

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

COLLABORATING FOR PROSPERITY



Thanks to our diversified economy, wide range of employers, and concentration of highly skilled workers, the 495/MetroWest region is leading Massachusetts' emergence from the recession.

While there are many examples of how 495/MetroWest is helping the state's economic recovery, a few of the highlights include:

- Groundbreaking for **MathWorks'** expansion in Natick;
- **Genzyme's** construction of a BioManufacturing facility in Framingham as well as establishing an operations center in Northborough;
- Opening of **IBM's** largest North American software lab in Littleton and Westford;
- Wastewater infrastructure linkage between Hopkinton and Milford to allow expansion of **Lonza** and other employers; and
- The decision by **Cisco Systems** to locate their Mobile Internet Technology Group at their facilities in Foxborough.

The Partnership is evolving to meet shifting priorities and needs due to the economic recovery. Some of these developments have been necessitated by changed economic circumstances, particularly midyear cutbacks in state funding for our work.

Other changes have been caused by a renewed appreciation of the need for regional economic development and public-private collaboration. The Partnership coordinated the state's seven other regional economic development entities, and secured a specific source of state funding for regional economic development. An Investor Relations Committee has been formed to build on the elevated importance of private sector involvement in our initiatives, and to raise awareness and create closer ties among the region's employers. Beyond the Partnership's own evolution, our affiliated Charitable Trust has become an active mechanism to solicit and accept philanthropic investments and involvement in the 495/MetroWest region's continued prosperity.

The Partnership continues to serve our mission of advocating on behalf of the 495/MetroWest region; much progress has been made.

495/METROWEST
PARTNERSHIP

Leaders for Regional Prosperity

CORPORATE INVESTORS – PLATINUM DIVISION
Bose Corporation • Bowditch & Dewey LLP
Carruth Capital LLC • IBM

TRANSPORTATION

Over the last year, the Partnership's work calling attention to the region's transportation infrastructure and transit needs has secured responses from the Patrick-Murray Administration, our state legislators, and our Congressional delegation, and produced real results.

Our transportation infrastructure and transit services are crucial to the continued economic growth of the 495/MetroWest region. With the Partnership's sustained and coordinated advocacy and fresh leadership from the state's new Department of Transportation (MassDOT),



The I-495/I-290 Interchange

Paul Kapteyn, photo courtesy of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Special thanks to Transportation Committee Co-Chairs Robert Nagi of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and Vera Koliass of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (formerly the Town Planner in Southborough).

- Supporting state legislation to secure \$186 million in federal stimulus dollars for clean water grants by lowering an interest rate on a state revolving loan fund.
- Advocating for the establishment of the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Finance Commission, to develop a comprehensive review on the need for investment in water infrastructure as well as proposals to finance these needs.
- Offering technical resources on low impact development techniques from municipal experts and a leading residential project within the region.
- Providing briefings and opportunities for regional input to state and federal agencies, including: the U.S. EPA on their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit; the US Army Corps of Engineers on their *Sediment and Dam Removal Feasibility Study* on the Assabet River; and the Massachusetts DEP on stormwater initiatives and reclaimed water regulations.
- Hosting discussions and presentations on the U.S. EPA's pending use of residual designation authority to institute new stormwater runoff requirements in Bellingham, Franklin, and Milford, and developing regional consensus on responding to this regulatory initiative.

some of the region's long-standing priorities are finally being addressed as seen to the right.

- Securing attention to the needs of the Worcester/Framingham Commuter Rail Line, including: the state purchasing CSX-owned tracks and the planned expansion of service west of Framingham.
- Providing regional input into the implementation of the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Improvement Project, by building on the Partnership's success at securing federal stimulus funds for the doubletracking of the commuter rail line to Littleton and advocating for the expansion of the Littleton and Acton commuter rail stations.
- Hosting a roundtable on improving the I-495/I-290 interchange for Congressman Jim McGovern, Jeff Mullan, Secretary and CEO of MassDOT, and key municipal officials.
- Securing federal stimulus funds to address regional needs such as the reconstruction of Pulaski Boulevard in Bellingham and the Route 9 resurfacing project in Natick and Framingham.
- Convening a briefing on the Route 9 resurfacing project by the Highway Division of MassDOT for businesses impacted by the project.
- Providing regional input to MassDOT as they consolidate the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and state agencies.

WATER RESOURCES

The recent Metropolitan Water Resources Authority system failure did not directly impact the 495/MetroWest region, but it illustrated the importance of attention and investment in our water infrastructure systems.

The Partnership's Water Resources Committee has been meeting regularly with state and federal agency representatives and private sector experts, to brief the region on ongoing regulatory initiatives and to develop consensus on how to address critical water resource challenges. While there are a number of ongoing developments and initiatives affecting the region's water infrastructure needs, the Partnership has provided a key leadership role for the region on these issues as seen on the left.



Special thanks to Water Resources Committee Co-Chairs Gerry Preble of Beals + Thomas and Martin Pillsbury of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

**495/METROWEST
PARTNERSHIP**

CORPORATE INVESTORS – GOLD DIVISION

Cisco Systems • Day Pitney LLP • EMC² Corporation
Fidelity Investments • Genzyme Corporation • NSTAR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Conducting our annual Economic Forum to provide an indicators report with data from Framingham State College, as a well as a commercial real estate report from Richards Barry Joyce & Partners, LLC.
- Providing perspective to the Legislature on regional development and endorsing the Senate President's and Senator Spilka's economic development reform legislation.
- Participating in the development of the ReadyMass real estate marketing initiative by the state and MassEcon, including identifying the region's top development properties and participating in a visit by national site selectors.
- Providing regional input into the public-private marketing campaign, *Massachusetts: It's All Here*.
- Providing regional feedback and input on the changes to the Commonwealth's Economic Development Incentive Program.
- Holding a regional briefing by the state's Department of Energy Resources on the Commonwealth's Green Communities program
- Working with key regional and state leaders to support Natick Soldier Systems Center and explore potential new initiatives.

Over the past year the Partnership has been focused on the retention of our region's employers, as well as ensuring that the region has a voice in statewide economic development initiatives. In recognition of the region's growing importance, the state has been very attentive, particularly Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki, who has been committed to strong state collaboration with the Partnership.

Massachusetts is facing daunting energy use challenges. Rising fuel costs, an aging electric grid, and externalities associated with energy production are just a few of the numerous energy related issues we face. With the emphasis on the importance of addressing energy challenges, the Partnership's Economic Development Committee expanded its mission to Energy and Sustainable Development.

Beyond our work with the state's Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the Massachusetts Office of Business Development, and our legislative delegation the Partnership has remained a critical leader of regional economic development efforts as seen to the left.



IBM Mass Lab, Littleton, Massachusetts

Special thanks to Energy and Sustainable Development Committee Co-Chairs Kathleen Freeman of NSTAR and Beth Dahlstrom of the Town of Franklin.

ADVOCACY

Given the current state of the economy, public-private collaboration and joint leadership is now imperative to the state and region's ability to successfully compete in the global marketplace. The Partnership's work advocating on behalf of the 495/MetroWest region is critical, not only to addressing our infrastructure needs but also to ensuring that our region has a voice in larger policy deliberations.



Senate President Therese Murray

To do so, the Partnership has continued to provide a unique opportunity for the region's diverse constituencies, interests, and leaders to meet and forge consensus on the major challenges confronting the region. As a result, our public and private sector leaders have benefited from this honest exchange of ideas and perspectives across ideological boundaries.

These activities cut across all of our initiatives; read about several highlights of our activities over the past year to the right.

Special thanks to Legislative and Regulatory Action Committee members Ned Bartlett of Bowditch & Dewey LLP; Gino Carlucci of the Town of Sherborn; Michelle Ciccolo of the Town of Hudson; Rob Nagi of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.; Glen Trindade of the Town of Medway; and Scott Weiss of The Gutierrez Company.

- Holding State House Day with Senate President Therese Murray, who shared her intentions to comprehensively reform the state's economic development structure and formalize the role of regional entities such as the Partnership.
- Securing the passage of legislation establishing a Special Commission on the Future of Westborough State Hospital, in order to ensure a comprehensive dialogue among Westborough, Northborough, and the wide range of state agencies affected by the ongoing closure of the facility, and to forge a clear direction for the future of any surplus property.
- Working with a number of other regional organizations to develop a consensus position on gaming issues, so that our legislators could have grass roots support in their efforts to ensure that any gaming legislation took into account the 495/MetroWest region's needs.
- Advocating for legislation on the state's tax code that governs retailers headquartered in 495/MetroWest region – BJ's Wholesale Club, Staples, and TJX Companies – to provide incentives for their further growth.

CORPORATE INVESTORS – SILVER DIVISION

Community Newspaper Co. • Fallon Community Health Plan • Framingham State College
MetroWest Medical Center/St. Vincent Hospital • Middlesex Savings Bank
Patriot Place • Staples • TJX Companies • TransAction Associates

**LEADERS FOR
REGIONAL PROSPERITY**

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

Our work has been critical during this economic downturn. While much has been accomplished by the Partnership on behalf of the 495/MetroWest region, more remains to be done.

As noted a few years ago by one of the Partnership's architects, Ambassador Richard J. Egan, the founder of EMC:

"I'm proud to announce that the Partnership has not only met their original expectations, but exceeded them. Most importantly, the Partnership has fulfilled its promise to serve as our regional voice with policymakers, and its commitment to public-private collaboration has drawn increased attention to our regional needs."

This commitment to public-private collaboration is all the more important in today's economy, where Massachusetts and 495/MetroWest are competing against regions across the globe. While the Partnership has made a real difference, many of our competitor regions have similar organizations, but with longer history, formal governmental authority, and deeper financial resources. As the economic recovery continues, the Partnership's role in safeguarding and advocating for the 495/MetroWest region is critical not only to our regional economy, but to the entire Commonwealth.

The stability of the Partnership provides a consistent regional voice across a shifting policy landscape. Beyond the Partnership's overarching advocacy role, to the right you can review some of the initiatives that we are currently involved in that will provide real returns to the region over the upcoming year.

The Partnership's past accomplishments and continued success depends upon the support of individuals, companies, corporations, and organizations throughout the region. Thank you to all who have been involved in our success.

To learn more about participating in the Partnership, go to www.495partnership.org or call 774-760-0495.

- Working with the Patrick/Murray Administration and the region on the development of the **495/MetroWest Development Compact**.
- Releasing an **Energy Guide** profiling best practices on energy conservation and providing resources on the state's ongoing energy initiatives, such as the Green Communities Act.
- Continuing to work with Legislative leaders on **reforming the state's economic development structure**, and formalizing the role and responsibilities of regional organizations such as the Partnership.
- Pushing for the design and funding of the **I-495/I-290 interchange** project.
- Building on the work of the **Partnership's Charitable Trust**, to expand resources available to address regional constraints.
- Participating on the **Westborough State Hospital Special Commission**, and providing technical assistance to support deliberations.
- Working with Bellingham, Franklin, and Milford and other interested parties on the **U.S. EPA's proposed phosphorus runoff program**.
- Providing regional input on the use of federal funding to address the **I-495/Route 9 interchange**.

PARTNERSHIP OFFICERS

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Town of Framingham
Board of Selectmen

Public Sector Vice-Chair

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Board of Selectmen

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PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Executive Director

Paul Matthews

Deputy Director of Sustainable

Development Programs
Adam Ploetz, AICP

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This annual report is dedicated to the memory and unique leadership of Ambassador Richard J. Egan, whose success in business and commitment to the region transformed 495/Metro West.

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