



SOUTH COAST RAIL



[www.mass.gov/southcoastrail](http://www.mass.gov/southcoastrail)

## Executive Order and Technical Assistance Awards Advance Corridor Plan

Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray joined state and local leaders in Taunton on September 30 to announce \$320,000 in technical assistance awards to cities and towns to plan for train stations, economic development and environmental protection related to South Coast Rail. The event took place a year after Governor Deval Patrick released the *South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan*. The Lieutenant Governor also announced a new Executive Order (# 525) that directs state investments toward the priority development and natural preservation areas identified in the plan.

### Putting the Plan into Action

Recognizing that expanding jobs, housing and environmental protection can best be realized through smart growth, Governor Patrick signed the new Executive Order to help implement the Corridor Plan. Lieutenant Governor Murray – accompanied by local and state elected officials – said that these actions require strong state and local partnerships. The Executive Order follows the release of policy commitments announced last year by Governor Patrick.

The Executive Order calls for the state to align its investments in infrastructure and land preservation with the Corridor Map, which was developed through an extensive civic engagement process involving over 100 community meetings. The map identifies 33 places that are priorities for new job and housing growth and 72 places that are priorities for protecting natural lands. State investments affected by the Executive Order include water, wastewater, transportation, housing and economic development, and land preservation, as well as the construction and leasing of state facilities.



*Lieutenant Governor Murray announces third round of technical assistance awards.*

As a first step, state agencies will conduct a two-year retrospective assessment of their policies and investments to ensure they support the goals and recommendations of the Corridor Plan. The consistency of local and state investments with the priority areas will be tracked on a public, web-based system.

Even with the Commonwealth's support, successful implementation of the Corridor Plan depends, in large part, on decisions made at the local level. By combining state investments in the priority areas with local actions — such as zoning changes — sustainable development can flourish in Southeastern Massachusetts. The technical assistance program was created to help communities achieve local goals that advance sustainable development.

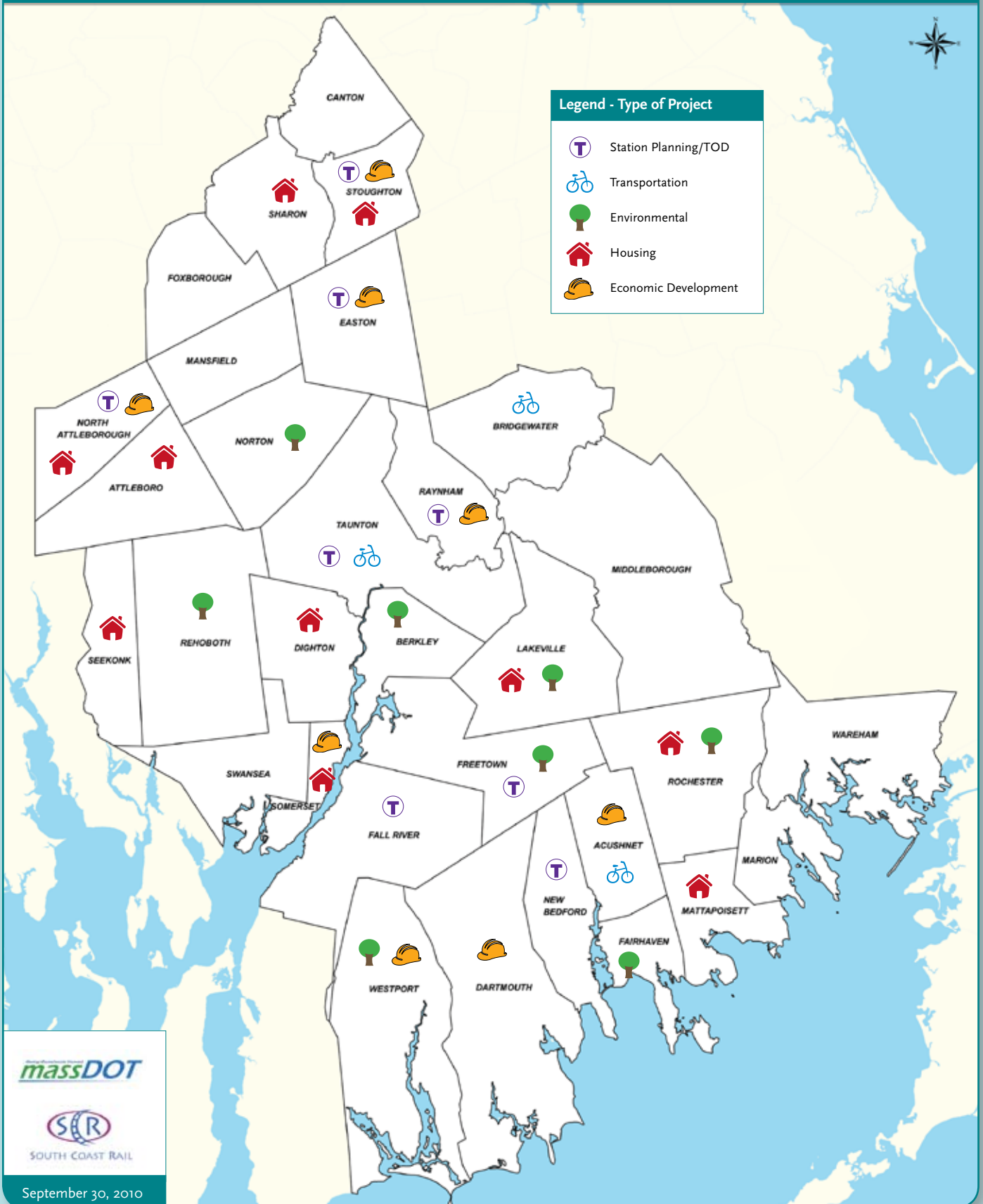
### Technical Assistance Awards

This year, fifteen communities are receiving awards worth a total of \$320,000 in professional services. The fifteen communities include: Acushnet, Berkley, Easton, Fall River, Freetown, Lakeville, New Bedford, North Attleboro, Norton, Rehoboth, Rochester, Sharon, Somerset, Stoughton, and Taunton. The Southeastern Regional

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# SOUTH COAST RAIL Technical Assistance Projects



massDOT



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Planning and Economic Development District, Old Colony Planning Council, and Metropolitan Area Planning Council will provide the majority of technical assistance services.

A wide range of projects is represented by this year's awards, from environmental protection to continuing the station area planning begun last year. New sites that will be undergoing intensive planning this year include Battleship Cove in Fall River, North Easton Village, and Taunton Depot. Mixed-use districts and transit-oriented development bylaws are being developed for a number of locations. Low Impact Development regulations, Open Space Protection bylaws and Agricultural Enterprise bylaws are also in the works for this year.

Over the past two years, \$300,000 in annual technical assistance grants have helped communities plan for development around stations, create housing plans and draft zoning changes to maximize smart growth. The regional planning agencies, cities and towns and South Coast Rail team worked with consultants on major accomplishments, including:

- **Station area planning:** This past year, technical assistance helped plan six future stations. Consultants worked with the communities and residents to develop visualizations for the areas around the stations, showing how they could look and feel as they are redeveloped. In Stoughton, New Bedford, Freetown, Easton and Fall River, the next step will be to develop zoning proposals that will allow these types of high quality neighborhoods to be built. Fall River is the first community scheduled to take its waterfront "transit-oriented development" zoning proposal for local approval this fall.
- **Housing:** A number of towns are planning ahead for new housing that will meet the needs of their residents in the years to come. The region's demographics are



From left to right: David Wojnar, Acushnet Selectman; Rich Davey, General Manager of the MBTA; Rep. Bill Bowles; Mayor Charles Crowley; Lt. Governor Tim Murray; Jean Fox, Freetown Selectwoman; Sen. Marc Pacheco; Rep. Jim Fagan; Richard LaCamera, Rochester Town Administrator.

changing, so communities are making sure there will be sufficient housing options for empty nesters, the elderly and young families just starting out. Six housing plans are being developed, along with smart growth housing districts that include a mix of market rate and affordable homes in places appropriate for additional development.

- **Focus on Open Space:** The Town of Berkley found that many of its residents prize the beautiful landscapes that help define their community's character, but new subdivisions were consuming large amounts of undeveloped land. Working with SRPEDD, its regional planning agency, Berkley brought all the relevant boards and committees together to develop new zoning that will encourage subdivisions to cluster houses on one part of a parcel, while permanently preserving the rest of the land. The zoning proposal will go to Town Meeting for approval this spring.

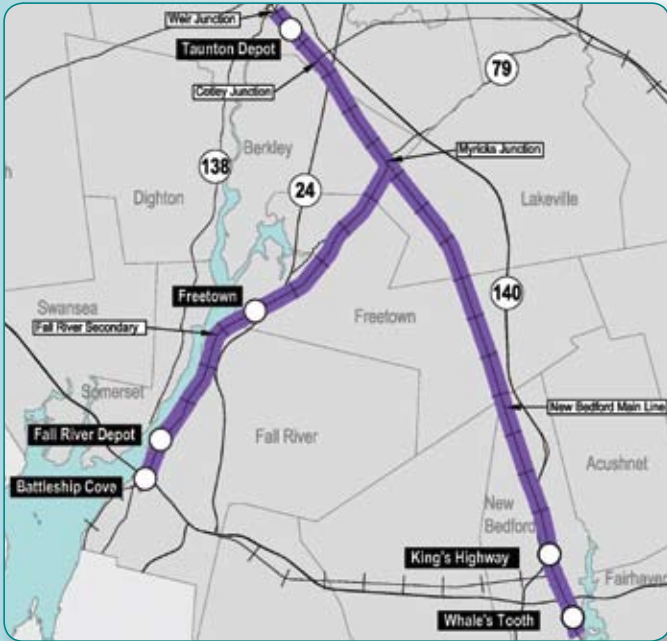
Speakers at the October 30 event reinforced the success of the Technical Assistance program. Freetown Selectwoman Jean Fox, Rochester Town Administrator Richard LaCamera, and Acushnet Selectman David Wojnar described their communities' new ability to move forward on protection and development with the Corridor Plan's past technical assistance awards. ■

To see a copy of the Corridor Plan and the priority map, visit the project website: [www.mass.gov/southcoastrail](http://www.mass.gov/southcoastrail).

*"Preserving open space is important to the residents of Berkley. I think we all want Berkley to remain a beautiful small town and protecting our natural lands will help us accomplish that. Having all the boards working together to draft the zoning produced a stronger proposal because we considered the issue from all sides. The open space zoning we have developed with this technical assistance will make a real difference in how our Town looks for years to come."*

– Byron Holmes, Berkley Planning Board Chair, on last year's technical assistance award to his community

## Commonwealth Purchases South Coast Rail Right-of-Way



Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray announced the Commonwealth's purchase of 30 miles of rail lines from CSX Transportation, a major milestone for South Coast Rail. Speaking in Fall River on June 17, Lieutenant Governor Murray said "the purchase is part of the Administration's commitment to delivering commuter rail service to the South Coast region, which has been our focus from day one."

Fall River Mayor William Flanagan welcomed Lieutenant Governor Murray, Rich Davey, General Manager of the MBTA, and South Coast Senators and Representatives to the event at the Gates of the City. Mayor Flanagan thanked Governor Deval Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Murray for their commitment to improving economic development and transportation for Southeastern Massachusetts. Several South Coast elected officials also credited the Patrick-Murray Administration for bringing the region closer to making commuter rail service a reality.

While currently used by freight trains, the rail lines are necessary to restore commuter rail service between Boston and the South Coast Region. The newly acquired 30 miles of track run from Cotley Junction in Taunton to Fall River and New Bedford. They form the southern triangle that will serve those cities when the project is complete. As part of its agreement with CSX, the Commonwealth now controls the tracks and will be able to dispatch passenger trains once the South Coast Rail line begins operations.

In the meantime, freight trains that currently use the line will continue to serve the region. MassDOT has contracted with Mass Coastal to maintain and operate the lines. ■

## Around the South Coast...

- The **South Coast Rail website** has a new look! The site has been redesigned and organized to better highlight information on current project events and publications, media coverage and project documents. Site visitors can read technical and environmental reports, fact sheets and the Corridor Plan, and learn about civic engagement opportunities. You can Bookmark the site at [www.mass.gov/southcoastrail](http://www.mass.gov/southcoastrail) and visit it often to follow the project.
- The **South Coast Rail exhibit** – *I wish I were riding the train* – is now at the Freetown Public Library. The display is available to South Coast communities in a variety of sizes. Contact South Coast Rail Director Kristina Egan at 617-645-6704 if you would like the exhibit in your community's library.
- Public input from recent **station workshops** in New Bedford, Stoughton and Easton has been posted on the website in the Documents section, under the Corridor Plan.

## Contact Information

If you would like more information about the project or to be added to the project distribution list for email and U.S. Mail notifications of meetings and other updates, please contact Kristina Egan, Director of South Coast Rail, by email at [Kristina.Egan@state.ma.us](mailto:Kristina.Egan@state.ma.us) or phone at 617-645-6704. Project information and updates, including a schedule of upcoming meetings, are posted on the project website at [www.mass.gov/southcoastrail](http://www.mass.gov/southcoastrail).

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