

OLD COLONY  
**ROUTE**



# **TECH HUB**

**STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 | 2:00PM - 3:00PM**

# AGENDA

- **Welcome**
- **Review key challenges**
- **Highlight opportunities**
- **Discuss collaboration approach**
- **Prioritize 3–5 quick actions**
- **Assess Ecosystem Readiness Level (ERL)**
- **Outline ongoing efforts**
- **Next steps**



# CHALLENGES



## **Misconceptions About Modern Manufacturing**

*“Dark, Dirty & Dangerous”*



## **Recruitment & Awareness Challenges**



## **Transportation Barriers**



## **Insufficient Credential Programs**

*Lack of incubator space with advanced equipment*



## **Funding Limitations**

*Logistical challenges in coordination*



## **Competition From Other Regions**



---

# OPPORTUNITIES

---



**Expanding Outreach Through a Unified Branding & Marketing Strategy**



**Expanding Outreach to High School & Middle School Students**



**Leveraging Current Programing (AI, 3D, Robotics)**  
*and create entry point for underrepresented groups*



**Strategizing the Logistics of Developing a Training/Incubator Space**  
*to support credential programming*



**Address Middle & High Skills Gaps**



# COLLABORATION APPROACH

- ✓ **Grow and expand key industry sectors**
- ✓ **Market these key sectors to local education & higher education institutions**

## INDUSTRIES

*What are the gaps in acquiring skilled talent?  
What are the resources needed?*

## MUNICIPALITIES

*What are the barriers to expansion and growth in key industry sectors?  
Sewer expansion?*

## EDUCATION

*What are the courses and curriculum currently offered?  
Develop a pipeline strategy.*

## WORKFORCE// MASSHIRE

*What are the skills gaps and emerging occupational trends through labor market data.  
What are workforce pipeline strategies?*

## NON-PROFITS



# ACTION FRAMEWORK OF MTC



**Create a portfolio of 3-5 Opportunities**



**Quick Action Undertaken in 90 Days or Less**



**Indicators of Success**

- ✓ Milestones
- ✓ Potential Funding Pathways



**Ecosystem Readiness Level (ERL)**



# ECOSYSTEM READINESS LEVELS (ERL)

## DEVELOPMENT PHASE

**ERL 1: Conceptualization & Awareness** - Initial understanding of the regional economy's potential for leadership in a specific industry cluster. Stakeholders recognize the need for an innovation ecosystem and begin informal discussions.

**ERL 2: Strategic Planning** - Initial scoping is conducted, identifying potential strengths, industry opportunities, and challenges. Strategic plans and objectives are developed, and initial resources are identified.

---

## NASCENT PHASE

**ERL 3: Foundational Partnerships Established** - Key stakeholders (industry, academia, government, and community) are engaged, and formal partnerships are established. Preliminary funding and resource commitments are secured to initiate innovation activities.

**ERL 4: Early Innovation Activities** - The ecosystem supports its first innovation initiatives, such as startup accelerators, pilot projects, innovation hubs, etc. Governance structures are formalized, and operational workflows are initiated.

---

## EMERGENT PHASE

**ERL 5: Initial Scaling & Regional Recognition** - Early successes attract regional attention, including increased funding and engagement. Technological products, services, and workforce capabilities begin to scale.

**ERL 6: External Validation and Expansion** - Ecosystem gains recognition beyond the region, securing substantial external funding and partnerships. Innovation-based economic activity accelerates, attracting skilled talent and resources.

---

## GROWTH PHASE

**ERL 7: National Leadership** - The ecosystem is recognized as a national leader in its industry cluster. Significant economic activity, business creation, and technology commercialization are driven by the ecosystem.

**ERL 8: Advanced Specialization** - The ecosystem demonstrates advanced specialization and is a magnet for global investment, talent, and partnerships. Collaborative innovation drives sustained industry growth, and new opportunities for cluster expansion emerge.

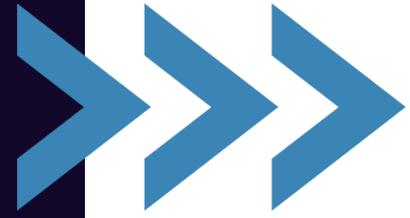
---

## MATURE PHASE

**ERL 9: Global Leadership & Sustainability** - The ecosystem is a global leader in the industry cluster. It sustains itself through diversified funding, robust private-sector support, and a self-reinforcing cycle of innovation, talent development, and economic activity.



# NEXT STEPS



**Recurring Meetings**



**Focus Group Sessions**

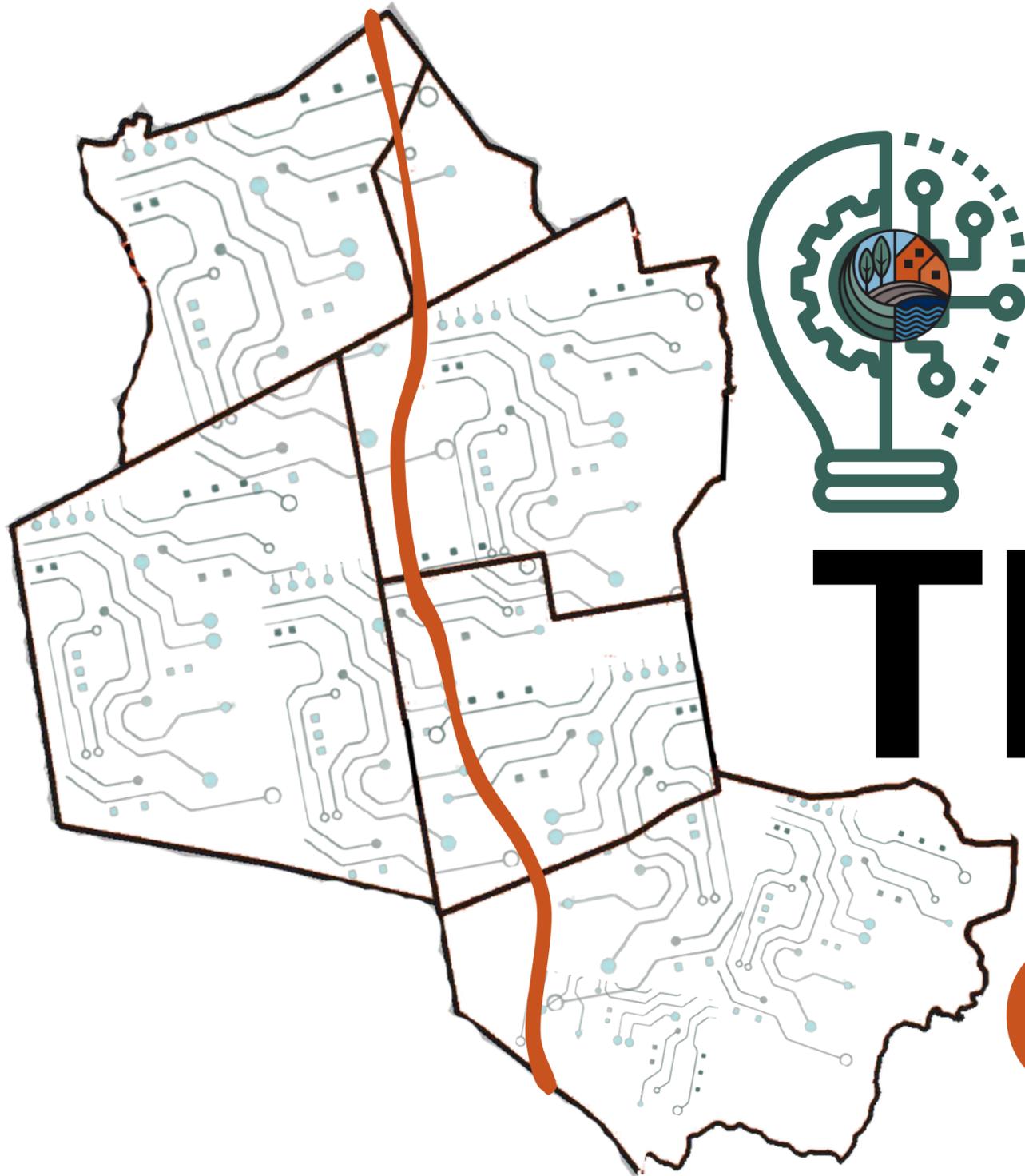


**Continuing Stakeholder  
Engagement**



**Developing a Marketing &  
Branding Strategy**





OLD COLONY  
ROUTE



**TECH HUB**

**QUESTIONS?**

[WWW.OLDCOLONYPLANNING.ORG/RT24-TECH-HUB](http://WWW.OLDCOLONYPLANNING.ORG/RT24-TECH-HUB)