

Appendix A: Press Releases and Speeches

Governor Patrick Taps Mayor Robert G. Nunes to Head Municipal Affairs

Nunes to focus on strengthening the level of partnership and collaboration between state government and cities and towns

BOSTON-Wednesday, February 14, 2007-Governor Deval Patrick today announced his selection of Taunton Mayor Robert G. Nunes as Director of Municipal Affairs, a post within the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, where he will focus on strengthening the partnership between state government and local communities.

"Mayor Nunes has the experience that it will take to rebuild our relationship with the Commonwealth's cities and towns," Governor Patrick said. "He knows firsthand the challenges communities face and understands the need for honest and open communication between local government and the executive branch of government. I look forward to having him on our team."

As Director, Nunes will run the Division of Local Services within the Department of Revenue and will serve as the main contact point between cities and towns and state government.

Nunes brings to the job 25 years of local and state government experience and is the longest serving mayor in Taunton's history, currently serving in his sixth term. As mayor, he managed the city out of two fiscal crises in 1992 and 2004 and built four new schools in 10 years without debt exclusion.

"I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with Governor Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Murray to identify new and creative ways to strengthen the relationship between municipalities and the state," Mayor Nunes said. "Working collaboratively, we can make the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns flourish once again."

Nunes is a past President of the Massachusetts Mayors Association and a former member of the LGAC. He will assume his new position March 12.

Governor Patrick today also issued an Executive Order that establishes a Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet, which will coordinate the ways in which state government can provide additional services and assistance to cities and towns. The cabinet is tasked with coordinating the implementation of municipal impact statements on legislation and executive orders, and providing analysis of home rule legislation to determine if the particular provision should be applied broadly to all cities and towns thereby providing

permanent local authority.

The cabinet will be chaired by Mayor Nunes and will include the state purchasing agent, the chief information officer, the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance, the executive director of the group insurance commission, the personnel administrator, the chairman of the civil service commission, and any other person whom the Secretary of Administration and Finance may designate.

The cabinet will also work to implement and analyze recommendations from the Local Government Advisory Commission, which Lieutenant Governor Murray oversees on behalf of the administration.

Patrick/Murray File Municipal Partnership Act

Legislation is aimed at empowering communities, strengthening relationship with state government

BOSTON-Thursday, February 15, 2007-After meeting with local elected officials from across the Commonwealth today, Governor Deval Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray filed a Municipal Partnership Package, a series of initiatives aimed at improving the health of the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns and strengthening the partnership between local governments and state government. "This administration is fully committed to an active, working partnership with every city and town in this Commonwealth," said Governor Patrick. "When they are strong, the Commonwealth is strong. So, whether it is encouraging the business growth, building the housing, improving and expanding the rails and roads, or strengthening the schools-by working on these issues together we will move Massachusetts forward. Today we take one major step towards rebuilding this relationship, and I thank those local officials and legislators who have worked with our administration to make that possible." Among the provisions of the legislation are plans to help lower property taxes, allow cities and towns to participate in the state's health insurance program, require the state pension board to take control of underperforming municipal pension funds, and close a corporate tax loophole to make utility companies pay their fair share to cities and towns. "For far too long, cities and towns have suffered under a state government unable to realize the benefits of a collaborative partnership with its cities and towns," Lt. Governor Murray said. "The local communities our citizens call home know best what they need to thrive. I am proud to be part of team that recognizes that, and I look forward to working to empower our municipalities and to building a long-lasting relationship." Highlights of the legislation are below.

- GIC Program:

In order to lower the skyrocketing health care costs municipalities are currently facing, the legislation includes a provision to allow cities and towns, by local option, to participate in the Group Insurance Commission. Rapidly escalating health insurance costs have put cities and towns across the Commonwealth in the untenable position of either cutting municipal services or increasing already high property taxes. A recent Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation report reveals that the cost of health coverage to municipal employees has skyrocketed by an average of 63 percent from 2001 through 2005, a growth rate nearly double the rate of increase for health coverage of state government employees over the same period.

- Pension Reform:

The legislation also proposes to save cities and towns money by requiring underperforming municipal, county, and authority pension funds to be taken over by the state retirement board. The state pension fund is one of the most successful in the country. Over the long term, this aggregation of funds will prove beneficial for cities and towns.

- Property Tax Relief and Stabilization:

Fulfilling a campaign pledge to provide property tax relief to homeowners, Governor Patrick will allow cities and towns to impose a meals tax that would help generate revenue to provide tax relief to senior citizens. The legislation allows municipalities to impose a meals tax of up to 2 percent of gross receipts. Twenty-five percent of the amount collected would be deposited into a state reserve fund to be used for the purpose of reimbursing cities and towns for property taxes abated for qualifying senior citizens. Diversifying a community's revenue base diminishes cities and towns reliance on the property tax. Without additional options, local governments are forced to rely on property taxes.

- Closing the Telecom Tax Loophole:

Governor Patrick is also proposing to close long-standing and obsolete loopholes in property tax laws that enable telecommunications companies to avoid their fair share of local taxation would benefit all cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Recent aggressive use of outdated tax provisions has resulted in a shift in tax burden from profitable businesses to residential and other business taxpayers across the state. The closure of the loophole will assist cities and towns in their efforts at stabilizing residential property taxes. Overall, the telecommunications industry in Massachusetts is avoiding an estimated \$140 million in annual property taxes due to the loopholes and outdated language in the current law. In addition, "new growth" revenues that would normally accrue with the addition and replacement of property will be lost as telecommunications companies use the law to keep once-taxable property off local tax rolls.

- Examination of Home Rule

The Patrick/Murray administration has been working to identify ways to ease restrictions on local communities to allow them more freedom to grow their local economies. The legislation establishes a commission to consider ways to grant increased local authority in areas currently requiring home rule petitions. The commission would also investigate methods for providing incentives for best municipal practices and reorganization of municipal services. The legislation also creates a commission to study expansion of state technology at local levels, creates incentives to encourage best fiscal practices and regionalization of services, increases flexibility for municipal borrowing, streamlines the abatement process, extends the soon to expire property tax classification rules, and confirms existing municipal authority to impose trash collection fees.

06.22.07 - Municipal Partnership Day on the Hill

Governor Deval L. Patrick

Municipal Partnership Day on the Hill

June 22, 2007

As Delivered

You ready to go to work? We have work to do.

Thank you, Kathleen for a warm introduction, and especially for the testimonial about what you, a parent and homeowner are facing in your own community. And thank you, Mayor Curtatone for speaking so eloquently on behalf of all the mayors gathered here and those represented here, who wanted to be, who are not looking for a handout, but are looking for help and a willingness to partner; to move their own communities forward. The Lieutenant Governor and I thank all of you for coming to join us today: all of the mayors and other local officials, all the parents of school kids, and teachers and community activists and seniors who are here. All of the representatives and senators who have stepped away from other pressing business right now-they are in the middle of session-to show their support, and to represent the support of many others in the legislator. We welcome you to this State House. It is your House, and don't let anybody tell you it is not appropriate for you to show up and make your voices heard. [cheers and applause]

All over this Commonwealth, I hear from you and people like you about rising property taxes and the strain that they put on our cities and towns, and ultimately on you.

Almost every day I hear about another town with a budget problem, another prop two and a half override on the ballot, another cut in basic services like fire and police, and teachers and libraries.

Last year almost 90 communities put override votes on their ballots - some of your own hometowns, I'm sure. Most of those were rejected by the voters, the lowest passage rate since 1999. This year, 64 communities so far are already considering overrides and exclusions, communities as diverse as Saugus, and Uxbridge, and Rockland, and Dartmouth, and Northbridge, and Canton, and Randolph, and Middleborough and the list goes on, and on, and on.

We see these votes year after year, and the corrosive debates that they create; the kinds of things the Lieutenant Governor and Kathleen were talking about: pitting neighbors against neighbors competing for resources not adequate for any of their interests. We have got to face this and start to turn it around. [applause]

Our reliance on the property tax to meet the needs of local citizens is unusually high in Massachusetts. A typical city in the Eastern part of this country relies on property taxes for about 20% of its local budget. Boston relies, for example, on property taxes for about 50% of its local budget. Framingham: 70% for its local budget.

In the last 7 years, the average family's property tax bill has increased \$1,200. Have any of you noticed that? Have you seen that in your own lives? We're all feeling the pinch.

People in Massachusetts are increasingly paying more and getting less. In communities all over the state it is becoming harder for seniors and young

families to stay in their homes, for small businesses to stay and to grow, and for investors to bring their jobs here.

One of the hazards of running a grass-roots campaign and of trying to govern in a grass-roots way is that it is impossible for me to hide. I can't hide from those parents in Winchester who are raising money privately to keep teachers on the public school payroll. I can't hide from those families in Marlborough who are locked in a dispute between those with kids in district schools and those with kids in charter schools, both of them excellent, but none of them-neither-with adequate resources. I can't hide from those seniors in Holden who told me, how at 80 and 90 years old, they had to go back to work in the cafeteria of the local schools to raise the money they need to meet their property tax obligations. I can't hide from 64 override petitions. And you know what? Neither should we. Let's stop hiding. Let's face it.

Mayors and selectmen and teachers and school kids, they can't hide either. For those of you who manage municipal affairs, you have a responsibility to manage wisely, to be prudent, to be efficient, to cut waste. You understand that. And there is no substitute for that. But for those of us here on Beacon Hill, we have a responsibility, too. And our responsibility is to hear you, to help where we can, and to do so without waiting for a crisis to land on these steps. That's the kind of partnership we mean when we proposed the Municipal Partnership Act. This bill provides cities and towns with tools, tools on both the cost and the revenue sides, to relieve the pressure on property taxes and the homeowners who pay them.

That begins with savings. Managing cost is absolutely key to solving long-term, local budget problems. Today, the costs for local health insurance

and pensions are growing faster than revenue in many communities. And the ability of the state significantly to increase contributions to cities and towns in the short run is very limited. You know that, and I have been candid with you about that. Even after important steps taken by our legislator, and many of those reps and senators here, to uncap the lottery or increase Chapter 70 funding, state aid is down in the last 10 years as a percentage of municipal revenue.

The Municipal Partnership Act begins by giving cities and towns cost saving options, like the ability move municipal workers into the state's Health Insurance program. Why is that important? Because from 2001 to 2005, health insurance costs for municipalities grew nearly twice as fast as for state government. We want our share our success with you. It's as simple as that.

We also want local communities to move low performing local pension funds into the higher performing State Pension System. Why? Because over the last 21 years, PRIT rate of return amongst the best in the country. The best in the country. So moving low performing local plans over to PRIT not only relieves municipalities from management costs, but gives retirees better returns. It's as simple as that.

On the revenue side, we want to trust you to make good decisions with revenue options. One of those options is to give you the opportunity to impose a modest increase-one or two pennies-for meals and lodging, to use as you see fit, but mainly to relieve the pressure we know is out there on local property taxes. You know that if Boston raises its meals tax by 2%, the maximum provided for in our proposal, we would still have a meals tax lower than New Hampshire, than Chicago, than New York, than San

Francisco, than Austin, than Seattle, than Denver. We are not talking about breaking the bank. We are talking about modernizing our revenue streams. It's as simple as that. As a final step, the MPA proposes to eliminate a 92 year-old law exempting phone companies from paying the same property taxes that the rest of us pay. That law was written in 1915 to expand telephone coverage in Massachusetts, in fact to create universal telephone coverage in Massachusetts. Now with communities everywhere all over the Commonwealth struggling to provide services, and homeowners suffering from high property taxes, I think it's time to retire that law. It's done its job.

This old law just make no sense today. It did once, it doesn't now. You and I pay property taxes. Most other businesses pay property taxes. The electric company pays property taxes on it's poles. Even the same poles, by the way, that it shares with the phone company. So understand the point: the electric company pays taxes on those same poles that the phone company does not. No one is asking the phone company to do more than to pay it fair share.

Now, the phone company claims that if they have to pay what everyone else has to pay, they will raise our rates, cut jobs, and slow down with broadband investment, which is hugely important, particularly in western Massachusetts. I just don't but it. And neither should you. Let's look at the facts.

Here are the facts. From 2003 to 2005, while your and my homeowner property taxes steadily rose, the phone company's total Massachusetts tax bill went down almost 46%. Over that same period, our average monthly phone bills went up almost 30%. There is no correlation between taxes paid and rates charged. If there were, they would have passed that savings

on to us as phone company consumers; it hasn't happened.

Here are the facts. The fact is Verizon pays higher taxes in Texas, Washington, New Jersey and California and others, and guess what? In those places rates are lower than they are for us here in Massachusetts. They charge less where they pay more taxes, it turns out, than they do right here in Massachusetts. Let's focus on the facts. No other state has this kind of property tax exemption for phone companies, and yet employment has grown in all of those other states, not fallen off like they threaten here. And as for that claim about broadband investment? We've had this exemption for 92 years. We still don't have broadband investment in the western part of the Commonwealth. The fact is we are going to have to deliver on broadband access in the western part of this Commonwealth and all across the Commonwealth without waiting for the phone company.

Now look. I didn't come here to pick on Verizon-I didn't-or any other company for that matter, and neither should you. I want companies here to flourish, to make a lot of money, and to employ a lot of people. None of us here should ever take, or ever hear me as taking, the question of taxes lightly. But when you listen to some of the arguments for maintaining the status quo, when homeowners are burdened by skyrocketing property taxes other businesses have stepped up to do what they can to meet the need, and municipal leaders doing everything they can to manage prudently, then I just find it hard to hide. I just find it hard to look away. I think it's time for us to act.

The Municipal Partnership Act is not a silver bullet. But it is a way we can help. And where we *can* help, we *should* help. The time is now to begin providing real property tax relief. .

I know and I thank many of you for coming here today because you understand this issue personally; because it touches you in one way or another. That is why we need your help. The Municipal Partnership Act is before our legislature right now.

If you care about this, if you want lower property taxes, if you don't want to see more schools closed, come and tell us, show up, make your voices heard. The folks here from the legislator-senators and representatives-who stand with us represent themselves and others who want to know that you care about this. They don't want to be bullied, they don't want to be patronized, they don't want to be trivialized. These are hard issues. But they do want to know, and they need to know, that you demand these reforms *now*. Not later, now.

I ask you to go around, visit your representatives, visit your senators, show them the facts, tell them your stories, and above all, ask for action. Because none of us is here to hide. Thank you for being here.

GOVERNOR PATRICK SIGNS KEY PARTS OF MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP ACT INTO LAW

Administration's Plan to Relieve Property Tax Moves Forward

BOSTON-Wednesday, July 25, 2007- Joined by legislative leaders and local officials, Governor Deval Patrick today signed into law two key pieces of his proposed Municipal Partnership Act that will provide communities with the tools to help relieve the pressure on property taxes by allowing them to join the state health insurance plan and by merging underperforming local pension funds with the state's high-performing system.

"We need to relieve the pressure to raise local property taxes. The Municipal Partnership Act gives cities and towns more options to save money and increase revenue, and I am proud to sign key parts into law today," said Governor Deval Patrick. "By permitting municipalities to join cheaper state-run systems, we foster just the kind of engaged partnership we need between state and local government to move Massachusetts forward."

"Cities and towns have been grappling with budgetary challenges that affect their ability to stabilize their property tax rates and provide essential services" said Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray. "This new law will empower our municipalities and continue to build a long-lasting partnership between them and the state."

"I am happy to see the Governor sign this bill," Senate President Therese Murray said. "It's an important day for Massachusetts. This new law gives municipalities options they never had before and improves their access to affordable, quality health care. It's a valuable tool that helps cities and towns control their health care costs and free up valuable resources to address other needs such as education and public safety. This is a great benefit for the citizens of the Commonwealth."

"These two new laws give cities and towns the tools to save millions of dollars each year - money they can use to cut property taxes or invest in local priorities," said House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi.

"These bold reforms, combined with significant local aid and Lottery fund increases, show the Legislature's continued commitment to putting cities and towns first and I hope they are quickly embraced by communities across the Commonwealth."

Group Insurance Commission

Part of the new law will help municipalities lower skyrocketing health care costs by giving them the option to join the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC). Increasingly high health insurance costs have forced cities and towns to cut municipal services and increase property taxes. A recent Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation report found the growth rate for health insurance costs in municipalities is nearly double the rate of increase for health coverage of state government employees over the same time period.

Regional councils, regional planning districts, non-unionized educational collaboratives and Commonwealth charter schools will also be allowed to participate in the GIC.

The measure calls for the appointment of four additional members to the Commission to reflect a broader constituency, including a representative of management and of labor. Another two municipal members will be appointed after 45,000 municipal subscribers are added to the GIC. The bill also includes a \$1 million appropriation to cover additional GIC costs.

Pension Reform

The new law both identifies and requires the state's lowest-performing pension systems to invest with the state Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT). The criteria are based on the funding level and the average rate of return, as compared to PRIT, over the last 10 years.

The Patrick Administration supports keeping local pension decisions with local pension boards, and the new legislation does not change that authority. Pension boards have been able to invest with PRIT since 1985, allowing them to diversify their assets for maximum possible return and increase local revenue.

"This landmark legislation will bring significant financial relief from the fiscal spiral facing so many of our cities and towns" said Representative Rachel Kaprielian, D-Watertown. "Massachusetts is giving new meaning to the words state/local partnership and helping stem the exorbitant cost of providing health insurance for municipal workers."

With this legislation we have achieved our goal to provide local communities tools to control their health care costs and improve their financial situations," said Sen. Richard T. Moore, D-Uxbridge. "The coalition of legislative leaders, municipal officials, public employee union representatives and retiree representatives deserve the gratitude of every municipality for the funds that will be saved in the long term, and the respect of all residents for their work in providing affordable and quality health insurance for thousands of local employees."

"Under these laws, communities will continue to provide high-quality health insurance and a secure retirement, without relying on exorbitant property tax increases. They are truly examples of how we can make government work better for our taxpayers, our communities, and our retirees and public employees," stated Sen. Benjamin B. Downing, D-Pittsfield, chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Service.

"These two bills represent a major step forward and hold out the promise of even greater returns in the years ahead. It's particularly satisfying that many constituencies and many people of divergent interests were able to come together around these important goals," said Representative Jay Kaufman, D-Lexington, chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Service.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY TO LEAD LISTENING TOUR WITH MUNICIPAL CABINET ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

Focus on municipal technology, civil service, health insurance, purchasing, capital asset management, and human resources

BOSTON-Wednesday, September 26, 2007-Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet and Director of Municipal Affairs Robert G. Nunes. The listening tour will take the Municipal Cabinet across the Commonwealth to five stops. The regional meetings will focus on technology, civil service, health insurance, purchasing, capital asset management and human resources.

"These visits will continue to strengthen the ties between local and state government, and help generate new ideas for how the Municipal Cabinet can be most helpful to communities," said Lieutenant Governor Murray.

The Municipal Cabinet wants to hear from municipal officials, legislators and engaged citizens at each meeting. The meetings agendas will encourage a dialogue format between cabinet members and attendees.

Mayor Mary Clare Higgins will host the first listening tour stop this Friday at Northampton City Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Lt. Governor and Municipal Cabinet members will then travel to Hyannis, Webster, Lowell, and Marlborough in the coming months. Hyannis will host the Municipal Cabinet's second stop on Friday, October 5th, at Barnstable Town Hall from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Lt. Governor Murray chairs the Municipal Cabinet, which consists of six agency heads from within the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, including State Purchasing Agent from Operation Services Ellen Bickelman; Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance David Perini; Chief Human Resources Officer Paul Dietl; Chief Information Officer Anne Margoulis; Executive Director of the Group Insurance Commission Dolores Mitchell; and Chairman of the Civil Service Commission Christopher Bowman.

The Municipal Cabinet, established by Executive Order on February 13th, seeks to coordinate the ways in which state government can provide additional services and assistance to cities and towns. The cabinet also works to implement and analyze recommendations from the Local Government Advisory Commission, which Lt. Governor Murray oversees on behalf of the administration. All of the Municipal Cabinets meetings are open to the public.

Governor Patrick Releases 2009 Commonwealth Capital Policy

Adds new criteria of regional planning, environmental equity, and innovative transportation to municipal development scorecard for state programs and grants

BOSTON - Wednesday, July 02, 2008 - Governor Deval Patrick today released the latest version of the Commonwealth Capital Policy that has inspired hundreds of improvements in how municipalities plan for and regulate development.

"With this policy we are encouraging communities to site and build homes and businesses in ways that conserve energy and natural resources," said Governor Patrick. "Municipalities that plan for future growth and utilize the innovative land use techniques that the Commonwealth Capital Policy encourages will be doing their part to ensure that the interests of future generations are not compromised by today's development decisions."

Commonwealth Capital explicitly endorses planning and zoning measures that are consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles and encourages municipalities to implement these measures by using state funding as an incentive. Consistency with these principles is assessed through an application that examines municipal implementation of 32 land use planning and regulatory practices. Resulting scores are part of the proposal evaluation process for participating grant and loan programs. The Commonwealth Capital Policy has been very successful. Almost 300 (out of 351) of the Commonwealth's communities have applied and municipal consistency with the Sustainable Development Principles has improved significantly, up 10 percent, with the median score rising from 63 (out of a possible 140) in FY05 to 77 in FY08.

Programs for 2009: For 2009 Commonwealth Capital will plan a role in the distribution of more than \$600 million in grants and low interest loans from the following programs offered by the Executive Offices of Administration and Finance, Energy and Environmental Affairs, Housing and Economic Development, and Transportation and Public Works:

[Public Works Economic Development Program](#) (EOTPW)

(EOTPW)

[Community Development Action Grant Program](#) (EOHED-DHCD)

State Revolving Fund (EOEEA - DEP)

[LAND \(formerly Self-Help\) Program](#) (EOEEA- DCS)

[PARC \(formerly Urban Self-Help Program\)](#) (EOEEA - DCS)

[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program](#) (EOEEA)

[Coastal Pollutant Remediation Grant Program](#) (EOEEA - CZM)

[Small Town Road Assistance Program](#) (EOTPW)

[Massachusetts Opportunity Relocation and Expansion \(MORE\) Jobs Capital Program](#) (MOBD)

[Water Transportation Capital Funding Program](#) (EOTPW)

[Alternative Energy Property Program](#) (EOEEA - DOER)

Off-Street Parking Program (EOAF)

New Criteria for 2009: Modifications to the Commonwealth Capital application reflect Patrick Administration priorities and feedback received from municipalities and other stakeholders. New criteria address regional planning, environmental equity, clean energy, permitting, and transportation.

Regional Planning: Many important sustainable development concerns, such as water resources and transportation planning, are best addressed through planning and action on a regional scale. This criterion rewards those communities that have taken formal and significant action to work with neighboring communities or those in the region to foster development projects, land and water conservation, and other outcomes that have a regional or multi-community benefit.

Environmental Equity: Environmental equity is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. This new criterion rewards those communities that have taken actions to:

Avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, social or economic effects on foreign-born, minority, and low-income populations;

Ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in municipal environmental decision-making

Provide infrastructure, services, and other benefits to minority and low-income populations.

Clean Energy: Clean energy decreases global warming emissions and other pollutants, enhances public health, and reduces spending on fossil fuels while promoting use of innovative technologies that enhance economic development. New criteria encourage municipalities to purchase or produce renewable energy and to apply energy efficiency measures.

Expedited Permitting: Earlier this year the Commonwealth's 13 regional planning agencies collaboratively produced and issued A Best Practices Model for Streamlined Local Permitting. This criterion encourages communities to utilize techniques from Best Practices in order to regulate development in ways that safeguard local government prerogatives and are more efficient and effective, without reducing environmental, public health, and other protections.

Innovative Transportation Measures: Communities have at their disposal a variety of important tools to avoid potential negative consequences of excessive reliance on cars, including congested roadways, excessive energy use, and polluted air and water. Through two new criteria, the Commonwealth encourages communities to construct roads and other transportation infrastructure in ways that are sensitive to their surroundings, such as historic downtowns, and to utilize other innovative transportation measures, including parking and traffic calming techniques.

"My administration is working hard to ensure that the Commonwealth's policies, programs, and investments are consistent with the Sustainable Development Principles and we are committed to working with municipalities to do the same," said Governor Patrick."

Governor Patrick Protects Education Funding Amid Budget Cuts

Plan will give municipalities revenue tools to offset local aid cuts, manage more efficiently

(If you have any trouble reading this document please contact our office)

BOSTON - Friday, January 23, 2009 - Despite the immense financial challenges facing the Commonwealth during this national recession, Governor Patrick today reaffirmed his commitment to cities and towns, announcing that he will protect education funding from cuts and will limit reductions in state aid to cities and towns this year and next.

The Governor told members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association gathered for their annual meeting that he will prevent cuts to so-called Chapter 70 education aid during the next round of mid-year spending reductions he will make next week. Additionally, he will hold Chapter 70 funding for city, town and regional schools at the fiscal year 2009 (FY09) level of \$3.984 billion in his fiscal year 2010 (FY10) budget plan he will also release next week. That level, a 6 percent increase over FY08, was an all-time high for Chapter 70.

"Funding Chapter 70 at FY09 levels in the face of our current fiscal crisis is about ensuring that we don't sacrifice tomorrow's promise during today's downturn," said Governor Patrick.

An unprecedented national economic downturn has resulted in a loss of nearly \$2 billion in revenues this fiscal year and prompted the Governor to make mid-year spending cuts last October. The Governor was able to hold Local Aid and Chapter 70 education aid harmless by making deeper cuts in other state programs. However, economic conditions have rapidly deteriorated since then, requiring a second round of cuts that will have to include Local Aid.

Recognizing that cities and towns rely heavily on state aid for municipal services like police and fire and to help mitigate the property tax burden, Governor Patrick will limit reductions in unrestricted state aid to communities both in his emergency cuts and in the FY10 budget.

For FY09, the Governor will trim \$128 million from Lottery Aid and Additional Assistance, which-along with Chapter 70-make up the biggest portion of Local Aid. Taken together, this FY09 cut represents 2.3% of the total Local Aid budget. For FY10, Governor Patrick's budget will combine Lottery and Additional Assistance Aid into a new category called General Government Aid. Combined with level funding Chapter 70, Local Aid will be cut by \$375 million, or 7.1 percent below FY09.

To offset these unavoidable reductions, the Governor will propose a series of tools to help cities and towns generate much needed revenue. A one cent increase in the statewide meals and room occupancy taxes will generate approximately \$150 million statewide which would be distributed using the existing

lottery formula and will help to offset a portion of the Local Aid cuts. Additionally, the state will use a small amount of existing revenue to ensure that no community receives a total Local Aid cut of more than 10 percent. Taking the new revenues and additional mitigation aid together, the net Local Aid cut is reduced from \$375 million to \$220 million, or 4.2 percent below FY09.

Additionally, to further blunt the impact of Local Aid cuts and give communities the ability to manage their own budgets, the Governor is proposing to give cities and towns the ability to levy an additional 1 percent local options meals and room occupancy taxes. He will also re-file his proposal to eliminate an outdated property tax exemption for telecommunication companies. Taken together, these additional tools could generate up to \$200 million statewide.

"This plan gives Massachusetts cities and towns the tools to offset the short-term pain of the economic downturn while also laying a foundation for growth and revenue stability for the better days that are ahead of us," said Governor Patrick. "If we cannot provide direct aid, let's at least untie the hands of local communities to capture the savings and raise the revenue within their reach."

As part of his comprehensive Emergency Recovery Plan, the Governor will file the second Municipal Partnership Act (MPAII) next week. Designed to help cities and towns help themselves by saving money, the bill will require municipal managers and municipal unions to devise health care plans as least as economical as the GIC. In order to help communities meet this cost savings standard, the GIC entry requirement will be reduced to 50% union approval. Failure to meet or exceed the GIC standard within a certain period of time will result in reductions in local aid payments.

Additional MPAII cost-savings proposals include responsibly extending pension schedules, moving retirees to Medicare coverage and a series of initiatives to encourage and facilitate regionalization of municipal services and other reforms around procurement and advertising.

01.23.09 - Protecting Education Aid

Governor Deval L. Patrick

Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

January 23, 2009 As Prepared for Delivery

On Friday, January 23, 2009, despite the immense financial challenges facing the Commonwealth during this national recession, Governor Patrick reaffirmed his commitment to cities and towns in a speech to a gathering of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, announcing that he will protect education funding from cuts and will limit reductions in state aid to cities and towns this year and next.

Governor Deval Patrick:

Good morning. Thank you for inviting me - though I wish, like you do, that these were better times.

Everyone here understands that the national economy is in deep recession, the most serious in generations. Just yesterday Microsoft announced 5000 layoffs from its global organization over the next 18 months, showing that even mighty conglomerates are reeling from the downturn. In Massachusetts, unemployment climbed to 6.9% last month. Thousands have seen their savings or home equity snatched away by turmoil in the markets. Banks have money but won't lend it. Businesses and nonprofits are laying off or won't hire because they can't see a clear path to tomorrow.

As a result, state revenues are falling and wreaking havoc with the state budget. We have tough choices among miserable options. My job is to make those choices and I have.

In October, as you know, we identified and closed a \$1.4 billion budget gap. Because of further economic deterioration since then, we have to squeeze

another \$1 billion from the state budget by the end of this month. Though that October round of spending cuts was deep, we were able to avoid any cuts to local aid. We committed to cut local aid only as a last resort. Unfortunately, we have reached the last resort. So, I want to tell you directly our plans regarding Chapter 70 and other local aid in the remaining fiscal year and next, as well as some proposals we have for new revenues and other tools to help manage through.

First, I think you all know how strongly I feel about the long-term importance of high quality education. For that reason, we funded Chapter 70 at a record high level in the current fiscal year. We have not cut funding for public schools and we will not for the balance of fiscal year 2009. In the budget I submit next week for fiscal year 2010, we will propose to sustain that level of funding again in 2010. In other words, while we will not be able to increase it, we will hold it steady.

I will continue to work closely with the Obama administration and the Congress on the federal stimulus package, particularly on education funding to help us bridge to better times. If the package ultimately provides what we are hoping and working for, I propose to use federal stimulus education funds to bring all Massachusetts cities and towns up to education foundation levels for fiscal year 2010 and 2011. I am optimistic that these funds will be forthcoming. I will also propose some flexibility concerning your local contribution to public schools that would allow you to free up local funds for municipal services like fire, police and elder services.

Second, we will need to cut additional assistance and lottery funding. Given the size of the problem we have to solve, we have no choice. These cuts will total \$128 million in fiscal 09 (or 9.74 percent of additional assistance and lottery combined). We project a reduction of \$375 million off of original FY09 levels in fiscal year 2010. Although I appreciate how difficult this will be for you and for your communities, I ask you to keep this in some context: these FY09 cuts represent 2.3 percent of the total budget for local aid and only about 10 percent of the spending reductions I have had to make this year, on a budget of which over 20 percent is local aid.

Third, I will also file a bill next week to provide some alternative revenues to help offset the impact of these cuts. These proposals will be along the lines of the revenue provisions in the Municipal Partnership Act we filed last session. Specifically, we will propose to eliminate the property tax exemption for telephone poles and telecom switching stations, and to allow cities and towns, at your option, to levy an additional penny on meals and hotel stays.

In addition, I will ask the legislature for a one-penny statewide increase in the meals and hotels tax, to be redistributed according to the lottery formula to all cities and towns. If adopted, that one penny would generate roughly \$150 million, most of which would be used to offset the cuts in local aid. A small portion would be reserved to better market our tourist trade, to assure that we are growing the industry that largely generates this tax revenue.

If enacted promptly, this statewide penny could reduce the local aid cuts anticipated in this fiscal year and next by nearly half.

Finally, we will file next week a second Municipal Partnership Act to help cities and towns help themselves by saving money.

Starting with health insurance, our legislation will set a minimum standard that all cities and towns will have to meet. Recognizing that no one size fits all, municipal managers and municipal unions will be required to sit down together and devise a health care plan at least as economical as the GIC. That doesn't mean you have to join the GIC; if you can do better in a joint purchasing group or MIIA, so be it. To assist you in achieving these savings, we will lower the requirement for union approval of entry into GIC or an equivalent group to 50 percent. If municipalities and their unions cannot meet or exceed the GIC standard within a reasonable period of time, our legislation will reduce future local aid payments proportionately. The point is blunt, but necessary: we must all get on with the business of finding savings. And our intent is to give you the tools to do so.

We will also require each community to move all of your retirees to Medicare coverage and give you the option of extending your pension schedules within fiscally responsible parameters.

Lastly, we will propose a series of initiatives to encourage and facilitate regionalization of municipal services and other reforms around procurement and contract advertising that will save you time and money without jeopardizing transparency or quality.

Taken together, these and other measures in our bill can save cities and towns hundreds of millions of dollars over time and take significant pressure off of property taxes now and in the future.

We did not come up with these ideas in a vacuum. Lieutenant Governor Murray, who brings a special sensitivity and understanding to municipal needs, has conducted a broad listening tour and reported your concerns back to me and the cabinet. The ideas in this bill are yours, not mine. I support them and will press for them because they are reasonable, appropriate and right for both today and the long-run.

But when I file this bill next week, don't sit around and wait to see what happens. Get on the phone yourselves. Write and visit your legislators and key committee chairs yourselves. Tell them how important these measures are to your community, and call for immediate action. You can't afford to sit by and hope someone else puts the fire out - each and every one of you must grab a hose and help.

Each one of these actions is part of our Emergency Recovery Plan. This plan will provide Massachusetts cities and towns the tools you need to best position yourselves to manage the short-term pain of this economic downturn and also lay a stronger foundation for growth and greater flexibility when we cycle out of this crisis. If we cannot provide direct aid, we can at least untie your hands to capture the savings and raise the revenue within your reach.

I anticipate that there will be vigorous debate on this plan and I welcome it. Now as always I remain open to better ideas. But endless debate is not acceptable. We need action - by the legislature and by you. Because behind every one of those budget line items is somebody's best chance or only chance. For their sakes we don't have a moment to waste.

Meanwhile, we continue to have an ambitious agenda for 2009. Just as the times require greater restraint in the operating budget, they demand more vigorous reform. In that spirit, we have proposed changes to the ethics and lobbying laws to restore the people's faith in the integrity of state government.

We will radically simplify our transportation bureaucracy, untangling the current cluster of knots and setting us on a course to a more efficient and effective transportation system.

We will tighten the pension rules so that abuses are eliminated and special benefits for a select few are removed.

And we will work to pass a meaningful anti-crime package that will focus less on old rhetoric and more on preventing crime.

On Tuesday on the Mall in Washington there was an extraordinary spirit of optimism and common cause. Our new president called on the members of government and the public alike to come together to reach for higher ground. In that same spirit, I want to work with you on these and other initiatives in 2009 and beyond. Now is not the time to lose our will or our way. I know together we can seize this moment to make our communities stronger. You can count on my support for that. You should know that I am counting on yours.

Thank you.

LT. GOVERNOR MURRAY TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP LEGISLATION

Calls for more tools, greater flexibility to help cities and towns cut costs, weather downturn

 BOSTON- Tuesday, May 12, 2009 - Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray today testified in support of the Patrick-Murray Administration's Municipal Partnership Act II, telling members of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government the legislation contains tools cities and towns need to better manage limited resources and prepare for economic recovery. The Lieutenant Governor offered his comments to legislators during a public hearing at the State House.

"Communities are struggling to stay afloat during this unprecedented fiscal downturn," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "Unfortunately, due to declining revenues, the Commonwealth just doesn't have the fiscal resources cities and towns need to weather this storm. But the Governor and I do believe we have the ability to give our municipal partners the tools they need to respond to the present fiscal crisis and beyond by managing limited resources more efficiently."

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the following cost-saving measures included in the legislation:

- **Health Care:** Enabling municipal officials to control their employee health care costs by easing the requirements for entry into the Group Insurance Commission and holding cities and towns accountable for providing cost-efficient health care;
- **Retirees:** Requiring each community to move their municipal retirees to Medicare coverage and provide them with some pension funding relief within fiscally responsible parameters;
- **Regionalization:** Provisions encourage and facilitate regionalization of municipal services and other reforms around procurement and contract advertising to save time and money;
- **Increased Flexibility:** Reducing need for special legislative exemptions by giving municipalities more legal flexibility in areas such as setting permissible number of alcoholic beverage licenses, waiving the maximum age of police officers and firefighters, and fixing inadvertent procedural mistakes in calling town elections and meetings.

Governor Patrick filed the Municipal Partnership Act II legislation on January 28, 2009. Taken together with the Administration's Emergency Recovery Bill - which proposed a one penny statewide increase in the meals and hotel tax to be redistributed proportionally to all cities and towns, an additional one penny at local option, and the elimination of the telecommunications property tax exemption - the Lieutenant Governor noted the Partnership Act will help cities and towns weather the present fiscal downturn, save

hundreds of millions of dollars over time, and take significant pressure off property taxes now and in the future.

"Without these measures, the impact of potential cuts both this year and next will be far worse," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "I look forward to continuing to work with our partners in the Legislature to quickly deliver the tools and relief our cities and towns need now more than ever."

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM PLAN ALREADY SAVING MILLIONS FOR CITIES AND TOWNS

Administration urges other communities to join in the savings

BOSTON - Wednesday, August 5, 2009 - As communities look for ways to control costs in these challenging economic times, Governor Deval Patrick announced today that municipalities across Massachusetts are saving millions of dollars annually in health insurance costs thanks to the Administration's Municipal Partnership Act, which allows cities and towns to join the state's health insurance program.

"Cities and towns, like all of us, are looking for every opportunity to cut costs and achieve savings to help balance budgets," said Governor Patrick. "Our Municipal Partnership Act is producing real savings for these communities. In this and other ways, we will continue to work with municipalities to ensure they have the tools they need to educate our children, protect public safety and provide local services."

From 2001 to 2005, health insurance costs for municipalities grew nearly twice as fast as for state government. Since the Governor signed pieces of the MPA into law in July 2007, 17 municipalities, six school districts and three planning councils/commissions/development districts have joined the state Group Insurance Commission (GIC).

Among the savings realized by communities are:

- \$10 million in the City of Quincy;
- \$2.6 million in the Town of Watertown;
- \$2.6 million in the City of Pittsfield; and
- \$1.5 million in the Town of Norwood

The savings are calculated on current rates and enrollment, including premium increases anticipated from the municipalities' carriers prior to joining the state's health insurance program.

"As a former mayor and Chair of the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet, I have had the opportunity to talk with our local partners about the tools we have to help weather this fiscal downturn," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "Joining the GIC is one of the most important tools and I would encourage communities that have not joined to do so in an effort to save scarce resources."

According to municipal officials, communities will use the savings from joining the GIC to balance their budgets, stave off cuts to core services and invest in capital projects. Additionally, some communities will deposit the savings to shore up their Rainy Day Funds.

"Joining the GIC allowed Melrose to not only avoid layoffs, but also expand programs," said Melrose Mayor Robert J. Dolan. "The City was able to put \$600,000 into the schools that they wouldn't have been able to do without GIC. The GIC proved to be a win for management and employees. The savings from GIC participation has not only been beneficial in these difficult fiscal times, but also created a structural change in our budget that will be beneficial for years to come."

"For many communities, joining the GIC is a win-win proposition for municipalities and their employees. These savings can mean the difference between layoffs and no layoffs, and help cities and towns manage their way through the current fiscal crisis with reforms and efficiencies," said Joel Barrera, Deputy Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, which was instrumental in facilitating the compromise between labor and management that led to the GIC option law. "In the fall, many new communities will look to the GIC as an option."

Municipalities who joined the state health insurance program prior to the enactment of the MPA have also reaped substantial savings. A recent report commissioned by The Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Public Policy Studies and the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government estimates that the City of Springfield, which joined under emergency legislation in January 2007, has saved \$19 million to \$23 million. The town of Saugus, which joined in January 2008, avoided a \$1.3 million deficit in FY09, dramatically helping their fiscal health.

In addition to allowing communities to join the GIC, the Municipal Partnership Act identifies and requires the state's lowest-performing pension systems to invest with the state Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT). Additionally, the Governor proposed and the Legislature adopted measures to give communities additional revenue from a local option increase in the meals and hotel/motel taxes and by repealing the outdated telecom tax exemption.

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION RELEASES \$7.96 MILLION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHLIGHTS MUNICIPAL REGIONALIZATION EFFORTS

Lt. Governor Murray highlights efforts at Regionalization Conference

WORCESTER - Thursday, September 3, 2009 - Keeping with the Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to strengthen partnerships with cities and towns across Massachusetts, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today awarded \$7.96 million to communities developing public safety answering points (PSAPS), which will enhance 911 and emergency dispatch communications centers, improve public safety and save money for taxpayers.

"Awarding these funds is another way we are working to give our municipal partners the tools they need to respond to the present fiscal crisis, particularly with public safety, while managing limited resources more efficiently in the future," said Governor Patrick.

The announcement comes as the Lt. Governor welcomed municipal and planning officials from across the Commonwealth to the "Regionalization Tool Kit: A Practical Guide to Sharing Municipal Services" Conference today at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

"During these difficult economic times, municipalities are being asked to do more with less," said Lt. Governor Murray. "Though regionalization may not be a new concept, many communities may be unsure of what steps need to be taken to make partnerships happen. The Governor and I continue to support regionalization efforts and a conference like today's helps us and cities and towns learn of best practices for successful regionalization efforts."

The grants, distributed by the State 911 Department and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, will fund 12 projects in all regions of the Commonwealth. The projects include the construction of new facilities, purchase and installation of equipment, improving infrastructure of existing regional 911 communications departments and conducting feasibility studies for regionalizing emergency communications services.

Governor Patrick created the grant fund one year ago, when he signed a law establishing the State 911 Department and creating a fund to pay for enhanced training, upgrading equipment and creating incentives to regionalize 911 operations. Under both state and federal law, these funds can only be used to support the 911 system.

"Combining emergency 911 operations creates efficiencies in service and also reduces operating costs for tax payers," said Public Safety Secretary Kevin M. Burke.

The four largest projects funded this year are Amherst, Hingham, Essex County and Plymouth County. In Amherst and Essex County, the grants will be used to build new facilities. In Plymouth County and Hingham, funding will allow their current facilities to operate as regional 911/emergency dispatch centers for the first time. State funding will also support projects or feasibility studies in Devens, Dudley, Gardner, Springfield, Northern Middlesex County cities and towns, Dukes County, and Rutland, and for the Massachusetts State Police ().

As Massachusetts cities and towns increasingly consider regionalizing functions of local government, today's conference, organized by the Patrick-Murray Administration's Division of Local Services, Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA), featured practical presentations from planners and municipal officials who have successfully implemented regionalization plans. Participants had the opportunity to learn how to begin the process of collaboration, fund shared services, and hire shared staff. Attendees were able to receive template contracts, budgets, and agreements which they can bring back to their communities and apply on the local level.

"The Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services has taken a leading role in fostering discussion of regionalization and cooperation between communities in the delivery of services," said Department of Revenue Commissioner Navjeet K. Bal. "This conference is yet another step forward in bringing the lessons learned to cities and towns across the Commonwealth who are faced with the difficult job of providing critical services with diminished financial resources."

Lt. Governor Murray also chairs the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet, which travels throughout the Commonwealth to hear from municipal officials, legislators and the public on a variety of issues to help strengthen the partnership between state and municipal governments. The Cabinet is comprised of state officials from seven agencies, including the Division of Local Services, and works to promote efficiency and more effective management within communities across the Commonwealth. Ideas discussed at past meetings have had a direct impact on public policy, including provisions of the Patrick-Murray Administration's Municipal Partnership Act legislation.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY LEADS LISTENING TOUR WITH MUNICIPAL CABINET IN NORTH ADAMS

Focus on municipal technology, civil service, green communities, health insurance, purchasing, capital asset management, and human resources

NORTH ADAMS - Thursday, October 15, 2009 - Building on the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to partnering with municipalities, civic engagement and governing for the long-term, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray continued with the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet's listening tour in North Adams today at North Adams City Hall.

"We have the ability to give our municipal partners the tools they need to respond to today's economic conditions and beyond by managing limited resources more efficiently," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "The Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet meetings allow the state's top officials to hear directly from those who receive services from local government and those who work at the local level so we can improve services."

Today's meeting in North Adams was the twentieth meeting the Cabinet has held during the Patrick-Murray Administration.

Lieutenant Governor Murray chairs the Municipal Cabinet, which travels throughout the Commonwealth to hear from municipal officials, legislators and the public on a variety of issues to help strengthen the partnership between state and municipal governments. Comprised of state officials from seven agencies, the Municipal Cabinet works to promote efficiency and more effective governing. Ideas discussed at past meetings have had a direct impact on public policy, including provisions of the Patrick-Murray Administration's Municipal Partnership Act II legislation. For more information about the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet and the full meeting schedule, please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/governor/municabinet>.

Members of the Cabinet include seven agency heads from within the Executive Office of Administration and Finance and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, including State Purchasing Agent from Operation Services Ellen Bickelman; Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance David Perini; Chief Human Resources Officer Paul Dietl; Chief Information Officer Anne Margulies; Executive Director of the Group Insurance Commission Dolores Mitchell; Chairman of the Civil Service Commission Christopher Bowman; and Director of the Green Communities Division Mark Sylvia.

The Municipal Cabinet, established by [Executive Order Number 480](#) in February 2007 seeks to coordinate the ways in which state government can provide additional services and assistance to cities

and towns. The Cabinet also works to implement and analyze recommendations from the Local Government Advisory Commission, which Lieutenant Governor Murray oversees on behalf of the Patrick-Murray Administration.

GOVERNOR PATRICK SIGNS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL INTO LAW

Law will help create jobs, provide small business assistance and access to capital, streamline statewide economic development efforts and provide sales tax holiday for consumers

BOSTON - Thursday, August 5, 2010 - As part of the Patrick-Murray Administration's historic efforts to promote job growth and long-term economic recovery, Governor Deval Patrick today signed into law an economic development bill that will help small businesses create jobs by providing access to capital through the newly created Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, streamlining the Commonwealth's economic development activities and agencies, providing more transparent and equitable bond financing terms for educational and health care facilities and approving a sales tax holiday for retailers and consumers later this month.

"This new law will create countless jobs across the Commonwealth, give small businesses the support they need and help Massachusetts continue to lead the nation out of recession," said Governor Deval Patrick. "I commend Senate President Murray, Speaker DeLeo, and the members of the Legislature for working in collaboration to pass such a vital and comprehensive Economic Development bill. I am particularly pleased that the bill includes a sales tax holiday, as it will give individuals, families and businesses the immediate economic boost we so critically need."

"As our economy continues to recover, this bill will be a vital tool that will support additional job creation, address the needs of small businesses, and improve infrastructure in all regions of the Commonwealth," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "Additionally, we will continue to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of services by realigning our economic development structure and network."

"This is about re-organizing, re-focusing and re-committing ourselves to creating jobs and sharpening our competitive edge," said Senate President Therese Murray. "It sends all the right signals to businesses that we're serious about investment and growth here in the Commonwealth."

"This bill signals the continued focus of the House, Senate and Governor on jump-starting economic growth and bringing businesses and jobs to Massachusetts," said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. "This legislation will improve efficiency in our state's economic development agencies and make Massachusetts more business-friendly to increase employment opportunities across the Commonwealth."

The bill signed today contains a number of provisions, including:

- The creation and \$35 million capitalization of the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) which will create and preserve jobs, as well as promote economic development in communities by serving as a one stop resource for small businesses seeking capital and advice. The MGCC will offer working capital, loan guarantees, grants, and financial guidance - including one-on-one mentoring services.

- The \$50 million recapitalization of the Growth District Initiative which allows for infrastructure investments in areas identified as poised for significant new growth consistent with the Commonwealth's sustainable development principles, throughout all regions of the Commonwealth. Since its launch in February 2008, 20 Growth Districts have been identified throughout the state and \$49.2M in Growth District grants have been awarded - mostly to Gateway Cities.
- A sales tax holiday weekend on August 14 and 15.
- A two year permitting extension provision for existing permits issued within the last two years, allowing developers to continue to move forward with development projects when the market supports their construction.
- The reorganization and consolidation of a number of economic development agencies to promote greater efficiency - The bill allows for the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD) to contract with regional economic development organizations to establish a plan for business development that supports regionally based efforts to grow and retain existing businesses and attract new business to the Commonwealth. It also creates the Massachusetts Marketing Partnership, a new umbrella agency comprised of the state's marketing and trade offices aimed at marketing Massachusetts domestically and internally. Two quasi-public agencies that finance non-profits, MassDevelopment and the Health and Educational Facilities Authority (HEFA), will be merged to ensure greater transparency, efficiency, and equity in financing a critically important sector of our economy: higher education and health care.
- The \$5 million recapitalization of the Massachusetts Technology Development Corporation (MTDC). This recapitalization will help close the "capital gap" for start-up and expansion of early-stage technology companies operating in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MTDC has invested in many of Massachusetts's most promising new technology-based companies.
- The creation of a market rate Housing Development Incentive Program designed to promote increased residential growth, expanded diversity of housing supply, neighborhood stabilization and economic development within gateway municipalities by providing local and state tax incentives to rehabilitate buildings into market rate housing.

"I was proud to co-author this bill, which offers the most sweeping reforms to doing business in Massachusetts that we've seen in years, with Senate President Therese Murray," said Senator Karen Spilka, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. "The bold and innovative changes included in this bill will help propel our economic development efforts, intensify our economic growth, and put our economy on an even faster path to recovery. This legislation offers tangible assistance to businesses now so they can get people back to work. In the long term, by streamlining and clearly focusing our economic development activities, we will increase taxpayers' return on investment."

"This bill represents the commonwealth's continued effort to work with the business community to enhance economic development in the state. By streamlining our economic development agencies and providing incentives to encourage start-up companies and small businesses, we hope to make the commonwealth more competitive and attractive to different industries looking to locate and grow in

Massachusetts," said Representative Brian Dempsey, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies."

"Main Street Massachusetts and consumers are very fortunate and appreciative to have another sales tax holiday on August 14-15," said Jon B. Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts.

"With consumers representing 70% of the economy, this is a very effective stimulus to bring important sales to local employers."

Learn more about how the Patrick-Murray Administration's agenda has led Massachusetts out of a global recession faster and stronger than the rest of the nation [here](#).

PATRICK- MURRAY ADMINISTRATION RELEASES \$10 MILLION FOR THE OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL 911 CALL CENTERS

Third straight year grants distributed for development of regional 911 answering points

BOSTON - Thursday, September 30, 2010 - Continuing the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to improving public safety and increasing efficiency in state government, Governor Deval Patrick today released a total of \$10 million in grants to communities developing, or studying the feasibility of developing, public safety answering points (PSAPS). These PSAPS, or call centers, will enhance 911 and emergency dispatch communications centers, improve public safety and save money for taxpayers. An additional \$2 million in development grant funds is expected to be released later in October for a total of \$12 million this year.

"With these funds, we are giving our municipal partners the tools they need to both effectively respond to public safety situations and efficiently manage taxpayer dollars," said Governor Patrick.

"As our Administration continues to work with cities and towns to promote regionalization, these grants are an effective resource that will provide municipalities with supportive tools to develop more efficient and responsive shared emergency call centers," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, who chaired the Regionalization Advisory Commission this past year.

"Our public safety resources are limited," said Public Safety Secretary Mary Beth Heffernan.

"Regionalization combines 911 emergency operations and their costs providing a vehicle to more effectively utilize personnel and funding for training and supervision and purchase and maintain emergency communications equipment."

The grants, distributed by the State 911 Department, will fund regionalization projects stretching from the Cape to the Berkshires. Projects include building regional emergency communications centers, purchasing call center equipment, improving the infrastructure of existing regional 911 communications departments and conducting feasibility studies for regionalizing services.

Governor Patrick first announced grant funding in 2008, when he signed a law establishing the State 911 Department and creating a fund to pay for enhanced training, upgrading equipment and creating incentives to regionalize 911 operations. Under both state and federal law, these funds can only be used to support the 911 system.

Since its inception, the fund has provided over \$66 million in support grants to 262 call centers across the Commonwealth, including \$14 million in training grants to train 911 call takers, \$27.5 million in

development grants and more than \$14.5 million in other support funding for the Administration's regionalization efforts.

Ten of the call centers receiving awards this year will use the funding to purchase new state of the art equipment, perform architectural or engineering work at existing call centers or begin construction on a new regional call center. The remaining ten recipients will undertake studies to determine if regional call centers are feasible in their communities.

Worcester is among the communities seeking to begin construction of a regional call center this year with its awarded of \$1.6 million. Once up and running, the call center would serve Worcester and as many as 10 communities surrounding the City. A grant of \$1.3 million will go to a regional call center in Berkshire County that supports 22 communities, and will allow for improvements in mission critical radio communications.

State funding will also support projects in Barnstable County, Douglas, Essex County, Franklin, Hingham, Middlesex County, Monson, Norfolk County, Revere, Sudbury, Wrentham, Dukes County, Nantucket, Rutland, New Braintree, Shelburne Falls and the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District.

The first regionalization project funded through the development grant program is expected to be in full service by early 2011. The project has been awarded approximately \$5.3 million in development grants over three years and will service the communities of Hingham, Cohasset, Hull and Norwell.

GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES THIRD PHASE OF PENSION REFORM

Continues efforts to modernize the pension system; Find efficiencies and cost-savings in state government



Governor Patrick and other top officials discuss pension reform at the State House. (Photo credit: Matt Bennett/Governor's Office).

BOSTON - Tuesday, January 18, 2011 - Continuing the Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to identify efficiencies and cost-savings in state government, Governor Deval Patrick today announced his proposal for the next phase in pension reform. This proposal will build on pension reform legislation, signed during the Administration's first term, that closed loopholes and eliminated the most egregious abuses in the public retirement system.

Pension Reform III will further overhaul the benefits plan to ensure its long-term sustainability and credibility. Coupled with Pension I and II, this reform package is expected to save taxpayers more than \$5

billion in pension costs over 30 years, and \$2 billion in retiree health benefit costs for new employees over the next 30 years.

"We have committed to fix what's broken in state government. That's why, in partnership with the legislature, we enacted long-awaited reforms in ethics, transportation, education and state pensions," said Governor Patrick. "Today, I'm proud to stand with our partners in the Legislature and Treasurer's office to announce the filing of the next set of reforms in the state pension system."

"The changes Governor Patrick is proposing today will ensure the public employee pension system is fair, credible and fiscally sustainable," said Administration and Finance Secretary Jay Gonzalez. "Doing nothing is not an option. If we don't take action now, there will not be a pension system for retirees in the future."

"We have made a number of significant reforms to the pension system over the last two years, closing loopholes and eliminating special benefits, but we can do more to maintain the system and establish a more equitable public benefit for all employees," said Senate President Therese Murray. "The reforms announced today, including a number that were endorsed by the Senate last year, are a step in the right direction and deserve attention from the Legislature. Reasonable adjustments to modernize the system are appropriate, and I will review the Governor's proposal closely with the Senate."

"Last session we changed the way government does business more profoundly than at any time in recent history by passing sweeping ethics, pension, transportation and education reform," said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. "Having done away with entrenched pension loopholes, I am committed to continuing reform in this area."

"It is essential that the proposed extension of the deadline for fully funding our pension system be coupled with strong and comprehensive reforms," said Treasurer-elect Steve Grossman. "Massachusetts has earned a high bond rating - which saves taxpayers millions annually - by living within its means and dealing aggressively with financial challenges before they become insurmountable. The plan that the Governor has announced today strikes the necessary balance among the interests of the taxpayers, the investment community and public employees."

Pension Reform III core components:

Increase the retirement age for virtually all state workers, reflecting the fact that people are living and working longer.

This change will more closely align the state system with the retirement ages already set by the federal government for Social Security benefits.

- Group 1 (elected officials and most general employees): Increase the retirement age to 60-67 from the current 55-65;
- Group 2 (employees with titles reflecting hazardous duties): Increase the retirement age to 55-62 from the current 55-60;
- Group 3 (state police): The maximum benefit is currently reached with 25 years of service. Our proposal would increase this to 30 years by lowering the benefit factor after 20 years of service from 3.0 to 2.5 per year of service;
- Group 4 (firefighters, police officers, some corrections officers): Increase the retirement age to 50-57 from the current 45-55

Eliminate early retirement subsidies

The current system provides an incentive for those who have reached minimum retirement age to retire before reaching maximum retirement age, as the increase in benefits resulting from additional years of service is less than the benefit of additional years of pension. The Administration's proposal would eliminate this incentive.

Reduce Group 1 Contribution Rate

Reduce the 9 percent contribution rate of new Group 1 employees and the 11 percent contribution rate of new teachers by 0.5 percent. This reduction protects new Group I employees who, as a result of changes to the system, will be contributing for a longer period of time.

Increase "high 3" to "high 5"

Increase the period for averaging earnings, for purposes of calculating a member's retirement allowance, from 3 to 5 years. A slightly longer averaging period more accurately reflects an employee's career earnings.

Eliminate Section 10 early retirements for all employees

Currently, employees with 20 years of service who are terminated at no fault of their own are entitled to an early retirement benefit equal to one third of their high 3 earning years, plus an annuity from contributions. In most cases, that lifetime termination benefit is significantly larger than what the employee would have received if not terminated, and declines with further increases in age and service. Under the Administration's proposal, employees would not be eligible for early retirement until they reach minimum retirement age, and all employees within each Group would receive these benefits based on the same formula.

Pro-rate benefits based on employment history

The Administration's proposal would pro-rate the retirement allowance for employees who have served in more than one Group, taking into account the number of years of service in each Group. Pro-rating prevents windfalls for people who have only a short period of service in a Group with higher benefit levels at the end of their career.

Introduce an anti-spiking rule

The Patrick-Murray proposal would introduce an "anti-spiking rule" which would limit the annual increase in pensionable earnings to no more than 7 percent of the average pensionable earnings over the last two years plus inflation. This provision would not apply to bona fide promotions or job changes.

Eliminate "Double Dipping"

Pension Reform III would eliminate the right to receive a pension while receiving compensation for service as an elected official.

Other provisions include:

- Increase scrutiny of legislation benefiting individual employees by requiring such legislation to be accompanied by an actuarial cost estimate, confirmation of the cost analysis from the Public Employees Retirement Commission and a recommendation from the Retirement Board.
- Require elected officials to repay the full value of the pension they have received in order to rejoin the system, consistent with what all other state employees are required to do.
- Require members who rejoin the system or new members eligible to receive creditable service based on work elsewhere to purchase creditable service within one year or pay the full actuarial interest rate.
- Allow retirement boards to require retirees convicted of a criminal offense related to their employment to repay benefits received since the date of the offense, not just the date of conviction.
- Establish a special commission to study the Massachusetts public employees' pension classification system. The commission will review and make recommendations for reform regarding the Massachusetts public employees' group classification system, beginning with consideration of the work by the Blue Ribbon Panel on the Massachusetts Public Employees Pension Classification System.
- Allow retirees who married a person of the same sex within the first year after it became legal to change their retirement option in order to provide a benefit to their spouse.

The Commonwealth's public employee retirement system is a defined benefit plan that provides retirement and disability benefit levels similar to those of other states with defined benefit plans and no Social Security coverage for public employees.

01.18.11 Pension Reform Phase Three Bill Filing

GOVERNOR DEVAL L. PATRICK

PENSION REFORM BILL FILING

JANUARY 18, 2011

Good afternoon.

You all know how vital I believe it is that we bear our generational responsibility, the obligation each of us owes to do what we can to leave things better for those who come behind us. That is why I have committed to expanding our economy and creating jobs, to containing health care costs, to closing the achievement gap in the schools, and to curbing youth violence.

That is also why I have committed to fix what's broken in state government. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted long-awaited reforms in ethics, transportation, education and state pensions in the last session. We will build on that in this session.

Today I'm proud to stand with Senate President Murray, Speaker DeLeo and Treasurer-elect Grossman to announce the filing of the next set of reforms in the state pension system.

The State retirement system is a defined benefit plan. The average annual pension for state retirees is about \$26,000. The typical public employee contributes 11% of his or her annual wages to the pension system, meaning that today most employees will receive at retirement what they paid in.

Massachusetts' public employees are also not covered by Social Security. But for a long time long that was not the case. A series of loopholes and avoided decisions has left us with an unfunded pension liability of \$20 billion. That problem was not created overnight and it will not be solved overnight. I support the defined benefit program. But without these reforms, it is not sustainable.

So the bill we are filing today contains a number of important reform measures:

- First, we will extend the retirement age for virtually all state workers, including elected officials, from 55 to 60, with maximum retirement benefits at 67. This change will align our system more closely with the retirement ages already set for Social Security benefits and in the private sector.
- Second, we will eliminate the incentive for state workers to leave the workforce at the minimum retirement age. Workers who choose to retire early will receive a pro rata reduction in their retirement benefit.
- Third, we will increase the period of "averaging" used to determine retirement allowance from 3 to 5 years.
- We will impose an anti-spiking rule that will limit excessive jumps in pension eligibility that may come in the absence of earned promotions or job changes.
- And we will end "double dipping," by eliminating the right of elected officials to receive a pension while receiving compensation for public service, and by requiring elected officials to repay the full value of the pension they have received in order to rejoin the system, just like any other state employee.

There are a number of other provisions in this legislation. Secretary Gonzalez, who will be the administration's point on this issue, is available after this press conference to walk you through the details and answer any technical questions you may have.

Taken together, these proposals will generate over \$5 billion in pension funding savings over 30 years, including an estimated \$2 billion for cities and towns. This proposal will also reduce the cost of retiree health benefits by \$1 billion to the state and another \$1 billion to cities and towns over the next 30 years as a result of later retirement ages. All of this builds on our previous round of pension reform.

I want to thank our public sector unions for working with us on this proposal and I look forward to working with the Speaker, the Senate President and their colleagues to move these common sense measures into law.

GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES PLAN TO HELP PRESERVE LOCAL SERVICES; BRING COST-SAVINGS TO CITIES AND TOWNS

BOSTON - Friday, January 21, 2011 - Governor Deval Patrick today announced a series of measures that will provide cities and towns with the tools they need to rein in municipal health insurance costs and continue providing critical services to residents across the Commonwealth. Included in the reforms announced today is the Administration's municipal health insurance plan design proposal that will help municipalities achieve immediate cost-savings and build on the Administration's efforts to further reduce rising health care costs.

"I am confident better days lie ahead so long as we all work together," said Governor Patrick. "With the initiatives announced today, our cities and towns, and their public employee unions, can contain health care costs, continue to assure quality affordable care for workers, and maintain public services."

The Administration's health insurance plan design proposal will require all cities and towns to either join the GIC or institute a program of equivalent value and cost by the start of fiscal year 2012. Additionally, this bill will require cities and towns to move eligible municipal retirees into Medicare. Many municipalities have not enrolled their eligible retirees in the federally-funded Medicare program, even though both the municipalities and retirees have contributed to the Medicare system. By moving all eligible retirees to Medicare, cities and towns will save an estimated \$15-30 million annually.

Combined, these two measures will allow municipalities to capture savings totaling over \$120 million that will help sustain local services and retain jobs. This proposal will also give labor a meaningful role in developing the solution, and assure that municipal employees have continued access to adequate, affordable health care.

"This proposal is a critical step towards delivering material savings in health care costs to cities and towns at a time when they need it most," said Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez. "In this challenging fiscal environment, taxpayers can no longer be asked to fund overly generous health benefits at the expense of critical local

services."

"Governor Patrick's municipal health insurance proposal will offer cities and towns financial relief, while ensuring labor a meaningful seat at the negotiating table," said Joanne Goldstein, Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. "Under the Governor's proposal, unions representing municipal workers and municipalities will have the opportunity to collaborate on how to continue to provide quality healthcare for workers while ensuring meaningful savings for cities and towns."

"Governor Patrick's announcements today show, yet again, that he and Lieutenant Governor Murray take seriously their commitment to working with our cities and towns. That they continue to propose record funding for Chapter 70 is critical for children across the Commonwealth," said Mayor Kimberley Driscoll of Salem. "Of course, some reductions are necessary given the terrible fiscal climate we are in, and that will be difficult to deal with, but the tools Governor Patrick is proposing will greatly help those of us responsible for municipal budgets and delivery of services to do so."

During today's address, Governor Patrick also outlined the following proposals:

Support for our cities and towns

Aid to cities and towns represents approximately 16 percent of the Commonwealth's annual budget. In fiscal year 2012, local aid programs account for \$5.05 billion. The Administration's recommendation for local aid reflects the Governor's unprecedented commitment to a strong partnership between the state and its cities and towns, even in the midst of fiscal challenges.

Strengthening our schools. Increase state support for public schools through Chapter 70 to \$3.99 billion, a \$140 million increase from the current budget, and once again the highest level of state funding in the history of the Commonwealth.

Supporting Special Education. Increase funding for the special education circuit breaker by \$80 million dollars, allowing our communities to continue to provide support to students with special needs.

Repairing our infrastructure. Boost Chapter 90 Local Road Program funding to \$200 million dollars, an increase of \$45 million dollars over this year's funding level - allowing our

cities and towns to continue to invest in their local infrastructure. Additionally, the state's commitment to capital spending for municipalities will expand to \$7.9 billion in the first term, to a projected \$11.5 in the second term, creating jobs and lifting up our roads, parks, and recreational facilities, housing, and other public spaces.

Promoting efficiency through regionalization. Institute a \$9.7 million competitive regionalization and efficiency grant initiative. This grant program will support one time transition costs related to regionalization and other efficiency initiatives across the Commonwealth, allowing neighboring communities to better share municipal services that will save time and money while maintaining transparency and quality.

Unrestricted Local Aid

The Administration's fiscal year 2012 budget will propose \$833.9 million in Unrestricted Local Aid. While this is a \$65 million reduction from fiscal year 2011, it will be offset by the savings realized through the Administration's plan design proposal.

Additional Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2012

The Administration's approach to fiscal year 2012 includes key tools to support municipalities in managing through this fiscal crisis and beyond, including:

Removing the property tax exemption on telecommunications equipment saving cities and towns an estimated \$26 million.

Establishing a new Municipal Procurement Program within the state Operational Services Division as a platform for cities and towns to centralize procurement practices to leverage greater purchasing power and achieve additional cost savings.

Filing a new pension reform initiative providing for a comprehensive overhaul of the pension system. This proposal will help ensure the long-term sustainability and credibility of the system and save communities an estimated \$2 billion over 30 years in pension costs and an estimated \$1 billion in reduced retiree health benefit costs for new employees over the next 30 years.

01.21.11 Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting

Governor Deval L. Patrick

Address to the Massachusetts Municipal Association

Friday, January 21, 2011

[For more information, read the press release here.](#)

Four years ago, when I first addressed this body, I challenged you to work with me and with each other to build a better, stronger Commonwealth. Instead of kicking the can down the road, I challenged you to confront the profound challenges we faced. I challenged you to be bold - because what we do today, or fail to do, will matter for a generation to come.

We have all been tested by the collapse of the global economy. But when the going got tough, we stuck with our plans. And as a result, our Commonwealth is first in the Nation in student achievement, first in the Nation in health care coverage, first in the Nation in clean energy initiatives and veterans services, and ahead of most other states in adding jobs.

Not only did we stick with our plans. The LG and I stuck with you.

Working together, we developed new tools to help your communities endure and even flourish.

Working together, we eliminated the tax exemption on telephone poles and wires, generating \$26 million for your communities.

Working together, we gave you the option to raise local meals and hotel taxes, with potential to generate over \$120 million in new revenue.

Working together, we moved under-performing local pension systems to the state system, and gave you the authority to extend your funding schedules, worth up to \$200 million in budget relief in the first year alone.

Working together, we created a pathway for your employees to get their health insurance through the GIC, which has saved participating communities \$44 million already.

Working together, we made investments in local roads, rails, bridges, broadband expansion, public and affordable housing, in most cases at higher levels than in a very long time.

And working together, we have supported our public schools, through chapter 70 funding, at the highest levels in the history of the Commonwealth - even while coping with a \$13 billion budget gap.

Because we have worked together, with optimism and effort, the collection of local communities we call our Commonwealth is strong and getting stronger.

The work of the second term is clear. There are jobs to create, schools to strengthen, health care costs to reduce, and urban violence to end. Tough times and hard choices remain. But I am confident better days lie ahead - so long as we continue to work together. In that same spirit of partnership, here is what I propose to do:

First, this afternoon I will file my plan design bill. In a nutshell, my bill will require that in time for the start of the coming fiscal year, your communities either join the GIC or come up with your own plan or program of equivalent value and cost.

Consistent with the principles I have insisted upon from the start, my bill will (1) capture immediate and material savings for you to use to sustain local services and retain jobs; (2) give labor a meaningful role in developing the solution; and (3) assure that your employees have continued access to adequate, affordable health care.

My bill will also require that you do what only a few have elected to do: move your eligible municipal retirees into Medicare.

Health care costs are a serious challenge across America. Premiums continue to far outpace inflation. Just as that has put the squeeze on small businesses, working families and state government, local communities have felt the pinch as well. Redesigning insurance plans is just about reapportioning the burden of those costs. But the systemic issue remains: the health care system is too costly and is becoming more so at an unsustainable rate. While we work on that larger challenge through the second term, the bill I am filing today will help.

To be specific, the total statewide savings of these two measures, once enacted into law, is over \$120 million. That's money you can use now and in the future to keep teachers in the classrooms, police and firefighters on the streets, and senior centers and libraries open.

Second, my budget will propose to increase state support for public schools through chapter 70 to \$3.99 billion, a \$140 million increase from the current budget and once again the highest level of state funding in the history of the Commonwealth. I will also propose to increase funding for the special education circuit breaker by \$80 million. I will propose to fund most other local programs at current levels, including PILOT; regional

school transportation; charter school reimbursements; and library aid.

Third, I will propose a budget of \$833.9 million in unrestricted local aid.

This is a \$65 million reduction from the current Fiscal Year and is unavoidable. But I have to point out that it is more than offset by the savings to cities and towns from my plan design and Medicare bill.

Fourth, I will again propose to remove the property tax exemption on telecommunications equipment. It is an unaffordable anachronism, worth \$26 million to your communities, and the telephone company pays it in every other state in which they do business.

Fifth, I will propose a \$9.7 million regionalization and efficiency grant initiative. Many of you have been working with us and with neighboring communities on how better to share municipal services to save time and money without jeopardizing transparency or quality. Our new fiscal reality demands that we go further. This new competitive grant program will support one-time transition costs related to regionalization and other efficiency initiatives.

Sixth, we will establish a new Municipal Procurement Program as a platform for you to centralize procurement practices to leverage greater purchasing power and save money on everything from power to paper clips.

Finally, we will increase funding for the Chapter 90 Local Road Program to \$200 million, an increase of \$45 million or 29% over the current fiscal year, and \$80 million more than was provided before I came to office four years ago. And our commitment to capital spending for municipalities will expand from \$7.9 billion in the first term to a projected \$11.5 billion in the second

term. That means continued work to improve roads, parks and recreational facilities, housing and other public spaces and places that promote growth and improve quality of life. Since taking this job, my focus has been on governing for the long term, on building a better future for all of us. The choices we have made reflect that focus. That will continue. In fact, it must. Generational responsibility is more than a timely message. It's a timeless one.

I know we cannot succeed in a global society without successful local communities. I am willing to do my part. Here are some ways I am proposing to help. Work with us, and we will emerge from these tough times stronger than we were before.

Thank you.

GOVERNOR PATRICK, CONGRESSWOMAN TSONGAS, ATTORNEY GENERAL COAKLEY CELEBRATE OPENING OF APPLETON MILLS IN LOWELL

Investments in Gateway City lead to job creation, economic activity and affordable housing

LOWELL - Tuesday, July 5, 2011 - Governor Deval Patrick today joined Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, Attorney General Martha Coakley and Mayor James L. Milinazzo in celebrating the ribbon-cutting for the mixed-use development Appleton Mills, as part of the Hamilton Canal District plan. To date the project has created 130 affordable housing units and generated approximately 575 jobs for the City of Lowell. "We are committed to making investments in projects like these that bring economic opportunities to residents and businesses in Lowell," said Governor Patrick. "The Appleton Mills Project is an outstanding example of job creation, affordable housing and revitalized infrastructure in our Gateway Cities."

"The development will bring vibrancy to the downtown Lowell district and provide an attractive place to live and work for residents," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "Investing in affordable, mixed-use developments in our Gateway Cities is important to both the residential and business opportunities in our communities."

Governor Patrick has supported the economic revitalization of downtown Lowell through a \$16.45 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program Grant for the Hamilton Canal District as well as \$3.8 million from the Department of Housing and Community Development to advance the Appleton Mills project. The affordable housing units are a welcome economic boost for downtown Lowell and, with planned commercial and retail space, will attract residents to the district.

"Today's opening of the Appleton Mills lofts represents the first major piece of the new Hamilton Canal District which is creating nearly two million square feet for commercial, retail and housing space as well as hundreds of new jobs right in heart of Lowell," said Congresswoman Tsongas. "This transformational project is a testament to what can be accomplished when federal, state and local partners work cooperatively."

"These projects mark the best kind of development - growth that creates jobs, housing and other benefits while at the same time making our communities cleaner and safer," said Attorney General Coakley. "Once an abandoned and dilapidated property, the new Appleton Mills demonstrates why the successful redevelopment of brownfields is such an important part of our economic recovery."

"The mixed-use Hamilton Canal District builds upon the successes of the past thirty years as Lowell continues its revitalization as a first class mid-sized city; and the Appleton Mill project is the first step in making our vision of the District a reality," said Lowell City Manger Bernard Lynch. "Soon we'll have over

a hundred new artist residents contributing to the energy and vitality of the City. Like all projects in Lowell it couldn't have happened without a confident vision of what could be achieved and a collaboration with our partners in the private sector and with the state and federal government especially Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and the Patrick-Murray Administration who truly understand what it takes to make these important projects a reality."

When completed, the Hamilton Canal District Plan will boast 1.9 million square feet of mixed-use, transit-oriented development. The total development will create 725 units of housing, 555,000 square feet of retail space and up to 425,000 of commercial/office space. The \$64 million project is collaboratively supported by private developer Trinity Financial, the Commonwealth's Growth District Grant initiative, \$43 million in private equity provided by MetLife, a permanent mortgage of \$1.6 million from Mass Housing and a \$34 million construction loan from Mass Housing. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) supported Appleton Mills with approximately \$3.8 million in subsidy funds as well as federal and state low-income housing tax credits, which generated over \$30 million in equity for the project.

Today's celebration of Appleton Mills' opening highlights the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to investing in Gateway Cities like Lowell.

The Administration has implemented the following strategy to make all of the state's 24 Gateway communities centers of economic activity:

- Make long-term investments in education, innovation and infrastructure, with special attention to the growth potential of each city's entrepreneurs and small businesses;
- Leverage the potential of each community's distinctive assets, including their educational, medical and cultural institutions, and their historic buildings and neighborhoods;
- and Connect Gateway Cities to other local, state and global centers of innovation and economic activity.

In keeping with this strategy, the Patrick-Murray Administration has made the following Gateway City investments:

- \$1,855,536,592 in Chapter 70 Education Funding and Unrestricted Local Aid in 2009
- Over \$1 billion in active construction contracts through MassDOT
- \$12,198,550 in Gateway City Parks grants for park projects in 22 cities
- \$97,724,534 since 2007 in public safety grants for police and fire departments and non- profit agencies to maintain staffing levels and combat violence
- \$17,484,882 since 2007 in Workforce Training Grants

GOVERNOR PATRICK SIGNS MUNICIPAL HEALTH CARE REFORM TO SAVE MILLIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES

[Read the signed legislation.](#)

BOSTON - Tuesday, July 12, 2011 -- Governor Deval Patrick today signed municipal health care reform legislation that will provide significant and immediate savings to cities and towns, while preserving a meaningful role for organized labor in the process. This bill, "An Act Relative To Municipal Health Insurance," builds on the Patrick-Murray Administration's success in reducing rising health care costs for thousands of small businesses and working families across the Commonwealth, and is an important step in the Administration's efforts to bring health care system costs down.

"This is the biggest step yet in our efforts to deliver millions of dollars in savings to cities and towns, while assuring a meaningful role for labor in determining how to achieve those savings," said Governor Patrick. "This has been no small accomplishment, and it came with cooperation from leaders in the Legislature, labor, and municipalities all working together to get a positive result."

"This bill is a testament of our Administration's long-standing commitment to providing cities and towns with cost-saving measures," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "By partnering with the state Legislature, labor, and municipal managers, this reform offers municipalities another tool in the toolbox that will help to support the continued delivery of critical local services."

"Everyone came together and made this work," said Senate President Therese Murray. "Municipal, business and labor leaders, along with the Legislature and the Administration, agreed that these improvements will further protect retirees from cost increases and support an ongoing voice for employees while maintaining the reform's primary goal of creating significant savings for cities and towns."

"In these difficult fiscal times we have to give cities and towns the tools they need to manage tight budgets," said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. "This major reform will provide municipalities with a process to effectively manage rising municipal healthcare costs. And, by spending less on the healthcare costs of municipal employees, our cities and towns will be able to fund vital municipal services like education and public safety."

The municipal health care reform law will help communities collectively save more than \$100 million, while protecting health care quality for retirees and municipal employees. Cities and towns will have the choice to implement health care plan design changes under a newly-created process. The process will include expedited collective bargaining to negotiate a new health insurance benefit plan for employees. If the municipalities and unions fail to reach agreement within 30 days, the case is submitted to a three-person review panel, with one member appointed by unions, one by the municipality and one selected by the Secretary of Administration and Finance.

Municipalities will be able to use this process to adopt co-pays and deductibles, along with other cost-sharing health care plan design features that are not higher than those offered by the Group Insurance Commission (GIC). Alternatively, municipalities can transfer employees to the GIC if it would result in at least 5 percent more savings than could be achieved through a local health care plan. The law also allows a portion of savings to be returned to employees and includes protections for retirees and employees with existing health concerns, who are likely to incur higher co-pay and deductible costs.

"This reform will deliver material savings in health care costs to cities and towns at a time when they need it most," said Jay Gonzalez, Secretary of Administration and Finance. "This means that many teachers, firefighters, and other public employees will be able to keep their jobs and continue to deliver the critical local services taxpayers expect and deserve."

"Governor Patrick's municipal health insurance proposal offers cities and towns financial relief, while ensuring labor a meaningful seat at the negotiating table," said Joanne Goldstein, Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. "Unions representing municipal workers and municipalities will have the opportunity to collaborate on how to continue to provide quality health care for workers while ensuring meaningful savings for cities and towns."

"I am proud to have been able to work with Governor Patrick, Speaker DeLeo, and Senate President Murray to ensure meaningful reforms for our cities and towns while providing a seat for our labor leaders at the table. These reforms will help keep more teachers in classrooms, more police officers and firefighters on our streets, and will allow us to continue to provide services that keep our neighborhoods clean and vibrant," said Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

"The landmark municipal health insurance reform in the FY 2012 budget was achieved through the hard work and good will of Governor Patrick, Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Murray and many legislators, municipal officials and labor leaders who have come together to deliver a reform package that will

preserve essential local government jobs and services, while protecting taxpayers and employee alike," said Joshua Ostroff, President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. "As a culmination of years of effort and debate, this is a proud moment for Massachusetts and its cities and towns and will be a cornerstone of our economic recovery."

"This reform is one of the most significant measures to assist cities and towns in the past 30 years," said Geoff Beckwith, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. "Thanks to the Governor, Speaker, and Senate President, it is strong, fair, and balanced for all stakeholders. This is a good day for communities, taxpayers, and municipal employees."

The Public Employees' Coalition on Municipal Health Insurance released a statement recognizing the historic shared sacrifice pledged by a coalition of public employee unions and retirees. The statement notes that as a result of this legislation, Massachusetts cities and towns will save an estimated \$100 million in health insurance costs while preserving a voice for labor. The coalition believes that now that this distraction has been eliminated from the public debate, the focus can shift to the real crisis, which is the ever-spiraling cost of health care for all residents of Massachusetts. The coalition stands ready to work with the Legislature and governor to address this critical issue.

"The rising costs of municipal health insurance threaten the viability of every local government in the Commonwealth," said Scott W. Lang, Mayor of New Bedford and President of the Massachusetts Mayor's Association. "The Governor, Speaker and Senate President's bold leadership has created an equitable law that will help hold down the cost of health insurance for taxpayers while providing municipal employees and their families with the finest health care plans. This will stabilize municipal services throughout the state which will lead to new growth."

"The action by Governor Patrick and the Legislature provides meaningful reform to the municipal health insurance process and will ensure that local taxpayer dollars go more towards direct services instead of getting eaten up by employee overhead costs," said Jay Ash, City Manager for the city of Chelsea. "In this municipal finance environment, delivering cities and towns the potential for \$100 million in savings will surely save police jobs, keep libraries open and reduce the pressure to raise class sizes, all in the name of balancing the budget."

07.12.11 Municipal Health Care Reform Bill Signing

Governor Deval L. Patrick

Municipal Health Care Reform Bill Signing

Governor's Council Chambers, State House

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

[Click here for more information](#)

Good Morning everyone, thank you all for coming. It is a great day.

We have the opportunity today to sign a bill which balances two very important interests to all of us. First of all, the need to deliver meaningful savings to cities and towns to enable them to maintain services for local residents and at the same time to preserve a meaningful role for labor and determining how those savings will be achieved.

It is fashionable in politics today, I have noticed to bully people; you say more about how you are going to stick it to somebody and that is what seems to attract all the attention, all the media attention, all the excitement about being reformed, so called.

What we have shown here in the Commonwealth time and time again is that we can make change meaningful, lasting, far-reaching change with all of the interest at the table and we have shown it over and over again. We have had labor at the table first round or two of pension reform. We have had teachers work with us on education reform. We have had labor at the table on transportation reform.

And in that same spirit today, we are delivering real savings to cities and towns through a municipal health reform.

I want to thank all of those who have shown the political courage to come to the table and stay at the table to move this bill, the Speaker and the Senate President, all the members of the House and Senate, the mayors and the municipal leaders who have participated from the outside, labor leaders who have come to the table, stayed at the table even at times when they knew the public was saying take it all and take it now.

They understood from the beginning that they needed to be a part of this reform. It is an example, I believe, of what distinguishes our brand and approach to politics in this Commonwealth and I am proud of it. I am proud to stand with all of those who have helped bring this day to bear.

GOVERNOR PATRICK CELEBRATES TEMPLE LANDING RIBBON CUTTING IN NEW BEDFORD

Project created 173 units of affordable housing, more than 200 jobs for New Bedford

NEW BEDFORD – Friday, October 28, 2011 -- Governor Deval Patrick today joined state and local elected officials in New Bedford to celebrate the grand opening of the Temple Landing housing development. Thanks to the support of more than \$10 million from President Obama's Recovery Act and \$1 million from the Patrick-Murray Administration, the project has renovated and created 173 units of affordable housing and more than 200 jobs for New Bedford.

"Investing in affordable housing is critical to growing the Massachusetts economy and strengthening our communities," said Governor Patrick. "This project is the result of an excellent public-private partnership that transformed this property into a safe, attractive and affordable housing location that will be a boon to the region."

The project received \$10.4 million in funding from President Obama's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Exchange program, as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, and \$1 million from Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Capital Improvement and Preservation Fund.

"Temple Landing is an example of an investment in affordable housing that has successfully created jobs and will spur additional community and economic development in a Gateway City," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, chair of the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness. "We thank our partners in local, state and federal government as well as the private sector for working together to see this project through fruition."

"A vibrant neighborhood has been reestablished in New Bedford's West End. This will positively impact generations to come," said Mayor Scott W. Lang.

"Neighborhoods are the fabric that bind people of all backgrounds together," said Senator Mark Montigny. "The funding that was secured for this project will continue to revitalize the community and bolster growth in the City of New Bedford. When government invests in the empowerment of people not only do individual lives and communities improve, but there is a multiplier effect, that many others will benefit from."

"Among the great achievements of this project, is the reconnection of the roads and sidewalks between the former United Front development and the surrounding neighborhoods," said Representative Antonio Cabral. "We are one city and today neighbors isolated from each other have been reconnected. That's a great day for New Bedford."

"I think it's apparent to anyone who's driven down Kempton Street that this is a new day," said Representative Christopher Markey. "United Front is a thing of the past. What you see now is the culmination of the efforts of a lot of dedicated, thoughtful people that care about New Bedford. It is possible to have safe affordable housing that's not disconnected from the larger community, and I think Temple Landing is a prime example of that."

After acquiring the property in 2008, the Preservation of Affordable Housing established a public-private partnership among the city of New Bedford, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), MassHousing, United Front Development Corporation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, JP Morgan Chase and Unum to see the project through.

The site of Temple Landing was formerly United Front Homes, a 1970's urban renewal project that in recent years suffered from inadequate capital and flaws in the initial design. The newly renovated property has transformed the site's functionality, safety and connection to the surrounding community.

Today's celebration at Temple Landing highlights the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to investing in Gateway Cities like New Bedford. The Administration has implemented the following strategy to make all of the state's 24 Gateway communities centers of economic activity:

- Provide long-term investments in education, innovation and infrastructure, with special attention to the growth potential of each city's entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Leverage the potential of each community's distinctive assets, including their educational, medical and cultural institutions and their historic buildings and neighborhoods.
- Connect Gateway Cities to other local, state and global centers of innovation and economic activity.

In keeping with this strategy, the Patrick-Murray Administration has made the following Gateway City investments: more than \$1 billion in active construction contracts through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; \$13.5 million in Gateway City Parks grants for projects in 24 cities; more than \$105 million in public safety grants for police and fire departments and non-profit agencies to maintain staffing levels and combat violence, and more than \$17 million in workforce training funding since 2007.

GOVERNOR PATRICK SIGNS PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION

Reforms will save Massachusetts \$5 billion, including \$2 billion for cities and



(Governor Patrick joins Treasurer Steven Grossman, Secretary Jay Gonzalez, Sen. Katherine Clark, Rep. Russell Holmes, Rep. John W. Scibak and others at a signing ceremony today. Photo credit: Eric Haynes/Governor's office)

BOSTON - Friday, November 18, 2011 – Governor Deval Patrick today signed comprehensive pension reform legislation, continuing the Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to end abuses and close loopholes to create a sustainable public pension system. The bill signed today, S. 2065, "An Act Providing For Pension Reform and Benefit Modernization", builds on legislation signed during the Governor's first term that eliminated the most egregious abuses in the public retirement system.

"We are committed to finding additional ways to eliminate costs in state government and end abuses within the system," said Governor Patrick. "I'm proud to sign this third phase of comprehensive pension

reform legislation that will improve the public's trust in government and ensure the pension system's economic sustainability for future generations.”

Coupled with the initial two phases of reform, this comprehensive package is expected to save taxpayers more than \$5 billion over 30 years, including an estimated \$2 billion for cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

“This next phase of pension reform compliments our Administration's ongoing focus to deliver savings, renewed trust, and improvements within the state pension system,” said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. “We thank the legislature for their continued partnership in supporting long-term sustainability for the retirement system.”

The legislation increases the retirement age for most state workers to more closely align the state with federal guidelines set for Social Security benefits and eliminates incentives to retire early. Additionally, the reforms allows retirees who married a person of the same sex within the a year following the legalization of same sex marriage the retirement option to provide a benefit to their spouse.

“The reforms we make today will ensure the public employee pension system is fair, credible, and fiscally sustainable for future state employees,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez. “With these reforms we are preserving the financial structure of Massachusetts' retirement system and restoring public confidence in state government.”

The legislation will continue to eliminate abuses in the system with new reforms limiting the right to receive a pension while receiving compensation for service as an elected official, requiring elected officials to repay the full value of the pension they have received in order to rejoin the system. This is consistent with guidelines for all other state employees and allows retirement boards to require retirees convicted of a criminal offense related to their employment to repay benefits since the date of their offense, not just the date of their conviction.

“After eliminating some of the biggest loopholes two years ago, we were committed to taking on the more complicated issues in our pension system,” said Senate President Therese Murray. “These latest reforms will modernize our system, reduce unfunded liabilities and save taxpayers money. Senator Clark and Representative Scibak worked very hard with all interests to produce a balanced bill with the changes we needed for long-term sustainability.”

“With the Governor's signature on the latest pension reform legislation, we take another step to saving taxpayers' money and securing the financial future of our Commonwealth,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. “Not only are we managing our way through the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, we are leading the nation in taking measures to preserve the economic wellbeing of our state for future generations.”

“This legislation modernizes our state pension system and closes important loopholes while maintaining a strong benefit for our public employees,” said Senator Katherine Clark, Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service. “These reforms will ensure that we continue to have a strong and fiscally sound system for our future employees.”

“Earlier this year, Speaker DeLeo and Governor Patrick made a commitment to enact pension reform and ensure the viability of our existing system,” said Representative John W. Scibak, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service. “While this bill will save over six billion dollars over the next 30 years, it provides additional relief for current retirees, protects the retirement savings of existing employees, closes loopholes to prevent further fraud, and ensures that future employees will be also able to rely on our state pension system. I applaud the Speaker, the Governor and Senate President for their leadership on this issue, as well as my fellow conferees for addressing this issue head-on, and to my colleagues in the House for their affirmative vote.”

“These reforms update the nation’s oldest state pension system to the 21st century,” said Alicia H. Munnell, Director of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. “They will allow Massachusetts to maintain the defined benefit plan for years to come, which is the most secure way to provide meaningful retirement income for its public sector workers.”

The third phase of pension reform includes:

1. **Defined benefit system:** The legislation protects the existing defined benefit system by making it more equitable and sustainable.
2. **Increased retirement age:** The legislation incorporates the Governor’s proposal to increase the retirement age for virtually all state workers, reflecting the fact that people are living and working longer than when the retirement ages were set in state law in the 1950s and 1960s. This change will more closely align the state system with the retirement ages already set by the federal government for Social Security benefits.
3. **Eliminates early retirement subsidies:** The current system provides an incentive to retire before reaching maximum retirement age, as the increase in benefits resulting from additional years of service is less than the benefit of additional years of pension. The legislation eliminates this incentive.
4. **Savings.** These reform measures will generate over \$5 billion in pension funding savings over 30 years, including an estimated \$2 billion for cities and towns. These savings will help address the state’s long-term liabilities and reduce the length of the state’s pension funding schedule by three to five years.
5. **Anti-spiking.** The legislation introduces an anti-spiking rule, limiting the annual increase in pensionable earnings to no more than 10 percent of the average pensionable earnings over the last two years. This provision would not apply to bona fide promotions or job changes. The legislation also bases pension calculations on the average salary over five years instead of three.
6. **Pro-rates benefits based on employment history.** The retirement allowance for new employees who serve in more than one group will be pro-rated, taking into account the number of years of service in each group. Pro-rating prevents windfalls for people who have only a short period of service in a group with higher benefit levels at the end of their career.
7. **COLA.** The legislation includes a COLA provision which increases the base salary on which retirees receive a cost-of-living increase from \$12,000 to \$13,000.

8. **Double Dipping.** The legislation eliminates the right to receive a pension while receiving compensation for service as an elected official in the same position unless one year has passed from the end of the previous elected term.

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION IN COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANTS FOR 138 COMMUNITIES ACROSS MASSACHUSETTS

Funds 28 projects across the Commonwealth for regionalization, efficiency initiatives

BOSTON – Friday, March 16, 2012 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray and Secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez today announced the 28 recipients of the \$4 million Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant program. The CIC grant program's focus is to incentivize and support innovative regionalization and other cost saving initiatives that will help local governments increase cost-efficiency while maintaining service delivery.

"We remain committed to providing key resources and tools to support our cities and towns in managing through this fiscal crisis and beyond," said Governor Deval Patrick. "Through regionalization of services, we are creating innovative opportunities for neighboring communities to build partnerships to deliver local services more effectively and efficiently."

"Our Administration continues to work closely with municipal managers and local planners to deliver the resources they need to develop cost-saving measures and reforms for critical local services like public health, education and public safety," said Lieutenant Governor Murray, who previously chaired the Regionalization Advisory Commission and currently chairs the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet. "Each of the Community Innovation Challenge award recipients have proposed innovative opportunities to collaborate, regionalize and help maintain local services that will be delivered more effectively and efficiently to taxpayers in 138 communities across the Commonwealth."

An additional \$1 million in funding for regionalization projects in Norfolk County was provided in the 2012 supplemental budget signed by Governor Patrick in February 2012. These projects will support programs including regional animal control, regional veterans' services, regional municipal payroll services, regional municipal engineering services and the additional hiring of a regional services coordinator for Norfolk County communities.

"Our new fiscal reality demands that government change the way it does business to stretch every taxpayer dollar as far as possible," said Secretary Gonzalez. "The Patrick-Murray Administration has been driving change at the state level, and the Community Innovation Challenge Grant program is just

one of the many ways we are working to give cities and towns the tools they need to drive change in local government too.”

Regionalization allows for neighboring communities to build partnerships to engage in shared services, inter-municipal agreements, municipal collaborations, consolidations, mutual aid and regional planning to reduce the risk of duplicating efforts and spending limited taxpayer dollars unnecessarily.

The 28 project recipients span Massachusetts from the town of Mt. Washington to the city of Boston and include five Gateway Cities, including Barnstable, Lowell, Worcester, Taunton and Springfield.

The Patrick-Murray Administration has had recent success with implementing regionalization grants. Since 2008, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security has awarded over \$35 million in development grant funds involving 36 projects and about 248 communities through the Public Safety Answering Point & Regional Emergency Communication Center Support and Incentive Grant. Additionally, the Public Health District Planning Grant, through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, has awarded federal planning grants to 11 groups of municipalities, representing a total of 113 communities serving 1.8 million residents, interested in developing regional public health districts.

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget, Governor Patrick proposed the development of the CIC grant program to encourage and incentivize regionalization and other innovative efficiency initiatives. The CIC grant program was supported by the Legislature, providing \$4 million for regionalization and other initiatives that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of local services. Governor Patrick proposed an additional \$7 million in funding for the CIC grant program in his FY13 budget proposal.

“This is great news for Cape Cod,” said Senate President Therese Murray. “This funding will allow the Cape to develop a shared system that will automate and streamline application services and result in cost savings for the towns on Cape Cod. The Cape Cod Commission is committed to the economic, environmental and preservation needs of the Cape Cod region and it’s important that we continue to develop innovative plans and solutions to ensure that our towns are running effectively and efficiently.”

“I commend the Patrick-Murray Administration for their efforts in securing funds for the Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. “As we continue to emerge from these tough economic times, it remains important that legislators continue to find ways to make government more effective and efficient.”

2012 Community Innovation Challenge Grant Recipients:

Education Projects

Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District, Town of Freetown and Lakeville

\$173,900 for Special Education Cost Savings through Full Regionalization

Manchester-Essex Regional School District

\$109,000 for Regionalizing Special Education Services for Children with Dyslexia

Hampshire Regional School District, Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School District, Towns of Southamptn, Westhampton and Williamsburg

\$78,000 for Regionalized Technology Support Services

Southwick-Tolland Regional School District, Town of Granville

\$44,000 for Town of Granville to join Southwick-Tolland Regional School District

Monomoy Regional School District, Towns of Chatham and Harwich

\$204,000 for Monomoy Regional School District Transition

Towns of Cheshire and Lanesborough, Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional District

\$23,975 for Vocational/Technical School District Expansion

Environment/Public Works Projects

Towns of Spencer, Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Oxford, Paxton, Shrewsbury, Sturbridge, Webster and West Boylston

\$310,000 for Regionalizing Municipal Stormwater Management in Central Massachusetts through Collaborative Education, Data Management, and Policy Development

Towns of Brookfield, Brimfield, East Brookfield, Warren and West Brookfield

\$58,000 for Regional Equipment Sharing Cooperative (RHE COOP)

Towns of Harwich and Chatham

\$25,500 for Shared Municipal Portable Closed Loop Pressure Wash Water Recycle System for Commercial Fishing Fleets in Harwich and Chatham

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

\$132,455 for Pioneer Valley Conservation Commissions Compact

Civic Engagement Projects

Boston

\$400,000 for Commonwealth Citizens Connect App Development for Local Governments across Massachusetts

Online Municipal Services and Systems Projects

Cape Cod Commission, Towns of Barnstable, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Nantucket, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet and Yarmouth

\$500,000 for Digital Regionalization: Permit, License, and Inspection Automation

Town of Royalston and other municipalities in the Community Software Consortium

\$290,710 for Cloud-based Open Source Integrated Municipal Financial Management

Towns of Becket, Dalton, Lee, Monterey, Lenox, Richmond and Sheffield, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

\$110,835 for Berkshire On-line Municipal Building Permits

Performance Management Projects

Amesbury, Lowell, Somerville, Woburn and Worcester

\$373,400 for Massachusetts Statewide Performance Management Program

Public Health Projects

Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Towns of Buckland, Charlemont, Deerfield, Gill, Hawley, Monroe, Granby and Plainfield

\$119,375 for Franklin County Cooperative Public Health Service

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Towns of Adams, Alford, Becket, Clarksburg, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hancock, Lanesborough, Mt. Washington, New Marlborough, North Adams, Peru, Richmond, Sandisfield, Savoy, Sheffield, Washington, West Stockbridge, Williamstown and Windsor

\$40,000 for Berkshire Health Alliance Public Health Nurse Program

Towns of Ashland, Medway, and Hopkinton

\$15,000 for Provision of Electronic Food Inspections

Public Safety Projects

Towns of Ashland and Hopkinton

\$175,000 for Ashland-Hopkinton Fire Services Collaborative

Northampton, Springfield, Greenfield, Chesterfield, Easthampton, Granby, Montague, Turners Falls and Ware.

\$47,000 for NoFIRES - Northwestern Juvenile Fire Intervention Response, Education, and Safety Partnership

Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Greenfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Heath, Montague, Warwick and Whatley

\$19,000 for Franklin County Regional Dog Officer Control and Kennel

Norfolk County

\$150,000 for Regional Animal Control Officer

Abington, Avon, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook and West Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District, South Shore Vocational Technical High School and Whitman-Hanson Regional School District

\$199,690 for Southeast Technology Network

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, Taunton, Seekonk, North Attleboro,

Fairhaven, Easton, Swansea, Somerset, Freetown, Dighton, Westport and Wareham

\$76,800 for Southeast Fire Department Electronic Records and Permitting Collaborative

General Government Projects

Towns of East Bridgewater

\$73,633 for Town-School Facilities Management and IT Consolidation

Norfolk County, Plainville and Walpole

\$200,000 for Regional Payroll Program

Facilities Management Projects

Town of Hanover

\$46,000 for Centralized Facility and Infrastructure Asset Maintenance System

Town of Middleborough

\$28,210.60 for Consolidation of IT and Maintenance Services

Other Projects

Towns of Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard and Stow, Clock Tower Place Office Park in Maynard

\$184,575 for Shared Transportation Resources among Five Municipalities and One Business in the Acton Region

Town of Andover

\$29,967 for Libraries as Part of Emergency Response Teams

Norfolk County

\$244,000 for Regionalized Veterans' Services

\$89,000 for Regional Services Coordinator

\$237,000 for Regional Municipal Engineering Services

03.28.12 Massachusetts Municipal Association Mayor's Meeting

Governor Deval L. Patrick

MMA Mayor's Meeting – As Delivered

Newton North High School, Newton

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Good morning. Thank you for inviting me. And thanks for your partnership.

Lieutenant Governor Murray and I travel across the Commonwealth often and we've joined you to celebrate some great progress over the years – groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings, educational advances, innovation celebrations, clean energy investments – we have a lot to be proud of.

Working together we developed new tools to help your communities grow stronger.

We eliminated the tax exemption on telephone poles and wires, generating \$26 million for your communities.

We worked together on the local option to raise local meals and hotel taxes, which has generated \$175 million alone this fiscal year.

We worked together on pension reform that will generate an estimated \$2 billion in savings for cities and towns over the next 30 years.

We're working together on strategies to end urban violence and create peaceful, safe communities, and to invest in local roads, rails, bridges, broadband expansion and public and affordable housing to build and rebuild our infrastructure.

And working together, we supported our public schools, through chapter 70 funding, at the highest levels in the history of the Commonwealth.

Because we have worked together our Commonwealth is strong and getting stronger.

But we have so much more to do and we have great opportunities to do it in many ways because of the fiscal stresses that we are all under. The Commonwealth's budget remains challenging for the remainder of this year and for next year as well. Revenue has continues to recover slowly as more people are getting back to work, which is great news on many, many levels. But we still have unprecedented needs to meet in health care, in emergency housing and other essential services because of the number of people whose lives have been turned upside down by this global economic collapse. I know all of you are feeling this squeeze yourselves in your own cities as well. But it does means that we have to think differently about how we invest in our communities and ask ourselves how we can work together to do business better and smarter.

With the legislature's help, we will continue to make a series of investments in public education and in infrastructure. And, we will together find new ways to save and streamline government services at the municipal level.

First in education. Our fiscal year 2013 budget proposal is for \$4.1 billion for K-12 education, the highest amount, again, in the history of the Commonwealth. With this investment, every school district will reach the so-called "foundation level" and no school district will see a drop in state support next year. And we propose to make an increased level of investment - \$10 million in particular – in programs dedicated to closing the Achievement Gap in our Gateway Cities. We owe it to ourselves to do everything we can to support our next generation.

We will continue to invest in local infrastructure as well. Once again, we propose to commit \$200 million in chapter 90 funds for local roads and bridges as part of a \$3.3 billion annual capital investment program for the coming fiscal year – that’s double the level the state invested before we took office. As we look to the future, we can also expect additional local aid commitments from the revenues of expanded gaming.

As we focus on investments, we also focus on savings: finding new ways to save you money and new innovations to streamline municipal government. And I hope we’ll offer some ideas in that respect during the conversation.

We’ve had some tremendous success in lowering the cost of health care – a municipal budget buster – in many, many communities. In the first year of municipal health reform, over 100 municipalities and regional school districts have taken steps to adopt the new reform law or use traditional bargaining to achieve savings on employee health. Since the law was signed, 30 communities have reached agreement through the new reform process. We are on track to far surpass the estimated savings of \$100 million in the first year.

We’re looking to you for other savings ideas. Last week, we announced \$4 million in Community Innovation Challenge grants to incentivize and support innovative regionalization and other cost saving initiatives for 138 communities focused on everything from education to public safety, civic engagement to public works.

The communities of Marlborough and North Adams, for example, have joined with 19 other towns to establish a regional public health nurse program. Taunton has joined with southeastern communities to develop an electronic records and permitting system for fire safety permits. And Amesbury, Lowell and Woburn are

working together with two other cities to develop accountability and performance measures to stand as a model for communities all across the Commonwealth. I have proposed an additional \$7 million for CIC programs in the coming budget I hope that I may count on your support for that.

We have been working on a whole host of tools to demonstrate the seriousness of the partnership that we in state government must have with cities and towns. Let's continue to build on that in the 2 ½ fruitful years I have left in this job. It's great to be with you all and I look forward to the conversation.

Lieutenant Governor Murray, City and Business Leaders Celebrate Milestone For CitySquare Development in Worcester

Lieutenant Governor Murray leads panel discussion with business developers and local officials; Unveils view of new Front Street corridor

WORCESTER – Thursday, May 24, 2012 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today joined business developers and state, local and federal officials to mark continued progress of the CitySquare development in Worcester. As one of the Commonwealth's 24 Gateway Cities and the second largest city in Massachusetts and New England, the Patrick-Murray Administration continues to work in partnership with government, academia and industry leaders to promote long-term economic growth in Worcester.

"Investing in our Gateway Cities is part of our growth strategy that will create jobs and continue the Commonwealth's strong economic recovery," said Governor Deval Patrick. "This is a proud day for the city of Worcester and I look forward to seeing the CitySquare development truly revitalize Worcester's downtown growth district."

"The CitySquare development serves as an anchor for revitalization in Worcester's downtown district," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "Today, we celebrate a break-through moment, a turning point that will help reconnect the city and move another step closer to redeveloping the city's downtown area and promoting future economic growth for Worcester and the region."

The CitySquare development is a multi-year, multi-phase project that will replace a failed urban-renewal era mall on 21 acres in downtown Worcester. The CitySquare vision includes more than 2.2 million square feet of mixed-use space, reestablishing pedestrian friendly streetscapes and creating vibrant new housing, retail and varied commercial options, all within walking distance of the inter-modal transit hub at Worcester's Union Station.

Moving one step closer to this vision, the unveiling provided a first look of the future Front Street extension, which will link Union Station and Washington Square in the heart of Worcester's downtown district. The first phase of the CitySquare development will include anchor tenant Unum Group, which will lease a 214,000 square foot building built by the developer. As part of this phase, The Hanover is financing the construction of the Unum building and the redevelopment of an adjacent parking garage. Unum will invest approximately \$100 million in private funding for the new office building with plans to retain 700 jobs and create 50 new jobs. In April 2011, St. Vincent Hospital also announced plans to build up to a 66,000 square foot medical office building to house a new comprehensive cancer center at CitySquare. The new center, a \$21 million investment, is also currently under construction.

The idea that the old mall could not be revived, but needed to be torn down, was first proposed in 1999 by Dan Benoit, a local architect and former staff in the city's planning department. Lieutenant Governor

Murray, when he was Mayor Worcester, embraced Benoit's idea. After researching the national trend of failed urban malls, Murray issued a landmark white paper in 2003 that supported the case for re-development and launched the initiative that has led to the CitySquare development. As part of today's ceremony, Mayor Joseph Petty presented a key to the City of Worcester to Dan Benoit.

"In the beginning, my concept for the mall was not always met with open arms," said Benoit. "It wasn't until Tim Murray endorsed my plan that things gained some traction."

Lieutenant Governor Murray also led a panel discussion today featuring the original group of thought leaders who conceptualized the CitySquare project. The project's public and private partners, including Congressman James McGovern, Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty, City Manager Michael O'Brien, President and Chief Executive Officer Frederick Eppinger of The Hanover Insurance Group, President and CEO Kevin McCarthy of Unum US and local officials, lauded the progress of the project that will ultimately lead to a mixed-used development project within Worcester's Growth District.

"This landmark economic development project is a great example of what public/private partnerships can accomplish," said U.S. Congressman James McGovern. "A successful downtown Worcester is good for the whole Commonwealth. I want to commend everyone involved for making this day a reality."

"The breakthrough of Front Street signifies a remarkable achievement in the development of Worcester as we connect the east and west sides of the city," said Mayor Joseph Petty. "This event, however, is only the beginning of the growth and development we will continue to see in Worcester."

"The progress made at CitySquare reflects a great collaborative effort of people and organizations that believe in the future of Worcester, and who understand the important role the city plays in the vitality of the region overall," said Frederick H. Eppinger, Chief Executive Officer at The Hanover. "We are very pleased with all that has been accomplished and believe we will, thoughtfully and over time, build a quality project that serves as a catalyst for prudent economic development."

"Unum is very pleased to be a part of this exciting new development in Worcester and looks forward to moving into City Square in early 2013," said Kevin McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer at Unum. "The reopening of Front Street enhances the entire project and will help bring more vitality to all of Main Street."

"I am delighted to play a small role in the success of the City Square project and am committed to the economic vitality of the City of Worcester," said Erik Wexler, President and CEO of St. Vincent Hospital.

Following the Patrick-Murray Administration's designation of downtown Worcester as a Growth District in 2008, the Administration has awarded \$41.25 million in grants and financing to support public infrastructure improvements. CitySquare's first phase is underway and expected to be completed by the end of 2012. This work includes the demolition of the former mall, construction of Unum's new office building, construction of St. Vincent Hospital's new medical building, demolition of a portion of the existing parking garage, development of new public streets, streetscape, and other site work. The redeveloped garage will accommodate approximately 860 vehicles and be used by Unum and its employees. The first phase of this development will also include the creation of a public roadway, including today's unveiled

future Front Street Corridor, and other infrastructure work that will support future growth and development in and around the site.

The Patrick-Murray Administration has initiated strategies to promote economic activity as well as significant investments in the Commonwealth's 24 Gateway Cities, including Worcester. Among some of the strategies implemented in the Gateway Communities include:

- Making long-term investments in education, innovation and infrastructure, with special attention to the growth potential of each city's entrepreneurs and small businesses;
- Leveraging the potential of each community's distinctive assets, including their educational, medical and cultural institutions, and their historic buildings and neighborhoods; and
- Connecting Gateway Cities to other local, state and global centers of innovation and economic activity.

In keeping with this strategy, the Patrick-Murray Administration has made the following Gateway City investments:

- Approximately \$4 billion in Chapter 70 Education Aid in Fiscal Year 2012
- Over \$1 billion in active construction contracts through MassDOT
- Over \$20,000,000 in Gateway City Parks grants funding park projects in 24 cities
- Approximately \$109.2 million from 2007-present in public safety grants to police and fire departments and non-profit agencies to retain staffing levels and combat violence
- Approximately 500,000 clients serviced at 16 Career Centers in Fiscal Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2011
- Approximately \$17.5 million in Work Force Training Grants from 2007 through February of 2011
- \$1.14 billion in bonds financed, grants and loans by MassDevelopment

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY AWARDS \$300,000 GATEWAY CITIES PARK GRANT TO NEW BEDFORD

NEW BEDFORD --Tuesday, July 31, 2012 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today announced a \$300,000 grant to build a park at New Bedford's Custom House Square. The grant was awarded through the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Gateway Cities Park Program.

Since 2009, the Patrick-Murray Administration has invested more than \$19 million in creating parks and open space in the state's 24 Gateway Cities.

"Public parks are an essential part of the health and economic well-being of communities, including our Gateway Cities," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "This grant continues our Administration's commitment to the protection and creation of urban parks that will benefit residents in New Bedford and communities across the Commonwealth."

The grant will allow for the design and construction of an open space in downtown New Bedford. Grant funds will be used to purchase materials including brick pavers, trees, benches and bike racks. Construction will be done by New Bedford municipal employees.

The park design is expected to incorporate sustainable, ecologically and environmentally sensitive materials and processes. Several public hearings will be held this fall to garner input from the community.

Custom House Square is the former site of a municipal parking garage and includes 54th Regiment Volunteer Infantry Plaza, the former location of the Tobey and Coggeshall Building where in 1863, 46 men of color were recruited to the 54th Regiment, and the United States Custom House, which dates back to 1836.

The square is a popular site for events and festivals, including the annual WHALE Wine Festival, Summerfest, and various events on AHA! and City Celebrates evenings.

"This project will provide a much needed green space that has been missing from the downtown core," said Environment Undersecretary Philip Griffiths. "Custom House Square has tremendous potential to become a public space for family recreation, farmers markets and other public events."

"Today's announcement is a testament to the commitment that the Patrick-Murray Administration has made to New Bedford," said Mayor Jonathan Mitchell. "The Administration's support will allow us to turn an underutilized parking lot into a welcoming green space that will become a magnet for office workers and tourists alike. What's most exciting about the project is that will be able to preserve the viability of our seasonal festivals on this site, address the parking needs of local businesses, and give our historic downtown what it has always been missing--a central gathering space we can be proud of."

Gateway City Parks is a flexible program, providing municipal officials with a menu of funding options for all phases of park development. 24 designated Gateway Cities in Massachusetts are eligible for the program, which targets communities with population greater than 35,000 and median household incomes and educational attainment levels below the state average.

Funding can be used for activities and costs such as brownfield assessment and cleanup, park planning and recreational needs assessments – including the development of Open Space and Recreation Plans, activities that were not eligible for state parks funding prior to the Patrick-Murray Administration's creation of the Gateway City Parks program. Communities can also use the grants for acquisition, design and construction of parks, greenways, and other recreational facilities.

Earlier this year, the Gateway City Parks Program funded \$6 million worth of park construction projects, providing jobs and enhancing economic vitality and quality of life in communities including Chicopee, Fitchburg, Lawrence and Taunton.

In addition to the Custom House Square project in New Bedford, the up-coming construction season will see parks built in Everett, Haverhill, Holyoke, Leominster and Malden.

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES GROUNDBREAKING OF VOKE LOFTS

Project creates 100 local construction jobs, 84 mixed-income units

WORCESTER – Wednesday, August 22, 2012 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today joined Congressman James McGovern and other state and local officials to celebrate the groundbreaking of Voke Lofts in Worcester. The redevelopment of a historic vocational school building, supported by the Patrick-Murray Administration with \$7 million in affordable housing resources, will create 84 units of mixed-income housing for families and create 100 local construction jobs.

“Voke Lofts is an exciting project that will create jobs and affordable housing opportunities for hard working families in Worcester,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray. “We are breaking ground today on a major investment for the city and region as a result of effective collaboration with the private sector and support across all levels of government to deliver critical resources to advance this project. I thank Congressman McGovern and the legislative delegation for their support of this project.”

“This project will play a vital role in the transformation of Gateway Park from brownfields and a rundown school facility to a vibrant mixed-use community in the center of Worcester,” said Congressman Jim McGovern. “Gateway Park is a shining example of the innovative results we get when all levels of government work closely with private developers, companies, and residents. Gateway Park – and CitySquare just blocks away – are the heart of the resurgence of downtown Worcester.”

The transit-oriented project being developed by WinnDevelopment is the sole housing component of Worcester's Gateway Park Master Plan. The construction is expected to create an estimated 100 local jobs for the area and will be LEED-certifiable. WinnDevelopment's two most recent projects have received platinum and gold LEED certifications.

“With the support of our state and local government partners, we are proud to be able to convert the historic Worcester Vocational Technical School into a LEED Certifiable, mixed-income residential building with an array of amenities to support a strong quality of life,” said Gilbert Winn, Managing Principal of WinnDevelopment. “This is the kind of project our company enjoys. It will not only provide residents with an affordable new housing option as part of the City of Worcester's Gateway Park Master Plan, it will also create new construction jobs to help contribute to the local economy.”

In addition to the affordable housing tax credits and subsidies, the project has received Massachusetts Historic Tax Credits, MassHousing funds as well as funding from the city. The general contractor is Dellbrook Construction and the architect is The Architectural Team, Inc. based in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

Since the beginning of their first term, Governor Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Murray have worked with the Legislature and federal government to direct close to \$700 million in federal and state tax credits and state housing program subsidies to projects that improve the state's affordable housing stock, create jobs and build stronger communities. These investments have generated more than 14,000 jobs and 10,000 housing units, 9,000 of which are affordable.

"The Worcester Voke Lofts will be a welcome addition to the city, and are another example of the continued revitalization of the North Main Street area," said Senator Harriette Chandler.

"This project represents an ideal re-use of historic land for public benefit. These mixed-income apartments signify an investment in Worcester's downtown neighborhood, breathing new life into the area as well as preserving one of Worcester's most historic assets," said Senator Michael Moore. "I commend WBDC and City officials for making this project a reality."

"This leads to the revitalization of the Lincoln Square Section of Worcester. It's great news for the restaurants and businesses in the area," said Representative John J. Binienda.

"Once again, the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Murray has scored a victory for Worcester," said Representative John Mahoney. "The city is moving forward, and these lofts will add to the livability of our community."

"I have been encouraged by the growth and development of this part of North Main Street over the past decade. Our great City continues to develop into the 21st century. It is important to come up with new ideas for old spaces, and I am delighted that the old Worcester Vocational High School will now find a new use as a mixed income loft building," said Representative James O'Day. "Quality and accessible housing such as the Worcester Voke Lofts are key to our cities success."

"I am excited to be a part of the continued transformation of the North Main Street area, which has recently seen WPI's expansion of its life science center and dormitories, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences renovations and expansion into the district, along with the continued growth of Gateway Park," said Mayor Joseph Petty. "I applaud WinnDevelopment for their commitment to this new project. This new housing project will continue to diversify the area and spearhead further growth and development."

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR NEXT ROUND OF COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANTS

Announcement Comes During the Fourth Annual Regionalization Conference in Worcester

WORCESTER – Monday, September 10, 2012 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today announced the second round of Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grants for Fiscal Year 2013. Building upon the success of the first round of CIC grants, \$4 million will be made available to support local government innovations through regional collaborations.

“As a Commonwealth, it is in our shared interest to provide communities with tools and resources to implement or improve regional services,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray. “Governor Patrick and I are committed to working with cities and towns as well as our partners in the state legislature to increase local cooperation and make government at all levels more efficient and effective in the delivery of municipal services for our residents.”

The announcement comes as part of the Fourth Annual Regionalization Conference at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. The conference, which is sponsored by the Department of Revenue’s Division of Local Services, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies, brings together state and local government officials to share insight and experience on regionalization.

“Our new fiscal reality demands that we invest in and incentivize innovation among local governments to find more efficient ways to deliver core local services,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez. “Regionalization resources and best practices help cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth identify compelling proposals that will cut costs to preserve core services.”

CIC grants will provide financial support for one-time or transition costs related to innovative regionalization and other efficiency initiatives in local governments. By improving the effectiveness of shared programs and services, the Commonwealth is able to spend taxpayer money more efficiently, maximizing the impact of every dollar spent.

During the first grant round, 100 applications were received from cities and towns. In total, the Executive Office for Administration and Finance awarded \$4 million in grants to 27 programs throughout Massachusetts for programs including facilities management, public safety, public health, education and the environment. The CIC program second round will be accepting applications starting September 12.

Regionalization efforts have been increasingly critical on the local level. Providing municipalities with the resources to collaborate on shared initiatives allows for reduced costs, improved services and increased

efficiency. Through programs like the CIC grants and the regionalization conference, state and local officials are able to build cooperation to implement regional services.

“Over the past four years, these conferences have brought together hundreds of people from across state and local government to find innovative and cost-effective ways to provide fundamental services,” said Deputy Commissioner of Revenue and Director of Municipal Affairs Robert Nunes. “As a result, Massachusetts stands at the forefront of regionalization efforts in the country.”

"Cities and towns across the Commonwealth have struggled the past few years to maintain services and staff due to a decrease in revenues and increase in fixed costs," said Adam Gaudette, Spencer Town Administrator. "This CIC grant award will allow our 13 communities to address EPA mandated storm water management programs that otherwise will not have been implemented and will allow these communities to save on costs."

To date, the CIC grant program involves 138 communities and has impacted over 2.7 million people throughout the Commonwealth.

How to Apply

Applications, information session dates and times, and guidelines will be available the morning of Wednesday, September 12th on the program website: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/budget-taxes-and-procurement/working-for-you/community-innovation-challenge-grant/>

GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES FIRST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM DISTRICT, CELEBRATES AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT



Governor Patrick announces the first approved Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) district and planned project and celebrates the completion of Rice Silk Mill. (Photo Credit: Eric Haynes / Governor's Office) [View additional photos.](#)

PITTSFIELD – Friday, October 19, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today joined Mayor Daniel Bianchi and other officials to announce the first approved Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) district and planned project in the Commonwealth and to celebrate the completion of Rice Silk Mill, a 45-unit affordable housing project supported by the Patrick-Murray Administration.

“Investing in housing generates jobs, grows local businesses and strengthens our communities,” said Governor Patrick. “Supporting reasonably priced housing for moderate and middle income families, along with our strategy of investing in education, innovation and infrastructure, will fuel economic development and rebuild our Gateway Cities.”

“Gateway Cities serve as anchors for regional economic development,” said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. “Through the Housing Development Incentive Program, our Administration will partner with Gateway Cities like Pittsfield to provide an effective tool to expand the diversity of housing stock, increase residential growth, and promote neighborhood stabilization, revitalizing our local and regional economies.”

Pittsfield was the first Gateway City to submit a HDIP district and project application for approval. The approved Onota/Howard project will add 39 units of market rate housing and 10 retail spaces. The development will complement public investments the city has already made in the Downtown Arts Overlay District and a comprehensive streetscape program totaling \$11 million that is in its final phase.

“The Rice Silk Mill and the Onota/Howard project are perfect examples of how state and local government can team up to work with private developers to improve our community,” said Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier.

“These initiatives are an integral part of our economic development here in Pittsfield,” said Mayor Bianchi. “They are preparing our city for growth and improving our housing. Governor Patrick and his Administration have been a great partner for the city of Pittsfield on so many issues, especially housing.”

HDIP provides Gateway Cities with a development tool to increase residential growth, expand diversity of housing stock and support economic development. The program offers two incentives to developers who undertake substantial rehabilitation of properties and create multi-unit, market rate housing; a local option real estate tax exemption and a state tax credit for 10 percent of eligible costs, up to \$1 million.

The Rice Silk Mill development was supported with more than \$3.5 million from the Patrick-Murray Administration, including federal low-income housing tax credits, federal and state historic tax credits and affordable housing subsidies. The project also received funding from Community Development Action Grants (CDAG) and the MassDevelopment Brownfields Tax Credit.

The projects highlighted today are part of the Patrick-Murray Administration's "Housing that Works" initiative. Supporting quality housing is part of the ongoing effort to maintain and grow a strong economy. Developing housing that is dense, well-located and reasonably priced for moderate and middle incomes will help keep young families and individuals in Massachusetts.

Along with investments through the HDIP program, the Administration also offers support for new affordable and market rate housing through Chapter 40R funding which supports new housing that is planned, walkable, mixed-use and near jobs and transit; and Chapter 43D, which creates Priority Development Sites that established streamlined local permitting processes in approved areas.

On November 13, at the “Under One Roof” statewide housing and community development conference in Worcester, the Patrick-Murray Administration will announce additional tools to help support market rate and affordable housing creation in the Commonwealth.

Today's event highlights the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to investing in Gateway Cities like Pittsfield. The Administration has implemented the following strategy to make all of the state's 24 Gateway communities centers of economic activity:

- Provide long-term investments in education, innovation and infrastructure, with special attention to the growth potential of each city's entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Leverage the potential of each community's distinctive assets, including their educational, medical and cultural institutions and their historic buildings and neighborhoods.
- Connect Gateway Cities to other local, state and global centers of innovation and economic activity.

In keeping with this strategy, the Patrick-Murray Administration has made the following Gateway City investments:

- \$3,990,812,680 in Chapter 70 Education Funding in Fiscal Year 2012
- Over \$1 billion in active construction contracts through MassDOT
- More than \$20,860,373 in Gateway City Parks grants for park projects in 24 cities
- More than \$105 million since 2007 in public safety grants for police and fire departments and non-profit agencies to maintain staffing levels and combat violence
- \$17,484,882 since 2007 in Workforce Training

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY AND MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER ANNOUNCE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY MATCHING GRANTS FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

Grants to fund new equipment for life sciences job training at vocational schools, high schools in Gateway Cities

WESTFORD – Thursday, December 20, 2012 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) today announced \$3.2 million in grants to support the purchase of life sciences training equipment and supplies at vocational technical schools, public high schools in Massachusetts' Gateway Cities, and workforce training programs across the state.

Lieutenant Governor Murray launched the first round of the MLSC Equipment and Supplies for High Schools Grant Program at the 7th Annual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Summit held in 2010. Building on the success of the first year of the program, Lieutenant Governor Murray visited the Nashoba Valley Technical High School, one of the recipients in this latest round, to award the vocational technical school with a \$96,665 grant to support the expansion of their Engineering Academy to include biotechnical engineering and robotic fabrication. In addition to Nashoba Valley, 30 other schools and programs were also awarded grants today.

“Our Administration continues to invest in STEM education, jobs, and workforce development to prepare the next generation of students and leaders in our economy,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray, Chair of the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council. “By partnering with the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, we are delivering resources for schools to invest in advanced equipment and supplies. Students will gain more hands-on experience in the classroom, further engaging them in STEM fields that will get them excited about future careers in innovative industries.”

Awardees provide a breadth of training ranging from general STEM education curricula to biotechnology. The student population that will benefit from these equipment grants represents a diverse workforce, including workers seeking re-training and low-income individuals preparing for entry-level positions.

This grant program seeks to further the development of the state’s life sciences workforce by providing funding of up to \$250,000 per institution for life sciences equipment and supplies. To be eligible for an award of greater than \$100,000, applicants must have secured matching funds or in-kind donations from an industry partner that supports the training program for which the equipment and supplies are needed. Industry sponsors have contributed more than \$400,000 in matching funds and in-kind donations as part of this year’s program.

“Training students to enter the life sciences workforce is a critical part of the Center’s mission,” said Susan Windham-Bannister, Ph.D., President & CEO of the MLSC. “We want to make those opportunities available to all students across the state, which is why we are focusing resources in this round of grant awards on our voc/tech schools, and public high schools in our gateway cities. These investments will both strengthen and diversify our life sciences workforce in Massachusetts.”

“We as a career and technical school district, for the past two decades have changed our direction and mission to meet the highest skill standards of the global workplace,” said Dr. Judith Klimkiewicz, Superintendent of Nashoba Valley Technical High School. “We are focused on creating the newest technical programs necessary to meet the needs of the Commonwealth and the nation’s growing science, health, human services and biotechnology industries. We opened Engineering Technology ten years ago and have continued to expand STEM Education in all of our technical programs. Use of the equipment purchased through this grant will enable our students in our health sciences, Engineering Technology and Advanced Placement Biology programs to expand their core curriculums to address specific mathematic and scientific concepts unique to biotechnology.”

“Vocational technical and agricultural education is a blend of quality education, skill development, preparation for post-secondary education and preparation for the workforce of the future,” said Peter D. Dewar, Director of Professional Development, Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators. “The grants being awarded today will go far to enhance and in some schools introduce life sciences education as a workforce component. This will help us continue our quest as we seek to maintain our standing as one of the finest vocational technical and agricultural public education systems in the country.”

“I’m very excited that this grant has been awarded to Nashoba Valley Tech,” said Timothy Blicharz, Senior Scientist for Seventh Sense Biosystems of Cambridge, a company that is collaborating with Nashoba Valley Technical on their biotechnology training programs. “It will be a huge help to foster the students’ interest in the sciences and help shape them into the leading scientists and engineers of tomorrow.”

The 31 schools and programs that are receiving awards, the city or town in which they are located, and the amount of their grant are as follows:

School/Organization	City/Town	Award Amount
Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School	Marlborough	\$ 90,284.00
Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School	Upton	\$ 99,984.00
Blue Hills Technical School District	Canton	\$ 100,000.00
Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School District	Taunton	\$ 99,940.20

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School	Harwich	\$ 77,738.02
Fall River Public Schools (Durfee High School)	Fall River	\$ 92,555.23
Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical High School	Tyngsboro	\$ 89,936.15
Haverhill High School	Haverhill	\$ 99,289.40
Holyoke Public Schools (Dean Tech & Holyoke High School)	Holyoke	\$ 195,019.93
Lynn English High School	Lynn	\$ 77,419.35
Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation	Cambridge	\$ 249,777.00
Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District	Lexington	\$ 134,137.91
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District	Fitchburg	\$ 248,274.76
Nashoba Valley Technical High School	Westford	\$ 96,665.20
Norfolk County Agricultural High School	Walpole	\$ 97,612.00
North Shore Technical High School	Middleton	\$ 99,999.52
Northeast Metropolitan Vocational School District	Wakefield	\$ 71,610.00
Quaboag Regional Middle High School	Warren	\$ 7,438.65
Quincy High School	Quincy	\$ 94,469.05
Revere High School	Revere	\$ 98,176.02
Rindge School of Technical Arts	Cambridge	\$ 100,000.00
Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy	Springfield	\$ 100,000.00
Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational School District	Billerica	\$ 95,928.00

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School	Northampton	\$ 100,000.00
South Shore Vocational Technical High School	Hanover	\$ 119,925.00
Taconic High School	Pittsfield	\$ 88,028.74
Taunton Public Schools	Taunton	\$ 99,384.00
The BioBuilder Educational Foundation	Cambridge	\$ 95,300.00
Westfield Public Schools	Westfield	\$ 44,333.00
Worcester North High School	Worcester	\$ 64,995.00
Worcester Technical High School	Worcester	\$ 99,982.82

"This funding will provide much needed supplies and equipment to Gateway City schools and Vocational-Technical programs across the Commonwealth to help train students in life sciences technology and research," said state Representative Alice H. Peisch, House Chair of the Education Committee. "I am grateful to the Administration and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for supporting this important initiative."

"The Patrick-Murray Administration has made a concerted effort to prioritize the needs of our Gateway Cities," said state Senator Eileen Donoghue. "I'm grateful for the emphasis they have placed on education in Gateway Cities, and I'm confident that this funding will go a long way for Nashoba Valley Technical High School."

"Our investments in the Life Sciences have been vital to the Massachusetts economy and the growth of new companies and technology in our state," state Senator Harriette Chandler. "I applaud the Patrick-Murray Administration for continuing to move forward with these important grants to these educational institutions."

"Thanks to the dedication of the Patrick-Murray Administration and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, our Vocational-Technical schools are leading the way in preparing our students to reignite the precision manufacturing industry in Massachusetts," said state Senator Gale Candaras. "Precision manufacturers across the state have stressed the need for more machinists in the next five years, and this funding will ensure that our students can fill these positions, which offer fair pay and benefits."

"I am so pleased once again with the results of the state's strong partnership with the Gateway Cities," said state Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier. "Today we are coming together to support the important

life science training offered at Taconic High School. I appreciate the leadership that Department Chair Kristen Pearson has demonstrated in finding a way to provide the practical tools that are so crucial in preparing our students for career opportunities in STEM fields.”

“Representing two Gateway Cities, I am thrilled about this announcement and thankful to Governor Patrick for his steadfast commitment to provide all students across the Commonwealth an equal opportunity to learn,” said state Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein. “These resources are critical in assisting disadvantaged children and their families overcome difficulties to gain a good education and lead successful lives.”

About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is a quasi-public agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts tasked with implementing the Massachusetts Life Sciences Act, a 10-year, \$1-billion initiative that was signed into law in June of 2008. The MLSC’s mission is to create jobs in the life sciences and support vital scientific research that will improve the human condition. This work includes making financial investments in public and private institutions that are advancing life sciences research, development and commercialization as well as building ties among sectors of the Massachusetts life sciences community. For more information, visit www.masslifesciences.com.

GOVERNOR PATRICK FILES LEGISLATION TO REFORM UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES

BOSTON – Wednesday, January 9, 2013 – Governor Deval Patrick today filed legislation that will close loopholes to Municipal Unemployment Insurance (UI) and create a fair and collaborative system that provides economic relief to cities and towns. Today’s announcement follows the November release of the Municipal UI Task Force Report, and is part of a series of reforms the Patrick-Murray Administration is proposing to make government work better.

The Governor’s legislation arises from the work and recommendations of the Task Force he convened to address the concerns raised during the spring of 2012 by a number of municipalities. After soliciting feedback from municipalities through letter, meetings and presentations, the Task Force issued its recommendation in November.

“I thank the members of the Municipal UI Task Force for their hard work and creativity in coming up with this series of balanced solutions,” said Governor Patrick.

“Through the work of the Unemployment Insurance Task Force and with the filing of this legislation, we are engaging with cities and towns to provide a more equitable system and relief for both municipalities and employees on the local level,” said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray.

“The Municipal Unemployment Insurance Task Force report, recommendations and proposed legislation represent a true partnership between government and stakeholders. The Governor convened the Task Force in order to address outstanding issues related to municipal UI, ensure that all relevant parties were represented and result in fair and meaningful reform,” said Joanne F. Goldstein, Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. “We are confident that the proposed changes will produce significant financial and administrative relief for municipalities while maintaining integrity of the UI system and respecting the rights of those unemployed workers with valid UI claims.”

Governor Patrick’s legislation will:

Create a 65% UI offset to retirees collecting a defined benefit pension, thereby significantly limiting a returning retiree’s access to unemployment when laid off and collecting a pension.

Eliminate the disparity between those employed directly by a school department and those providing services to the school but paid directly by the municipality. All public employees providing services to a school who have “reasonable assurance” of continued employment are ineligible to receive UI benefits when school is not in session.

Prevent municipalities from being charged for wages earned by election workers who make less than \$1,000 a year. Currently, municipalities could be responsible for paying some portion of UI benefits to these employees, if they earn enough wages from other employment.

Allow the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to participate in the United States Treasury Offset Program so that the agency can intercept the federal tax returns of anyone who owes DUA funds as a result of an overpayment. As with the state program, the federal program will have procedures for notice and opportunity to present evidence as required by federal law and regulations.

The Governor’s proposed legislation will work in tandem with the Task Force’s recommended policy and administrative changes at the DUA and recommended best practices for cities and towns.

The Municipal Unemployment Insurance Task Force was convened by Governor Patrick in March 2012 to review UI issues raised by municipalities, determine which issues were systemic and broad-based, and reach conclusions including legislative, administrative, and procedural recommendations to address these issues. The Task Force was chaired by Secretary Goldstein and comprised of representatives from municipalities, public employee organizations, public advocates and legislative members. Over the past year, the Task Force met five times to review the issues and feedback presented by municipalities as well as the materials requested and produced by DUA. The issues clustered around several categories of public employees, which represent only .5% of all UI claims in the Commonwealth. The Task Force focused on those that had widespread applicability among municipalities and were frequently raised as challenges that affected the largest number of cities and towns.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT:

“As a Mayor, I know how important it is to control the costs of municipal unemployment insurance, and create a fairer system that will provide relief to cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The recommendations included in our report will improve communications, revise policies, and help municipalities manage the costs of unemployment insurance. I am grateful to Governor Patrick and Secretary Goldstein for the opportunity to serve on this important task force.”

- Mayor Setti Warren of Newton

"I am very thankful for the leadership the Patrick/Murray Administration has demonstrated on the issue of reforming unemployment insurance for cities and towns. The legislation the Governor has filed and the recommendations given by the Municipal Unemployment Insurance Task Force will restore the integrity of the system and help municipalities control unemployment insurance costs moving forward."

- Mayor Kimberley Driscoll of Salem

"As the co-chairman of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development I am pleased to have been a part of this rewarding and engaged process and I look forward to continuing to improve our unemployment insurance system."

- Senator Dan Wolf

"I applaud the work done by the Task Force. The recommendations presented here are critical to ensuring the well-being of businesses and municipalities throughout the Commonwealth."

- Representative John W. Scibak

"The approach taken by the administration to this challenge was collaborative and inclusive, and the work of the task force has led to a proposal that will produce fairness in the way unemployment issues are handled."

- Paul Toner, president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

Partnering with the Governor and other members of the Task Force allowed us to review these issues in a thoughtful and meaningful way. We are pleased to have had represented the interest of our members through this effort and this legislation. This bill will allow the state to better serve our members as well as all of residents of the Commonwealth who interact with the Unemployment system."

- Jennifer Springer, Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Patrick-Murray Administration Announces \$205 Million in Savings From Municipal Health Care Reform

Comprehensive Report Shows Potential for \$250 million statewide, More Than Double Initial Savings Estimates

BOSTON – Friday, January 25, 2013 – Delivering his welcoming remarks at the 34th Massachusetts Municipal Association's annual meeting Friday, Governor Deval Patrick announced that more than 204 communities and school districts across the Commonwealth have collectively saved more than \$200 million in health insurance premiums as a result of the landmark municipal health care reform law.

"Massachusetts leads the nation in health care coverage, and working together we are lowering the cost of health care so it can be as affordable as it is accessible," said Governor Patrick. "With labor at the table, municipal health care reform has had a powerful and immediate impact on municipal finances across the Commonwealth, while maintaining quality, affordable health care for working families."

"The successful implementation of municipal health care reform has achieved real results and great savings for cities and towns across Massachusetts," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "During tough fiscal times, our Administration has worked closely with cities and towns and public employee unions through this reform to help preserve essential local government jobs and services."

According to the report, there is the potential for an additional \$45 million dollars in savings were more municipalities and regional school districts to use the reform process. Combined with savings announced today, this reform has the potential to achieve over \$250 million in savings statewide.

"Municipal health care reform has changed the way cities and towns negotiate their health insurance plans and helped municipalities stem the rising costs of health insurance to save jobs and deliver core local services like education and public safety," said Secretary of Administration and Finance Glen Shor.

To date, 81 cities and towns have completed the process and made changes to employee health plans or joined the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) resulting in nearly \$70 million in employer and employee premium cost savings. Employers and employees share almost equally in the \$70 million in reform savings after accounting for sharing savings with employees through mitigation programs in addition to

direct employee premium savings. In addition, more than 122 communities and school districts have used the new law as leverage to negotiate health plan insurance changes with local unions without actually adopting the reform, yielding more than \$137 million in total premium savings for employers and employees in the first year.

Municipal health care reform is providing significant and immediate savings to cities and towns, while preserving a meaningful role for organized labor in the process and protecting health care quality for retirees and municipal employees. Cities and towns now have the choice of a new, expedited process to implement changes to existing local health care plan design or join the state's GIC. Since the law was adopted, 16 new communities and school districts have joined the GIC - 7 using the new reform process and 9 negotiating outside of the reform process. The GIC now has 43 communities and school districts representing over 45,000 municipal subscribers.

According to the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, this reform could produce as much as \$2.8 billion in cumulative savings over 10 years if implemented by all communities and school districts.

Two years ago at the Mass Municipal Association's Annual Meeting, Governor Patrick introduced his municipal health care reform bill to allow communities to either join the GIC or come up with their own plan or program of equivalent value and cost. Together with the Legislature, labor, and municipal managers, this reform has given municipalities another tool in the toolbox to support the continued delivery of critical local services.

"As we approach the second anniversary of municipal health insurance reform, municipalities have been assured economic relief while providing quality, affordable health care for municipal employees and their families. This resulted from cooperation between municipal officials and public employee unions," said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Joanne F. Goldstein. "Massachusetts continues to bring all parties into the decision-making process that is respectful of their interests."

"Municipal health insurance reform is one of the most important legislative acts to benefit cities, towns and taxpayers in decades, and the MMA applauds Governor Patrick, Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Murray, Representative Dempsey, Senator Brewer and the members of the Legislature for their leadership and support in achieving this landmark accomplishment," said Geoffrey C. Beckwith, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. "Communities are using the new law to save millions of dollars for taxpayers, protect essential municipal and school services, and preserve jobs for teachers, firefighters, police officers and other vital employees all across the state."

“This is among the most meaningful municipal reforms in decades, and its success has surpassed all expectations,” said Michael Widmer President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. “The early and widespread adoption by communities across the state shows the importance of this tool in providing municipal budget relief, both now and for years to come.”

The First Year Savings Report can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/anf/the-first-year-savings-report.doc>

01.25.13 Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting Remarks

AS PREPARED:

Governor Deval L. Patrick

Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting Remarks

Hynes Convention Center, Boston

Friday, January 25, 2013

Good morning. Thank you for having me.

I understand that the theme for today's meeting is "Pathways to Progress and Prosperity." I hope you feel our Administration has been a partner on the pathway for the past six years. Because we have consistently invested in building a better future for our Commonwealth.

We've invested in our schools so our students now lead the nation in student achievement and the world in math and science.

We've invested in innovation, helping high tech, clean tech and life sciences companies move and expand in communities from Holyoke to Burlington.

And we've invested in infrastructure, building new science centers like the Sherman Center at UMass Worcester, fixing broken roads in the MetroWest area, improving rail service to the Cape, expanding broadband access to the Berkshires, and supporting more affordable housing in Merrimack Valley.

All this to leave our Commonwealth stronger for the long-term.

Education, innovation, infrastructure. It's a strategy that has worked throughout

our history, and is working today.

Now, we need to take it to the next level, to accelerate our growth and expand opportunity. And I want to ask you again to partner with our Administration to do so.

I believe we all have to be about growth and opportunity. Opportunity is too important to leave to chance. We can't just sit back and wait for our schools to get better, or our roads to be fixed or our rail to be expanded or improved. In every community in this Commonwealth, we know that opportunity requires growth. And growth requires investment. What we choose to do, and not do, shapes our future. Indeed, as one friend of mine likes to say, "The future belongs to those who prepare for it."

In my State of the Commonwealth address last week and in my budget announcement earlier this week, I laid out a plan to prepare for that future. The budget I filed on Wednesday is a plan to grow jobs – to make investments in education, innovation, and infrastructure to grow opportunity in the near-term, and strengthen our Commonwealth in the long-term. We have also again proposed a number of reforms to improve the way government functions and achieve further savings. The total projected savings from those measures, if enacted by the Legislature, will be over \$100 million annually.

Our innovation economy relies on a well-educated, well-skilled workforce. This budget proposes to propel that economy forward. By providing access to high-quality early education for all low-income children; by extending learning time in high-needs schools; by making college more affordable; and by supporting community colleges as the platform for skills training, our budget substantially invests in the Commonwealth's signature economic advantage – the brainpower

and creativity of our people.

In that same vein, I am proposing to fund Chapter 70 school aid at the record level of \$4.39 billion – an increase of \$226 million from last year. This level not only funds every district's foundation needs but also provides an increase of \$25 per pupil and finishes the Chapter 70 equity reforms of 2007. This new funding should enable school districts to better supply classrooms and begin to restore enrichment and STEM programs that some districts have cut.

With the proposed increase in Chapter 70 funding and a \$31 million increase in Unrestricted Aid, local aid grows to 14.6 percent of the annual budget, or \$5.57 billion in FY14.

Like education, transportation is another critical foundation of a growth economy and absolutely essential to accelerating job creation and expanding prosperity today and into the future.

Our residents have told us that they want subways that run later into the evening. They want regional buses that run on the weekends and bridges that are safe. Families in New Bedford want to jump on a train to have access to the work and social opportunities here in Boston. Folks in Pittsfield want easier access to New York City.

We all want projects that are built more quickly, and a system that is more modern. We all want safer, smoother roads that are more comfortable to drive on and bring less wear and tear on their cars and trucks. All our communities need better access to jobs, affordable housing, and recreation – and we want it equitably in all regions of the Commonwealth

These are not frivolous or unreasonable wants. What our residents want is what

this Commonwealth needs to be economically strong in the future. So, in our transportation plan, we committed to ensuring we can pay the bills we inherited, repair our aging roads, rails and bridges, and make targeted expansions to unlock long-term economic development across the state. This budget begins paying for the 21st century transportation system that the people and businesses of Massachusetts need and deserve.

Our investments build on the success of a number of meaningful revenue raising and cost savings tools we've given to cities and towns. Two years ago at this very meeting, I introduced a municipal health reform bill to allow communities to either join the GIC or come up with their own health insurance plan or program of equivalent value and cost. Since then, 204 municipalities and regional school districts have come to agreements with employees, either by using the new reform process or negotiating outside of the reform, achieving more than \$200 million in premium savings. We've allowed communities a local option meals tax and an increased local option hotel/motel tax. And working with all of you, we've closed the telecommunications property tax loophole. Taken together, these tools resulted in \$328 million of increased revenue and cost savings for municipalities in FY12 alone, an aggregate of \$930 million since I first took office.

This year, I'm proposing reforms to the retiree health benefits plan. These changes -- deliberately and carefully agreed to by a wide range of interests -- will save the Commonwealth and municipalities up to \$20 billion over 30 years and will have a sustainable benefits system for future generations. Stemming from the work of the members of the Municipal UI Task Force, some of whom are here today, I've filed a plan to close loopholes muni unemployment insurance to better create a system that is both fair and collaborative.

But as important as reforms are and will continue to be, they are not enough. If we want to accelerate growth and expand opportunity throughout the Commonwealth, we have to invest more.

So, we are proposing to invest in accelerated growth. And as you have heard, we are proposing to pay for these investments by cutting the sales tax to 4.5 percent, raising the income tax to 6.25 percent, doubling the personal exemptions, and eliminating or limiting a number of itemized deductions or exemptions.

I do not submit this proposal lightly. I totally understand that many households in Massachusetts continue to struggle from the impact of the Great Recession. But I am confident that investing meaningfully in education and transportation today will significantly improve job growth and expand economic opportunity tomorrow.

My consideration of tax changes has been guided by three principles.

First, new revenue must be comprehensive, allowing us to pay our bills, maintain what we have, and invest in strategic development calculated to foster economic growth.

Second, in the case of transportation, new revenue must be dedicated, targeted to specific investments and projects so we maintain the discipline of our plan over time, and so that the public can hold us accountable.

And third, new revenue sources must be competitive and fair, so that taxes remain within range of our competitor states and each contributes according to his or her ability to do so.

With those principles in mind, our proposal gives us a tax code that is simpler and fairer, with sales, income and business taxes that are competitive with other

states and less burdensome on poor and moderate income wage earners.

We are now presented with a choice. We can choose to invest in ourselves, to invest in a growth strategy that has proven time and again to work. Or we can do nothing. But let's be crystal clear and honest with each other: choosing to do nothing is a choice, too. And that choice has consequences.

It means our Gateway Cities are left on the sidelines without the investments they need to thrive in the 21st century. It means our broken transportation system continues to crumble, leaving opportunities on the table for too many communities. It means some of our children are left struggling in classrooms, and too many of them will get left behind. And it means slow growth in Greater Boston and no growth everywhere else.

We need you here in this room – mayors, town managers, selectmen – to help us make the case for growth and opportunity. You know the need. You see the opportunity for growth. You will have to add your voice to the debate at home and at the State House.

Many of you have already stepped up and expressed your support for this plan, and I thank you. Mayor Flanagan of Fall River is already talking to his area's local legislators to lobby their support. Mayor Driscoll of Salem is out in front in full force. I know we all won't agree on everything, but I think we can agree that we need investments in education and transportation to grow jobs and expand opportunity for the citizens who live in our communities. Whatever part of the Commonwealth you call home, we all have a stake in leaving things better than we found them, and we have to work together to achieve it.

In that spirit, I look forward to working with all of you.

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$2.25 MILLION IN COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES, REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PLANNING AGENCIES ACROSS MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON – Tuesday, February 12, 2013 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray and Secretary of Administration and Finance Glen Shor today announced the 27 recipients of the \$2.25 million Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant program to incentivize and support innovative regionalization and other cost saving initiatives. These programs will change the way local governments do business to maintain service delivery and stretch every tax payer dollar as far as possible.

The 27 recipients of the FY 2013 CIC grant program span 162 cities and towns. The project recipients reflect geographic and income diversity across the Commonwealth, including several Gateway Cities.

“The first round of the Community Innovation Challenge Grant program was a success, attracting wide interest by municipalities and planning agencies to develop regionalization and innovation strategies on the local level,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray. “We’re excited to continue this program with the second round of award recipients who have all proposed more innovative opportunities and cost-saving measures to collaborate, regionalize and maintain valuable local services.”

“Our new fiscal reality demands that government change the way it does business to stretch every taxpayer dollar as far as possible,” said Secretary Shor. “The Patrick-Murray Administration’s CIC grant program is just one of the many ways we are working to give cities and towns the tools they need to drive change in local government. I am excited that the second round of this program will provide for the continuation and expansion of some really great programs and jump-start brand new ones.”

Regionalization is an opportunity for neighboring communities to build partnerships to engage in shared services, inter-municipal agreements, municipal collaborations, consolidations, mutual aid and regional planning to reduce the risk of duplicating efforts and unnecessary spending of limited taxpayer dollars. With 351 cities and towns spanning the Commonwealth, there are countless ways to collaborate and work together to maintain important local services and deliver those services effectively and efficiently.

The CIC grant program is one more example of the kind of reforms the Patrick-Murray Administration has made in challenging fiscal times to make government more effective and efficient. CICG provides incentives, such as technical assistance, training and other one-time or transition funding for municipal leaders to work together to pursue innovative ways to deliver critical services to taxpayers more efficiently. Ideal projects for the grant program include those with the potential for greatest impact, high levels of innovation and substantial potential cost savings for municipalities.

“I commend the Patrick-Murray Administration for their continued support in securing funds for the Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. “As the cities and towns across the Commonwealth begin to emerge from this economic downturn, it remains important that state leaders continue to find ways to make government more effective and efficient.”

In the FY 2012 budget, Governor Patrick authorized the development of a competitive grant program to encourage and incentivize regionalization based upon the belief that the most crucial and visible interactions between government and citizen occur locally. A grant program was proposed in the Governor's budget, and supported by the Legislature, providing \$4 million for regionalization and other initiatives that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of local services. In FY 2012, the Patrick-Murray Administration invested in 27 projects across the Commonwealth. These projects involved 138 cities and towns and are currently being finished. The results and outcomes of each project will be shared with the general public this summer on the ANF website.

FY 2013 Community Innovation Challenge Grant Recipients: **Education**

Creating in District Programs for Students with Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disorders

(\$110,800) *School districts of the towns of Agawam, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Ludlow, and West Springfield; Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District; Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District*

Berkshire County Curriculum Frameworks Project (\$89,520) *Central Berkshire Regional School*

District (Lead); Adams-Cheshire Regional School District; Berkshire Hills Regional School District; Northern Berkshire Vocational Technical School District; Southern Berkshire Regional School District; The public school districts of the towns of Clarksburg, Florida, Savoy, Lee, and Lenox

Expanding Regional Services for Students with Dyslexia (\$73,000) *Manchester-Essex Regional School District*

Regionalizing Technology Support Services (\$52,037) *School districts of the Towns of Richmond (Lead), Hancock, and New Ashford*

School StatNet Pilot (\$38,326) *Cities of Somerville (Lead), Fitchburg, Revere, and Chicopee*

Financial Services

Regionalization of Assessment Services (\$35,000) *Towns of Amherst (Lead) and Pelham*

Public Health

Public Health Nursing Program, Year 2 (\$54,840) *Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (Lead); City of North Adams; Towns of Adams, Alford, Becket, Clarksburg, Dalton, Charlemont, Great Barrington, Hancock, Lanesborough, Mt. Washington, New Marlborough, Peru, Richmond, Sandisfield, Savoy, Sheffield, Washington, West Stockbridge, Williamstown, Windsor*

Local Boards of Health On-Line Tobacco Retailer Certification Program (\$25,250) *Towns of Lee (Lead), Lenox, and Stockbridge*

Cooperative Public Health Service (\$68,317) *Franklin Regional Council of Governments (Lead); Towns of Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, Leyden, Shelburne*

Hampden County Health Alliance (\$45,000) *Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (Lead); Cities of Holyoke and Springfield; Towns of Westfield, West Springfield, Blandford, Granville, Ludlow, Palmer, and Southwick*

Public Works and Environmental Affairs

Regional Highway Equipment Cooperative- Phase 2 (\$24,500) *Towns of Brookfield (Lead), Brimfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Warren, and West Brookfield*

Northern Middlesex Storm Water Collaborative (\$98,000) *Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (Lead); City of Lowell; Towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford*

Cape Cod Great White Shark Research and Outreach Program (\$50,000) *Towns of Orleans (Lead); Chatham, Truro, Nantucket, Harwich, Yarmouth, Dennis, Wellfleet, Provincetown, Brewster, and*

Barnstable

Regionalizing Municipal Storm Water Management in Central Massachusetts (\$115,000)

Towns of Spencer (Lead), Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Oxford, Paxton, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sturbridge, Webster, West Boylston, Boylston, Grafton, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, Northbridge, Northborough, North Brookfield, Palmer, Princeton, Rutland, Southbridge, Sterling, Upton, Ware, Westborough, Wilbraham

Regional Department of Public Facilities and Infrastructure (\$30,000) *Towns of Wenham (Lead) and Hamilton; Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District*

Information Technology

Central Massachusetts Regional Electronic Permitting Collaborative (\$112,000) *Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) (Lead); Towns of Barre, Blackstone, Boylston, Dudley, Hardwick, Leicester, Northbridge, Spencer, and Upton*

Hampshire Cloud (\$80,000) *Hampshire Council of Governments (Lead); Towns of Chesterfield and Hadley*

Electronic Weights and Measures Inspection (\$21,550) *Towns of Holliston (Lead), Ashland, Medway, and Millis*

Malden 311 and Workers' Compensation Reentry Program (\$27,780) *City of Malden*

Regionally Improving Citizen Access and Service Delivery (\$80,000) *Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (Lead); Cities of Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, and Newburyport; Towns of Andover, North Andover, and Salisbury*

Expansion of the Southeast Fire Department Electronic Records and Permitting Collaborative (\$75,000) *Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) (Lead); City of Fall River; Towns of North Attleborough, Seekonk, Marion, Westport, and Fairhaven*

Municipal Open Checkbook System (\$120,000) *Cities of Woburn (Lead), Chelsea, Chicopee, and Revere; Town of Brookline*

Transportation

Expansion and Implementation of a Reconfigured Transportation Management Association

(\$60,000) *Towns of Acton (Lead); Boxborough, Concord, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, and Westford*

Regional Paratransit Services (Two Town Trolley) (\$30,600) *Towns of East Longmeadow (Lead) and*

Hampden

Library

The Ames Free Library's Creative Commons @ Queset House (\$40,000) *Town of Easton*

Public Safety

Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force Program (\$81,288) *Franklin Regional Council of*

Governments (Lead); Cities of Greenfield and Northampton; Towns of Athol, Amherst, and Montague

No Fires (\$63,750) *Hampshire Council of Governments (Lead); City of Holyoke; Towns of Athol, Erving,*

New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, and Wendell

Rutland Regional Animal Control (\$83,904) *Towns of Rutland (Lead), Oakham, Barre, and Paxton*

Housing

Massachusetts Housing Data Portal (\$50,000) *Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)*

Veterans' Services Expansion of Professional Regionalized Veterans Services (\$35,083) *City of*

Northampton (Lead); Towns of Amherst, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Cummington, Goshen, Pelham, Worthington, Hadley, and Middlefield

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY LAUNCHES MUNICIPAL CABINET TOUR

Series will engage municipalities; highlight Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to promote resources for cities and towns

TAUNTON – March 26, 2013 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today kicked-off the first in a series of meetings with the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet to highlight new and innovative developments in state and local government and promote resources and investments in cities and towns.

Since 2007, Lieutenant Governor Murray has chaired over 30 meetings of the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet which has led to significant policy initiatives for communities including the Municipal Partnership Act I and II and regionalization incentive programs. This latest series will feature cabinet secretaries highlighting key investments in each region, providing a forum for local officials to discuss the Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to create growth and opportunity by building a 21st century education, innovation and transportation network that will support cities and towns today and in the future.

"During our Administration, these cabinet meetings have successfully engaged local officials as we deliver critical resources and services for municipalities," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "Local government is closest to the people, and we will continue to partner with communities to ensure cities and towns have the resources to grow as we invest in the state's long-term economic development plan."

Mayor Thomas Hoyer hosted today's meeting in Taunton, bringing together local officials from across Southeastern Massachusetts. Four other meetings will take place over the next two months in Agawam, Peabody, Marshfield and Buckland building on a long record of collaboration with local leaders.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to host Lt. Governor Tim Murray and the Municipal Cabinet members here in the city of Taunton," said Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoyer. "This meeting denotes the partnership between the Patrick-Murray Administration and cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth. We look forward to our discussion between state and local leaders about the issues facing our communities and the opportunity to foster productive public-private partnerships with the Patrick-Murray Administration."

In January, Governor Patrick unveiled a budget proposal that includes new investments in education and transportation, investments that have proven to create new jobs and economic opportunities. The Governor's plan includes a \$1 billion annual investment in the Commonwealth's transportation system to maintain the transportation assets we have today and launch a number of high-impact transportation projects across Massachusetts that, if built, will create thousands of jobs and spur economic development across the Commonwealth. The plan also includes a \$550 million investment in education, reaching \$1 billion over four years, to expand access to high quality educational opportunities and make higher education more affordable for all students in Massachusetts.

“Through targeted and fiscally responsible investments we can improve our infrastructure, provide educational opportunity across the Commonwealth and support the continued growth of our innovation economy,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Glen Shor. “I look forward to speaking with our stakeholders in municipal government about the Patrick-Murray Administration’s efforts to foster new economic activity across the state.”

“A safe, reliable transportation system is vital for the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth, and we are making targeted investments in every region to help ensure that our economy is strong,” said Richard A. Davey, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT. “I look forward to sharing ideas about targeted transportation investments in this forum and working together so that our communities have the service they need.”

“This opportunity to speak directly with residents of the Commonwealth is one I’m especially looking forward to,” said Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. “We have presented a bold plan aimed at increasing access to quality programs for students entering pre-kindergarten all the way through college. These cabinet meetings will help our neighbors across Massachusetts get a better understanding of our plan and the possibilities it presents.”

The schedule includes the following meetings:

TAUNTON (Hosted by Mayor Thomas Hoye)
Tuesday, March 26th at 11:00am – Temporary City Offices, 141 Oak Street

AGAWAM (Hosted by Mayor Richard Cohen)
Thursday, April 4th at 11:30am – Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

PEABODY (Hosted by Mayor Ted Bettencourt)
Tuesday, April 23rd at 10:00am – Peabody City Hall, 24 Lowell St.

MARSHFIELD (Hosted by Town Administrator Rocco Longo)
Thursday, April 25th at 11:30am – Marshfield Town Hall, 870 Moraine Street

BUCKLAND (Hosted by Bob Dean, Chairman of the Board of Selectman)
Thursday, May 23rd at 2:00pm – Town Hall, 17 State Street, Shelburne Falls

These public meetings will engage municipal managers, local planners and residents interested in discussing regionalizing local services and other policy to strengthen the partnership between governments. To learn more about the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet or for additional information or updates on these meetings, visit www.mass.gov/governor/municabinet. For more information on the Governor’s investment plan, visit www.mass.gov/governor/choosegrowth.

Lieutenant Governor Murray Continues with Municipal Cabinet Tour in Western Massachusetts

Second stop in Municipal Cabinet Series engages municipalities; highlights Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to promote resources for cities and towns

AGAWAM – Thursday, April 4, 2013 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today led the second in a series of meetings with the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet to highlight new and innovative developments in state and local government and promote resources and investments in cities and towns.

Since 2007, Lieutenant Governor Murray has chaired over 30 meetings of the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet which has led to significant policy initiatives for communities including the Municipal Partnership Act I and II and regionalization incentive programs. This latest series will feature cabinet secretaries highlighting key investments in each region, providing a forum for local officials to discuss the Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to create growth and opportunity by building a 21st century education, innovation and transportation network that will support cities and towns today and in the future.

"During our Administration, these cabinet meetings have successfully engaged local officials as we deliver critical resources and services for municipalities," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "Local government is closest to the people, and we will continue to partner with communities to ensure cities and towns have the resources to grow as we invest in the state's long-term economic development plan."

Mayor Richard A. Cohen hosted today's meeting in Agawam, bringing together local officials from across Western Massachusetts. Building on a long record of collaboration with local leaders, Lieutenant Governor Murray launched the series of meetings with the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet on March 26th in Taunton. The tour will continue with three more meetings over the next two months in Peabody, Marshfield and Buckland.

"We are happy to host the Lieutenant Governor in Agawam for the Municipal Cabinet meeting,"

said Mayor Cohen. "We are fortunate to be able to meet and discuss issues important to the western Massachusetts region."

In January, Governor Patrick unveiled a budget proposal that includes new investments in education and transportation, investments that have proven to create new jobs and economic opportunities. The Governor's plan includes a \$1 billion annual investment in the Commonwealth's transportation system to maintain the transportation assets we have today and launch a number of high-impact transportation projects across Massachusetts that, if built, will create thousands of jobs and spur economic development across the Commonwealth. The plan also includes a \$550 million investment in education, reaching \$1 billion over four years, to expand access to high quality educational opportunities and make higher education more affordable for all students in Massachusetts.

"Through targeted and fiscally responsible investments we can improve our infrastructure, provide educational opportunity across the Commonwealth and support the continued growth of our innovation economy," said Secretary of Administration and Finance Glen Shor. "I look forward to speaking with our stakeholders in municipal government about the Patrick-Murray Administration's efforts to foster new economic activity across the state."

"A safe, reliable transportation system is vital for the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth, and we are making targeted investments in every region to help ensure that our economy is strong," said Richard A. Davey, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT. "I look forward to sharing ideas about targeted transportation investments in this forum and working together so that our communities have the service they need."

"This opportunity to speak directly with residents of the Commonwealth is one I'm especially looking forward to," said Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. "We have presented a bold plan aimed at increasing access to quality programs for students entering pre-kindergarten all the way through college. These cabinet meetings will help our neighbors across Massachusetts get a better understanding of our plan and the possibilities it presents."

In addition to the first meeting held on March 26th in Taunton hosted by Mayor Hoye, the schedule includes the following meetings:

AGAWAM (Hosted by Mayor Richard Cohen)

Thursday, April 4th at 11:30am – Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

PEABODY (Hosted by Mayor Ted Bettencourt)

Tuesday, April 23rd at 10:00am – Peabody City Hall, 24 Lowell St.

MARSHFIELD (Hosted by Town Administrator Rocco Longo)

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These public meetings will engage municipal managers, local planners and residents interested in discussing regionalizing local services and other policy to strengthen the partnership between governments. To learn more about the Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet or for additional information or updates on these meetings, visit www.mass.gov/governor/municabinet. For more information on the Governor's investment plan, visit www.mass.gov/governor/choosegrowth.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY ANNOUNCES \$1.1 MILLION IN GRANTS TO BENEFIT VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ACROSS MASSACHUSETTS

Grants will benefit over 1,600 students

BOSTON – Wednesday, May 29, 2013 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today joined Secretary of Administration and Finance Glen Shor and Secretary of Education Matthew Malone to announce the 25 recipients of \$1.1 million in Vocational School Equipment grants to benefit Massachusetts vocational schools. This program provides grant funding to qualifying institutions to purchase necessary equipment to prepare their students for the modern workforce.

The 25 recipients of FY 2013 Vocational School Equipment grants include 184 cities and towns across Massachusetts. The recipients reflect geographic diversity across the Commonwealth, including several Gateway Cities.

“Massachusetts vocational programs are a recipe for academic and career success,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray. “It’s been a rewarding opportunity to visit these programs throughout the state. Through this grant program and in partnership with many private sector matches, we will help improve the tools and resources that are valuable to the students’ learning experience and preparedness in gaining 21st century job skills.”

During his time in office, Lieutenant Governor Murray has visited all 64 vocational technical programs in Massachusetts representing more than 44,000 students. These schools offer hands-on learning in a number of innovative educational programs to support a range of career fields, especially growing workforce sectors, such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy and information technology. Many regional school districts and programs also partner with area businesses and community colleges to prepare the next generation of skilled workers.

“The Vocational School Equipment grant program is one of the many ways in which the Patrick-Murray Administration is working to prepare the Commonwealth’s students for the 21st Century economy,” said Secretary Shor. “I am excited that these grants enable Vocational Schools to purchase equipment for programs that provide the knowledge and skills needed for these students to succeed in the workplace.”

The grants provide over \$1,149,997 in funding, benefiting 1,671 students in 184 municipalities across the Commonwealth. Approximately \$1,925,553 in matching funds and in-kind donations will be leveraged to support these programs, a \$1.67 match for every \$1 dollar investment. Funded programs represent 9 of 10 occupational clusters as identified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), with the largest investments going to manufacturing, engineering and technology.

“In today's economy it is critical that our students have access to hands-on training and learning that will allow them to gain industry-relevant skills,” said Secretary Malone. “These grants afford our vocational school students an opportunity to keep a competitive edge in the job market.”

Published in October 2012, the Patrick-Murray Administration’s Five-Year Capital Investment Plan includes \$5 million in funding for a competitive grant program to benefit Massachusetts vocational schools. The Vocational School Equipment Program provides grant funding to qualifying institutions to purchase necessary equipment at their facilities. One hundred and sixty-five applications were received for the inaugural grants, with requests totaling more than \$4.7 million. One hundred percent of regional vocational school districts applied for grant funding, as did 82 percent of all schools in Massachusetts with Chapter 74-approved vocational programs.

"The grant awards will provide state-of-the-art equipment for our students to learn the skills necessary for today's innovation economy," said Executive Director of Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) David Ferreira. "We are most appreciative for the Patrick-Murray Administration’s leadership in securing this funding."

"This grant will provide vocational schools with an opportunity to enhance students' learning experiences, preparing students as they enter into the workforce," said Representative Alice Peisch. "I applaud the Administration’s commitment to ensuring our students are equipped with the skills and abilities to succeed in today’s competitive workplace.”

FY2013 Vocational School Grant Program Recipients:

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PROGRAM FUNDED	FUNDING AMOUNT
Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District	Machine Tool Technology	\$97,588
Berkshire Hills Regional School District	Culinary	\$4,000

Blackstone Valley Regional Technical School District	Dental Assisting	\$25,000
Bristol County Agricultural High School	Horticulture	\$33,547
Franklin County Technical School District	Machine Tool Technology	\$100,000
Gateway Regional School District	Metal Fabrication	\$23,855
Greater Fall River Regional Vocational School District	Metal Fabrication	\$50,000
Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical School District	Auto Technology	\$49,100
Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical School District	Medical Assisting	\$24,700
Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical School District	Nurse Assisting/ Health Assisting	\$20,397
Lower Pioneer Valley Education Collaborative	Early Education	\$25,000
Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District	Telecommunications	\$16,226
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District	Machine Tool Technology	\$100,000
North Shore Regional Vocational Technical School District	Information Technology	\$9,250
Pittsfield Public Schools	Manufacturing Technology	\$100,000
Plymouth Public Schools	Graphic Design	\$26,812
Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational School District	Electricity	\$25,000
Silver Lake Regional School District	Carpentry	\$20,720
Smith Agricultural and Vocational School District	Horticulture	\$49,653
Somerville Public Schools	Dental Assisting	\$95,745

South Shore Vocational Technical School District	Engineering	\$32,500
Springfield Public Schools	Robotics and Automation	\$15,000
Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District	Graphic Communications	\$71,091
Upper Cape Regional Vocational Technical School District	Engineering	\$89,393
Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School District	Machine Tool Technology	\$45,420

Patrick Administration Announces Third Annual Round of MassWorks Infrastructure Program

BOSTON – MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013 –Housing and Economic Development (HED) Secretary Greg Bialecki today announced that the third round of the annual MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant program will be open to new applications online between Tuesday, September 3 and Friday, September 13, 2013. The MassWorks Infrastructure Program provides a one-stop shop for municipalities and other eligible public entities seeking funding to support economic development and job creation. Municipalities with a population of 7,000 or less may also seek grants for road improvements to enhance safety.

“By investing in infrastructure, along with innovation and education, the Patrick Administration is focused on empowering communities and regions to create development and job-creation opportunities throughout the Commonwealth,” said Secretary Bialecki. “MassWorks helps us accomplish that goal by targeting investments that maximize growth, leverage private investments, strengthen communities, and create economic opportunity for all.”

The 2013 grant round will support housing or commercial growth opportunities that contribute to the long-term strength and sustainability of Massachusetts with a particular emphasis on projects that support the production of multi-family housing in appropriately located mixed-use districts or that support economic development in weak or distressed areas. The MassWorks Program encourages communities to apply for projects where they have planned ahead for such growth by implementing prompt and predictable permitting and zoning that supports the desired growth.

The materials for the third round of grants and the electronic application system were first put online in June, giving public entities a 12-week head start on gathering information they need to apply for these grants in September. A copy of the 2013 application, guidelines, FAQs, and other relevant materials are available on the HED website at <http://mass.gov/hed/massworks>. All data submitted during the 2011 and 2012 grant rounds will be available to applicants for updating, making reapplying easier. All decisions will be rendered within approximately eight weeks.

The first competitive MassWorks grant round was held in September 2011 and HED awarded \$63.5 million in grants to 42 communities throughout Massachusetts. In 2012, under the second round of grants, the Administration approved 26 projects worth nearly \$38 million.

The MassWorks Program represents six capital budget programs that were consolidated by the Patrick Administration in 2011 and codified by the Jobs Bill signed by the Governor in August 2012. To learn

more about the MassWorks Infrastructure Program and how it is supporting job growth and long-term, sustainable economic development, please visit: <http://mass.gov/hed/massworks>.

Patrick Administration Announces Over \$79 Million for 33 MassWorks Infrastructure Projects

Supporting economic development and housing growth across the Commonwealth

BOSTON – Thursday, December 12, 2013 – In continuation of the Patrick Administration’s efforts to stimulate job creation and support long-term economic growth, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki today announced over \$79 million for 33 MassWorks Infrastructure Program grants to support development throughout the Commonwealth. Through strategic investments in housing and economic development projects, the MassWorks Infrastructure Program has helped make communities across the Commonwealth great places to live, work, and play.

“The MassWorks program is a key tool in our growth strategy of investing in education, innovation and infrastructure to create jobs and economic development,” said Governor Deval Patrick. “By partnering with municipalities, these MassWorks projects will strengthen communities for generations to come.”

“We remain committed to working with local communities to help identify opportunities to support growth and spur regional development,” said Secretary Bialecki. “I look forward to our ongoing partnerships with municipalities across the state and private industry leaders to explore additional ways to promote continued growth in every region of the Commonwealth.”

Through these grants, the Patrick Administration will partner with cities and towns making targeting investments in infrastructure such as roadways, streetscapes, water, and sewer to facilitate and support new and sustained housing and economic growth throughout Massachusetts.

The 2013 application round generated 108 applications for more than \$263 million in infrastructure requests. The Patrick Administration approved the following 33 projects for funding:

Amesbury - Lower Millyard Water Street Improvement Project (\$1,642,434)

Currently a designated Brownfields Support Team Site, Amesbury's Lower Millyard is the focus of a significant economic development and mill revitalization effort in the City's downtown. The MassWorks award will allow the realignment and addition of streetscape improvements to Water Street providing for

increased pedestrian and traffic safety. The City has voted to invest \$5.9M in the relocation of the DPW yard, \$1.5M for the construction of Heritage Park and Merrimack Valley RTA has invested \$7M in its Transportation Center. The City estimates 289 housing units may be created in the Lower Millyard area. The Lower Millyard is identified as a Priority Development Area in the [Merrimack Valley Regional Plan](#).

Ashland– Mixed-Use TOD Infrastructure Project (\$6,000,000)

The Ashland TOD Mixed Use District has been permitted for the construction of over 900 housing units, 141,000 square feet of commercial development, 90 acres of open space, and 5 miles of walking & bike trails. The MassWorks award will support the creation of water, sewer and roadway connections throughout the site as well as the creation of walking and biking trails connecting the development to downtown and the Ashland Commuter Rail Station. MassWorks funds are anticipated to be drawn down concurrently with phase I of the private development in the TOD Mixed Use District which will include 500 new housing units. The Ashland TOD District is designated as a Priority Development Area in the [495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan](#).

Attleboro- Riverfront Road TOD Project (\$3,960,000)

Located in Attleboro's Downtown, the MassWorks award will support the construction of Riverfront Drive, a roadway which provides a critical connection to the Attleboro Intermodal Center. The Attleboro ITC was constructed by GATRA and the MBTA and recently celebrated its completion. In addition, the City estimates approximately 250 new housing units and 20,000 square feet of new commercial space can be created on the sites made accessible along Riverfront Drive. As a result of the roadway construction, construction of Renaissance Station, a 7 story building consisting of 80 housing units and 6,000 square feet of retail is expected to begin. The City was designated a Brownfields Support Team in 2010 and the site is designated as a Priority Development Area in the [South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan](#).

Berlin- River Road West Project (\$1,528,585)

The Town of Berlin identified the River Road West Area in a 1998 Master Plan as a prime location for mixed use development while seeking the preservation of critical open space known as "the flats". The Town has since pre-permitted the land along River Road West for a 26 acre village style development with the preservation of 86 acres. The MassWorks award will support critical roadway and pedestrian improvements along River Road West which will enable Phase 3 of the development, known as Riverbridge, to commence. This phase of the construction will consist of 205 housing units and a 77,000

square foot hotel. The location of the Riverbridge development is identified as a Priority Development Area in the [495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan](#).

Beverly- Brimbal Avenue Interchange Phase I Improvement Project (\$5,000,000)

The MassWorks award supports the construction of the first phase of the Brimbal Avenue Interchange Project, which will include widening a section of Brimbal Avenue and building a connector road between Brimbal Avenue and Sohier Road. The public infrastructure project will immediately unlock \$20 million in private development between the two roads. The project is strongly supported by the North Shore Alliance for Economic Development and is included in the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council's 2011 North Shore Regional Strategic Plan](#).

Brockton- Enterprise Block Redevelopment Project (\$11,066,361)

Located in the Brockton Growth District, the Enterprise Redevelopment Project in the heart of downtown Brockton will provide for the complete redevelopment of a complete city block. The project consists of the remediation and redevelopment of the Enterprise Building providing 55,000 square feet of new commercial space and the construction of 113 new housing units consisting of 71 apartments and 42 artist live/work units. The project will also create a surface parking lot to serve both the housing and commercial space as well as improvements to the Korean-Vietnam Memorial Park located adjacent to the development. The project is located in the City's TOD overlay district and is within walking distance to the Brockton commuter rail station.

Chelsea– Gateway Center Infrastructure Improvement Project - Phase III (\$3,000,000)

Located in Chelsea's Everett Avenue Urban Renewal District, the MassWorks funding will support Phase III of the area's infrastructure improvement plan including the replacement of water main, sewer separation and roadway and sidewalk repairs. These upgrades further the long-term redevelopment efforts in the Urban Renewal District as well as support the construction a new 152-room hotel, the 250,000 square foot Emerald Corporate Center and will support the construction of second phase of the One North housing project which will include 230 market-rate rental units. This project is supported by the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council's MetroFuture Plan](#).

Conway- Conway Downtown Parking and Safety Improvements Project (\$997,521)

The MassWorks award will improve infrastructure related to public safety, create handicap accessibility to

the public park area and correct Town field drainage issues in Conway's Downtown. The shovel ready project will complement \$870,000 contributed by the Town for related Downtown projects. The project is consistent with the Goals & Objectives for the [Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for Franklin County](#) which supports the revitalization of mixed use districts in existing town centers.

Deerfield- River Road Roadway Reconstruction Project (\$952,463)

The MassWorks award will provide a permanent solution to repairs along River Road, which for the past 15 years has experienced pavement failure and cracking. Infrastructure improvements will include the removal of the debris and reconstructing the existing drainage systems. MassWorks funds will leverage \$100,000 contributed by the Town to make additional repairs to River Road and extend the project pavement limits. This project is supported regionally by the City of Greenfield and Town of Sunderland.

Easthampton- Pleasant Street Infrastructure Improvement Project - Phase II (\$1,500,000)

The MassWorks award will continue the infrastructure work funded by a 2012 MassWorks grant to redevelop the Pleasant Street Mills into a vibrant, mixed-use community. Specifically the grant will construct of 404 new public parking spaces on the southern side of the mills. The City will also seek to enhance the project area through the planting of 124 native trees and shrubs, new trails and lighting as funding allows. The project is consistent with the [Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's 2011 Valley Vision update](#).

Easton- Queset Commons Infrastructure Improvement Project (\$1,000,000)

Queset Commons is a planned, mixed-use district in the heart of Easton and approved as a 40R Smart Growth District. When complete, the development will include 280 residential units and 116,000 square feet of office and retail space. The first 98 units of housing and 22,000 square feet of commercial space are fully permitted by the Town. The MassWorks award will provide for the construction of improvements at the Rt. 138 / Rt. 123 intersection providing for improved traffic flow and pedestrian safety at this critical intersection. The Queset Commons 40R District is identified as a Priority Development Area in the [South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan](#).

Hadley - Shattuck Road Improvement Project (\$61,815)

The MassWorks award will be used to pave an 800-foot section of Shattuck Road immediately south of the Hadley-Sunderland town border. The road paving will enhance public transportation safety of

Shattuck Road by improving the road surface for all-weather travel, as well as providing for a viable detour route to allow closure of Route 47, a north-south corridor, during the replacement of the Dwyer's Bridge culvert. The MassWorks award complements \$60,400 contributed by the Town to extend water service along the roadway. The project is supported by the Town of Sunderland.

Hardwick – Patrill Hollow Road Culvert Replacement Project (\$415,000)

The MassWorks award will replace the existing 15 foot span culvert across Muddy Brook along Patrill Hollow Road. The road is the most direct link for emergency response between the east and west sides of Hardwick.

Haverhill– Merrimack Street Renaissance Extension Initiative (\$5,000,000)

The Merrimack Street Renaissance Project is a major redevelopment initiative designed to revitalize several blighted and underutilized parcels along the Merrimack River. The MassWorks award will assist the redevelopment project by improving accessibility to the Merrimack River through the construction of a new boardwalk, parking and the creation of new public spaces. Private development on the site will include a mixed-use development with office, retail and housing. The grant compliments a previous \$4M award to the City of Haverhill to support this project and aims to extend the momentum of economic development and employment opportunities generated from the designated Growth District eastward towards the Merrimack Street corridor. The area was identified as a State Priority Development Area in the [Merrimack Valley Regional Plan](#).

Lawrence- Lawrence Higher Education Campus Infrastructure Improvement Project (\$894,696)

The MassWorks funded infrastructure will provide the important nexus from the new Northern Essex Community College Allied Health and Technology Center opening in January 2014 to the City's primary downtown street, Essex Street, and support economic development surrounding the growing urban campus in downtown Lawrence. The infrastructure improvements will include the renovation the Essex Street Connection and additional alley ways which provide critical linkages throughout the downtown and are used on a regular basis by NECC students and faculty. This area of Downtown Lawrence is identified as a Priority Development Area in the [Merrimack Valley Regional Plan](#).

Malden- Downtown Revitalization and Transit Reconnection Project (\$3,000,000)

The MassWorks award will support the City's downtown redevelopment initiative by funding the

demolition of Malden's City Hall. This major redevelopment project will reestablish of Pleasant Street as the main gateway to the City's downtown and provide increased access to the Orange Line MBTA station. The City recently accepted responses to an RFP from prospective developers seeking to assist the City with their goal of redeveloping this area transit oriented area into approximately 500 new housing units, new retail, office and hotel space. The project is consistent with the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council's MetroFuture Plan](#).

Marlborough- Southwest Quadrant Complete Streets Initiative (\$1,650,000)

The MassWorks award will support roadway, pedestrian and bicycle improvements along Simarano Drive in Marlborough's Southwest Quadrant and is matched by approximately \$1.3M in City funding. This area, once home to Fidelity and HP, is experiencing a comeback with the decision of TJX and Quest Diagnostics to locate offices in the area. In addition to attracting large office users, the City has proactively taken steps to rezone this area to allow for mixed-use, multi-family development with the goal of providing the City with long term, sustainable growth. The infrastructure improvements will support the creation of 350 new housing units, a 125 room hotel and 50,000 square feet of retail and dining space in the near term. The Simarano Drive area is designated as a Priority Development Area in the [495/MetroWest Compact Study](#).

Mashpee - Market Street Extension (\$901,250)

Mashpee Commons is a certified Growth Center for the Town of Mashpee, designed and built using Smart Growth principals. The MassWorks award will extend Market Street from its current terminus in Mashpee Commons, southward to Job's Fishing Road allowing for the development of residential and mixed-use buildings along either side. Part of a permitted 382 unit 40B development, the first phase will include 53 units and approximately 12,000 square feet of retail. This project is consistent with [Cape Cod Commission's Regional Planning](#) efforts.

Melrose- Highlands Infrastructure Improvement Project (\$960,000)

The Highlands Infrastructure Improvement project will support infrastructure improvements to create connections between the Melrose Highlands commuter rail station, the surrounding neighborhood and Melrose's Main Street/Downtown area. The project supports the City's work with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council on the Tremont/Essex Street Commuter Rail Corridor Study. Recommendations from the study are expected to result in zoning changes to create a TOD overlay district to encourage mixed-use, mixed-income development around the City's Commuter Rail stations. The project is consistent with

the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council's MetroFuture Plan](#).

Mount Washington - BashBish Falls Road Project (\$1,000,000)

The MassWorks award will make repairs necessary to stabilize BashBish Falls Road making it safe and serviceable. Mount Washington, in spite of its small population, is a considerable resource for the Commonwealth and is a popular tourist destination and important to the economic vitality of the region. Without substantial repairs, the Road will be unsafe for all travel shortly and leave the Town with only one access point from New York State.

North Brookfield- Sucker Brook Bridge Repair Project (\$500,000)

The MassWorks award will repair and replace critical infrastructure on the Sucker Brook Bridge on Murphy Road, which has been closed since August 2013 due to safety concerns. In addition to impacting the local residents and farmers, the closure has rerouted public safety vehicles, increasing response time to emergency calls. The project is consistent with the [Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Council's Rural-11 Prioritization Project](#).

Oakham - Roadway Drainage Improvement and Resurfacing Project (\$900,000)

The MassWorks award will assist the Town of Oakham with roadway improvements which the Town has not been able to fund on its own. The grant will be used for drainage improvements, guardrail replacement and roadway resurfacing. The Town seeks to make improvements to improve roadway safety and to bring additional development to the community.

Pittsfield- Streetscape Improvement project - Phase III (\$2,000,000)

The MassWorks award will support the construction of a portion of Phase III of the City of Pittsfield's Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. The Plan is a multi-million dollar infrastructure improvement project which began in 2005 has been a catalyst for redevelopment in the City's downtown. The MassWorks award complements \$13 million in local, state and federal dollars spent in the area. The project is consistent with the [Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's The Regional Plan of the Berkshires](#).

Revere - Broadway CBD Revitalization Project (\$1,500,000)

The MassWorks award will support the transformation of Revere's downtown core with concentrated and well-planned infrastructure improvements along Broadway to support small business, help create jobs,

and facilitate the development of new housing units with ready access to public transportation, services, and urban amenities. The award will fund the demolition of a former police station allowing for 50 new parking spaces adjacent to City Hall and will be used to match the City's current investments in streetscape improvements including new sidewalks, lighting and crosswalks.

Salem- Grove Street Roadway Improvement Project (\$1,275,000)

The North River Canal Corridor (NRCC) has been identified by the City as a Priority Development Area as part of MAPC's Regional Strategic Framework in an effort to revitalize a former industrial area in the City of Salem. The City adopted mixed-use zoning in the area and seeks to improve traffic, pedestrian and bicycle circulation in the neighborhood by improving several key intersections, adding bike lanes and improvement streetscape along the Grove Street corridor. The project is consistent with [MAPC's MetroFuture Plan](#).

Savoy- Black Brook Road Drainage Improvements and Road Reconstruction Project (\$997,112)

The MassWorks award will be used to complement \$1,695,027 in FEMA funding used to repair the roadway and drainage damaged caused by Tropical Storm Irene during the fall of 2011. Black Brook Road has remained closed since the storm as a result of unsafe roadway conditions and failure of the slopes. The project is expected to be completed during the 2014 construction season. The project is supported by the town of Florida.

Taunton– Myles Standish Industrial Park Phase IV and V Infrastructure Project (\$2,000,000)

The City of Taunton seeks to expand the redevelopment efforts at the Myles Standish Industrial Park (MSIP) by constructing additional roadway, utilities and a pump house to provide access to an additional 5 new lots and 48.8 acres of development. The City will seek to leverage the MassWorks award with a \$2M Federal Economic Development Agency Grant to assist with further roadway improvements which will increase connectivity in the MSIP. This award will also support the future development of the Life Science Training and Education Center to be located in the Myles Standish Business Park. The MSIP is designated as a Priority Development Area in the [South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan](#).

Tolland – Route 57 Improvement Project (\$990,000)

The MassWorks award will assist the Town of Tolland in repairing 2.4 miles of Route 57 westwards from

Burt Hill Road to the Sandisfield line. This section of highway is so badly deteriorated that it is impossible to plow a smooth surface for safe vehicle travel. The funds will also be used to repair drainage in along Route 57 in the center of town and repave the roadway. The project is supported by a \$30,000 contribution by the Town. The project is supported by the Towns of Granville and Sandisfield.

Wales - Union Road-Roadway and Drainage Improvements Project (\$881,923)

This area of Wales serves to provide a means for residents in the area to access the major interstates and supports a denser housing area within Woodland Heights and a future residential multi-family housing at the end of Walker Road. The Town has committed \$33,000 to the complete the design and engineering for this project. This project is consistent with the [Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's 2011 Valley Vision update](#).

Warwick- Winchester Rd. (Rt.78) Paving Project (\$495,000)

The Winchester Road Paving project is a roadway safety improvement project which will improve drainage along the roadway and eliminate ice from forming. Winchester Rd., also known as Rt. 78, is the major North/South traveled route between Orange, MA and Winchester, N.H. The town estimates at approximately 1,000 cars use the road each day. The project has been on the Town's list of infrastructure projects to complete for many years but the Town has encountered other projects which have required them to spend their Chapter 90 funding elsewhere. The Town will pledge an additional \$50,000 towards to project to ensure that it can cover any cost overruns.

West Stockbridge - West Stockbridge Downtown Improvement Project (\$1,000,000)

The MassWorks award will be used to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety, serviceability and appearance in West Stockbridge's Downtown. The shovel ready project includes infrastructure improvements to the intersections and sidewalks of Main Street, Center Street and Depot Streets. The Town has contributed \$140,000 for the design and additional infrastructure work. The project is consistent with the Town's Master Plan, the [Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's The Regional Plan of the Berkshires](#) and will complement the rehabilitation of the Old Town Hall, a major downtown project now underway.

Westwood - Canton Street at University Avenue Infrastructure Improvements (\$5,500,000)

The Canton Street at University Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project includes intersection

reconstruction to accommodate additional approach lanes and traffic control to improve traffic operations and safety. The MassWorks award will support redevelopment of 130 acres into a mixed-use project known as University Station. The University Station Project, located adjacent to I-95 and within walking distance of the Route 128/University Park MBTA Station, will include up to 750,000 square feet of retail/commercial space, 325,000 square feet of office/research space, a 160 room hotel, a 100 unit assisted care facility and up to 650 new mixed-income housing units.

Worcester- City Square Improvement Project - Phase II (\$11,000,000)

The MassWorks award will support the next phase of development within Worcester's City Square District. To help facilitate the next phase of private development which will consist of a 150 room hotel and a mixed used residential development with 350 market-rate units and 15,000 square feet of retail, the MassWorks grant will help support the demolition of an existing building on the site (building E), the site will be remediated and construction on a 550 space parking garage will begin. Construction of the underground parking garage will also be supported by a City contribution made through the District Improvement Financing (DIF) program. City Square is part of the Worcester Growth District and is a Priority Development Area in the [495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan](#).

Administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (HED), the MassWorks Infrastructure Program provides a one-stop shop for municipalities seeking funding to support housing, economic development and job creation with a particular emphasis on assisting communities to advance multi-family housing development in the 2013 round. Each year, the Program allocates 10 percent of funds to assist municipalities with populations of 7,000 or less complete roadway safety improvement projects.

HED prioritizes projects in Gateway Cities and town centers where communities have planned ahead for new mixed-use, multi-family housing and commercial growth. Over 80 percent of this year's funding will go to support mixed-use developments projects and will help advance the creation of an estimated 2,500 housing units.

The first competitive MassWorks grant round was held in September 2011 and HED awarded \$63.5 million in grants to 42 communities throughout Massachusetts. In 2012, under the second round of grants, the Administration approved 26 projects worth nearly \$38 million.

For more information on the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, please visit: www.mass.gov/eohed/massworks or follow the Program on Twitter @MassWorks.