

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES APPLICATION PERIOD FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS IN SOUTH COAST COMMUNITIES OPENS

BOSTON – Friday, June 15, 2012 – The Patrick-Murray Administration announced today that communities in the South Coast area can now apply for technical assistance grants for projects that support the goals of the South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan.

In the past, communities have used the grants to implement the smart growth principles of the Corridor Plan through efforts that include transit oriented development bylaws, riverwalk planning, mixed-use bylaws in town centers, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity studies. The deadline to submit applications is July 31.

“By making smart, targeted investments in the South Coast region, we have been able to maximize the impact of our support of economic development projects in the region,” said Greg Bialecki, the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. “The technical assistance grants are an important part of our overall strategy of helping communities plan ahead for growth in the region.”

The technical assistance grants are part of a broader strategy by the state to target state investments in the region to support the advancement of the economic development and preservation goals outlined in the South Coast Rail Economic Development and Corridor Plan. According to [a report](#) prepared by the Office of Housing and Economic Development, over the last three years \$939 million in investment has been targeted to South Coast cities and towns, and nearly three-quarters of that funding was directed to the Priority Preservation Areas or Priority Development Areas outlined in the Corridor Plan.

“MassDOT is pleased to provide this fifth year of technical assistance funding to the communities in the South Coast Rail corridor,” said MassDOT Secretary Richard Davey. “By taking advantage of this support, cities and towns in the region are positioning themselves to welcome economic development that aligns with their goals, preserves natural resources, and ensures sustainability.”

Technical assistance grants have been provided to communities in the region over the last four years, totaling more than \$800,000. Applicants for the Fiscal Year 2013 awards are encouraged to focus on proposals for projects that support opportunities in Priority Development and Priority Preservation areas and advance the smart growth goals of the Corridor Plan.

For more on the plan, and to see priority areas for each community, visit www.southcoastrail.com.

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