

**GOVERNOR PATRICK AWARDS \$1.3 MILLION IN GATEWAY PLUS
ACTION GRANTS TO BOLSTER URBAN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION
EFFORTS**

Funds from newly launched program awarded to 18 gateway cities

November 25, 2008

(State House) – Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen) announced today that Governor Deval Patrick has awarded \$1.35 million to 18 cities to spark urban revitalization efforts. Through a new state program designed to support affordable housing and economic development opportunities for mixed-income communities across Massachusetts, funding from the new Gateway Plus Action Grant (GPAG) program will help recipient cities identify their specific housing or mixed-use development needs to enhance their economic vitality and the quality of life for all residents.

Methuen will receive \$75,000 to develop a mixed use / residential plan to identify viable affordable housing sites and to look into the impact of foreclosures on the area. “These grants for both Methuen and Lawrence come at a crucial time as we continue to progress on revitalizing downtown Methuen and do everything possible to prevent additional foreclosures in the Arlington Neighborhood,” stated Campbell.

Methuen Mayor William M. Manzi, III thanked the Governor for the grant and credited the hard work of Representative Campbell and the Methuen Community Development Department in obtaining it. “Affordable housing and downtown revitalization are two of my top priorities. This grant will be put to very good use,” Manzi said.

Gateway Plus grants provide assistance for neighborhood or downtown planning activities that expand housing opportunities and that support the revitalization of neighborhoods, including efforts to:

Identify appropriate sites and strategies for a broad range of housing opportunities, either rental or ownership, including affordable, market-rate, workforce, employer-assisted, elderly or special needs.

Expedite housing construction or rehabilitation through regulatory mechanisms such as changes to zoning, streamlined permitting and use of comprehensive permits.

Revitalize neighborhoods that support affordable and workforce housing.

Minimize the impacts of foreclosures.

Expand housing opportunities in downtowns or neighborhood commercial areas.