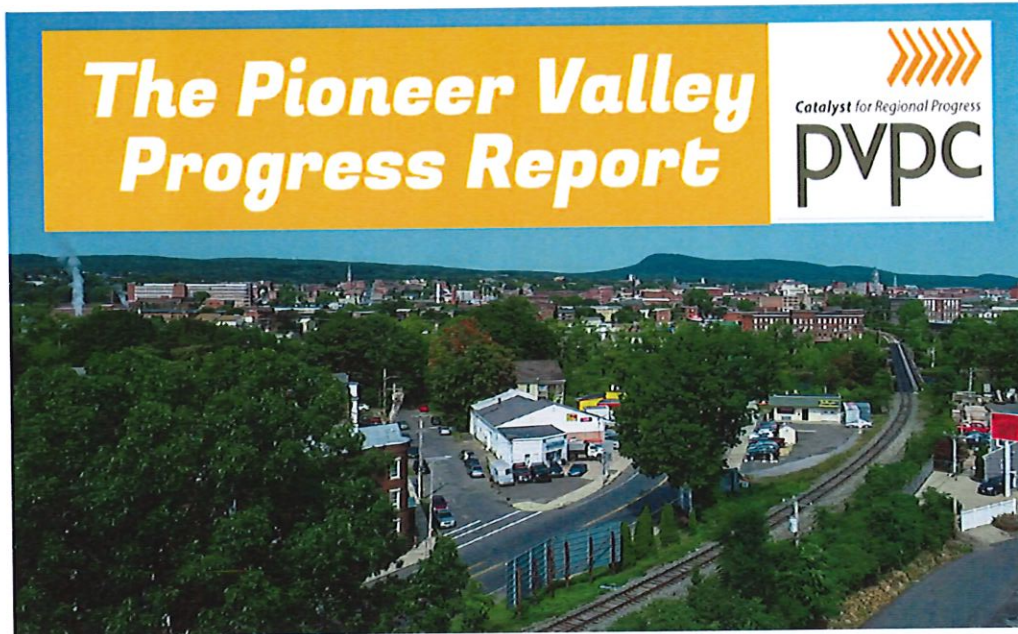


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AUGUST 2022

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What a pleasure it is to see another one of our member municipalities welcome ValleyBike - the fleet of blue and white e-bikes stationed across our two-county planning district.

What started as a theory that there was a demand in our Valley for this type of mobility amenity only found in large urban metros at that time, has now established itself as a major success in our effort to get folks to forgo the car keys and experience our communities in a new light.

My congrats to Westfield's Mayor McCabe and his team, as well as all those who support

ValleyBike's continued success.

Speaking of Valley residents on the move, we are currently seeking input from our region's private sector leaders on current commuting trends here, which we will use to inform our transportation decision-making.

We're also continuing to promote efforts to protect our Valley's waterways through the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee public education campaign, and want to alert our cultural organizations in need of support in their continued efforts to recover from COVID-19's impacts that there is currently grant funding available.

Thanks again for your readership and partnership as we continue to build a better Hampden and Hampshire County for everybody.

-Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Westfield Welcomes ValleyBike

The Whip City will be joining Amherst, Chicopee, Easthampton, Holyoke, Northampton, South Hadley, Springfield and West Springfield, along with the University of Massachusetts this fall with [the installation of two ValleyBike Share program stations](#) at Westfield State University and the PVTA's Olver Transit Center.



The expansion of this popular program is made possible with a \$177,888 grant through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Shared Streets and Spaces Program awarded earlier this month.

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**Comprehending the Current Commute**





PVPC is conducting a brief survey of businesses in Western Massachusetts to help better understand commuting trends due to changes to remote work policies since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March of 2020.

[This survey takes approximately 3-5 minutes and should be completed by business owners, HR, or other managers who have access to the relevant company and policy information.](#)

Please have only one person per business participate in this survey.

We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete this

survey and sharing it with any other businesses in the community to encourage them to participate.

Your answers will be kept anonymous, and data and analysis will be shared only in aggregate forms to describe trends in the community.

## **FEMA: Flood Resilience for Homeowners, Renters & Business Owners**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is reminding homeowners, renters, and business owners that flooding remains the country's number one disaster and can potentially affect everyone and every property.





Click [HERE](#) for their new guide to help people to understand and navigate flood risk and provide the needed resources and information



## Mass Cultural Council offers Cultural Sector Recovery Grants for Organizations

Mass Cultural Council's [Cultural Sector Recovery Grants for Organizations](#) offers unrestricted grants ranging from \$5,000-\$75,000 to Massachusetts cultural organizations, collectives, and businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Take the PUP (pick up poop) pledge!

Help ensure that your pet's waste does not wash with the next storm into drain pipes that flow to a nearby stream, river, or lake.

[By taking this pledge](#), you agree to join others in your community to help keep waters Blue.

I pledge to:

- clean up after my dog(s), even in my own yard
- carry pet waste bags on walks
- dispose of waste in a trash bin and never in a street drain
- encourage others to clean up after their own pets

