

## RURAL ELEVEN PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

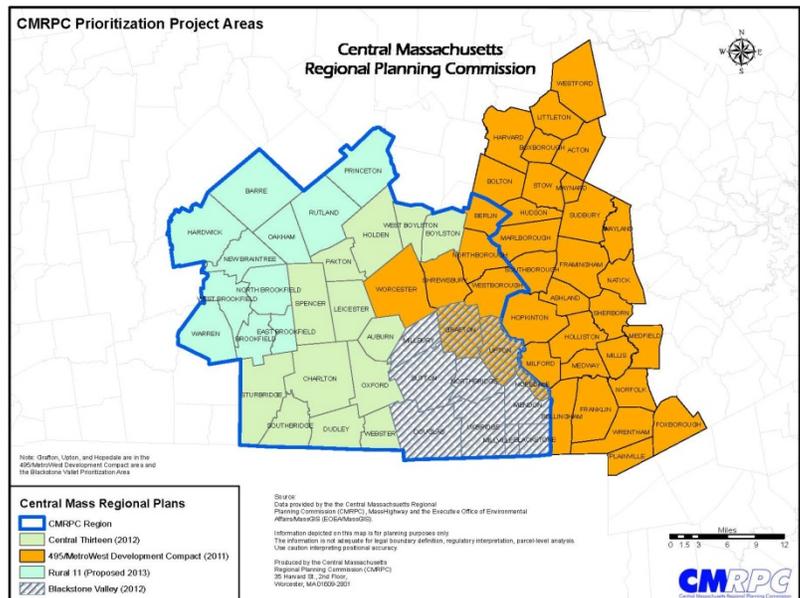
The Central Massachusetts region has seen success in economic development and job creation over the last thirty years. Looking forward, the region's public and private sector leaders recognize the need for shared approaches to infrastructure investments and land use decisions to ensure the vitality of the region's economy and quality of life.

Building on the success of [495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan](#), and the recently-completed [Blackstone Valley Prioritization Project](#) and the [Central Thirteen Prioritization Project](#), CMRPC is embarking on a collaborative effort focused on the remaining 11 communities in the CMRPC region. Our objective is to create a shared framework for identifying regional and local priorities for growth, development, higher education and land preservation, as well as transportation and other infrastructure investments. This planning effort will be conducted in a cooperative effort with local and regional participants, and will engage the public, private, and non-profit sectors to form the framework for public involvement in future land use decisions and infrastructure investment within these communities. By continuing to identify local priorities for development and preservation, we can articulate a set of larger regional priorities to build into the over-arching identity of the Central Massachusetts region.

CMRPC will work with the region's stakeholders to define priority protection areas, priority development areas, and significant priority transportation improvements. Our goal is to list and map locally-identified and regionally-significant preservation and development areas and critical infrastructure needs, in a manner that is consistent with existing policies, master plans and guidelines, as well as the state's Sustainable Development Principles.

*The project is guided by six fundamental principles:*

- Continued new growth will likely require major transportation and other infrastructure upgrades, beyond what is needed to keep existing systems in good repair;
- New commercial and residential growth must occur in a manner that is respectful of open space resources, transportation networks, and water resources in the region;
- Land use and transportation decisions must take into account the principles established by the Global Warming Solutions Act, GreenDOT, and the transportation reorganization statute;
- Workforce housing must continue to be produced and preserved within the region;
- Sustainable new growth will involve the creation and maintenance of an effective public transit system; and
- Coordinated planning and implementation efforts between jurisdictions are necessary.



*The project is slated to be completed by December 31, 2013.*

Visit the project webpage: <http://www.cmrpc.org/rural11pp>