



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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**PATRICK – MURRAY ADMINISTRATION AWARDS \$7.25 MILLION TO
BOOST LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Funding to Spur Infrastructure Improvements in Worcester's Growth District

BOSTON – Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – As part of the Massachusetts Recovery Plan to secure the state's economic future, the Patrick-Murray Administration today announced a \$7.25 million Growth Districts Initiative (GDI) grant for improvements to public infrastructure in CitySquare, a part of Worcester's Growth District. When completed, the project will spark the creation of 3,100 additional new permanent and 2,300 construction jobs.

"Growth Districts are hubs of economic growth and housing development across the Commonwealth," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray. "By identifying these districts and focusing our collective resources on making each one development ready, we are creating the conditions for business growth and community vitalization for years to come."

The GDI grant will be used for demolition and site preparation to enable the improvement of public streets at Mercantile St., Front St., Mechanics Plaza, and Building I Plaza. This area, known as CitySquare, is the site of a \$563 million mixed-use redevelopment project in the heart of downtown Worcester that will produce over 2.2 million square feet of space including retail, office, entertainment, and market rate housing. The development site also has access to multi-modal transportation amenities including Union Station, which features intercity bus service, commuter rail from Worcester to Boston, Amtrak, and Worcester Regional Transit Authority local bus service. The proposed demolition and other infrastructure improvements will stimulate significant economic growth in Central Massachusetts by creating 3,100 new permanent jobs and 2,300 construction jobs

"This is great news for Worcester. The CitySquare project will create several thousand construction jobs, dramatically alter the face of Worcester, and stimulate further economic growth in the region," said Senator Harriette Chandler.

"I am thrilled to hear of the announcement of this vital grant for the City of Worcester," said Senator Michael O. Moore. "Worcester has worked hard to bring this funding effort to fruition. This grant will help with economic growth and development, and also demonstrates a long term commitment to investing in our City."

"I'm thrilled with this announcement and the Administration for allocating additional funds for the CitySquare project," said Representative Vincent Pedone. "These funds will ensure that this critical

project moves forward to redevelop and revitalize downtown Worcester. Once completed, CitySquare will serve a great benefit to the people of Worcester and the region.”

Growth Districts allow the Patrick-Murray Administration to partner with municipalities that have identified one or more areas for significant commercial, residential or mixed-use growth. The transportation bond bill signed by Governor Deval Patrick in April 2008 included a \$50 million grant program to assist communities with commercial and residential transportation and infrastructure development, improvements and capital investment projects in identified Growth Districts.

Investments in public infrastructure are critical components of Patrick – Murray Administration’s Massachusetts Recovery Plan, which combines state, federal and, where possible, private efforts to provide immediate and long-term relief and position the Commonwealth for recovery in the following ways:

- **Deliver immediate relief** by investing in the road, bridge and rail projects that put people to work today and providing safety net services that sustain people who are especially vulnerable during an economic crisis;
- **Build a better tomorrow** through education and infrastructure investments that strengthen our economic competitiveness, prepare workers for the jobs of the future and support clean energy, broadband and technology projects that cut costs while growing the economy; and
- **Reform state government** by eliminating the pension and ethics loopholes that discredit the work of government and revitalize the transportation networks that have suffered from decades of neglect and inaction.

To learn more, go to www.mass.gov/recovery. To learn more about Growth Districts go to www.mass.gov/eed/GDI

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