning exercise. Participants included engineers, planners, and traffic safety personnel as well as public health and injury prevention professionals, decision-makers, and representatives from bikeway community organizations.

The transportation and land use sections began work for the Town of South Hadley on the development of their Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. This plan is a major step for the town in their application for funding under the Massachusetts Complete Streets Program. PVPC staff coordinated a public participation forum, reviewed past studies and projects, and developed a prioritized listing of Complete Streets eligible improvement projects.

PVPC worked in cooperation with the Town Planner to inventory all existing sidewalk locations in the Town. Transportation staff performed a comprehensive review of all existing sidewalks and coordinated data entry of all sidewalk data into the regional GIS system.





Provided the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) with ongoing monitoring, analysis, and reporting of key transit performance metrics, including on time performance, ridership, and financial information.



Pavilion), as well as service reductions made in August and September.

Assisted PVTA with coordination of bus service to Westfield State University, Holyoke Community College, and Springfield Technical Community College.

Assisted with PVTA's Springfield Bus Stop Consolidation project, including more than 20 public meetings, five outreach sessions with bus riders at the Springfield Bus Terminal, a citywide customer survey, and reports to the Parking and Traffic Commission and Mayor's Office for the Commission on Disability. More than 150 public comments were received, evaluated, and incorporated into the plan.

Updated PVTA's Public Participation Plan, Public Hearing and Major Service Change Policy, and Disparate/Disproportionate Discrimination Impact Policy. Produced a Fare Impact Study of potential increases to PVTA fares, which have not been adjusted since 2008.

Provided questionnaire development, distribution, and tabulation assistance to PVTA for survey of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) van riders.

Worked closely with PVTA staff throughout the year to develop and implement service changes to balance PVTA's FY2018 operating budget. Set up and staffed 11 public hearings that were required for input on possible service changes. Collected, reviewed, logged, and summarized approximately 1,500 public comments received about the service change options at these hearings via telephone messages and email. Revised and reprinted bus schedules to reflect new service. Produced more than 1,000 service change informational signs for installation at individual bus stops. Produced preliminary and updated versions of Title VI Equity Analyses before and after service changes were made.

PVPC staff assisted with the development of PVTA's new P21 Express service plan. A new application was completed along with supporting air quality analysis to request funding in FY2018 under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

Worked closely with PVTA staff to develop service change options, fare increase scenarios, and other necessary actions to balance FY2019 operating budget.

Managed and reported PVTA "Mystery Rider" quality assurance observations of PVTA fixed route and paratransit service, as well as unannounced facilities inspections.

Provided a staff representative to the PVTA Paratransit Appeals Committee, attended appeal hearings, reviewed application and appeal cases, managed discussions, participated in determinations, drafted response language, and mailed letters to appellants expressing the committee's determinations.

Staff participated in a working group led by Bay State Health to pursue a foundation grant to allow medical service providers to better assist their clients in scheduling transportation to and from medical offices as part of the appointment-making process.

PVPC continued to participate in the monthly meetings of the Quabog Region Transportation Committee. A service plan was developed to assist with implementation of the Quabog Connector, a community shuttle geared to improve access to employment opportunities in Ware and surrounding communities.

Participated in the quarterly meetings of the Pioneer Valley Regional Coordinating Council, a body established in 2012 to facilitate intra-regional cooperation on projects to improve the availability of transportation in areas not well served by public transportation.



Staff developed and presented a proposal to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for economic development funds to extend operating hours of PVTA buses in Springfield to assist city residents in commuting to third shift jobs at the MGM casino.

Assisted Stavros Center for Independent Living in the development of a successful grant application for two replacement ADA accessible vans as part of the Community Transit Grant Capital Fund program.



Assisted PVTA with the transition of Springfield area bus operations and the PVTA's Customer Service main office to Springfield Union Station in June.





### Environmental and Water Quality

In 2014, PVPC collaborated with the governor's office, state and municipal officials, and state legislators and the Connecticut River Clean-up Committee (CRCC) to seek the release of \$10 million in state funds in the newly adopted environmental bond bill to support Connecticut River clean-up. In the subsequent years since the funding was available, PVPC, on behalf of the CRCC, has secured grant award contracts from the MA Department of Environmental Protection during each of the three years the funding has been available - \$1.25 million for FY'16, followed by \$250,000 in FY'17 and \$1.5 million in FY'18. These critical appropriations played a significant role in helping the Town of Ludlow eliminate its remaining CSO's and continue to fund a myriad of combined sewer clean-up projects along the Connecticut River in Springfield, Chicopee and Holyoke.

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, and supported approval for several water quality improvement projects along I-91 and I-291.

With an Efficiency and Regionalization grant from the Massachusetts Office of Administration and Finance, PVPC has been collaborating with several municipal wastewater treatment plants in the region and MassDEP to explore the potential for a nitrogen trading program along the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. Trading would provide communities with the option to purchase credits from other communities and better plan for wastewater treatment facility upgrades as part of meeting new federal permit requirements for nitrogen loading on the Connecticut River. PVPC is working with project partners (Springfield Water and Sewer Commission and the City of Chicopee in particular) to understand the potential for and benefits of trading, as well as define a preliminary trading framework for the region.

The Cities of Holyoke, Northampton, and Westfield, the Towns of Amherst and South Hadley, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and the Connecticut River Conservancy have also been active in the project's Nitrogen Advisory Group.

Worked with the 17 municipalities that are members of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee to prepare for forthcoming new federal stormwater permit requirements. This has included ongoing education and outreach work about stormwater impacts, as well as:

- Identifying an education and outreach program of messaging under the new permit
- Identifying regional and state-wide strategies for reducing costs of permit compliance, including collaborating on the procurement of services to develop an integrated program of stormwater mapping and data collection
- 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.
- Facilitating a group of 7 municipalities (Agawam, Belchertown, Granby, Ludlow, Northampton, South Hadley, and Southwick) in a project to integrate stormwater mapping and data so that information collected in the field and required by the stormwater permit can more easily be uploaded to Arc GIS and reported annually as needed.
- Through the Efficiency and Regionalization grant from the Massachusetts Office of Administration and Finance (mentioned above), PVPC is also helping communities with other important federal stormwater permit compliance work. This includes:
  - o Hiring a consultant to conduct workshops and prepare video training modules on Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination and Good Housekeeping procedures as required under the permit. Video training modules will be used for annual required training in coming years.
  - o Updating municipal code in nine communities (Agawam, Chicopee, Granby, Hadley, Ludlow, Northampton, Southwick, Springfield, and West Springfield) to comply with permit requirements. Review includes Illicit Discharge Controls, Stormwater Management, Subdivision Regulation, and Zoning. Checklists and inspection forms created for these communities will be important to updating code in other stormwater regulated communities in the region and beyond.

Worked with the Town of Russell to obtain an EPA waiver from the requirements of the forthcoming federal stormwater permit. Russell was to be one of six newly regulated communities in the region, "but now joins Pelham and Westhampton as communities who will save significantly due to PVPC's successful efforts."

Continued to facilitate the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) and commented on 9 proposed development projects over the aquifer's Zone II recharge area. Of these projects, 2 were in Easthampton, 1 in Southamptton, and 6 in Westfield.

Worked with the Town of Belchertown to continue advancing improved water quality at Arcadia Lake through the design of stormwater management facilities along Federal Street where storm flow typically moves directly from the road into the lake. These facilities will be constructed this coming Spring. The project is made possible with grant funding from MassDEP under the federal Section 319 program



Finished work on the Chicopee River in Ludlow, Chicopee, and Springfield to identify the degree to which urban stormwater is contributing to bacteria impairments on the Chicopee River and associated tributaries.

Following six rounds of water quality sampling, the project zeroed in on sources showing repeated counts of high bacteria, namely Fuller Brook and Abbey Brook. Subsequent work identified where improved stormwater practices may help to address these high inputs. Preliminary design plans for stormwater facility improvements were prepared for the Moody Street area in Ludlow and Szot Park in Chicopee. 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 was supported with funding from a MassDEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant.

Continued work on a Mass DEP 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning 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. The project has completed its water quality testing and source tracking during and will continue with a public engagement and education component through Spring 2018.

Continued work on a project with the Town of Agawam and consultant Amec Foster Wheeler to explore the possibility of a stormwater fee/utility to provide sustainable funding for priority storm system infrastructure projects and work associated with new federal stormwater permit compliance activities. An advisory group, representing a wide cross section of the community, has been engaged in learning about the full costs of the town's stormwater program and potential ways to finance these costs. The group will make recommendations to Agawam's leadership in the early part of 2018.

Organized and conducted the Connecticut River Water Quality Monitoring Program during the summer. Volunteers were recruited and trained to collect and deliver weekly water samples from eight recreational sites along the Connecticut River. Samples were tested for E. coli levels by a local laboratory, and results were then added to an interactive map on the [connecticutriver.us](http://connecticutriver.us) website in advance of summer weekends, when river usage is highest.

### **Sustainability, Clean Energy, and Climate Action**

Advanced work on a regional vulnerability assessment as part of a larger effort to develop a Climate Resiliency Plan for the Pioneer Valley. Current efforts include collaborating with Smith College to prepare a detailed scope of work for a regional climate vulnerability assessment, as well as working to identify critical transportation, water and sewer infrastructure, vulnerabilities and strategies for reducing impacts.

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.

Advanced regional Bikeshare in collaboration with Northampton, lead city, and the communities of Amherst, including UMass, South Hadley, Holyoke, and Springfield.

Collaborated with the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance to conduct education and training on hazardous materials storage and municipalities vulnerability due to increased risks caused by climate change.

Worked with Palmer, Granby, Springfield, Monson, Holyoke, Chicopee, Wilbraham, Ware, Agawam, Ludlow and Hadley to prepare a Pioneer Valley Electric Vehicle Charging Station plan/guide.

Completed development of the City of Springfield's, "Strong, Healthy & Just:" Springfield's Climate Action & Resiliency Plan, including developing an interactive website for the plan, [www.resilientspringfield.com](http://www.resilientspringfield.com). Worked in collaboration with the City of Springfield, Arise for Social Justice, Partners for a Healthier Community, and the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition.



Assisted seven communities: Brimfield, Chester, Cummington, Ludlow, South Hadley, Wales, and Westhampton with Green Communities certification; facilitating submissions from Brimfield, Chester and Cummington, potentially bringing over \$400,000 to the region to advance energy efficiency work, and advancing applications for Ludlow, South Hadley Wales, and Westhampton which will be submitted in 2018.

Provided technical assistance to ten certified Green Communities: Belchertown, Chesterfield, Granby, Hatfield, Holland, Longmeadow, Middlefield, Monson, West Springfield and Williamsburg, assisting with annual reporting to DOER, procurement to advance planned energy efficiency projects and/or grant writing for energy efficiency and /or renewable energy projects.

Assisted the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with several working sessions on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, including hosting a regional training for certified providers.

Assisted Hatfield and Holland with competitive Green Communities grants to advance planned energy efficiency work and to educate residents about the Town's commitment to saving residents money by reducing municipal energy use.

Secured Technical Assistance grants for Chesterfield, Chester, Granby, and Middlefield to implement ASHRAE level II energy audits of municipal buildings and secured funding for Longmeadow to conduct an assessment of the feasibility of solar installations on municipally owned buildings and parking lots.

### **Built Environment and Urban Design— Health in All Policies**

Continued to conduct pedestrian and bicyclist counts in Springfield and Northampton as part of a groundbreaking effort to measure walking and biking activity in order to evaluate public health benefits from built environment changes. This work was supported by grants to the communities from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Continued to advance 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.

Provided technical assistance to Mass in Motion coordinators in the Berkshire, Franklin County, and Pioneer Valley regions.

Joined the Leadership Team for the Massachusetts Partnership for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention and continued to participate in its Built Environment Community of Practice.

Developed tools to support complete streets implementation for the Built Environment Community of Practice of the Massachusetts Partnership for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention  
Continued to build out the Healthy Community Design Toolkit for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



Staff member, Dillon Sussman, was awarded a Golden Shoe award by Walk Boston, the state's leading pedestrian advocacy organization.

Supported Healthy Hampshire in a county-wide Food Assessment, including developing an innovative on-line map of Healthy Food Access in the County. The

map has attracted attention from several leading national agencies who work on food access.

Organized a tactical urbanism/demonstration event in Williamsburg that featured temporary installations showing a new park, proposed municipal facilities projects, and a section of the proposed Mill River Greenway.

Assisted the City of Springfield to advance implementation of their Complete Streets plan, facilitating outreach to Neighborhood Councils, serving as liaison with the Springfield Walk/Bike group, assisting the Renaissance School's 7th grade Expeditionary Learning class with a focus on a healthy built environment, conducting public outreach and information sessions, and advancing the related regulatory and policy work required.

### **Master Planning and Zoning**

Continued to provide technical assistance (UPWP) to communities to develop and implement smart growth strategies from Valley Vision, the region's land use plan. Provided targeted technical assistance to the towns of:

- Agawam – assisted the Planning and Engineering Departments in developing amendments to the town's development regulations (Zoning Bylaw and Subdivision Regulations) to implement Complete Streets and Low Impact Development design elements.
- Hatfield - assisted the Planning Board in reviewing the town's Transfer of Development Rights and Open Space Development Bylaws to assess their effectiveness and identifying potential barriers to their utilization.

Continued to coordinate meetings of the Valley Development Council, the implementation committee for Valley Vision. VDC speaker forums included:

- “Starter Home Zoning Districts” – recent Amendments to c. 40R (Smart Growth Zoning Districts) Regulations (760 CMR 59.00) – Bill Reyelt, Principal Planner, Smart Growth Programs, Office of Sustainable Communities, Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development
- “Changes to the Public Records Law” – Atty. Robert Ritchie
- “Reed v Gilbert” - Attorney Joel Russell - discussion about the impact of this SCOTUS decision on a community’s sign regulations and what is still clearly permitted, what is clearly not permitted, the various shades of gray in between and subsequent case law.
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) - Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- “Recent Zoning Changes in Hartford”
  - o Sara C. Bronin (Chair-Hartford Zoning Commission, Faculty Director, Center for Energy & Environmental Law, University of Connecticut School of Law)

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:

- Hadley - worked with the Planning Board, for the thirteenth consecutive year, to provide part-time town planner services under this program. Tasks completed included updating the town’s Master Plan, researching Municipal Housing Trusts and providing technical assistance on general planning related matters.
- Granby - worked with the Granby Planning Board, for the fifth consecutive year, on reviewing and processing 8 Special Permit/Site Plan Approval applications and one 70 lot subdivision plan applications, reformatted the Zoning Bylaw to include recently adopted provisions, and provided technical assistance on general planning related matters.
- Southamptton - worked with the Planning Board for the fourth consecutive year undertaking a comprehensive review of the Zoning Bylaw identifying areas of inconsistencies, gaps and deficiencies as well a reformatting and re-codification, Subdivision Checklists, driveway regulations, reviewing and processing 3 Special Permits/Stormwater Management Permits and provided technical assistance on general planning-related matters.
- Plainfield – worked with the Zoning board of Appeals with board training and assisted in the review, processing and approval of a large scale ground mounted photovoltaic facility..
- East Longmeadow – filled in as temporary Interim Town Planner during temporary vacancy providing professional technical assistance on general planning-related matters..

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 100 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 (DLTA) funding in FY17 through the State Legislature, with the support of Governor Baker. 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 DLTA funded local technical assistance for eight projects with seventeen participating communities:

- Agawam, Chicopee, Granby, Hadley, Ludlow, Northampton, Southwick, Springfield, West Springfield - Worked with these communities to update their land use regulations to include updated Stormwater management requirements.
- Hampden – Assisted the Town in updating its Open Space Recreation Plan.
- Hatfield – Assisted the Planning Board in implementing recommendations from Hatfield’s Housing Production Plan including improved density bonuses for affordable housing, improved zoning incentives for multi-family housing in mixed-use districts and inclusionary zoning.
- Northampton & Holyoke – Undertook detailed analysis of expanded passenger rail services in the Knowledge Corridor.
- South Hadley – Assisted the Planning Board in developing a Smart Growth Zoning District for an old Big Y commercial area of the Town.
- Westfield – Assisted the City in updating its Open Space Recreation Plan.
- Westhampton – Assisted the Town’s Zoning Review Committee in undertaking a comprehensive review of the Zoning Bylaws and developed amendments/revisions relative to: definitions, table of uses, erosion/sediment/stormwater management, solar facilities, cell towers, wind generation, accessory apartments, medical and retail marijuana facilities.
- Williamsburg - Assisted the Planning Board in implementing selected zoning changes from the Village Centers Study Report for economic development and adaptive reuse of buildings.



Mass.Gov



For a summary of work completed under the DLTA-funded Municipal Partnerships program, see the Municipal Shared Services Program category of this report on page 21.

### Green Infrastructure and Forestry



Advanced work on an 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.

WWLP

Completed green streets design plans for the “X” neighborhood in Springfield, for High and Newton Streets in downtown Holyoke, and for Perkins and Dwight Streets in downtown Chicopee. Completed 90% green streets design plans for downtown Holyoke and Chicopee, and initiated design plans for Springfield. From 2015-2017, a total of 1,222 trees have been planted in the three cities.

Worked with Springfield Housing Authority to identify a rain garden location for one of their properties. The rain garden will be built Spring 2018. This will be the 5th rain garden in the Springfield Rain Gardens Program, a pilot project with the Regenerative Design Group funded by settlement agreements reached by Clean Water Action, a non-profit citizens’ group, and MassDEP.

Continued work on a green infrastructure plan for Day Brook in Holyoke. This project is funded through the EPA Urban Waters Small Grant Program, and involves identifying optimal sites for green infrastructure installation along Day Brook, an underground stream that runs through an urbanized area of Holyoke. Stormwater inputs into the Day Brook pipe contribute to CSO discharges into the Connecticut River. The project also involves a partnership with Enchanted Circle Theater which has completed a robust program of public outreach on stormwater education through public art with schools and neighborhoods in the Day Brook watershed.. Enchanted Circle Theater worked with students at the Sullivan School to create a mural showing Day Brook’s journey through the City and a story walk of six panels showing the history of the Brook from the age of dinosaurs to present day.

Reviewed subdivision regulations and made recommendations in several communities (Agawam, Belchertown, and Granby) to promote green streets and low impact development approaches.

### Conservation Planning Assistance

The Pioneer Valley Compact for Conservation served Hatfield and Southampton in 2017. In Hatfield, assistance was provided through the Compact to prepare and win a state Recreational Trails Program grant application for a trail on White Rock Mountain. For Southampton, GIS mapping assistance was provided for the Southampton Greenway, and paper and online trail maps were created for two conservation areas.

Assisted the Town of Hampden and the City of Westfield in advancing the updates of their Open Space and Recreation Plans. These plans must be updated on a seven-year cycle, and serve as the municipalities’ roadmap to maintaining and enhancing all the benefits of open space. The plans promote resource conservation on a watershed level.

### Scenic Byway Planning, Greenways, and Trails

Following publication of the Highlands Footpath Action Plan in 2016, PVPC worked with trail advocates over the



past year to identify early implementation projects. Explorations of Highlands Footpath segments in Chester-Blandford State Forest led to development of a successful funding request to DCR’s Recreational Trails Grant Program. This work, to begin spring of 2018, will include design

for restoring a bridge crossing at Sanderson Brook, and revitalization of the Newman Marsh Trail. The advisory group involved in development of the action plan also transitioned to become its own 501c3, nonprofit, the Highlands Footpath, Inc., with membership from Hilltown communities, Berkshire Regional Planning, and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.. Also, received an award from the Healthy Hampshire to explore connections through a walk audit from Chester downtown to nearby segments of the Highlands Footpath.

Completed development of 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 Hadley car-top boat access area, a trail on Mount Warner, the Red Rocks Trail, a new trailhead and trail re-route for the New England National Scenic Trail, and exhibits for a new Scenic Byway Waypoint Center at

the Porter Phelps Huntington House Museum. Completed construction of the Hadley car-top boat access area and trail from Route 47 to Mount Warner and created a spur trail to connect with New England National Scenic Trail.

Advanced plans for the River to Range Trail. Assisted the Town of South Hadley in securing a second Recreational Trails grant to construct Phase 2 of the trail.

PVPC received notice of award for a Federal Lands Access Program grant to supplement funding for Phase 2 construction of the River to Range Trail Phase 2 in South Hadley, as well as further improving trail connections from the Connecticut River to Mount Warner in Hadley.

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

In the summer of 2017, construction was completed on the Blanche Barlow Acres Recreational Access Project in Lee. PVPC collaborated on this project with Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway and the Lee Land Trust. Through funding from the National Scenic Byways Program and Massachusetts DOT an abandoned house was removed from Land Trust property and replaced with a new driveway and parking area. The parking area now provides safe access to a small picnic area and hiking trails. The trails were completed by The Trustees of Reservation in conjunction with the Lee Land Trust and provide views of Goose Pond. Distributed the second edition of the highly popular "Pioneer Valley Trails" regional trails map and hiking guide to local bookstores. The guide 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.

### **Natural Hazards Planning**

Completed work on local Hazard Mitigation plan updates for Chicopee and Granby.

Having an updated local Hazard Mitigation plan makes cities and towns eligible to apply for federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds for infrastructure improvements to make our communities more resilient.







This year, with the Commission's concurrence, the section previously known as Communications and Public Engagement was formally renamed Public Affairs. This new name is meant to more accurately describe the section's increased focus on policy and intergovernmental affairs.

That increased focus included advocacy efforts in support, and in some cases, in opposition, to legislation under consideration at the state and federal levels pertaining to a wide range of germane issues.

Public Affairs worked with several other PVPC sections to successfully lobby for continued funding of the Commonwealth's Community Compact, Efficiency and Regionalization, and District Local Technical Assistance grant programs - allowing the Commission to help member communities improve their operations in a myriad of ways. Staff also has ongoing advocacy for greater transportation options in the Valley, including funding for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) and passenger rail expansion.



private and nonprofit sector partners throughout the region under Public Affairs leadership.

Additionally, Public Affairs has continued to serve the long-term communications and intergovernmental needs of the Gateway Hilltown Collaborative, ValleyBike Share program, and most recently the Connecticut River Clean-Up Committee, as well as providing many other shorter-term support actions for projects across the PVPC's various sections.



Staff also served as a key point of contact for several PVPC affiliations, including the New England Knowledge Corridor, Transportation for Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA).

A Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner survey was also conducted by Public Affairs this year, with additional plans to engage and mobilize the Commission's leadership in the new year.

Lastly, Public Affairs has continued to stay true to the section's original mission of high quality communication and public engagement - working with section staff throughout the PVPC to ensure Valley residents are kept informed of ongoing work in their communities and their questions, comments, and concerns are heard and addressed at public events, in print and digital media, on the radio and television, and on the PVPC's social media accounts.





## Community Development

The PVPC's Community Development staff facilitated over \$6.5 million in on-going and new public infrastructure, public facilities, housing rehabilitation, septic system repair, planning and design, and social/public services projects in the following communities:

### Completed FFY13 - FFY15 Projects

**FFY2013-DR Town of Holland** \$157,075 program for improvements to Over The Top Road. The project involved the installation of a drainage system to capture stormwater and safely discharge it into Hamilton Reservoir. The project included new drainage pipe, several catch basins and drainage manholes, retainage wall, landscaping material, erosion control measures and other miscellaneous work.

**FFY2015 CDF—Town of Russell (Chester, Huntington, Middlefield):** \$922,009 program for infrastructure improvements in Russell, the rehabilitation of approximately 3 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 program 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 program 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 program involving infrastructure improvements to Maple and Pleasant Streets.

**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).

### On-going FFY DR-13, FFY15, and FFY16 Projects

Activity on one FFY2013 CDF DR-13 program, one FFY2015 CDF program, six FFY2016 CDF programs, and one CPA HR Program, and two FFY2016 CDBG Programs were substantially worked on in 2016. This included nearly \$6.0 million of funding involving the municipalities of Russell, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Ware, Hardwick, Warren, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Wales, Brimfield, Holland, Granby, South Hadley, Easthampton, Northampton, and Westfield. Specific programs and work activities include:

**FFY2013-DR Town of Brimfield:** Ongoing oversight of the \$236,500 program to provide direct assistance to Hollowbrook Farm, LLC. The intent of the funding was to allow the owner to repair the barn, clean-up the fields and trails, and replace lost equipment necessary to operate the business. The project was also to 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. To date the required equipment has been purchased and delivered, clean-up completed, and the design of the residential build-out completed.

**FFY2015 CDF—Town of South Hadley (Granby):** Ongoing oversight of \$850,614 for the rehabilitation of approximately 20 units of housing, pavement and lighting improvements to Newton Manor (South Hadley Housing Authority), and social services (mobile food pantry).

**FFY2016 CDF—Town of Huntington (Chester, Middlefield):** Ongoing oversight of \$753,226 for infrastructure improvements in Huntington, a senior center feasibility study in Chester, the rehabilitation of approximately 7 units of housing, and social services (case management and support services, food pantry, adult education, domestic violence prevention).

**FFY2016 CDF—Town of Ware:** Ongoing oversight of 800,000 for infrastructure improvements on Pleasant Street, an engineering design project on Bank and Spring Streets, and social services (domestic violence prevention).

**FFY2016 CDF—Town of Warren (Hardwick, Ware):** Ongoing oversight of \$724,000 for an engineering design project on School Street in Warren, the rehabilitation of approximately 14 units of housing, and social services (adult education, domestic violence prevention, and community health services).

**FFY2016 CDF—Town of Hardwick:** Ongoing oversight of \$796,836 for the Prospect Street and Broad Street infrastructure improvement project, municipal office building ABR design project, and social services (domestic violence prevention).

**FFY2016 CDF—Town of Southwick (Granville):** Ongoing oversight of \$900,000 for infrastructure improvements to Veteran Street in Southwick, the rehabilitation of approximately 9 units of housing, and social services (mobile food pantry).

**FFY2016 CDF—City of Northampton:** Ongoing program oversight of the rehabilitation of approximately 12 units of housing with City CDBG funds.

**FFY2016 CDF—City of Easthampton:** Program oversight of the rehabilitation of approximately 6 units of housing (6 units with CPA funds and 3 units with CDBG funds).

**FFY2016 CDF—City of Westfield:** Ongoing program oversight of the rehabilitation of approximately 3 to 4 units of housing with City CDBG funds.

#### New Awards and Programs (FFY16)

The PVPC applied for and received over \$5.2 million in FFY2017 CDF Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Development Block Grant Funds for the municipalities of Ware, Hardwick, Warren, Huntington, Chester, Middlefield, Russell, North Brookfield, and Spencer.

#### Awards

**FFY2017 CDF—Town of Russell (Huntington, Chester, Middlefield):** \$1,183,165 for infrastructure improvements in Russell, the rehabilitation of approximately 8 units of housing, and social services (food pantry, adult education, domestic violence prevention, elder services).

**FFY2017 CDF—Town of Ware (Warren, Hardwick):** \$1,053,100 approximately 24 units of housing rehabilitation and social services (community health services, senior outreach, domestic violence prevention, youth summer program).

**FFY2017 CDF—Town of North Brookfield:** \$799,808 for North Common Street infrastructure improvements.

**FFY2017 CDF—Town of Spencer:** \$788,890 for Chestnut Street infrastructure improvements.

**FFY2017 CDF—Town of Chester:** \$800,000 for Hampden Street infrastructure improvements.

**FFY2017 CDF—Town of Warren:** \$675,320 for Quaboag Street infrastructure improvements and social services (domestic violence prevention).

#### HOUSING REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Administered and implemented approximately \$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, Huntington, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Easthampton, Granby, South Hadley, Southwick, Granville, Easthampton, Northampton, and Westfield.

Continued to serve as the Region 1 service provider under the Commonwealth's Home Modifications Loan Program for those with disabilities. Over \$350,000 was loaned to borrowers to allow them to remove private property architectural and other health barriers to their homes. To Since 2005, the PVPC has lent over \$5.0 million to eligible and qualified borrowers under this program.

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

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION



**Ware**—Provided direct services for victims including a weekly support group and individual advocacy services through a subcontract with Valley Human Services/Behavioral Health Network. Supported the Ware High School Domestic Violence Task Force with a school-wide writing prompt project on healthy relationships, workshops for health classes, and support for letters to parents on how to support school efforts on healthy dating. Provided education and outreach through use of newspaper and a Third Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk.



**Hardwick**—Provided direct services for victims including a weekly support group and individual advocacy services through a subcontract with Valley Human Services/Behavioral Health Network. Provided a four day training for teens from Hardwick and neighboring towns on healthy dating. Supported Hardwick's participation in a local interfaith initiative on domestic violence. Worked with Baystate Health Eastern Region (BHER) to improve efforts to reach victims who use BHER services.

**Warren**—Provided direct services for victims including a weekly support group and advocacy services through a subcontract with Valley Human Services/Behavioral Health Network. Conducted healthy dating and dating abuse prevention workshops for Warren 7th and 10th grade students. Worked with Baystate Health Eastern Region (BHER) to develop regional health care expertise on intimate partner violence, and to improve screening and referrals for patients who have experienced domestic and sexual violence. Implemented an interfaith initiative to support regional faith leaders who work with abuse victims. Coordinated a local task force on domestic violence.

**Chester/Middlefield/Huntington**—Implemented a domestic violence prevention project and coordinated a local task force on domestic violence. Major projects included: support and expansion of local domestic violence advocacy services through a collaboration with Hilltown Safety at Home, Hilltown Community Health Centers and Safe Passage; support of healthy relationship projects at Gateway High School including a social norms campaign; support for training of 5th grade students in two local elementary schools on healthy friendships; collaboration with and support for local and state police departments; development and implementation of an interfaith initiative on domestic violence; service coordination through monthly task force meetings, and community education and outreach through back-to-school nights, public service ads throughout the community, and use of local newspapers for letters to the editor, opinion pieces and public service ads.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

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

Began historic resource inventory projects in Sturbridge and West Springfield, aimed at surveying approximately 100 properties in each community.

Began state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credit project for buildings on Maple Street in Springfield, and continued a project on North Street and White Terrace in Pittsfield.



Historic Buildings of MA

Began National Register nomination for the Carew Street Baptist Church, Springfield, as part of a state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credit project.

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

Completed historic preservation plans for Holyoke and Worcester, and an endangered historic building casebook for Pittsfield.

Submitted an inventory form and resulting draft National Register nomination for the First Congregational Church in South Hadley.

Updated an AREA inventory form which highlighted mid-nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture and social history on Liberty Street in Springfield.

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

Provided Local Technical Assistance on historic preservation issues to the towns of Hadley, Holyoke and Williamsburg.

Participated in the content committee for the 2017 statewide Historic Preservation Conference, held in Lowell, and continued involvement with the Preservation Massachusetts-sponsored statewide Preservation Coalition.

Helped coordinate meetings of the Western Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition, an organization which provides educational and networking opportunities for historic commissions, historic district commission members and preservation partners. PVPC has partnered with BRPC, FRCOG, Preservation Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission to continue this series into 2017.

Served as secretary and trustee of the Springfield Historic Preservation Trust Fund, an organization created through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, MGM Springfield, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission, as part of the mitigation for the construction of the MGM casino project.



Historic Northampton

Revised and submitted National Register nomination for Northampton-based Pomeroy Terrace Historic District, to be presented to the Massachusetts Historic

Commission for final approval prior to the end of 2017.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Continued to serve as the administrative and fiscal agent for the 19 community member, Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC), whose mission is "to serve the residents of Hampden County, MA by planning for and responding to natural and man-made disasters." Members of the HCHC primarily consist of local health directors, agents and nurses as well as emergency management directors (EMDs). Coalition funding comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM).

Continued to provide administrative and program oversight of the county-wide Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program that recruits and trains volunteers for response to public health emergencies. We have supported volunteer recruitment, retention and outreach activities for Hampden County MRCs to bolster our county's public health emergency response workforce. We continue to assist MRC units with program development and training. We are networking with several local colleges and universities to promote the participation of nursing students in the MRC, including assisting nursing professors in the development and presentation of preparedness training for student nurses to further enhance response capabilities. We are also providing technical assistance for MRC units interested in applying for 2018 MRC Challenge Awards from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).

PVPC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Planner continued to assist coalition communities better prepare for emergencies by ensuring the completion of MDPH grant deliverables as well as assisting with the development and updating of Emergency Dispensing

Site (EDS) plans. These plans ensure that communities are prepared to dispense Medical Countermeasures (MCMs) from the CDC's stockpile, in the event of an emergency. To test and refine these plans -- and in response to our grant deliverables -- the PHEP Planner is coordinating EDS component drills and exercises for every community in the county, a project to be completed by 03/31/18. Eleven Hampden County communities have already held these exercises and have participated in the After Action Report/Improvement Plan evaluation process. These events also give health departments the opportunity to strengthen and practice interdisciplinary emergency response plans.

PVPC's PHEP Planner works with planners from other areas of Western Massachusetts on regional preparedness initiatives as part of the Western Advisory Group (WAG), and this year is chairing the Regional EDS Plan project which, in accordance with directives from OPEM, is exploring the operationalization and standardization of EDS Plans from communities across the four counties. Our PHEP Planner also participates in the Local/State Advisory Committee (LSAC), representing the preparedness needs and concerns of the public health departments in Hampden County communities.

In response to suggestions from communities in the county, PVPC's PHEP Planner has instituted a monthly Public Health Preparedness Newsletter which outlines training opportunities, conferences, exercises and preparedness events in the region and which highlights promising preparedness practices.

Hampden County continues to be 100 percent in compliance with the state requirement for municipalities to report and monitor communicable diseases through the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) system. This is a platform that enables healthcare organizations to share epidemiological data with each other. We have invited the nurse who manages MAVEN reporting and case management for our smaller towns to report on the incidence of infectious disease at the monthly HCHC meeting so that health departments have a better understanding of developing trends (e.g., this summer several communities experienced an increase in the incidence and diagnosis of tick-borne illnesses).

Health Departments in Hampden County communities, continue to lead the region in their response to notification drills that MDPH conducts each quarter via the Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN).

In collaboration with the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC), PVPC has continued to work with local emergency preparedness and response professionals and with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission on developing our Family Reunification Plan, which addresses the needs of children in disasters by

reuniting them with their families; this has been identified as a gap in local, regional and state plans. PVPC has been active in designing and providing outreach and education about this plan for Massachusetts stakeholders who provide services for children. Additionally PVPC has supported the development of a Debris Management Plan template which will provide the region with a comprehensive, accessible tool, to facilitate the plan development and an action guide to help municipal officials manage debris following an incident. Further preparedness projects in cooperation with WRHSAC include developing, distributing, collecting, and interpreting the responses to a countywide survey to assess the feasibility of a Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) that would function during the response to and recovery from a widespread disaster. And through membership in the Pandemic Flu Subcommittee of WRHSAC, PVPC has participated in the design, selection and development of initiatives designed to further the preparedness, response/recovery capability, and resilience of the communities in the region.

PVPC now helps to represent local public health emergency preparedness with a seat at the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), an interdisciplinary team that assesses vulnerabilities, exercises response capabilities, and shares resources throughout its cachement area (which includes Springfield and surrounding cities). We work with our regional Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) to promote networking between the five health-related disciplines that plan for emergency response (hospitals, long-term care centers, community health centers, public health, and EMS). Our PHEP Planner is also a member of the Western Chapter of the Massachusetts Association for Public Health Nurses (MAPHN), which this year is working on a preparedness project (a simulated EDS on a college campus) with a consortium of local colleges and universities. Additionally, PVPC's PHEP Planner sits on the Health Care, Behavioral Health and Spiritual Care Subcommittee of the Pioneer Valley Community Organizations Active in Disaster (PVCOAD), which is working to expand and strengthen our region's response resources and networks.

#### **DISTRICT LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: MUNICIPAL SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM**

The PVPC developed the Municipal Partnership Program 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. Through the PVPC Municipal Partnership Program, we coordinate the Commonwealth's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program, and provide support for the Governor's Community Compact Cabinet Initiative within the region by working with municipalities to prioritize 'best practice' efforts to advance local government priorities.

Throughout 2017, new projects were developed as well as continued support to ongoing efforts within the region. These include:

- **Regional Municipal Accounting Services** — a fee-for-service program administered by the PVPC who has taken on the task of procuring and managing a private accounting firm to handle the bookkeeping of interested towns at a fraction of the cost of hiring a full-time town employee. The program offers professional financial management services for the prudent and proper supervision of municipal financial affairs. 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, participating 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. The program started off as a pilot with the Town of Chesterfield and has recently expanded to include the Town of Blandford.



- **Economic Development at Hilltown Collaborative** - The Towns of Huntington, Chester, Blandford, Russell, Montgomery, and Russell, together recognized as the 'Hilltown Collaborative', have pledged to work together to explore sharing municipal services and to bring economic revitalization to the six-town region. The Collaborative's efforts are in large part meant to combat the increasingly difficult fiscal landscape the towns each face individually as well as collectively as a region. A combination of state resources have been awarded to the Collaborative to help promote good governance and advance economic development



strategies that support their cause. These resources include Community Compact Cabinet funds from the state for regional services assistance (administered by the MA

Division of Local Services) and Economic Development services lead by Elan Planning, Design and Landscape Architecture (administered by MassDevelopment). The Commonwealth's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission were also awarded to the Collaborative to provide direct technical assistance to help facilitate Community Compact Cabinet efforts and further advance regional collaboration to help the communities address the challenges impacting core local government services. PVPC secured Efficiency and Regionalization grant funds for the towns from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration & Finance, to develop a shared Rural Economic Development Director position and coordinate Inter-Municipal Agreements between the Towns to share the services and cost for FY19. PVPC assisted the Hilltown Collaborative with the hiring process and have hired a strong and well qualified person who has been leading economic development discussions in the 6 town region for over 6 months. Currently, PVPC is working with the towns through their individual local budget process to secure the shared cost of the municipalities to sustain the regional position beyond the grant period.

- **Municipal IT Assessment at Hilltown Collaborative** - The PVPC provided District Local Technical Assistance to the Hilltown Collaborative to evaluate the existing information technology and related systems. PVPC analytical and IT staff conducted IT assessments of each of the communities, explored technology expenses and budgets by municipality, and researched best

practices for IT expenditures and shared services. The end product was a final report which summarized that analysis for each community, identified improvements needed in each community, key vulnerabilities that were found among many of the communities, as well as a variety of actions for the towns to consider taking independently and collaboratively to improve IT systems and support in the Hilltown Collaborative communities.

- **Regional Animal Control Services (Palmer, Monson, Ware and Warren)** - The participating communities kicked off a pilot scale regional arrangement at the start of fiscal year 2017 after getting pressure from enhanced state regulatory practices for shelter compliance. The pilot was made possible after engaging PVPC and CMRPC to help explore and determine the feasibility of sharing animal control resources. After implementing the pilot, the immediate benefit to the towns through the shared arrangement was the use of an existing shelter in Palmer and access to a fulltime animal control officer to oversee the shelter and respond to calls as-needed. Since the start of the implementation of the regional partnership, each of the communities have committed and remain dedicated to support building an adequate regional animal control facility and take steps toward fully consolidating their animal control services in the long term as part of their operational capacity building campaign. Thus far, the communities have reaffirmed their partnership by extending their regional contract, and have submitted an Efficiency and Regionalization grant to leverage resources for Phase I construction of an adequate regional animal control shelter facility. Phase I will include a regional procurement for a consultant to help complete the technical study and architectural designs of the regional facility, and it will include making a pre-identified town-owned location site-ready for construction to help reduce any perceived total project costs for construction.
- **Shared Conservation Agent for Easthampton and Southampton** - The growing developments and other conservation priorities within Easthampton and Southampton are far outpacing the current capacity of what the Conservation Commissions can handle on a volunteer basis with no Conservation Agent on staff. Three years ago, the municipalities engaged the PVPC to conduct an analysis and determine the feasibility of how the existing active Conservation Commissions can be improved through a shared service capacity. In 2016, PVPC submitted an application for Efficiency and Regionalization grant funds which has allowed for the hiring of a part-time shared conservation agent and the draft of an inter-municipal agreement. Currently, PVPC is working with the municipalities, through their budget process, to sustain the shared cost of the position in preparation for the FY19 year.



- **Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan** - The PVPC has organized a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Working Group to help oversee the development of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Plan for the PVPC planning region. The purpose of the plan is to assess the Pioneer Valley's current support for EVs, often referred to as its EV-readiness. The Plan also looks forward to provide recommendations to create a more comprehensive charging network that supports EV drivers and addresses any implementation barriers. The objective of this Pioneer Valley EV Charging Station Plan is to recommend strategies for supporting current and future EV drivers traveling within the region and across Massachusetts. Since EVs have a more limited range than conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles that use petroleum fuels, the most critical area of support is providing charging opportunities to EV drivers.
- **Hampshire County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** - A network of collaborators in Hampshire County engaged the PVPC to help draft a countywide health improvement plan (CHIP) for the Hampshire region. The purpose of the plan is to present a strategic path



forward to improve health outcomes of the 158,080 people living in the county's 20 cities and towns through a collaborative process. To-date, collaborators have engaged

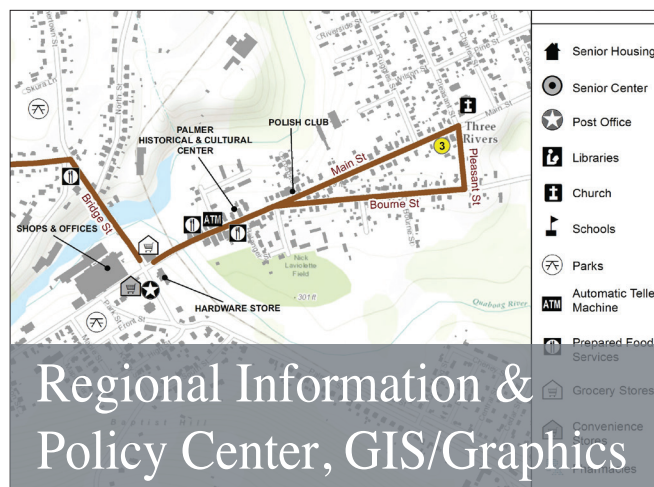
stakeholders in a working session to help kickoff the process for drafting a CHIP that focuses on a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems. The plan will not only include the input of stakeholders, but will also reflect the results of the county health assessment completed by the Hospital Coalition as their mandated IRS requirement. It is envisioned for this plan to be used by health and other governmental, education, economic development and human service sectors, in collaboration with community partners to set priorities and coordinate and target resources in order to enhance health outcomes for Hampshire County residents.

- **Shared IT (Hadley and South Hadley)** - The Towns of Hadley and South Hadley have requested the PVPC through its DLTA program to assess and explore potential partnership arrangements between towns for the purpose of sharing municipal IT services and coordinate action steps to support resource sharing

strategy, if feasible. Through their exploratory process, they have concluded the desire to share a web based self service permit application system. South Hadley already has such a system available in their town and they wish to make the service available to the neighboring community of Hadley in a municipal shared service capacity. Having available this type of technology has automated and accelerated South Hadley's building permitting process and made it extremely easy for staff as well as applicants to get a permit. More specifically, the system has allowed South Hadley to grow and prosper simply by streamlining the process while keeping multiple departments informed in real-time therefore creating a much more effective and efficient process for everyone. It has provided applicants with 24/7 application opportunity and has reduced in-house 'bottlenecking' caused by the traditional office transaction model. South Hadley has had nothing but great experiences with this type of system and wants to be 'good neighbors' by expanding the use of their access to the system to the Town of Hadley. An Efficiency and Regionalization grant was submitted on the towns behalf to pay for expansion and other start-up costs necessary to implement the web based self service permit application system in Hadley.

- **Shared Document Management System Analysis and Implementation** (Northampton, Westhampton, Southampton, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, and Goshen) - The participating communities have leveraged IT grant funds from the Commonwealth to purchase the necessary capital for expansion of Northampton's electronic document management system to the surrounding towns. DLTA had been awarded to the communities to provide assistance with coordinating the necessary tasks for successful implementation. These tasks included researching and assessing infrastructure needs of the communities, craft system proposal and design for each municipality including launch costs and projected annual operating costs, develop contract agreements between each of the municipalities with the host community (Northampton) and achieve town commitment, and develop a user implementation guide. Upon completion of these tasks, the communities will be able to move forward with purchasing the equipment to implement the system.





In 2017, the Geographic Information System (GIS)/Graphics section merged with the Regional Information and Policy Center (RIPC) to function as one cohesive department - providing the Valley's public, private and nonprofit sector organizations with the most current, professionally produced and competitively priced data collection & analysis, GIS mapping services, report design & production, website design & administration, and multimedia production.

### Policy and Data

The Center responded to approximately 35 requests for information or data coming from the media, other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

Staff 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 producing the second annual Springfield Summer Program Guide for parents within the city as well as initiating a new 20-minute daily reading program for Springfield summer programs.

The Center completed annual updates for indicators in the regional data warehouse, which includes economic, social, health, transportation, and demographic information for municipalities, counties, and the region annually.

Municipal profiles are embedded within the PVPC website's communities pages as well as provided as separate PDFs. These can be found at <http://www.pvpc.org/community-profiles>.

RIPC also 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 excel spreadsheet or PDF for download.

Additionally, PVPC staff 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 seventh 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, work focused on partnering with regional foundations with similar interests to explore developing a more comprehensive regional data website.



The PVPC also embarked on a new area of support for member communities focused on municipal use of Information Technology. To this end, conducted IT

Assessments for the 6 member communities of the Hilltown Collaborative and produced a report recommending individual and shared actions that can be taken to improve IT function, municipal service, and security for each community. In addition, PVPC conducted a survey of municipal IT challenges, had meetings with four other municipal leaders to explore PVPC support in improving IT services. PVPC is in the process of developing a public/private model to provide Municipal IT support more comprehensively to communities throughout the region.

The process of assisting member municipalities with preparation for the 2020 Decennial Census, including outreach to communities to encourage participation in the LUCA program also began this year.

Staff provided facilitation to the Pioneer Valley Opioid Data Collaborative (PVODC) as they work in partnership to develop more effective and efficient ways to access, share, and use data in their outreach and prevention work regarding opioid abuse and addiction.

Lastly, the Center continued to provide technical assistance and data support needs to all PVPC departments, including tasks such as providing data and analysis for grant applications, housing, transportation, and master plans.

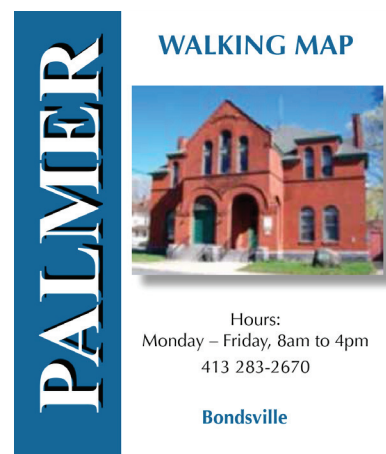
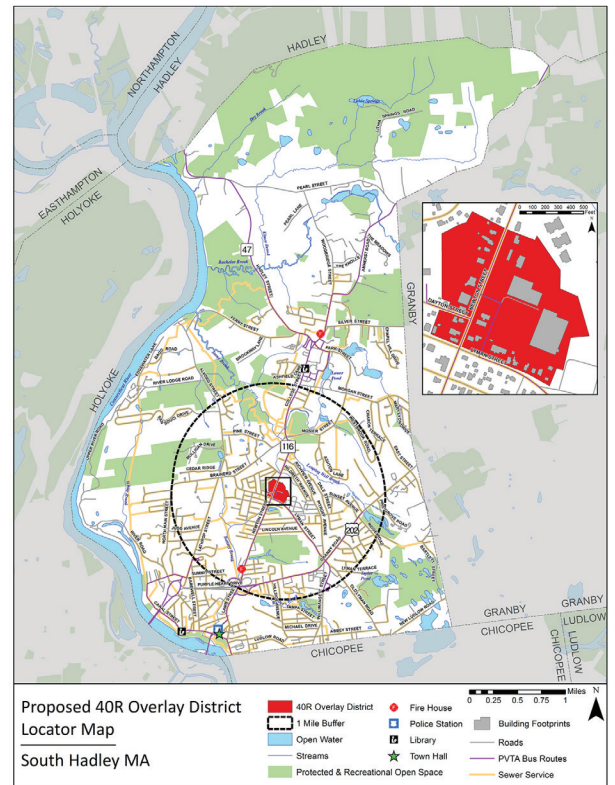
### GIS/Graphics

On the GIS/Graphics front, PVPC recently acquired a professional-grade drone, capable of capturing full HD and 4k UHD photos and video. PVPC has already begun to integrate this technology into several projects already, which can be seen on the agency YouTube channel. We have FAA licensed pilots, carry full insurance, and offer drone flight services to member communities.

GIS/Graphics staff provides support to all planning sections within the PVPC organization. Work included printed products, presentations, web and multi-media content development for numerous projects already cited by other planning sections in this year's Major Accomplishments Report.

GIS/Graphics staff worked with member communities to provide mapping, GIS, publication services and other graphic technical support, including:

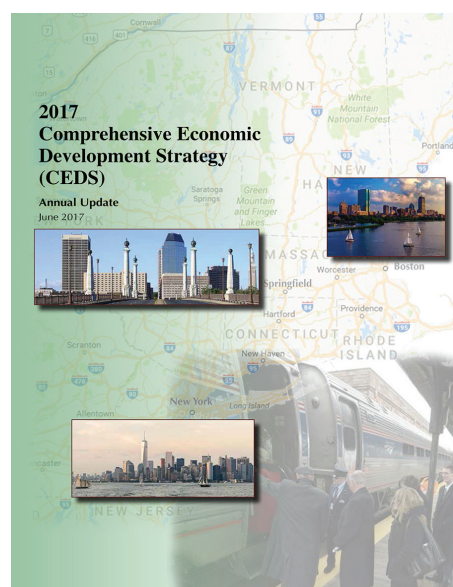
- Assist Agawam with mapping environmental constraints and priority protection areas for the 2017 Housing Production Plan.
- Assist Springfield Health Services for the Homeless in mapping health centers and dental clinics.
- Provided base/locus map to Town of Belchertown for use in town grant applications.
- Prepare town wide parcel map with property IDs and permanently protected land identified.
- Mapped foreclosures by neighborhood in Chicopee and Holyoke for the Attorney General's Distressed Property Identification and Revitalization Grant (DPIRG) program
- Prepare maps for the Hampden Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Maps provided to South Hadley for its' Chapter 40R Smart Growth Overlay District proposal.
- Regional crash data mapping.
- Sidewalk mapping for the town on Palmer.







MassLive



Conducted the 2017 Annual Update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which documents progress on the 10-year economic development plan, provides the most recent economic data for the region, and includes a listing of upcoming capital projects.

Collaborated with PVPC's Regional Information and Policy Center (RIPC) on the CEDS and its Appendix, which includes more detailed socioeconomic data. Both documents are available online at [www.pvpc.org](http://www.pvpc.org) under "Core Plans."

Facilitated City2City Pioneer Valley collaboration and trip to our own region, including Springfield, Holyoke and Ludlow. Conducted the all-day trip on October 30, 2017 for 22 area leaders in business, economic development, education, housing and community development, sustainability, workforce development, and leadership development, as well as media representatives.

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, through June of 2018.

Provided no-cost technical assistance to local communities regarding their public works proposals to EDA and other funders. Facilitated visit from U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration representative to Springfield, Holyoke and Ludlow. Reviewed and provided comments on MassWorks infrastructure grant applications to the state.

Assisted Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) with local economic development planning for the Town of Northbridge.

Worked with public, private and civic sector partners to implement the Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress, with a focus this year on K-12 Education improvements in the urban core;



Holyoke Public Schools

Marketing our Region; Collaboration and Engagement highlighting Leadership Pioneer Valley and the Healing Racism Institute of the Pioneer Valley;

and a broad range of Transportation Infrastructure issues including passenger rail expansion, public transit needs, District Improvement Financing mechanisms, and maximizing the impact of Bradley International Airport. Facilitated five Plan for Progress Coordinating Council meetings addressing these issues.



City2City





**Agawam** – Assisted with efforts to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the Agawam Walnut Street Extension Project. Drafted letter of support for the Walnut Street Extension Project. Assisted Agawam in collecting bicycle count data. Conducted 1 automatic traffic count. Worked in cooperation with the Town to address questions regarding their 2009 Pavement Management Report. Assisted with mapping environmental constraints and priority protection areas for the 2017 Housing Production Plan.

**Amherst** - Conducted 9 automatic traffic counts.

**Belchertown** - Assisted with the development of the Quaboag Connector paratransit service. Assisted the Town with TIP and Transportation Evaluation Criteria questions. Helped prepare successful 604b grant application to explore sustainable stormwater program funding. Provide base/locus map to Town of Belchertown for use in town grant application.

**Blandford** - Provided Technical Assistance on hiring "outside consultants" to administer, review and approve large scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic systems.

**Brimfield** - Conducted 4 automatic traffic counts.

**Chester** - Conducted 1 automatic traffic count and 1 peak hour turning movement count. Met with local officials to review safety concerns at the intersection of East River Road and Bromley Road. Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form on the proposed Skunk Brook Culvert Replacement and Stream Restoration Project.

**Chesterfield** – Worked with the Highway Superintendent to identify a resource for historic mapping data.

**Chicopee** – Reviewed the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports for the proposed Chicopee Hotel Redevelopment Project. Conducted 8 automatic traffic counts. Assistance on exploring dam removal option at Lower Bemis Pond Dam, preparing Lower Bemis Pond dam timetable for compliance, drafting letter of request to MassDER for reconnaissance study; and corresponding with officials on Szot Park about holding off on 319 grant request due to uncertain future about dams.

**Cummington** - Assisted the Selectboard with questions regarding PNF/PIF submittals for TIP projects. Assisted the town in preparing and submitting the required forms for approved Zoning Bylaw revisions to the Attorney General's Office. Provided Technical Assistance in conducting the Public Hearing and presentation at Town Meeting for adoption of their Green Community's Compliant Solar Bylaw.



EastLongmeadowma.com

**East Longmeadow** – Assisted PVTa with establishment of Tri-Town Trolley \$1 ride paratransit service for seniors. Conducted 1 automatic traffic count.

Provided Technical Assistance on the new Recreational Marijuana law relative to prohibiting facilities. Provided Technical Assistance in serving as Interim Planner assisting the Planning Board.

**Easthampton** - Assisted the City in collecting bicycle count data. Conducted 5 automatic traffic counts. Provided information to the City regarding regulations on crosswalk markings.

**Goshen** - Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form on the proposed West Street Resurfacing Project.

**Granby** - Conducted 1 automatic traffic count. Assisted the Building Inspector and land owner in resolving street frontage status issue.

**Granville** - provided assistance with TEC update and TIP process for Route 57

**Hadley** - Conducted 1 automatic traffic count. Provided Technical Assistance to the Community Preservation Committee on developing a Community Preservation Plan.

**Hampden** – Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form on the proposed access road for Eversource line repairs. Assisted on ADA requirements and Massachusetts Office on Disabilities grant application. Prepared maps for Hampden Open Space and Recreation Plan.

**Hatfield** - Provided mapping services for Hatfield's historic agricultural markers.

**Holland** – Assisted the town with questions on the TIP process and the steps necessary to split a larger project into multiple smaller projects. Provided Technical Assistance on understanding Lake Overlay Zoning Districts.



flickrriver.com

**Holyoke** – Assisted the DPW with several questions on a current TIP project as well as several projects in the pre-TIP development stage.

Conducted 2 automatic traffic counts and 2 peak hour turning movement counts. Assisted MassDOT District-2 and the City in Bay State Bike Week related activities for the Roll and Stroll. Provided assistance to the planning department on traffic count information in the vicinity of the former Lynch School. Met with the historical commission to provide an overview of the historic building inventory documentation process; Supported research related to demolition delay; Provided assistance with researching local and regional initiatives related to an application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for a Survey and Planning Grant.

**Huntington** - answered numerous transportation data questions including traffic count information to support Mass Works applications, speeding issues, as well as for potential TIP projects.

**Longmeadow** - Assisted PVTa with establishment of Tri-Town Trolley \$1 ride paratransit service for seniors. Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form for a proposed medical/Office Development.

**Ludlow** - Reviewed and commented on the Ludlow Mills Final Environmental Impact Report. Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form on the proposed access road for Eversource line repairs. Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form for proposed improvements to Route 21.

**Middlefield** - Provided Technical Assistance on administering the town's cell tower bylaws. Provided Technical Assistance on the roles and responsibilities and variations of Special Permit Granting Authorities.

**Monson** - Conducted 3 automatic traffic counts.

**Montgomery** – Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form on the proposed Tekoa Reservoir Dam Removal Project.



Gazettenet

**Northampton** - Assisted PVTa with establishment of municipally provided \$1 ride paratransit service for seniors. Assisted PVTa with a response to DPW for bus stop

location information. Conducted 6 automatic traffic counts. Responded to data requests regarding annual growth rates, VMT estimates, and projections for use in calculations of emissions for the city's Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Installed trail traffic counters on the MassCentral Rail Trail (Norwottuck Branch and Leeds). PVPC assisted the City with the procurement of bike racks. Provided technical assistance to the DPW on criteria for multi-way STOP sign warrants.

**Palmer** – Assisted with the development of the Quaboag Connector paratransit service. Assisted the Town with preparation for participation in the Mass Complete Streets Funding Program.

**Pelham** - Conducted 1 automatic traffic count.

**Plainfield** - Provided Board Training on the role and responsibilities of the newly appointed Zoning Board of Appeals

**Russell** - Prepared letter and documentation to apply to EPA for successful MS4 permit waiver.

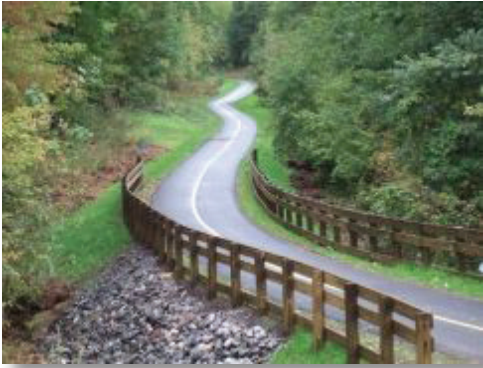


knowyourtown.org

**South Hadley** - Met with the DPW Superintendent to discuss TIP project development for a project on Main Street. Conducted 23 automatic

traffic counts and 3 peak hour turning movement counts. Assisted MassDOT District-2 and the Town in Bay State Bike Week related activities for the Roll and Stroll. Assisted on procurement of contractor for River to Range Trail Construction Project. Maps provided to South Hadley for Chapter 40R Smart Growth Overlay District proposal.

**Southampton** - Assistance finalizing and submitting Green Communities Designation Application. Provided support for their TIP projects, 'East Street Reconstruction' and 'Glendale Road Phase II'.



**Southwick** - Assisted the Southwick Park and Recreation Department regarding pavement distress on the Southwick Rails to Trails Project caused

by tree roots. Staff identified best management practices and potential solutions for tree root issues. PVPC met with Select board and Town Officials to discuss funding options for a Point Grove Road ramp to the Southwick Bikepath. Conducted 4 automatic traffic counts. Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form for proposed improvements to Congamond Road. Met with Southwick Historical Commission to discuss the potential of preparing a National Register District nomination for the Hampden/Hampshire Canal and initiated related discussions with the city of Northampton, the Massachusetts Historical Commission and Preservation Massachusetts.

**Springfield** - Assisted with the development of route and operating plan for a future Springfield trolley circulator to service key downtown attractions. Assisted PVTA in obtaining city council approval of approximately 120 concrete landing pads at bus stops to improve boarding for ADA customers and improve ease of snow removal. Inspected installed pads. Conducted 10 automatic traffic counts and 3 peak hour turning movement counts. Assisted the City with a project evaluation submission for the McKnight Community Trail. Assisted DPW and Planning with revisions to a Prioritization Plan related to the Massachusetts Complete Streets Program. Assist Springfield Health Services for the Homeless in mapping health centers and dental clinics.

**Tolland** - Conducted 4 automatic traffic counts.

**Wales** - Met with the Selectboard and participated in public hearing to obtain feedback on the TIP process and how to best advance improvements on Monson Road. Conducted 1 automatic traffic count. Assisted on Massachusetts Office on Disabilities grant application.

**Ware** - Assisted the town in an application for additional funding for operations of the Quaboag Connector paratransit service. Conducted 2 automatic traffic counts.

**West Springfield** - Conducted 1 automatic traffic count. Reviewed design plans for Memorial Avenue in West Springfield. Reviewed design plans for bike lanes on the Morgan Sullivan Bridge. Staff coordinated Bay State Bike Week meetings with the Mayor of West Springfield. Staff assisted the Town of West Springfield in coordination of bike rack installation efforts in cooperation with the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority. Assisted with bike rack installations for the West Springfield Senior Center. Assisted the City Engineer in answering questions related to their funding application to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

**Westfield** - Reviewed transit access plans and proposed improvements for a proposed development at 99 Springfield Road. Assisted PVTA with refinement of bus service to the new downtown Olver Transit Pavilion. Conducted 5 automatic traffic counts. Provided assistance on sample questions for a GIS transportation mode survey.

**Westhampton** - Conducted 1 automatic traffic count.

**Wilbraham** - Reviewed an Environmental Notification Form on the proposed access road for Eversource line repairs. Assisted with Village Center Zoning. Assistance on better understanding forthcoming MS4 permit compliance. Assistance on better understanding forthcoming MS4 permit compliance - resulting in Wilbraham joining the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee.

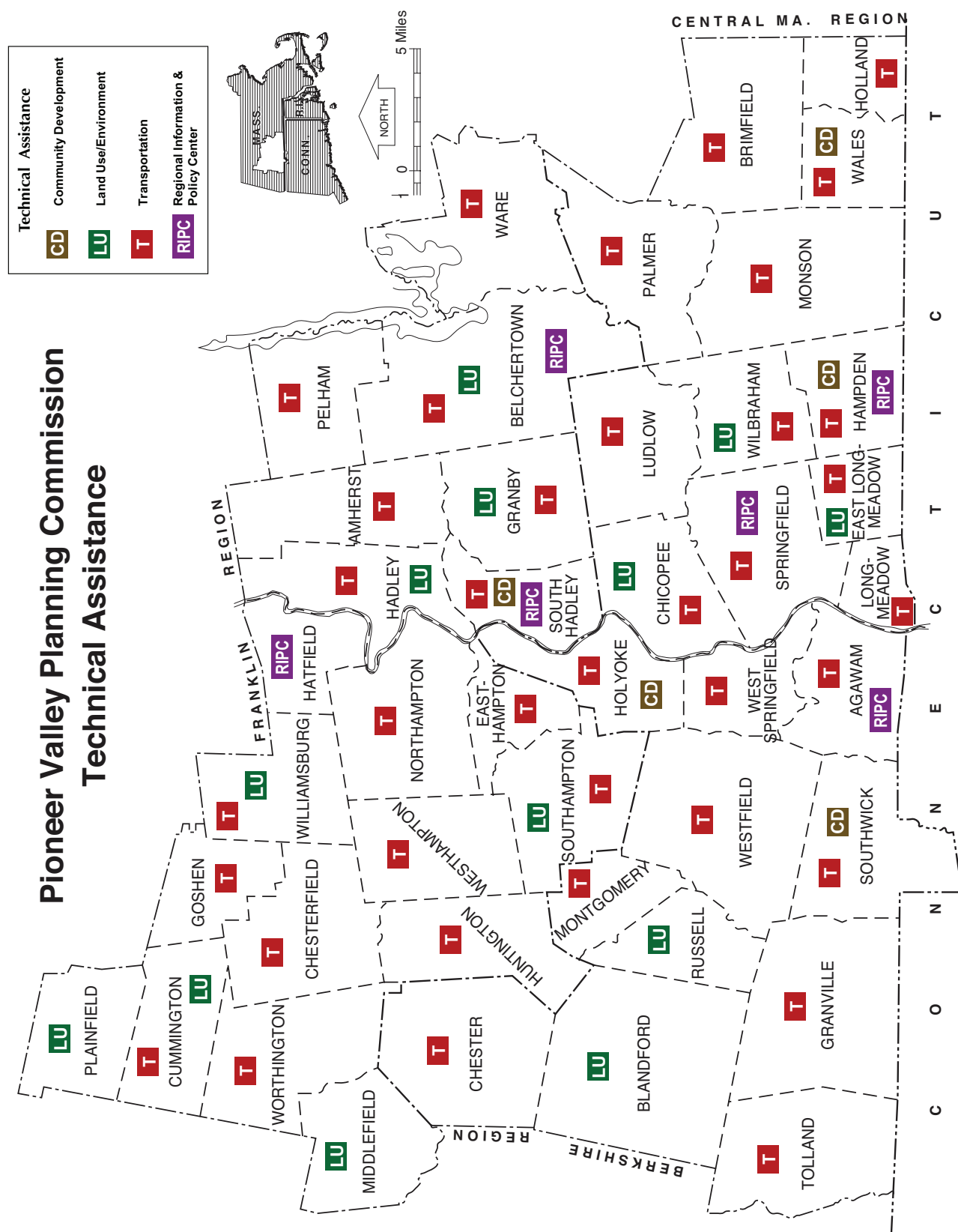
**Williamsburg** - Assisted the Town Greenways Committee with tasks related to the Mill River Greenway and Complete Streets. Served on the advisory committee for a Massachusetts Downtown Initiatives funded study of Williamsburg's economic and market conditions.

**Worthington** - Conducted 1 automatic traffic count. Provided assistance with TEC and TIP process, as well as attending 25% public hearing for Route 143 TIP project and answering questions for Board of Selectmen.





# Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Technical Assistance



**Commission Commissioners and Alternates** (As of December 11, 2017)

| <b>Community</b> | <b>Commissioner</b>                       | <b>Alternate</b>                     |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Agawam           | Mark Paleologopoulos, 413-786-0400 x245   | Charles Elfman, 413-786-0400         |
| Amherst          | Jack Jemsek, 413-259-3040                 | Constance Kruger, 413-259-3001       |
|                  |   | Christine Gray-Mullen, 413-259-3040  |
| Belchertown      | Sierra Pelletier, 413-323-0407            | Douglas Albertson, 413-323-0407      |
| Blandford        | Rick Barnard, 413-848-4279                | T.J. Cousineau, 413-848-4279         |
| Brimfield        | <i>Vacant</i>                             | Paul McCarthy, 413-245-4100 x4       |
|                  |   | Michael P. Miller, 413-245-4100 x4   |
| Chester          | Richard Holzman, 413-354-7760             | Lyle Snide, 413-354-7760             |
| Chesterfield     | Judy Terry, 413-296-4771                  | Daniel Henshaw, 413-296-4771         |
| Chicopee         | Thomas Reniewicz, 413-594-1515            | Lee Pouliot, 413-594-1516            |
| Cummington       | <i>Vacant</i>                             | Mark Malinak, 413-634-5354           |
| Easthampton      | Jesse W. Belcher-Timme, 413-529-1406      | Jessica Allan, 413-529-1406          |
| East Longmeadow  | George C. Kingston, 413-525-5400 x1700    | Ralph Page, 413-525-5400 x1700       |
| Goshen           | Joseph Frye, 413-268-8236                 | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Granby           | Jay Joyce, 413-467-7177                   | Christopher Martin, 413-467-7177     |
| Granville        | <i>Vacant</i>                             | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Hadley           | William E. Dwyer, Jr., Esq., 413-584-1275 | John Mieczkowski, Sr., 413-584-1275  |
| Hampden          | Philip Schneider, 413-566-2151 x109       | Edward Loiko, 413-566-2151           |
| Hatfield         | Ronald P. Sassi, 413-9200 x104            | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Holland          | Bettina Schmidt, 413-245-7108 x117        | Lynn Arnold, 413-245-7108 x101       |
| Holyoke          | Mimi Panitch, 413-322-5575                | Eileen Regan, 413-322-5575           |
| Huntington       | Jeffrey Wyand, 413-667-3500               | Linda Hamlin, 413-667-3500           |
| Longmeadow       | Walter Gunn, 413-565-4110                 | Stephen Crane, 413-565-4110          |
| Ludlow           | Raymond E. Phoenix, 413-583-5600 x1280    | John Pedro, 413-583-5600             |
| Middlefield      | <i>Vacant</i>                             | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Monson           | <i>Vacant</i>                             | Marilyn Gorman Fil, 413-267-4111     |
| Montgomery       | Sonia Valentine, 413-862-3386             | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Northampton      | Tess Poe, 413-587-1287                    | Wayne Feiden, 413-587-1265           |
| Palmer           | Michael Marciniak, 413-283-2605           | Linda Leduc, 413-283-2605            |
| Pelham           | Judith Eiseman, 413-253-7129              | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Plainfield       | Peter LaPointe, 413-634-5420              | Robert Silberberg, 413-634-5420      |
| Russell          | <i>Vacant</i>                             | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| South Hadley     | Mark Cavanaugh, 413-538-5017              | Richard L. Harris, 413-538-5017 x128 |
| Southampton      | Paul Diemand, 413-529-0106                | Paul Furgal, 413 529-0106            |
| Southwick        | Marcus Phelps, 413-569-6056               | Alan Slessler, 413-569-6056          |
| Springfield      | <i>Vacant</i>                             | Scott Hanson, 413-787-6020           |
| Tolland          | <i>Vacant</i>                             | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Wales            | James D. Whalen, 413-245-3261             | Jeffrey Vannais, 413-245-7571        |
| Ware             | Josh Kusnierz, 413-967-9648 x186          | Nancy Talbot, 413-967-9648 x101      |
| Westfield        | Jane Magarian, 413-642-9307               | Jay Vinskey, 413-642-9307            |
| Westhampton      | <i>Vacant</i>                             | Jim Huston, 413-203-3086             |
| West Springfield | <i>Vacant</i>                             | <i>Vacant</i>                        |
| Wilbraham        | Tracy Plantier, 413-596-2800 x203         | David Sanders, 413-596-2800 x203     |
| Williamsburg     | Stephen Snow, 413-268-8418                | Christopher Flory, 413-268-8418      |
|                  |   | Mimi Kaplan, 413-268-8418            |
| Worthington      | Jay Dwight, 413-238-5577                  | <i>Vacant</i>                        |







Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
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Springfield, MA 01104  
[www.pvpc.org](http://www.pvpc.org)

