

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)

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.