

To: Steve and Missy  
From: Doug M.  
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## Projects Report

In the words of one immortal presidential candidate, I've been working on a whole lot of really neat things this past month!

Chicopee: PT's visit to the city on April 24th was well received. Most of my efforts since then have been directed towards working on the Uniroyal deal. EDA has committed \$3.5 million in T. 9 assistance at 6-7% in a direct loan. I met with Frank Barnes (EDA-Phil.) to discuss way of structuring the payback to an LDFC like body to be used to finance future industrial development in Chicopee. EDA is thinking more of returning the money to the Gov.'s 304 fund for other *indus.* needs around the state. More to be discussed later as I am meeting with the Mayor on Friday to discuss this.

Springfield: With the Boland building and SIS block under construction and 4 UDAG's in for this quarter including the North End neighborhood (Brightwood Development Corp.) things in Springfield continue to pop! I attended the Eastgate Housing ground breaking last week for PT and a meeting with Cong. Boland on Moore co. TRA problems hosted by the unions. I also met with Axtell ~~for~~ the C. of C. on high tech. development in Springfield. He is still looking for an intro to Wang to discuss opportunities in Sprld. I also met recently with Jim Madden, new director of the Upper State Street Devel. Corp. (Ray Jordan's group) and had an excellent discussion with him on priorities for the area.

[ A separate memo on the high tech issues on plant locations is forthcoming. ]

Pittsfield: The mall issue continues to exist as the Mayor and Pyramid try to pursued Jordan Marsh to commit. J.M. has recently visited Pittsfield but without and positive indications. The city is also faced with a tax abatement with GE which is now in the Courts.

North Adams: Following PT's very successful visit on April 8th, I have been working <sup>with</sup> the city to straighten out the EDA-QWIP grant problem. The award (or invitation to submit fianal application) was given to a group which had a poor track record to begin with. The city has its own QWIP proposal and would like to see that funded. The other involvement with N. Adams has been to addean energy conservation component to the No. Adams Now Plan which the city now has a grant application in the works.

Northampton: Progress with establishing an LDFC from the NIRDC has been very slow. The hotel looks to be going to condo units over the protests of the Chamber and others. The Mayor has gotten the council to approve the reorganization of the CD office and this should be a good step towards acheiving a more organized development process.

[ I will be working on a Northampton plan if I ever get some time. ]

Rte. 57: After a report from FHWA and UMTA recommending: 1. regular meetings of the MPO as a body; 2. staffing for the MPO; 3. continued discussion on resolution of 57; 4. release of PVTA funds and those projects that have been approved by all members of the MPO; and concluding language which stated that "we do not consider it appropriate to hold the total program (TIP) in abeyance because of one project" the MPO met last Friday, and The State (i.e. Lou Nickenello) refused to compromise and the PVTA, fearing another delay in their grants due June 1, agreed to go ahead with preliminary design work. A seven member study group was <sup>appointed</sup> ~~agreed to~~ (which is weighted in favor of Rte. 57) for further study.

[ I am still most concerned about the impact of this project and feel strongly enough to work on some alternative strategy to the bypass. ]

I met with some folks from the MDC on our amendments on the Ct. River Diversion. They are concerned that they are too restrictive and have proposed alternatives which I have not yet had a chance to review.

I have been working with Northeast Chick Services (a poultry farm) on obtaining financing (operating K) due to a credit squeeze by the Production Credit Association. We are pursuing MCRC and EDA but the problem has pointed to a major difficulty facing Mass. Agriculture which is the lack of farm financing capacity with the lending institutions in New England and the Northeast. This is another area where I would like to spend some time to follow up what we hinted at in the section on farming and fishing in the Mass. Plan. ]