



FY 2026 Regional Agency Mitigation Fund Grant Application

Application Instructions:

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2026 grant round.
- II. Each Agency may only submit ONE application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. All attachments should directly follow the relevant project form.
- IV. Be sure to fill in all the information requested on the application. Applications that are left incomplete will not be accepted.
- V. All applications must submit a detailed scope of work and timeline for implementation of the project identified in the application.
- VI. All applications must contain appropriate backup materials that support the application.
- VII. The Grant Manager will be responsible for compiling the information for the quarterly reports and the submittal of the quarterly reports.
- VIII. The application must be signed by the agency's CEO or an individual with signatory authority.
- IX. The Regional Agency Grant is broken into three segments. Please only fill out the section relevant to your application.
 - a. Part A – Regional Planning
 - b. Part B – Regional Public Safety
 - c. Part C – Regional Workforce Development
- X. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov or as a response to the COMMBUYS BID- BD245-1068- 1068C-1068L-109685

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2026 Application Guidelines visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Grant Manager Information:
Applicant: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Vendor Code: VC60000159779
Name: Eric Weiss
Title: Director of Economic and Municipal Collaboration
Email Address: eweiss@pvpc.org
Telephone: 413-781-6045 x 345 / 413-687-3356
Address: 60 Congress St Springfield MA 01104

Budget Summary

Use the space below to provide an overview of all projects to be covered by this funding. You may add as many items as is pertinent to your application (you can add rows by right clicking on the row and selecting “add row”). Please provide a category, name, brief description, and amount for each item. Please use the appropriate category below for your agency.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Regional Planning	Traffic Study Evaluation MGM - Springfield	Traffic study in collaboration with the City of Springfield and the contiguous surrounding communities of Chicopee, Agawam, Ludlow, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Wilbraham.	\$200,000
B. Regional Public Safety			
C. Workforce Development			
Total Request			\$200,000

Are you requesting a waiver for any program requirement? Yes No

Applicant Certification

- I. If yes, you must fill out a CMF Regional Agency Waiver Form. The waiver form can be found as Appendix F to the RFR on COMMBUYS or online at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/>. Applications without a completed waiver form will not be considered for a waiver.

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.

Signature:

Date:

Name and Title of Signatory:

Part A-Regional Planning - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, drawings etc.

Project Name:	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.	
Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Eric Weiss	Name:
Title: Director of Economic and Municipal Collaboration	Title:
Department:	Department:
Email Address: eweiss@pvpc.org	Email Address:
Telephone: 413-781-6045 x345	Telephone:
Address: 60 Congress St Springfield MA 01104	Address:
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact and that the issue is regional in nature (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p> <p>The MGM Springfield gaming establishment, which opened in late August 2018, has resulted in benefits to the regional economy of the Pioneer Valley, including job creation and increased tourism and local revenues. However, there has also been a deleterious effect within MGM’s physical sphere of influence. The casino is located along Main Street in downtown Springfield. Main Street is a two-lane road with on-street parking, numerous pedestrian crosswalks, and traffic signals every few blocks. Various side streets connect to it. There are two primary points of vehicular egress from the MGM: a parking garage exit on Union Street and another that empties onto State Street. During periods of high-volume traffic, such as occurs during commuter times and events at the casino, the downtown Springfield district effectively gridlocks, spilling over onto side streets, impeding access off and onto nearby Interstate 91, and extending into surrounding residential communities. The congestion also impacts timely emergency services during these periods.</p> <p>The most recent traffic studies were conducted before the MGM opened. In light of the traffic issues which have arisen during the last seven (7) years, we believe there is an increasing need to understand how to improve traffic patterns and flow in this area. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) proposes to coordinate with the City of Springfield on a comprehensive traffic study that will benefit both MGM and local residents.</p> <p>Traffic patterns can greatly impact economic development as traffic flow can directly influence the growth and prosperity of a region. Common sense and research have proven that there are several important ways in which traffic patterns can impact economic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to Businesses: Well-designed traffic patterns that allow for smooth and efficient movement of people and goods in Springfield and the region can enhance access to businesses. 	

If roads are congested or hard to navigate, it can discourage customers from visiting the casino, retail centers, offices, and industrial sites. Decreased traffic and congestion can increase foot traffic and provide sales opportunities for local businesses.

- **Attracting Investment:** Investors and developers will place a high premium on locations with efficient traffic flow, as they are accessible and appealing for new businesses.
- **Commercial Logistics and Supply Chains:** Traffic patterns also affect the ease with which goods are transported. Congestion can negatively impact business by raising costs for businesses that rely on timely deliveries and shipments.
- **Workforce Mobility:** Economic development depends on the ability of people to access jobs, particularly in urban areas where the congestion of local roadways can make commuting time-consuming and thereby reduce the effective labor pool.
- **Tourism and Local Spending:** Slow or congested traffic patterns can directly influence the flow of visitors, potentially reducing their numbers, which could have a negative effect on Springfield and the regional economy.
- **Pollution Reduction:** Effective traffic management also ties into sustainability. The city is currently working with PVPC on a large grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address health issues in and around Springfield. Areas that experience excessive congestion have higher levels of air pollution, which adversely affects public health and is counter to the intent of this grant. Sustainable development that incorporates better traffic management and cleaner transportation options (e.g., bike lanes or electric vehicles) can improve overall community well-being, thus fostering long-term economic growth.

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

The intent of this project is to provide comprehensive updated traffic data and analysis related to the impacts on surrounding communities since the opening of the MGM Springfield. We believe that the gathering and analyzing new data, we will be able to identify these impacts and to propose potential solutions. The City of Springfield and PVPC, as well as our other regional partners, are extremely excited about this opportunity, and we see this information as crucial to continued economic development efforts in our region.

This application is being submitted in tandem with a separate application from the City of Springfield, which is also applying for grant funds for this effort. PVPC and Springfield will work together to undertake this project. PVPC, in its role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Pioneer Valley, is uniquely qualified to facilitate this joint endeavor. PVPC will provide grant management, technical expertise, and community engagement for this project.

Currently the region and the city are relying on traffic data that is over seven years old and was gathered prior to the opening of the MGM. There has been significant discussion that trips to and from the casino have differed from the initial projections and need to be reviewed. Updating this information will provide an opportunity to assess the accuracy of initial projections, as well as evaluate the possibility of better aligning current resources for future economic development growth. A final component of this

effort will be to provide potential recommendations to any negative impacts that are discovered.

Below is a table listing the impacted contiguous communities, populations and miles of road which could be affected by traffic from the casino.

City/Town	Total Population*	Total Road Mileage**
Springfield	155,929	506.8
Chicopee	55,560	262.62
West Springfield	28,835	145.84
Agawam	21,002	153.07
Ludlow	21,002	137.26
East Longmeadow	16,430	100.79
Longmeadow	15,853	99.76
Wilbraham	14,613	113.81

*Population based on 2020 ACS Survey Data

**Road mileage data collected from MA Department of Revenue Division of Local Services 2018 Road Mileage Data

Upon receipt of this grant, the PVPC will procure the services of a specialized traffic/transportation consultant who will examine and assess the current problems caused by casino-generated traffic in downtown Springfield and surrounding communities. The project will focus on traffic and transportation-related issues, although a broader scope of impacts could emerge and be entertained at a future date. The PVPC is uniquely qualified to facilitate this important effort. In addition to providing technical expertise in grant management and transportation planning, the PVPC’s extensive experience in outreach and collaboration with our member communities will result in a thorough understanding of impacts on cities and towns.

This traffic study will provide guidance as to how improvements can be made after examining such crucial factors as:

- existing traffic volumes
- emergency response times
- existing transit options
- crash history
- expected traffic growth
- existing congestion related to commuter periods and events
- unsafe access for pedestrians and bikers
- expected traffic impacts of proposed developments (such a new parking structure on Willow Street and downtown redevelopment projects)
- existing congestion related to commuter periods and events

Excerpt From Springfield Application:

Springfield itself has completed a 2022 “lookback” traffic study, which it will provide and incorporate into this work, however the focus of this project in Springfield will be to look at future demand related to associated economic development projects in the adjacent blocks, which have been supported through MGC and the Community Mitigation Fund, under ongoing implementation of the Main Street/Convention Center District and the Implementation Blueprint.

The driver of these projects is economic development as there are a projected \$68 million renovation of currently vacant commercial buildings across the street from MGM Springfield’s hotel, for conversion into over 90 units of market rate and mixed income housing, with associated ground floor retail and residential amenities. This project, being led by a renowned Chicago development group, McCaffery, is expected to spark the spinoff economic development long expected by MGM Springfield.

To assist in supporting that development and the growth of the neighborhood in MGM Springfield’s wake, the city and Springfield Redevelopment Authority (SRA) have been working collaboratively on advancing a new mixed use parking structure on Willow Street. Through their efforts along with the planning and design team, CCS & Walker Consultants, the city received a 2022 Specific Mitigation award to advance the conceptual design and implementation strategies for the parking structure development.

The new parking facility will help support the needs of the new mixed-use development from McCaffery, as well as existing tenants in the neighborhood like Community Music School, and some of the demand spilling over from the MassMutual Center.

PVPC will act as the lead entity and will manage the grant; provide facilitation between the various stakeholders; meet with local officials; and coordinate the development, writing and bidding of the RFP to perform a comprehensive traffic analysis of the Springfield casino district and the surrounding communities.

The traffic study will be structured as follows:

Phase #	Task Description	Assigned To
Phase 1	Community engagement and grant management by PVPC Economic Development Department	PVPC Economic and Municipal Collaboration Department
Phase 2	Preparation of RFP and Traffic Study Bid management by PVPC Transportation Department	PVPC Transportation Department
Phase 3	Hire and collaborate with third-party consultants to conduct comprehensive traffic study with recommendations for mitigation measures	Consultant
Phase 4	Review of report and recommendation with the city and surrounding communities	PVPC and City of Springfield

This project will have an overall timeline of 16 months. Springfield is requesting \$120,000 as part of their CMF grant application to be added to this effort, which will result in a total allocation for the traffic study of \$240,000. The combined expertise of two PVPC sections working closely with the City of Springfield will create a unique partnership which will benefit both the project and the region.

Proposed CMG Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Community Engagement and Grant Management By PVPC	July 2025 thru October 2026	N/A	\$35,000
Preparation of RFP and Procurement of Consultant	September thru November 2025	N/A	\$35,000
Traffic Study and Community Engagement	December 2025 thru August 2026	N/A	\$120,000
Review of Report Draft and Completion of Analysis	August thru October 2026	N/A	\$10,000
		Total PVPC Request	\$200,000
Additional funds from the City of Springfield			\$120,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET			\$320,000

About PVPC

A primary role of the PVPC is to provide a regional framework and context for efforts such as this. By facilitating meetings and providing for community engagement, PVPC can prevent the wasteful duplication of efforts and inefficiencies due to lack of coordination.

A recent analysis conducted by the Donahue Institute at UMass found that:

- Every \$1 a member of the community pays in assessments results in \$5,375 of economic activity in the region.
- For each \$1 the PVPC receives in grants and awards, \$83 of economic activity is created in the region.
- \$629 million economic value is created annually in the Pioneer Valley due to PVPC's direct actions or programs it oversees.
- 2200 jobs are created and supported annually by PVPC activities.

Transportation

Since 1962, PVPC's Transportation Department has worked to create and maintain a safe, dependable, and environmentally sound transportation system that promotes livable communities and the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region. The Transportation Department offers planning, analysis, and data collection services in several areas: traffic, transit, congestion management, bicycle/pedestrian planning, pavement management, and in-depth transportation studies. The PVPC Transportation Department also works with local, state, federal agencies, and private carriers on a wide array of projects, carrying out federally mandated planning activities on behalf of the region's 43 cities and towns using federal and state funds, and actively seeking competitive grants for specific tasks. The PVPC Transportation Department will be a key component of the expertise PVPC brings to this project.

Economic and Municipal Collaboration

The PVPC Economic and Municipal Collaboration Department networks with the 43 communities which comprise the Pioneer Valley region, including the City of Springfield. The Department assists with

municipal coordination, shared services, grant projects and activities, and cross-community collaboration. The ongoing relationships with municipal staff and elected officials in these communities will enable the PVPC to efficiently and effectively engage them in the traffic study project. This department manages a wide range of public and private grants, including federal grants, making them well qualified to provide oversight and grants management for the MGC grant. Additionally, the department oversees the implementation of the Pioneer Valley Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a federally approved plan which serves as a blueprint for the Pioneer Valley's regional economic growth. In July 2024, the PVPC was approved for its most recent CEDS, which evaluated the post-pandemic economy and set achievable five-year goals for the region.

A successful comprehensive traffic study is vital to enhancing the economic competitiveness of the Pioneer Valley region. Working collaboratively, PVPC and the City of Springfield are committed to gathering data and conducting analyses to identify casino related impacts, as well as developing potential solutions to these impacts. This project is an excellent opportunity to examine and solve our challenges while also helping to support overall economic development.

Applicant Certification

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.

Signature: _____

January 31, 2025
Date:

Name and Title of Signatory:



Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director

