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PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES MASSWORKS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**Consolidation continues reforms to streamline, improve efficiency, and reduce burdens on municipalities**

WORCESTER - Thursday, September 16, 2010 - As part of the Patrick-Murray Administration's continuing efforts to promote job growth and long-term economic recovery, Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray announced the MassWorks Infrastructure Program - a newly created one-stop shop for municipalities seeking public infrastructure funding to support job growth and long-term, sustainable economic development today at the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce Breakfast.

As Massachusetts continues to rebound from the current economic downturn faster and stronger than the rest of the country, the Patrick-Murray Administration continues to develop reforms that will secure the Commonwealth's economic future. Through the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, the state will further streamline economic development initiatives by compiling existing state resources into one program. This consolidation will provide increased efficiency, service, and communication when cities and towns apply for infrastructure grants and resources.

"Our administration is committed to working with municipalities, as we deliver more efficient resources that will ensure critical infrastructure is in place to support new development projects and create jobs," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "This improved process will further streamline state resources and provide cities and towns greater access to these services as we continue to put people back to work in the Commonwealth."

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program represents an administrative consolidation of six grant programs:

- Public Works Economic Development (PWED)
- Community Development Action Grant (CDAG)
- Growth District Initiative (GDI) Grants
- Massachusetts Opportunity Relocation and Expansion Program (MORE)
- Small Town Rural Assistance Program (STRAP)
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program.

In the last three years, these programs have added thousands of jobs and supported business growth throughout the Commonwealth by providing public infrastructure grants for such improvements as sewers, roadways, curb-cuts, pedestrian walkways, and water treatment systems.

The consolidation brings benefits to both the Commonwealth and cities and towns. It offers municipal applicants a streamlined process to access state economic development grant programs and provides a single application, a single solicitation schedule, and a single set of grant rules and reporting requirements. By streamlining the application and review process, the state will enhance its ability to prioritize shovel-ready projects and maximize immediate job creation and economic development opportunities. The program will continue the Patrick-Murray Administration's focus on accountability and effective management of state resources. The Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development will oversee the MassWorks Infrastructure Program with input from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

For more information, please visit www.mass.gov/eohed/infrastructure.

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