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Lt. Governor Polito Signs Community Compact Agreements with Eight Middlesex County Municipalities

Agreement ensures mutual accountability, sharing of best practices

LOWELL – Today, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito signed a Community Compact agreement with officials from the municipalities of Lowell, Bedford, Billerica, Burlington, Chelmsford, Lexington, Tewksbury, and Tyngsboro.

“We are excited to announce new partnerships between the Commonwealth and these municipalities,” **said Lieutenant Governor Polito.** “We look forward to working with city and town officials to find answers to the transportation challenges as they relate to job opportunities and economic development along the Rt. 3 corridor. It is this type of regional approach that we support and encourage at the municipal level. In addition, we will be providing assistance in key areas such as cyber-security and energy-efficiency.”

Community Compacts are one tool the administration is utilizing to strengthen the partnership between cities and towns and the Commonwealth. By entering a Community Compact, a community agrees to implement self-selected best practices. As part of this partnership, the Commonwealth agrees to fulfill a set of commitments and works to provide assistance for a community based on their chosen best practice.

Through its Compact, the eight municipalities have chosen to work with the Commonwealth toward implementing the following best practices:

- *Regional Transportation:*

The Middlesex 3's Regional Transportation initiative has been established to address existing transportation challenges for these communities that hinder economic development and job opportunities. A Community Compact grant will provide assistance to the municipalities, Regional Planning Agencies, and Regional Transit Agencies, allowing for a collaborative approach to the development of recommendations and implementation strategies.

- *Transportation and Citizen Safety – Complete Streets:*
In an effort to make their communities more walkable, Bedford and Lexington will seek funding through the Commonwealth's Complete Streets Grant Program, which gives preference to cities and towns that have entered into a Community Compact.
- *Transportation and Citizen Safety – A Safe and Mobile Future for Older Drivers:*
Working with the growing elders is a high priority in Burlington. MassDOT and the RMV will partner with the town on elder driver safety.
- *Housing and Economic Development:*
Via assistance from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED), the Commonwealth will work to advance the vision and goals for housing and economic development that Lowell and Tewksbury have. Also, the Massachusetts Office of Business Development will work with Tyngsboro as they seek to enhance and encourage economic development opportunities through an updated Economic Development Plan. Lastly, EOHED will work with Bedford as they begin to create a zoning strategy for the Town's main commercial corridor.
- *Technology – Cyber-Security:*
The Commonwealth will provide Lexington with a Community Compact grant to hire a consultant to provide a vulnerability assessment, penetration testing and support in filling gaps in their cyber security strategy, policies and procedures.
- *Energy/Environment – Energy Efficiency & Renewables:*
The Commonwealth will provide Lowell with a Community Compact grant to purchase Data Analytics/Management software to help the city implement the criteria of having "documented and measureable energy use reduction goals" as part of its Green Community status.

The Community Compact is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito Administration and individual cities and towns of the

Commonwealth. In a Community Compact, a community will agree to implement a best practice they select from across a variety of areas. The Compact also articulates the commitments the Commonwealth will make on behalf of all communities, including helping the community attain their chosen best practice. For more information or to apply for a Community Compact go to www.mass.gov/cc.