

Proposed Project Evaluation Criteria

System Preservation, Modernization and Efficiency	Livability	Mobility	Smart Growth and Economic Development	Safety and Security	Environment and Climate Change	Quality of Life	Environmental Justice	
Improves Substandard Pavement 8	Design is consistent with Complete Streets policies 3	Improves efficiency, reliability and attractiveness of public transit 4	Encourages development around existing infrastructure 2	Reduces number and severity of collisions 7	Preserves floodplains and wetlands 1	Enhances or preserves greenways and blueways 1	Reduces and limits disproportionate impacts on an EJ community 1	
Improves Substandard Signal Equipment 4	Provides multi-modal access to a downtown, village center, or employment center 2	Improves existing peak hour LOS 6	Prioritizes transportation investments that support land use and economic development goals 1	Promotes safe and accessible pedestrian and bike environment 5	Promotes green infrastructure and low impact development to reduce stormwater impacts 2	Improves access to parks, open lands and open space 1	Improves transit for EJ populations 2	
Improves Intersection Operations 6	Reduces auto-dependency 2	Reduces traffic congestion 6	Provides services to a TOD, TND or cluster development 0.5	Improves emergency response 4	Reduced impervious surfaces 0.5	Improves access to jobs 1	Creates an EJ Burden -5	
In a Congestion Management Process Area 5	Project serves a targeted development site 2	Reduces congestion on freight routes 2	Supports mixed-use downtowns and village centers 0.5	Improves storm resilience 3	Protects or enhances environmental assets 0.5	Preserves historical and cultural resources 0.5		
Improves Intermodal Connections 4		Completes off-road bike and ped network 3			Supports Brownfield redevelopment 0.5	Preserves prime agricultural land 0.5		
Implements ITS Strategies 2					Improves air quality 1	Provides safe and reliable access to education 0.5		
Improves Network Wayfinding 1					Reduces CO2 emissions 1	Supports designated scenic byways 0.5		
					Promotes mode shift 1			
					Improves fish and wildlife passage 1			
					Supports Green Communities 0.5			
Maximum Score	30	9	21	4	19	9	5	3

Draft Project Evaluation Criteria
Pioneer Valley MPO

System Preservation, Modernization and Efficiency		30%
Improves Substandard Pavement	8	
Improves Substandard Signal Equipment	4	
Improves Intersection Operations	6	
In a Congestion Management Process Area	5	
Improves Intermodal Accommodations/Connections	4	
Implements ITS Strategies	2	
Improves Network Wayfinding	1	
Livability		9%
Design is consistent with Complete Streets policies	3	
Provides multi-modal access to a downtown, village center, or employment center	2	
Reduces auto-dependency	2	
Project serves a targeted development site	2	
Mobility		21%
Improves efficiency, reliability and attractiveness of public transit	4	
Improves existing peak hour LOS	6	
Reduces traffic congestion	6	
Reduces congestion on freight routes	2	
Completes off-road bike and ped network	3	
Smart Growth and Economic Development		4%
Encourages development around existing infrastructure	2	
Prioritizes transportation investments that support land use and economic development goals	1	
Provides services to a TOD, TND or cluster development district	0.5	
Supports mixed-use downtowns and village centers	0.5	
Safety and Security		19%
Reduces number and severity of collisions	7	
Promotes safe and accessible pedestrian and bike environment	5	
Improves emergency response	4	
Improves storm resilience	3	
Improves rail safety	0	
Environment and climate change		9%
Preserves floodplains and wetlands	1	
Promotes green infrastructure and low impact development to reduce stormwater impacts	2	
Reduced impervious surfaces	0.5	
Protects or enhances environmental assets	0.5	
Supports Brownfield redevelopment	0.5	
Improves air quality	1	
Reduces CO2 emissions	1	
Promotes mode shift	1	
Improves fish and wildlife passage	1	
Supports Green Communities	0.5	
Quality of Life		5%
Enhances or preserves greenways and blueways	1	
Improves access to parks, open lands and open space	1	
Improves access to jobs	1	
Preserves historical and cultural resources	0.5	
Preserves prime agricultural land	0.5	
Provides safe and reliable access to education	0.5	
Supports designated scenic byways	0.5	
Environmental Justice		3%
Reduces and limits disproportionate impacts on an EJ community	1	
Improves transit for EJ populations	2	
Creates an EJ Burden	-5	
	100	100%

Proposed 2014 PVPC Transportation Project Evaluation Criteria

May 2014



Title Page

Community:	Choose an item.	Project Type	Choose an item.	Initiated	
SID #		Design Status:	Choose an item.	Cost:	Year:
Project Length (miles):		# Lanes:		ADT:	ADT Year
Project Description:					
Cost/ADT:	!Zero Divide	Cost/Lane Mile:	!Zero Divide	Cost/ADT/Lane Mile:	!Zero Divide

Section	Name	Total Score
1	SYSTEM PRESERVATION, MODERNIZATION AND EFFICIENCY	0
2	LIVABILITY	0
3	MOBILITY	0
4	SMART GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	0
5	SAFETY AND SECURITY	0
6	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	0.0
7	QUALITY OF LIFE	0.0
8	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	0.00
	Grand Total	0.00

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
1	SYSTEM PRESERVATION, MODERNIZATION AND EFFICIENCY		Maximum Points for this		30	0
		Subsection:				
a	Improves substandard pavement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCI rating less than 48.5 (arterial) or 47.5 (Collector): Poor, and pavement improvements are included in the project – 8 points • OCI rating between 48.5 and 69.5 (arterial) or 47.5 and 68.5 (collector): Fair, and pavement improvements are included in the project – 4 points • OCI rating greater than 69.5 (arterial) or 68.5 (collector): Good or better – 1 point 	Select one only	Based on Pavement Condition Ratings as defined in current RTP. Attach Photos	8	
b	Improves substandard signal equipment condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All existing equipment will be replaced – 4 points • Reuses some equipment with limited equipment modifications to make MUTCD compliant or already fully MUTCD compliant – 2 points • Reuses existing equipment/no signals included in project – 0 points 	Select one only		4	
c	Improves intersection operations (signal equipment upgrades, adaptive signal controls and coordination with adjacent signals, roundabout, geometric improvements, adds turn lanes, improves alignment, improves sight distance.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets or addresses criteria to a high degree - improves multiple locations– 6 points • Meets or addresses criteria to a medium degree - improves at least one locations with multiple upgrades – 4 points • Meets or addresses criteria to a low degree - improves one location – 2 points • Does not meet or address criteria – 0 points 	Select one only		6	
d	In a Congestion Management Process Identified Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMP data indicates project improves a corridor of Severe congestion– 5 points • CMP data indicates project improves a corridor of Serious congestion – 3 points • CMP data indicates project improves a corridor of Moderate congestion – 1 points • CMP data indicates project improves a corridor of Minimal congestion or corridor is not currently monitored – 0 points 	Select one only	Based on most recent regional CMP data	5	
e	Improves intermodal accommodations/connections to transit (project enhances access, amenities, or service to an existing transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets or addresses criteria to a high degree – project enhances service for three or more transit routes– 4 points • Meets or addresses criteria to 	Select one only	Include most recent PVTA route ridership data.	4	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
	intermodal center or pulse point.)	<p>a medium degree – project results in multiple upgrades for one or two transit routes – 2 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets or addresses criteria to a low degree - project enhances service for a single transit route – 1 points • Does not meet or address criteria– 0 points 				
f	Implements ITS strategies other than traffic signal operations (improve traffic flow as identified by an identified ITS strategy for the municipality or state (e.g. variable message signs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project includes ITS equipment – 2 points • No proposed ITS equipment – 0 points 	Select one only		2	
g	Improve Network Wayfinding/Retro-reflectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project includes improved wayfinding signage – 1 point • Project upgrades existing signs to meet current retro-reflectivity standards – 1 point 	Select only one		1	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
2	LIVABILITY	Maximum Points for this Subsection:			9	0
a	Design is consistent with complete streets policies. Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. Applicant must provide supporting documentation that project is consistent with a locally adopted complete streets policy or is a direct recommendation from a completed planning study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is a “complete street” consistent with a locally adopted complete streets policy – 1 point Project provides bicycle facilities or accommodations – 1 point Project provides pedestrian facilities – 1 point Does not provide any complete streets components – 0 points 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Provide plans illustrating facilities provided. MassDOT Project Development and Design Guide FHWA Livability in Transportation Guidebook	3	
b	Provides multi-modal access to a downtown, village center or employment center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides continuous bicycle access (i.e. bike lanes or bike path) to a downtown or center – 1 point Provides pedestrian access to a downtown or center – 1 point Does not provide multimodal access – 0 points 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Provide plans illustrating facilities provided.	2	
c	Reduces auto dependency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completes a known gap in the bicycle or pedestrian network – 0.5 point Project provides for a new bicycle facility – 0.5 point Project provides for a new pedestrian facility – 0.5 point Project implements a transportation demand management (TDM) strategy – 0.5 point Does not provide any of the above measures – 0 points 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Provide plans illustrating facilities provided.	2	
d	Project serves a targeted development site (Priority Development Area identified in Valley Vision, rail station area, Chapter 40R or 43D or 43E District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project mostly serves a targeted development site – 1 points Project partly serves a targeted development site – 0.5 point Project supports local zoning or other regulations that are supportive of smart growth – 0.5 point Project provides for bicycle or pedestrian access to or within a targeted development site – 0.5 point 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Provide map of project location, and identify project location in relation to identified targeted development site.	2	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
3	MOBILITY	Maximum Points for this Subsection:			21	0
a	Improves Efficiency, Reliability and Attractiveness of Public Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project increases fixed route bus transit service efficiency and attractiveness through design or ITS technology – 1 point Project provides new or improved linkages to adjacent existing or planned public transit stations/stops – 0.5 point Project prioritizes signals for transit vehicles – 1 points Project provides for a dedicated busway – 1 points Project provides for bus bump out – 0.5 point 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Identify affected bus service, design features, and/or ITS components	4	
b	Improves existing peak hour level of service (LOS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source data indicates project improves a location that operates at LOS F in an urban area or LOS E in a rural area – 6 points Source data indicates project improves a location that operates at LOS E in an urban area or LOS D in a rural area – 5 points Source data indicates project improves a location that operates at LOS D in an urban area or LOS C in a rural area – 3 points 	Select one only	Attach Functional Design Report or recent planning study.	6	
c	Reduces traffic congestion without adding unnecessary turn lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces congestion to a high degree – project significantly improves traffic flow for a location in the Regional Bottlenecks Report or Regional Congestion Management Process – 6 points Reduces congestion to a medium degree – project improves vehicle storage, installs exclusive turn lanes as warranted, improves access management at more than two locations– 4 points Reduces congestion to a low degree – provides modest improvements such as signal retiming, lane striping, upgraded detection, turn restrictions, or access management upgrades at a single location – 2 points Does not reduce congestion – 0 points 	Select one only	Attach Functional Design Report or recent planning study.	6	
d	Reduces Congestion on Freight Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project will reduce congestion on roadways with more than 5% trucks per day – 1 point Project implements a strategy identified in the State or 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Attach Truck Count	2	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
		Regional Freight Plan – 1 point				
e	Completes off-road bike and pedestrian network (copy of the most recent regional bicycle/trail map is attached.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project provides an important link or component of the region’s off-road bicycle and pedestrian network – 3 points • Project includes an off-road bike and pedestrian component as part of a road project or a community adopted bicycle sharing program – 2 points • Project provides a connection to a regional bikeway/walkway – 1 point 	Select one only	Based on Regional Bicycle/Trail Map (provided) or the Regional Bike Linkages Map (proposed pending adoption)	3	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
4	SMART GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		Maximum Points for this Subsection:		4	0.00
a	Encourages Development around Existing or Enhanced Infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public water and sanitary sewer lines serve the project area. - 2 points For rural areas, project is within a 1/4 mile radius of a village center. - 2 points The community will invest in the expansion of existing public water and sanitary sewer lines or install new infrastructure to compliment the project. - 2 points <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public water and sanitary sewer lines are within close proximity (within 150 feet) of the project ROW – 1 point For rural areas, project is within a ½ mile radius of a village center – 1 point Public water and sanitary sewer lines do not serve the project area. – 0 points 	Select only one	Provide a site map illustrating the project and any related public water or sewer lines or village center.	2	
b	Prioritizes Transportation Investments that Support Land Use and Economic Development Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is identified in the most recently adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region 2013 CEDS Brochure – 0.5 points Project serves an area that is targeted as a Priority Development Area (PDA) in Valley Vision Valley Vision Map – 0.5 points Project serves an area that is targeted as a Priority Protection Area (PPA) in Valley Vision Valley Vision Map - -1 points 	Select if applicable	Submit plan excerpts	1	
c	Provides service to a Transit Oriented District (TOD), Traditional Neighborhood District (TND), and Cluster or Open Space Development District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project serves an area that is identified in an existing or planned transit oriented development, traditional neighborhood development, cluster or open space development district in an adopted plan 	Select if applicable	Submit plan excerpts	0.5	
d	Support Mixed-Use Downtowns and Village Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project serves an existing or planned mixed use downtown or village center 	Select if applicable	Identify the downtown	0.5	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score	
5	SAFETY AND SECURITY				19	0	
		Maximum Points for this Subsection:					
a	Reduces Number and Severity of Collisions	Project includes ITS elements that will reduce crashes or adds/improves guardrails.	Select if applicable	Identify specific ITS components	1		
		A roadway safety audit has been completed for the project.		Submit RSA report	2		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project addresses a safety problem as identified in the PVPC "Top 100" High Crash Intersections Report, Top 25 High Crash Roadway Segments or is identified as a High Bicycle or Pedestrian Crash Cluster by MassDOT - 4 points The location has a history of lane departure crashes and the project will remove hazardous objects such as utility poles and trees from the roadside - 4 points The location has a history of lane departure crashes and the project will install rumble strips, improve visibility through enhanced edge lines, or enhance pavement to improve skid resistance - 2 points The location has a crash rate greater than the state or district average. - 2 points 	Select one (if applicable)	Submit report excerpts. Documented crashes per Million Entering Vehicles/Million Vehicle Miles	4		
b	Promotes Safe and Accessible Pedestrian and Bicycle Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project includes bike safety improvements - 2 points Project includes pedestrian safety improvements - 2 points Project provides bike amenities, such as bike racks or lockers, off-road bike lanes, connections to bike paths, or bike-sharing infrastructure - 1 point 	Select if applicable	Identify the safety improvements	2		
c	Improves Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is identified as an existing or planned priority emergency response route by one or more Local Public Agencies and is projected to decrease response times for EMS, fire, and police agencies - 2 points Project improves an evacuation route to, or in proximity to, an emergency support location - 2 points 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Attach EMS plan excerpts or other documents	4		
d	Improves Storm Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project addresses a flooding problem or increases resilience of the transportation system to floods - 1 point Project improves storm flows by enlarging culverts or stream crossings, where there is 	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Document BMPs	3		

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
		demonstrated likelihood of extreme weather damage, while improving fish and wildlife passage – 2 points Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project incorporates stormwater BMPs or implements improvements that meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements – 2 points 				

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
6	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE		Maximum Points for this Subsection:		9	0.00
a	Preserves Floodplains and Wetlands (310 CMR)	Project is not located in a floodplain.	Select all criteria that apply to project.	Submit floodplain map.	0.5	
		Project is not located in an existing wetland			0.5	
b	Promotes Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development to Reduce Stormwater Impacts	Project involves use of green infrastructure or low impact development (LID) best management practices (BMPs) to reduce stormwater impacts. Eligible BMPs include: rain gardens, green streets, tree box filters, bioretention areas, sheet flow runoff, permeable pavement, vegetated swales, engineered soils for expanded root growth, and measures to improve infiltration	Select if applicable	Identify best management practices	2	
c	Reduces Impervious Surfaces	Project reduces impervious surface area, or reduces stormwater runoff discharge rate and volume, from pre-existing conditions.	Select if applicable	Identify design features	0.5	
d	Protects or Enhances Environmental Assets	Project will improve high priority regional environmental assets or enhance protection of Priority Protection Areas (PPAs) identified in Valley Vision. Valley Vision Map	Select if applicable	Identify affected assets from map	0.5	
e	Supports Brownfields Redevelopment	Project serves a brownfield redevelopment site. Or Project helps to implement an adopted brownfield redevelopment plan	Select one only, if applicable	Supply map	0.5	
f	Improves Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project includes major elements improving air quality – 1 point • Project includes minor elements improving air quality – 0.5 point • Project has no significant air quality impact – 0 points • Project has negative air quality impacts – (-1) points 	Select if applicable	Show CMAQ Analysis (PVPC)	1	
g	Reduces CO2 Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project significantly reduces CO2 emissions – 1 point • Project modestly reduces CO2 emissions – 0.5 point • Project has no significant CO2 emissions impact – 0 points • Project increases CO2 emissions impacts – (-1) points 	Select one only.	Provide information documenting CO2 reduction strategy, for example, purchase of fuel efficient or electric vehicles or LED traffic lights or solar panels or wind generators. Provide Greenhouse Gas Analysis (PVPC)	1	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
h	Promotes Mode Shift	Project will provide significant reduction in single occupancy vehicle trips through a shift to another transportation mode (i.e. bicycling)	Select if applicable	Identify how project will accomplish mode shift.	1	
i	Improves Fish and Wildlife Passage	Project includes stream crossing or culvert improvements designed to improve fish and wildlife passage, in accordance with Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing standards MA Stream Crossings Handbook	Select if applicable	Identify design features in accordance with Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards.	1	
j	Supports Green Communities	Project is located in an approved Green Community, in accordance with the MA Green Communities Act	Select if applicable	See MA Green Communities map Link to MA Green Communities Map	0.5	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
7	QUALITY OF LIFE	Maximum Points for this Subsection:			5	0.00
a	Enhances or and Preserves Greenways and Blueways	Project is adjacent to, AND incorporates enhanced public access or trails or protection related to a designated National Scenic River (Westfield River), National Blueway (Connecticut River), the Baystate Greenway, a National Scenic Trail, a National Recreation Trail, or regional greenway as identified in the Pioneer Valley Greenways Plan	Select if applicable	Identify the designated greenway or blueway, and the public access or land to be protected	1	
b	Improves Access to Parks and Open Space (removed references to open lands)	Project improves the public's direct access to identified municipal or state parks and/or open space	Select if applicable	Identify the park, and/or open space	1	
c	Improves Access to Jobs	Project will serve an existing or planned area identified as a major employment center in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. 2013 CEDS	Select if applicable	Identify the major employment center	1	
d	Preserves Historical and Cultural Resources	Project itself involves preservation of property designated as a National Historic site or in National Historic District, or is a Historical or Cultural resource as defined by state, local, or federal inventories.	Select if applicable	Identify property and source of listing.	0.5	
e	Preserve Prime Agricultural Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project will not decrease the amount of farmland in active agricultural production Project makes financial contribution to farmland preservation fund to mitigate impacts to active farmland 	Select if applicable	Utilize aerial photos to identify lands in active agricultural production	0.5	
f	Provide Safe and Reliable Access to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project includes design elements to improve safety and/or access (regardless of mode) to an existing or planned educational facility (sidewalks, traffic calming measures, crosswalk signals) Project helps to implement an accepted Safe Route to School or the recommendations of a Safe Route to School study Safe Routes to Schools 	Select if applicable	Identify the educational facility and the design elements	0.5	
g	Support Designated Scenic Byways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project implements a recommendation of a Corridor Management Plan for a designated National or State Scenic Byway Link to MA Scenic Byways Map 	Select if applicable	Identify the recommendation and Corridor Management Plan	0.5	

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	Criterion	Factor	Instructions	Details	Max. Score	Score
8	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		Maximum Points for this Subsection:		3	0
a	Reduce and Limit Disproportionate Environmental Impacts on EJ Communities	Project is located within one or more identified Environmental Justice (EJ) Areas, has no adverse impacts projected, and will reduce travel time to work	Select if applicable	Identify project on EJ map	1	
b	Improve Transit or pedestrian connections for EJ Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is located within half-mile buffer of, or affects, an environmental justice area and will provide new transit or pedestrian access – 2 points • Project is located within half-mile buffer of, or affects, an environmental justice area and will provide improved transit or pedestrian access – 1 points • Project provides no improvement in transit or pedestrian access or is not in an environmental justice area – 0 points 	Select one only.	Identify project on EJ map	2	
c	Reduce Burdens on EJ Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project creates a burden or negative impact in identified EJ Area 	Select if applicable	Identify project on EJ map	-5	

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