



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTS
JERRARD WHITTEN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

HAVERHILL, MA – The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission is pleased to announce that it has appointed Jerrard Whitten, of Newbury, as its new Executive Director.

“We are very pleased to promote Mr. Whitten to the position of Executive Director of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission,” said Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Chairman Robert Snow. “He brings considerable planning and economic development experience along with strong regional relationships. Jerrard has significant knowledge and understanding of the Planning Commission’s work as he has been an integral part of the organization since 1995. We look forward with great confidence to his tenure as Executive Director.”

Mr. Whitten has been a key contributor to the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission for 26 years and has extensive experience in community planning, economic development, environmental management, information technology, and transportation systems. Prior to being named Executive Director, he served as Geographic Information System and Information Technology Manager for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission contracted with *Community Paradigm Associates* and its principal, former Lowell City Manager Bernard F. Lynch, to search for and recruit candidates for the position. Mr. Whitten was selected for the position from a field of 22 well-qualified applicants.

“It is an honor to be appointed as the next Executive Director,” said Mr. Whitten. “For years I have seen the extraordinary quality of work accomplished by my colleagues at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and appreciate how they embrace the organization’s commitment to helping this region thrive. I recognize what a privilege it will be to serve as Executive Director

and am excited to continue working with this dedicated team on behalf of all the municipalities we serve.”

Prior to his role as Geographic Information System and Information Technology Manager, Mr. Whitten previously served as an Environmental Planner for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, as an Economic Development/Information Technology Consultant for Inteco in Caguas, Puerto Rico, and as a Project Manager for Jackson Estuarine Laboratory in Durham, N.H.

Mr. Whitten is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a Master of Science in Resource Administration and Management and a Bachelor of Science in Resource Economics. Mr. Whitten resides in Newbury.

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About the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission:

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission is a regional planning agency created in 1959 with a goal of consistently planning, developing, and promoting not only the sustainable development of the Merrimack Valley through responsible and efficient use of regional resources, but to also rally and unify the communities to perpetuate the region’s vision. A 16-member Board of Commissioners governs the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, which serves 15 member communities, including the cities of Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen and Newburyport, and the towns of Andover, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury.