

Momentum

^ Building a bridge to prosperity

Ninth Annual Meeting of The Pawtucket Foundation



January 12, 2010

Partnership plants 65 cherry trees in two cities

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, area businesses and The Pawtucket Foundation create public-private initiative with Pawtucket and Central Falls in ambitious landscape improvement program.

Foundation & Northern Rhode Island Chamber summon 100+ leaders to transportation forum

A regional transportation summit ignited broad support for commuter rail initiatives throughout the Blackstone Valley. Senator Reed pledged his support.

Task Force explores transit oriented development

Pawtucket Foundation, Administration, City Council and Downtown constituents work together to develop plans for an ambitious public-private infill project to revitalize Downtown.

Partnership secures \$100,000 to design improvements in Downtown

The Pawtucket Foundation and City of Pawtucket leveraged a total of \$20,000 to secure an additional \$80,000 for transportation planning in the Downtown.

Foundation hosts RISD architecture studio

The Pawtucket Foundation invited and hosted RISD architecture students to explore design interventions throughout the Downtown and riverfront. Students tackled numerous innovative projects.

Transportation vital to future prosperity

Over \$120M of state and federal money is obligated to fund major transportation infrastructure enhancements that impact Pawtucket's urban core.

For years, The Pawtucket Foundation has championed the reestablishment of MBTA commuter rail service in Pawtucket. Thanks to a congressional earmark and a recent commitment from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, a new commuter rail stop could one day be a reality.

In early 2010, RIDOT will submit the necessary documentation to federal officials to acquire nearly \$2M in FTA funds for preliminary engineering and environmental permitting.

The end result of this work will provide a detailed roadmap, project timeline and cost estimate that will enable RIDOT to coordinate the necessary



This is a full-scale mock-up of the sculpture that will adorn the extents of the \$100M Pawtucket River Bridge scheduled to start construction in 2010. This design resulted from a collaborative effort led by local historian and Foundation Director Emeritus Richard Kazarian.

agreements with Amtrak, MBTA, City officials and acquire project financing for implementation.

Following the unveiling of a stunning new bridge design, city officials are hoping to capitalize on the spillover effect of this major transportation investment. An adjacent bicycle path, public art project and landscaping are among project elements yet to be completed.

No one can deny there are dramatic transportation investments scheduled that will improve Pawtucket's urban core:

- ☼ Pawtucket River Bridge Replacement (\$100M)
- ☼ Conant Street Bridge Replacement (\$7M)
- ☼ RIPTA Bus Rapid Transit Line (\$14.2M)
- ☼ Downtown Transportation Planning (\$100K)
- ☼ Blackstone Valley Bike Path
- ☼ RIPTA turn-around at South Attleboro (\$450K)
- ☼ Proposed commuter rail stop (\$25M)

Now, more than ever, The Pawtucket Foundation is committed to developing partnerships to ensure local and regional policies can bolster these important investments. This will require the development of a legal framework to support and allow transit oriented development and regional cooperation among cities and towns.

This year, The Pawtucket Foundation became a proud partner with Coalition for Transportation Choice and the Blackstone Valley Partnership, both champions for a 21st century transit infrastructure.

Our advocacy mission has three prongs:

The Pawtucket Foundation represents the private business and not-for-profit sector in advocating for downtown, riverfront and gateway improvements...

1



Revitalizing the Downtown

Creating a dense, pedestrian-friendly urban core in Downtown Pawtucket with a mix of commercial, residential and civic uses is a central focus. We are working in partnership with the City and others to revitalize our Downtown to become a regional hub of mixed-use buildings with active storefronts, vibrant business and retail activity within a safe neighborhood community.

Together with local businesses and the local government, we are working to rebuild a residential and commercial district traditionally associated with a successful downtown.

The Pawtucket Foundation has focused on three areas: 1) promoting and advocating redevelopment of existing buildings in the Downtown 2) encouraging high-density infill development 3) marketing the positive attributes of the City.

As a catalyst project, The Pawtucket Foundation has proposed the development of a high-density, mixed use building on the municipal parking lot across from Pawtucket City Hall at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Exchange Street. The "Roosevelt Avenue Transit Oriented Development" proposal would create structured parking, ground floor retail and a mix of other appropriate used to broaden the tax base and increase Downtown activity. Last month, the City of Pawtucket contracted a market analysis for the proposed development site.

2



Capitalizing on the River

The river is a spectacular resource for Pawtucket. It was once the fuel which propelled the American Industrial Revolution. Today, it offers new opportunities for urban redevelopment, recreation, environmental conservation and public enjoyment.

The Foundation encourages sustainable development along the river in accordance with the Tidewater Riverfront Strategy and Riverfront Plan. We seek to capitalize on the environmental, cultural and scenic attributes of the river. With the construction of the iconic new Interstate 95 Pawtucket Bridge and the implementation of the Blackstone Valley Bikeway, Pawtucket's riverfront will become a premier destination representing a positive self-image for the City.

Earlier in the year, as part of the Foundation-led Pawtucket Proud Day, volunteers from local businesses, Tolman High School students and Downtown residents planted several new trees at the Tolman Esplanade, a city-owned property along the river. As part of the effort, the City's Public Works Department, cleared debris, removed 30 bags of litter and removed graffiti from the historic stone retaining wall abutting the site.

The Pawtucket Foundation looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Riverfront Commission, Administration and City Council to harness the potential the riverfront offers.

3



Rebuilding Transportation Gateways

More and more, Cities are learning that the key to future economic prosperity is inextricably linked to investment in our transportation infrastructure. Indeed, Pawtucket is well-positioned to capitalize on the State's investments for transit.

In October, The Pawtucket Foundation hosted a congressional breakfast that summoned over 100 leaders from the public and private sectors. Following the meeting, Pawtucket City officials and the Rhode Island Department of transportation made progress on furthering an FTA application to access earmarked funds for preliminary engineering for an MBTA commuter rail stop. The meeting also ignited the potential for regional transportation planning throughout the Blackstone Valley and Northern Rhode Island.

Earlier in the year, a Mayor's Task Force unveiled a new iconic design for the new I-95 Pawtucket River Bridge which features artistic sculptures that are inspired by the art-deco eagles adorning Pawtucket's City Hall.

RIPTA pledged to develop a proposal to create a bus rapid transit line that terminates in Downtown Pawtucket. Also, RIPTA is working on preliminary designs to install a bus-turnaround 500 feet away from the MBTA commuter rail platform at South Attleboro, MA.

ON MOMENTUM

Last year at our eighth annual meeting of The Pawtucket Foundation Board of Directors, I unveiled our Blueprint ^ Bridge to Prosperity doctrine that outlines four **pillars** of prosperity: innovation, human capital, infrastructure and quality place.

This year, as we continue our work to make Pawtucket a better place to live, work and do business, our annual theme focuses on **momentum** - the energy, optimism and forward direction of the City.

Indeed, there is momentum in the arts with a growing number of downtown galleries. The award-winning Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre and multi-cultural Mixed Magic Theatre offer quality performing arts programming. Creative arts-related businesses have opened shop in Pawtucket and they created the first-ever Rocktucket block party during the 2009 Pawtucket Arts Festival. We partnered with Pawtucket Arts Collaborative to fund a \$2,000 prize at a juried multi-cultural exhibit.

There is momentum in transportation planning in our Gateway City. An iconic Pawtucket River Bridge and a new Conant Street Bridge will mark the beginning of several transportation-related investments that also include a new MBTA commuter rail stop and significant improvements to RIPTA bus service in Pawtucket.

There is momentum in the Downtown as several buildings have been rehabilitated or are in the process of redevelopment. The Kellaway Center, Toole Building and historic McDevitt are joining the cast of redevelopment projects ongoing in historic Pawtucket. A Task Force is studying how to develop an infill transit oriented development site in the City's urban core.

No one can deny the drastic transformation of the Downtown over the last decade. This year, we will build on this momentum as we continue our quest to build a bridge to prosperity.

Thomas A Mann Jr

Thomas A. Mann, Jr.
Executive Director

Innovation

The ability to conceive, create and adopt new products, new services and new business models is pivotal in sustaining local economic advantage while generating and retaining high-quality jobs.

Advocate business development through zoning reform, public-private development partnerships and better connect population centers to metro centers through sophisticated transportation & information networks.

Human Capital

Education, job training and health are the most important investments in human capital. These assets are a prerequisite for income growth, upward mobility and access to opportunity.

Promote collaboration between education institutions, local government and private sector. Share knowledge and resources through workshops, meetings and regional collaboration. Create a walkable community.

Infrastructure

Investment in a defined strategic infrastructure - ranging from mass transit, roads, ecosystems, buildings and technology networks - will allow us to better connect goods, people and information within and across markets.

Seek funding for public-private infrastructure initiatives. Focus investment on regional impact projects that will build a solid foundation for business development, residential density and sustainability.

Quality Place

A vibrant Downtown with cultural activities, attractive architecture and industry clusters enhance the quality of life by exhibiting density, intensity and diversity that workers and firms value most in today's economy.

Support cultural activities, spearhead landscape and beautification efforts to dramatically improve the pedestrian realm, promote walkability and foster distinctive art and architecture.



In Appreciation

The Pawtucket Foundation cannot exist without the committed support from local businesses, charitable organizations and our partners. We thank the following supporters for their total financial participation throughout FY 2009 and 2010.

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Celebrating Pawtucket

Throughout the past year, The Pawtucket Foundation brought together over 1,000 business and nonprofit leaders, elected officials and other members of the community at events to celebrate success, focus attention on local issues and lend a hand.

Annual Meeting



The Pawtucket Foundation hosted its Eighth Annual Meeting in 2009, unveiling the policy initiative, Blueprint: Bridge to Prosperity to the 75 guests in attendance. The initiative framed the Foundation's existing mission and highlighted a policy strategy for priority investments in innovation, human capital, quality place and infrastructure.

In addition, the Foundation welcomed seven new board members and announced the 2009 Person of the Year and Heritage Award Honorees to be recognized at the Foundation's Awards Celebration in the spring.

Awards Celebration Dinner



With over 275 elite business and nonprofit executives in attendance, the Foundation's Annual Awards Celebration Dinner continues to be Pawtucket's premier event. Hasbro was the lead sponsor as we recognized Person of the Year, Tony Estrella, and Heritage Award Honoree, Alfred J. Verrecchia & Hasbro. Funds raised during the event make up a significant portion of the Foundation's annual operating budget.

The Foundation's Eighth Annual Awards Celebration Dinner will be held on April 27, 2010 at the Pawtucket Armory Center for the Arts.

Cherry Blossom Festival



In 2009, the Pawtucket Foundation worked with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and the Cities of Central Falls and Pawtucket to plant 65 Rancho Cherry Trees along Roosevelt Avenue. To commemorate the installation, a ceremonial tree planting and celebration welcomed 200 guests who came to see the trees.

Organizers are currently planning a Cherry Blossom Festival, complete with 5K Run/Walk, May Breakfast Cherry Pie Back-Off for May 1, 2010. Details are available at www.richerryblossomfestival.org or by calling the BVTC at 401-724-2200.

Pawtucket Proud Day



Each year, Pawtucket Proud Day brings together over 100 individuals to volunteer at key sites around the community. In 2009, 43 businesses contributed volunteers, supplies and funds to clean-up, landscape, plant, paint and build.

Featured projects included landscaping and planting nine trees along the esplanade at Tolman High School and participating in the official wall-raising at Pawtucket's first Habitat for Humanity House. Volunteers also worked at Slater Mill downtown, PAC, YWCA and Tim Healey Way. Proud Day will be held on June 8, 2010.

Additional Events



Pawtucket Foundation Prize Exhibit: In May, the Foundation sponsored the \$2,000 jury award at the Pawtucket Arts Collaborative Multi-Cultural Exhibit.

Congressional Transportation Breakfast: In partnership with the Norther RI Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation helped focus 100 state and local leaders on northern RI transit priorities.

Date Night with the Foundation: 50 guests joined the Foundation for a reception at Morris Nathanson's private studio and Studio Goddard Partridge before enjoying a Gamm Theatre production of Much Ado About Nothing.

The Pawtucket Foundation thanks the businesses and organizations that contribute to our events throughout the year. Sponsorships are available for all Foundation events. Information is available by contacting the Foundation staff or on our website at www.pawtucketfoundation.org.