Goal #3:

Implement and Enhance the Infrastructure that Connects, Sustains and Ensures the Safety and Resiliency of the Region and its Economy

Without a modern, high quality network of infrastructure, a region cannot sustain economic activity, retain its students and workers, or attract visitors, tourists and investment. The Pioneer Valley's infrastructure includes its transportation, broadband and energy networks; public health and safety resources; housing supply; and natural resources including water supplies, agricultural land and open space/recreational areas. Both local and regional efforts are necessary to ensure consistency, resiliency, and sufficient redundancy to withstand disruptions. The following strategies are meant to achieve these goals:

Strategy #I: Enhance High-Tech and Conventional Infrastructure

Action Steps:

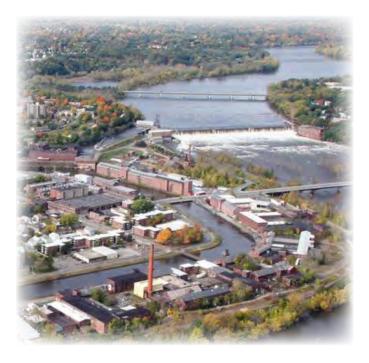
- Complete build-out of broadband technologies and access to serve all residents, businesses, and institutions. Explore regional approaches as appropriate.
 - Ensure build-out of the "last mile" of the network through public-private partnerships.
 - Foster greater utilization of broadband anchor institutions to promote new innovative uses and better distribution of Internet content.
 - Support universal broadband adoption through digital literacy, public Internet access points, affordable Internet access, and other initiatives
 - Ensure resiliency and redundancy in the broadband system.
- Support and advocate for expanded service at Bradley International Airport, including direct flights to Europe.
- Strengthen efforts to increase rail passenger and freight services including:
 - Intercity service along the Knowledge Corridor line including the Amtrak Vermonter service and implementation of expanded shuttle runs along the corridor between Springfield and Greenfield.
 - · Commuter rail service connecting New Haven, Hartford and Springfield
 - The Inland Route rail passenger corridor connecting Springfield to Boston and possible connection with Montreal.
 - Rail freight facility upgrades, including ongoing access improvements to the region's primary freight and intermodal yard in West Springfield.





- □ Improve transit and intermodal infrastructure, including:
 - Complete rehabilitation of Union Station in Springfield as a regional intermodal transportation hub as well as rail passenger facilities in Holyoke, Northampton and Greenfield.
 - Complete Westfield intermodal transportation facility.
 - Improve bus facilities and infrastructure to improve region-wide transit service and connections with other travel modes.
- Proactively address the region's substantial and growing road and bridge repair and improvement needs and the federal, state and local funding required to do so, particularly the I-91 Viaduct Rehabilitation Project.
- Conduct environmental assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the region.
- □ Increase the region's energy distribution capacity for a variety of energy sources.
- Support efforts to increase regional shared transportation programs, such as shared cars and bicycles.
- Support public and private sector funding to replace the region's aging underground infrastructure, including water, sewer, electric, and natural gas conduits.
- □ Pursue alternative methods of waste management and enhanced recycling.





Strategy #2: Increase Use of Clean Energy to Reduce Business Costs and Improve the Environment

Action Steps:

- Encourage conservation efforts such as operational efficiencies and demand management as a key to reduce regional energy use.
- Support continuing transition to clean energy sources, including wind, solar and geothermal.
- While steadily increasing the generation of affordable clean energy, at the same time take steps to increase the supply of natural gas and the acquisition of hydro-generated electric power from Canada that can keep energy costs affordable to businesses and institutions throughout the Pioneer Valley.
- Use the city of Holyoke as test bed for innovative energy testing and product development.
- Link new and existing regionally-based clean energy companies to research and product development assets located in the Pioneer Valley.
- Encourage participation of the region's municipalities in state clean energy programs.

Strategy #3: Enhance Regional Approaches to Public Safety, Public Health and Disaster Resilience

Action Steps:

- Ensure effective collaboration and outreach among agencies and groups addressing public safety, disaster resilience and public health needs.
- Increase the resilience of the region's communities to withstand and recover from extreme weather events, public health crises, or all-hazard incidents including acts of domestic and foreign terrorism.
- Identify and prepare for likely impacts to the region's critical infrastructure, and prepare residents and businesses for disruptions.
- Investigate the feasibility of a regional holding facility (lock-up) with state of the practice technology which could allow police officers to return to community patrols.
- Improve local food production infrastructure (processing, storage, distribution) to provide a reliable and healthful local food supply.







Strategy #4: Develop an Array of Housing Options that Foster Economic Competitiveness

Action Steps:

- Develop and implement solutions to overcome the challenge of a weak housing market in the urban core and some of the region's other communities.
- Use Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) potential to create market rate housing opportunities in the region's core cities.
- □ Increase and preserve the supply of private incomerestricted housing outside of the central cities.
- Ensure effective collaboration and outreach among agencies and groups which are focused on addressing the region's array of housing needs.
- Increase homeownership opportunities, including options that are affordable at a range of incomes and physically accessible.
- Encourage zoning that allows more housing choices such as duplexes, multifamily housing, and accessory apartments as well as regulations that encourage physically accessible housing.
- Promote outreach and education initiatives centered on Fair Housing laws and their enforcement to landlords, tenants, banking and lending institutions, and the general public.
- Reduce homelessness through supportive housing, rehousing, and prevention initiatives.
- Increase homeownership literacy, particularly for first-time homebuyers.

Strategy #5: Revitalize and Protect the Connecticut River and its Watershed

Action Steps:

- Improve Connecticut River water quality in urban areas by securing continued funding support via MA Environmental Bond and other sources which advance the remediation of combined sewer overflows.
- Reduce flooding and erosion damage and costs caused by stormwater runoff by utilizing green infrastructure, including green roofs, permeable paving, and on-site stormwater recharge.
- Reduce and manage natural and man-made debris in and adjacent to rivers through new removal technologies and greater public education.
- Enhance regional tourism and recreation resources by increasing and enhancing public access points, including boat launches, parks, riverwalks, and trails.
- Preserve prime farm land for active agriculture use as a means to preserve the local agricultural economy.
- Preserve open space in environmentally sensitive and scenic areas in order to maintain habitat, conserve resources and enhance the region's living environment.

Implementation Team for Goal #3: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission* Franklin Regional Council of Governments* Connecticut River Clean-up Committee WMA Connect/MBI Valley Development Council Pioneer Valley Regional Housing Advisory Committee *Potential lead implementer



The Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress