



**495/METROWEST CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP**  
200 FRIBERG PARKWAY, WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581  
PHONE: (774) 760-0495 FAX: (774) 760-0017

## ARC UPDATE

July 13, 2004

*An update from the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, a non-profit organization serving thirty-two communities through public/private collaborations.*

### RECENT NEWS...

#### *Partnership's State Funding Vetoed by Governor Romney*

Despite the many expressions of support - from legislators, municipal officials, major employers, and other regional leaders - Governor Romney vetoed the Partnership's \$100,000 appropriation.

While this veto is a major setback for the Partnership, it can still be overcome - as it was last year - with your continued support and advocacy. The Legislature is now considering potential overrides of Governor Romney's individual vetoes by a two-thirds vote in each branch before adjourning its formal sessions for the year.

The legislative delegation, which has been absolutely pivotal in securing state funding for the Partnership, is continuing this fight for the 495/MetroWest region. State Representative Stephen LeDuc prepared a joint letter, signed by fellow State Representatives Cory Atkins, Deborah Blumer, Jennifer Callahan, James Eldridge, Geoffrey Hall, David Linsky, Paul Loscocco, Harold Naughton, Jr., Marie Parente, Alice Hanlon Peisch, George Peterson, Jr., Karyn Polito, Susan Pope, Karen Spilka, James Vallee, and Patricia Walrath urging Speaker Finneran to schedule this veto for an override vote. Likewise, State Senator Pamela Resor, joined by fellow Senators Robert Antonioni, Scott Brown, Harriette Chandler, Susan Fargo, Guy Glodis, and David Magnani have sent a letter to Senate President Travaglini asking for an override vote on this veto.

These legislators and the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership **need your help** to demonstrate the need for the veto to be scheduled for an override vote. Please contact Speaker Finneran; President Travaglini; Chairman Rogers; and Chairwoman Murray by phone, letter, email, or fax to express your support for the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership and request that the both the House and Senate override Governor Romney's veto of \$100,000 in Line Item 7007-0900.

The most effective method of sharing your support for the Partnership would be to call these offices directly, particularly if you know these legislators personally. Sample correspondence is available for your use, and to follow up on any calls or emails on the Partnership's behalf.

**House Speaker Thomas M. Finneran**  
State House, Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133  
Phone: (617)722-2500  
Fax: (617)722-2008  
EMail: [Rep.ThomasFinneran@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:Rep.ThomasFinneran@hou.state.ma.us)

**Senate President Robert E. Travaglini**  
State House, Room 330  
Boston, MA 02133  
Phone: (617)722-1500  
Fax: (617)248-3840  
EMail: [RTravagl@senate.state.ma.us](mailto:RTravagl@senate.state.ma.us)

**Chairman John Rogers**

**Chairwoman Therese Murray**

House Ways & Means Committee  
State House, Room 237  
Phone: (617)722-2380  
Fax: (617)722-2998  
Email: [JRogers@hwm.state.ma.us](mailto:JRogers@hwm.state.ma.us)

Senate Ways & Means Committee  
State House, Room 212  
Phone: (617)722-1481  
Fax: (617)722-1022  
Email: [TMurray@senate.state.ma.us](mailto:TMurray@senate.state.ma.us)

All involved with the Partnership greatly appreciate your continued support and assistance throughout the state's budgetary process. We would not have gotten this far without your dedication and commitment - now we just need your help one last time to insure another year of state funding to match our private fundraising campaign.

For sample correspondence, please contact Paul Matthews at (774)760-0495 or [paul@arc-of-innovation.org](mailto:paul@arc-of-innovation.org).

### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS...

#### *Moving the 495/MetroWest Region Forward Together*

On Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Partnership held its inaugural annual conference, *Moving the Region Forward Together*. Over 250 attendees from municipal government, businesses, chambers of commerce, environmental organizations, non-profits, the academic community, state legislators, and agency officials heard presentations on a number of topics challenging the 495/MetroWest region. Conference presentations included...

**Secretary of Economic Development Ranch Kimball**, who discussed his visits to state and regional businesses, as well as economic conditions, which he viewed with "guarded optimism". He provided attendees with an overview of tools available to cultivate economic growth, including tax increment financing, workforce development grants, and low interest loans to emerging technology companies. According to Secretary Kimball, municipalities can best position the region and the Commonwealth for economic growth by preparing sites ready for development and streamlined for permitting by high technology companies.

**U.S. Congressman James P. McGovern**, who focused his comments on the pending Congressional reauthorization of TEA-21 legislation, which serves as the comprehensive source of federal transportation funding. He pointed out that the legislation has been extended three times since its original expiration, and made a compelling case that the nation's transportation infrastructure needs to be addressed. The Northeastern states makes a particularly strong case, given the region's population density, high traffic, the old age of many roads and bridges, and the effects of harsh winters. The Congressman pointed out that transportation funding also acts an economic stimulant, since every billion dollars of such investment results in 47,500 jobs. Beyond transportation funding, he called on state leaders to realize the economic opportunities posed by such emerging technologies as renewable energy, and announced that to do so, he will be holding a fuel cell summit in the fall.

**Region's 'Top Ten Transportation Nightmares'**, which was presented by the Co-Chairs of the Partnership's Transportation Committee - **Kathleen Bartolini** from the Town of Framingham and **Robert Nagi** from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.. This project, a joint venture with **Community Newspapers Inc.** and the **MetroWest Daily News**, solicited public nominations of the region's top transportation needs, or "nightmares". Over one hundred fifty nominations were received and evaluated by the Partnership's Transportation Committee, consisting of town planners, transportation consultants, planning agency representatives, business leaders, and other regional leaders.

#### TOP TEN TRANSPORTATION NIGHTMARES IN THE 495/METROWEST REGION

1. Lack of Public Transportation
2. I-290 and I-495
3. I-495 and Rt. 90 / Massachusetts Turnpike
4. Rt. 135 and Rt. 126 in Framingham
5. Rt. 9 and Lyman Street in Westborough
6. Rt. 9 at Central St. and Oakhill Rd. in Southborough
7. Rt. 20 Corridor
8. System-wide maintenance / Improved signal systems and roadways

9. 'The Bookends'  
I-495 and Rt. 119 in Littleton  
I-495 and Rt. 140 / West Central St. in Franklin
10. I-495 and Rt. 9

This list of the 495/MetroWest region's top transportation needs will now be used in the Partnership's advocacy efforts with the regional, state, and federal government.

Regional Housing Crisis featured a panel of housing experts, including **Michael Goodman** from the UMass Donahue Institute; **Bonnie Heudorfer** from Northeastern University's Center for Urban and Regional Policy; **Ken Daly** from Marsh & McLennan Companies; **Mark Kablack** from Home Builders Association of Massachusetts, and **Aaron Gornstein** from Citizens Housing and Planning Association. These experts presented regional and statewide housing statistics to illuminate the scarcity of available housing as well as its ramifications as an economic constraint on large employers. The Partnership is addressing these issues in conjunction with Citizens Housing and Planning Association and the Home Builders Association of Massachusetts, through a housing awareness campaign entitled 'Home@Last'. This campaign, centered around testimonials by both public and private sector leaders in the 495/MetroWest region, makes a compelling argument for an expanded range of housing options.

**Louis DiNatale**, the Director of the Center for State and Local Policy at the UMass John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. His presentation outlined the changing political landscape, both in Massachusetts and nationally, as well as the ever-increasing political importance of the 495/MetroWest region.

In the business portion of the conference, the Partnership thanked the outgoing Co-Chairs, **Kristina Allen** from the Town of Westborough and **David Begelfer** from the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, while recognizing the incoming chairs, **Frank Crocetti** from Fidelity Investments and **Andrew Porter** from the Town of Holliston. *Further information and conference materials are available online at [www.arc-of-innovation.org](http://www.arc-of-innovation.org).*

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES...

##### *U.S. EPA Holding Land Redevelopment Conference in the 495/MetroWest Region*

On **August 4<sup>th</sup>**, the U.S EPA is holding a land redevelopment conference at **Gillette Stadium in Foxborough**, entitled "Improve Your Field Position: Contaminated to Commercially Viable".

This conference is intended to bridge the gap between developers, municipalities, and government agencies, by encouraging partnerships and offering case studies on successful brownfield redevelopment projects. Members of the Partnership's Economic Development Committee are encouraged to attend both the conference and a separate meeting of the committee that will be held at 2:30PM that day in Gillette Stadium.

*Further information on the conference, including program details and registration information is available online at [www.epa.gov/ne/brownfields/iyfp/](http://www.epa.gov/ne/brownfields/iyfp/).*

##### *Upcoming 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership Meetings & Events*

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Co-Chairs Lunch for Executive Steering Committee | July 14; Noon - 1:30PM |
| Transportation Committee                         | July 22; 8:30 - 9:30AM |
| Economic Development Committee                   | August 4; 2:30PM       |
| Executive Steering Committee                     | August 27; 8 - 10AM    |

*For further information on these Partnership events, please contact **Elisa Wright** at (774)760-0495 or [elisa@arc-of-innovation.org](mailto:elisa@arc-of-innovation.org).*

#### AROUND THE 495/METROWEST REGION...

##### *Capacity Study Underway on Worcester/Framingham Commuter Line*

The MBTA has retained outside consultants, led by HNTB, to perform a capacity analysis of the section of commuter rail line owned by CSX between Framingham and Worcester. This analysis has two principal components - examining the feasibility, ramifications, and costs of increasing service through capacity improvements to the line, and reviewing the potential of servicing Framingham State College

through commuter rail. Accordingly, the results of this study will affect MBTA decisions on future levels of commuter rail service on the Worcester/Framingham line.

Currently there are two public meetings scheduled to discuss this capacity study and solicit input from residents, employers, and local officials -

- July 20<sup>th</sup> from 6 -8PM in the City Council Chambers at Worcester City Hall, 455 Main St.; &
- July 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 - 8PM in the Ablondie Room at Framingham Town Hall, 150 Concord St.

These meetings will feature an open house period to foster discussion; a formal presentation on the analysis; and a question and answer session.

*For further information on this study, please contact Paul Matthews at (774)760-0495 or [paul@arc-of-innovation.org](mailto:paul@arc-of-innovation.org).*

#### *Upcoming Chambers of Commerce Events*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Marlborough Regional Chamber's Networking Before Nine         | July 14; 7:45 - 9AM       |
| United Chamber's Business-After-Hours                         | July 14; 5 - 7PM          |
| MetroWest Chamber's Nearly Noontime Networking                | July 15; 11:45 - 1:30PM   |
| Marlborough Regional Chamber's Annual Steak & Lobster Cookout | July 27; 5 - 8PM          |
| Corridor Nine Area's Annual Summer Sizzle                     | July 29; 5 - 7:30PM       |
| Marlborough Regional Chamber's Networking Before Nine         | August 4; 7:45 - 9AM      |
| MetroWest Chamber's Networking Breakfast                      | August 12; 7:15 - 9AM     |
| MetroWest Chamber's Business After Hours                      | August 17; 5:30 - 7PM     |
| Corridor Nine Area's Membership Monthly Breakfast             | August 19; 7:15 - 9AM     |
| MetroWest Chamber's Nearly Noontime Networking                | August 19; 11:45 - 1:30PM |
| United Chamber's Oldies Summer Sizzler                        | August 21; 7:30 - 12:30PM |
| Marlborough Regional Chamber's Business After Hours           | August 26; 5:30 - 7:30PM  |

*For further information on these and other events, please consult the chamber websites at [www.corridornine.org/](http://www.corridornine.org/); [www.marlboroughchamber.org/](http://www.marlboroughchamber.org/); [www.metrowest.org/](http://www.metrowest.org/); & [www.unitedchamber.org/](http://www.unitedchamber.org/).*

#### ON BEACON HILL...

##### *Governor Romney Signs State Budget and Issues Vetoes*

On Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, Governor Romney signed a \$24.5 Billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2005, as well as issuing \$108.5 Million in vetoes.

These vetoes - totaling less than one-half of 1% of the total budget - included operational funds for the Partnership (see above), as well as...

- \$20 Million to increase salaries of direct care workers working for state contractors;
- \$10 Million for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority;
- \$7.4 Million for the trail court system;
- \$5 Million for subsidies to eliminate prescription drug co-payments for low income residents;
- \$1.3 Million for the MA Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission; &
- \$1.2 Million to implement the new statewide smoking ban.

Other legislative initiatives included in budgetary 'outside sections' were vetoed as well, including...

- Issuing a moratorium on the creation of new charter schools;
- Allowing undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuitions at state colleges; &
- Prohibiting outsourcing by state vendors.

The Legislature can now override these individual vetoes with a two-thirds vote in each branch, but these override votes must take place before the adjournment of formal sessions, which is expected to take place before July 26<sup>th</sup> this year.

##### *Water Policy Task Force Releases Report & Recommendations*

Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder appointed a Water Policy Task Force, made up of representatives from local, state, and federal government; advocacy organizations; and municipal public works departments, and charged them with “developing a water policy that both promotes wise management and efficient use of our water resources and provides a framework of principles, goals, and actions for managing water in Massachusetts.”

In the course of their deliberations, the Task Force conducted a series of public meetings, including one in the 495/MetroWest region on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Westborough Town Hall. A number of Partnership participants attending this meeting, including municipal officials from Shrewsbury, Hopkinton, and Westborough, and raised concerns on the need for an equitable approach to water policy, as well as the Task Force’s lack of representation from suburban communities.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Task Force released their report, presented as a series of draft policy recommendations. The MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs is soliciting written comments on these recommendations until July 30<sup>th</sup>; such correspondence can be directed to:

Ms. Vandana Rao  
MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114  
Email: [waterpolicy@state.ma.us](mailto:waterpolicy@state.ma.us)

Members of the Partnership’s Water and Sewer Committee are currently reviewing the Task Force report, available online at [www.mass.gov/envir/wptf/draft.htm](http://www.mass.gov/envir/wptf/draft.htm) .

*Partnership staff have authored an Issue Brief on the Water Policy Task Force that is available online at [www.arc-of-innovation.org](http://www.arc-of-innovation.org) , or by contacting Paul Matthews at [paul@arc-of-innovation.org](mailto:paul@arc-of-innovation.org) or (774)760-0495. Another Issue Brief is being prepared on the draft policy recommendations that should be available shortly, both on the Partnership’s website and by contacting our offices directly.*

#### *State Sales Tax Holiday Announced for August 14th*

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold consumers exempt from paying the 5% sales tax on most items under \$2,500 (boats, motor vehicles, meals, telecommunications, gas, steam, and electricity are exempt.) This measure originated in the economic stimulus package approved last year, and makes Massachusetts one of eleven states to hold such a holiday this year. Due to this “holiday”, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue expects consumers to save between \$6 and \$10 Million in sales taxes.

*More information is online at [www.dor.state.ma.us/rul\\_reg/tir/tir\\_04\\_14.htm](http://www.dor.state.ma.us/rul_reg/tir/tir_04_14.htm) .*

#### *What’s Ahead for State Government?*

- The House and Senate will consider overriding individual gubernatorial vetoes;
- Legislative leaders and Governor Romney will offer competing proposals to utilize the \$700 Million state surplus that is expected at the end of the 2004 Fiscal Year;
- The state’s Constitutional Convention (consisting of legislators from both branches) will consider a proposed constitutional amendment to guarantee all Massachusetts residents access to comprehensive health insurance;
- A legislative conference committee is expected to issue a consensus version of legislation, first proposed by Governor Romney, that would alter the current corporate tax structure;
- A legislative conference committee is expected to issue a consensus version of legislation rewriting the state’s School Building Assistance Program;
- The House and Senate are expected to grant final approvals to legislation revamping the state’s transportation agencies;
- The House and Senate are expected to grant final approvals to legislation overhauling public construction laws; and
- The full Senate is expected to take up a Transportation Bond Bill after the Senate Ways and Means Committee completes their review.

This update is intended to provide a brief overview of the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership's activities, as well as offer updates on various issues confronting the region. It is not intended to serve as a comprehensive guide to all issues of concern to the Partnership and its participants, and unless otherwise noted, it is not intended to signify that the Partnership has taken a particular position on any issues. Any included web links are listed on an as-is basis and without warranties either express or implied; the Partnership is not responsible for those sites' content, privacy policies, products, and services. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding this update, please contact Paul Matthews, Public Affairs Program Manager, by phone at (774)760-0495 or by email at [paul@arc-of-innovation.org](mailto:paul@arc-of-innovation.org).

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ARC OF INNOVATION

The 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership was founded to address regional needs through public / private collaboration, by enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life while sustaining natural resources in 495/MetroWest region. The Partnership was formally incorporated in 2003, building from the prior activities of the I495 Technology Corridor Initiative, MetroWest Momentum, and the affiliated chambers of commerce - the Corridor Nine Area, Marlborough Regional, MetroWest, and United Regional chambers. As currently constituted, the Partnership has a service area of thirty-two communities, and as a chartered non-profit organization, is governed by a Board of Directors representing leadership from municipal government, business, state agencies, environmental organizations, and non-profit groups.

### 495/METROWEST CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP

|                      |                                     |  |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Frank Crocetti       | Fidelity Investments                | Business Co-Chair  |
| Andrew Porter        | Town of Holliston                   | Municipal Co-Chair   |
|                      |                                     |  |
|                      | <i>Staff</i>                        |  |
| Lynn Sand            | CEO                                 | <a href="mailto:Lynn@arc-of-innovation.org">Lynn@arc-of-innovation.org</a>   |
| Paul Matthews        | Public Affairs Program Manager      | <a href="mailto:Paul@arc-of-innovation.org">Paul@arc-of-innovation.org</a>   |
| Elisa Wright         | Administrative Coordinator          | <a href="mailto:Elisa@arc-of-innovation.org">Elisa@arc-of-innovation.org</a> |
|                      |                                     |  |
|                      | <i>Committee Chairs</i>             |  |
| Kathleen Freeman     | Bowditch & Dewey                    | Economic Development Committee   |
| Senator Pamela Resor | Massachusetts State Senate          | Housing Committee  |
| Leslie Ackles        | University of Massachusetts         | Institute for Local Issues   |
| David Soule          | Northeastern University             | Institute for Local Issues   |
| Raphaella Rozanski   | Town of Medway                      | Legislative & Regulatory Action Cmte   |
| Sherry Clancy        | National Development                | Permitting Committee   |
| James Robbins        | Town of Westborough                 | Permitting Committee   |
| Adam Weisenberg      | Goodwin / Procter                   | Permitting Committee   |
| Kathleen Bartolini   | Town of Framingham                  | Transportation Committee   |
| Robert L. Nagi       | VHB - Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. | Transportation Committee   |
| Thomas Hubbard       | MA Technology Collaborative         | Water & Sewer Committee  |
| George Preble        | Beals & Thomas                      | Water & Sewer Committee  |
| Sylvia Beville       | Metro South West REB                | Workforce Development Committee  |
| Michele Drolet       | Conquest                            | Workforce Development Committee  |