



# Valley Views

A Regional Update of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

February 2006

## Regional Transportation Plan to Begin

A new regional transportation plan will be developed over the next year by the MVPC staff, according to Anthony Komornick, transportation program manager. The plan, Komornick said, will forecast transportation demand in the region to the year 2030, allowing MVPC to be in compliance with federal planning regulations that mandate a 20-year planning horizon for such documents. He said the goals and objectives in the document will be submitted shortly to the commission. Also to



be prepared, Komornick said, are an existing conditions report, regional population and employment projections, and an estimate on the availability of transportation funds over the next 25 years.

In addition, Komornick said, more public participation will be sought on long-range transportation planning by MVPC. While discussing the 2006 Regional Transportation Plan update, Komornick said MVPC has established a "public outreach mechanism" to get public input. He said this will include making presentations at such forums as

commission meetings, transportation advisory meetings, MPO meetings, MVRTA sessions, and to other organizations that may be interested in the plan.

## MVPC Wins Chamber Award

Awards were presented to MVPC and other recipients at the annual Small Business Awards Breakfast Feb. 3 in Haverhill.

The award as Small Business of the Month for April was presented to MVPC and Executive Director Gaylord Burke.

Charles E. Summers Jr., New England regional administrator for the Small Business Administration, was guest speaker at the breakfast, sponsored by the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, and the Haverhill Bank. MVPC's award prompted an official citation from the State Senate, which offered congratulations and "best wishes for continued success."

## Pictometry Aids Flood Work

Pictometry imagery, for which MVPC is the regional licensee, contributed to rescue operations in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, MVPC Executive Director Gaylord Burke told a meeting of commissioners.

The Atlanta Regional Commission aided New Orleans disaster relief officials by delivering enlarged Pictometry images of the flooded areas to rescue personnel, who found the oblique images highly useful.

Many communities in MVPC's region have taken advantage of Pictometry aerial images for public safety and planning work.

## Lavoie Elected New MVPC Chairman

Robert W. Lavoie, a municipal councilor in Amesbury, has been elected chairman of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, succeeding Stephen Colyer, of Andover, who has retired and moved out of state. Lavoie said he was "honored to be elected by commissioners to such an important position, following in the footsteps of an excellent previous chairman of many years standing, Stephen Colyer."

Lavoie said he is "looking forward to the challenge and opportunities of facing the critical issues in the region with commissioners and a talented MVPC staff." Lavoie, an attorney, represents commercial real estate developers, owners and buyers in land development and land use permitting matters, including the cleanup of polluted sites under the Brownfields program, and the provision of affordable housing, under state law.



Robert W. Lavoie

He has degrees from Boston University law school and Harvard College, and is a member of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire bars.

Lavoie is co-chairman of the Amesbury Master Plan Steering Committee, Andover Youth Foundation, Andover Chamber of Commerce, and past president, board of directors, Yankee Clipper Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Also during their annual election, commissioners elected Jack Christian, Salisbury vice-chairman, and Robert Phillips, West Newbury, secretary. Reelected were Orlando Salazar, Haverhill, representative at large and treasurer, and Kevin Hagerty, Methuen, assistant treasurer.

Amesbury, Andover, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury (Plus for 8T&B: Ipswich, Essex, Gloucester, Rockport)