

 **2010**
TOP TEN RESOLVES 
PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Members & Staff Resolve to:

1. Support and help advance implementation of the proposed Holyoke High Performance Computing Center (HPCC), which Governor Patrick announced in June 2009, by providing lead planning, technical coordination, and public information/ outreach services in concert with the project proponents, the state, and host community of Holyoke. In addition, provide ongoing staff support to a new special advisory task force that will guide development of an "Innovation District" in Holyoke to leverage the economic development and jobs benefits of the Holyoke HPCC facility to maximum advantage.
 - #2. Work in concert with PVPC's established Regional Complete Count Committee and its 40-plus public and civic sector members to ensure a complete and reliable 2010 Census count of the Pioneer Valley's population. Focus attention on those population groups that are most apt to be missed or under counted by the Census Bureau, which could generate serious and adverse consequences for our region and local cities and towns.
 - #3. Pursue development of the scope of work for an ambitious cross-border livability planning initiative to connect and integrate each region's land use, energy, transportation, environmental, and economic development plans. Position this inter-state pilot to achieve a unified plan of policies, tools, and actions that can support and sustain New England's "Knowledge Corridor" while substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels before target year 2050.
 - #4. Maintain planning, coordination, and legislative liaison services in support of the 13 communities near the towns of Palmer and Warren deemed potential sites for a new casino gaming facility that could move forward following consideration of casino gaming legislation the Massachusetts state Legislature is expected to take up and act on in 2010. Seek legislation that acknowledges the priority needs and interests of the abutting communities to such a casino facility.
 - #5. Initiate the first phase of a high-speed broadband data collection analysis and GIS mapping project in collaboration with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and the Western Mass Connect organization, among others. Use this initial phase of work to address the unserved and underserved communities in western Massachusetts and explore how their unique broadband needs can be successfully resolved with the aid of federal and state resources and private sector partners.
 - #6. Complete the implementation of a series of revisions to streamline the Plan for Progress, including its organizational structure, meetings, participants, and action strategies as developed, refined, and adopted in late 2009. Rely on this reform scheme to strengthen the Plan's implementation performance as well as the accountability of agencies and organizations deemed lead implementers for more than a dozen active Plan strategies, including a 2009 strategy addition intended to accelerate development of a green regional economy.
 - #7. Apply District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds provided by the Massachusetts State Legislature and the administration to identify, organize, and advance a variety of regional shared services projects with potential to improve quality of services and save public funds by consolidating local services. Simultaneously, work with the state, local governments, and other partners to pursue regional shared services by providing incentives and removing barriers to facilitate their adoption.
 - #8. Strengthen and enhance PVPC's transit planning services, which are provided on a continuing basis to the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), by integrating and augmenting public outreach and involvement processes, taking advantage of more sophisticated, web-based Geographic Information Services (GIS) mapping applications, and fostering proactive communication links between the PVTA, its contracted transit operators, PVTA transit customers, and the public at large.
 - #9. Secure funding and begin implementation of a series of high-priority rail passenger and freight projects, notably completion of the north-south Knowledge Corridor Rail Passenger Study; follow-up to two pending federal rail stimulus applications that would allow Amtrak's Vermonter intercity service to be relocated to its historic route from Springfield due north through the core of the Pioneer Valley; and seeking the activation of a pending feasibility study of east-west high speed rail service to be carried out under the auspices of the Federal Railroad Administration and MassDOT.
 - #10. Work with the Congressional delegation and federal administration in Washington, as well as the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Patrick, to shape and advance legislative initiatives to support and benefit Pioneer Valley communities and people. Key areas of emphasis in 2010 will include climate change, clean energy, casino gaming, EDA and transportation reauthorization (at the federal level), regional shared services, the FY 2011 federal and state budgets, revisions to the Community Preservation Act and its funding provisions, and job stimulus programs and funding, among others.
-