

Executive Director's Report
April 25, 2018
(two-month report covering mid-February to mid-April)

Submitted to the Executive Committee
by Marc Draisen, Executive Director

Smart Growth Planning

Transportation

Role of Transportation Network Companies and Micro-transit in Solving First/Last Mile Gaps

On April 11, Travis Pollack, Senior Transportation Planner, moderated a session at the MassDOT Innovation + Mobility Exchange conference in Worcester. Alison Felix, Senior Transportation Planner and Emerging Technologies Specialist, and Cat Kealy, Business Development Executive with TransLoc, a company that provides micro-transit solutions for transit providers, served on the panel.

This session addressed the impacts – both positive and negative – on-demand transportation technologies can bring to transit agencies, municipal transit providers, and the traveling public. The findings of MAPC's recently released [Fare Choices](http://www.mapc.org/farechoices) report (www.mapc.org/farechoices) and various flexible, on-demand services that are available to transit agencies were discussed. With approximately 50 attendees, the session was well-attended and an engaging question-and-answer period followed.

AUVSI New England Summit

On April 5, Alison Felix served as a panelist at the annual summit of the New England Chapter of the Association of Unmanned Vehicles (AUVSI). Alison spoke on "Autonomy on the Streets of Boston: Current Success & Future of Autonomous Mobility." The summit seeks to bridge the gap between government policy and automated driving industry stakeholders through facilitated discussions.

Bus Rapid Transit

MAPC staff continues to support and advance bus improvement projects in our region. Boston is initiating a month-long dedicated bus lane in Roslindale, starting on May 7. MAPC staff has been involved in this process for the past 18 months, and will be supporting the evaluation, leading the passenger survey effort, and will be assisting with local resident and stakeholder engagement. In 2018, additional bus pilots are scheduled in Everett, Arlington, and Cambridge/Watertown (funded by the Barr Foundation). MAPC staff are assisting these pilots by performing parking data collection (occupancy and duration) in Everett and Arlington in May. The parking data will inform the process for these and future pilots.

Regional Dockless Bike Share

MAPC recently announced the selection of LimeBike and Spin to provide no cost dock-less bike sharing services to 15 participating communities as a result of a recent regional procurement effort. Both vendors will be serving all participating communities, and the full system is expected to launch by the first weekend in July, with some communities rolling out sooner. Each of the participating communities will work closely with the vendors to identify appropriate bike parking locations and promote the launch of the system. MAPC has also been working on getting all 15 participating communities to sign a

regional MOU, which will ensure continued collaboration among the cities and towns and across municipal lines.

MAPC recently announced the selection of LimeBike and Spin to provide no cost dock-less bike sharing services to 15 participating communities as a result of a recent regional procurement effort. Both vendors will be serving all participating communities, and the full system is expected to launch over the next few weeks, achieving full rollout by the first weekend in July. Each of the participating communities is working closely with the vendors to identify appropriate bike parking locations and promote the launch of the system. MAPC has also been working on getting all 15 participating communities to sign a regional MOU, which will ensure continued collaboration among the cities and town and across municipal lines.

MAPC has also been coordinating with the MBTA and the two vendors on permitting the bikes to be parked on MBTA property, which will support dockless bike share's ability to serve as an important first mile/last mile transportation connection. Finally, MAPC convened a meeting among the two vendors, a few representatives from the participating communities, and transportation planning staff and officials from the Hubway communities in an effort to identify procedures to restrict dockless bikeshare access to Hubway communities, which have an exclusive contract with Motivate, Inc. This continues to be a challenge and a difficult balance to strike, but MAPC will continue to work with the vendors and all bike share communities to determine how to ensure the success of both systems.

North Reading Transit Study

MAPC will assist the North Reading with a feasibility study on how better to connect North Reading with commuter rail in adjacent communities. North Reading has no MBTA bus or rail service, and only recently joined the Merrimack Valley RTA to provide medical rides for seniors. The town recently received a \$15,000 Community Compact grant to evaluate the feasibility of a shuttle connecting a satellite park-and-ride lot in North Reading with MBTA commuter rail service in Wilmington, Woburn or Reading. The shuttle would connect the residents of North Reading to MBTA services, while also potentially connecting workers to jobs in North Reading.

Land Use

Duxbury Master Plan

On April 11, MAPC presented to the Duxbury Planning Board on phase 1 Master Plan elements. During the presentation, MAPC staff presented key findings and recommendations from the draft Housing, Historic & Cultural Resources, and Open Space & Recreation elements and engaged in a discussion about the materials with the Planning Board. The discussion also explored synergies between the various Master Plan topics in this phase and those to come in phase 2, which kicks off this summer and extends to summer 2019. MAPC will work to revise the element drafts and circulate them more widely with the public and targeted stakeholders. MAPC and the town will also likely hold small focus groups on topics that have emerged during phase 1 and warrant further discussion, such as exploring the barriers to and opportunities for historic preservation and sidewalk/bike lane construction.

Cohasset Master Plan

MAPC was selected to prepare the Cohasset Master Plan after a competitive bidding process in the fall of 2017. MAPC, working with the Cohasset Master Plan Committee, conducted a kick-off public forum which was attended by approximately 75 people. The town was pleased to see that the meeting was attended by both long- and short-term residents and that there were a number of "new faces" in the crowd. The meeting featured a presentation that introduced the master planning process and gave a snapshot of Cohasset. The rest of the meeting was organized in an open house format with several

“hot topic” stations. The hot topics included Rte. 3A, climate change, bike and ped connections, smart growth, and the waterfront/harbor. MAPC is working with new planning director, Peter Matchak, who is also the South Shore Coalition co-chair and was the town planner in Hanover where MAPC is also completing a master plan.

“Living Little”

The next “Living Little” project meeting will be held on May 2 with the town planners of Foxborough, Medfield, Medway, Sherborn, and Stoughton to provide input on the draft report. Work to date includes analysis and accompanying case studies of smaller housing alternatives, such as detached accessible dwelling units, cottage developments, “tiny houses,” and “tiny home” clusters, as well as assessment of barriers to this kind of development, such as infrastructure, regulation, and health codes. “Living Little” is a joint project of MAPC’s Housing Division and the SWAP and TRIC Subregional Councils.

Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Regional Housing Task Force

The MCC Regional Housing Task Force has met twice since February. At the first meeting, we discussed the Statement of Principles, an analysis informing a regional housing production target, and a growing catalogue of best practices to reach housing need and demand.

Mayor Sullivan hosted the Task Force in Braintree on April 24. In addition to Mayor Sullivan, Task Force co-chairs Mayor Walsh (Boston) and Mayor Curtatone (Somerville) attended, as well as Mayor Koch (Quincy), Mayor Christenson (Malden), Mayor Fuller (Newton), Mayor Burke (Medford), and special guest Mayor Hedlund (Weymouth). Staff from Arlington, Cambridge, Everett, Brookline, Quincy, Malden, Chelsea, Revere, Melrose, and Somerville also attended. The working meeting began with a project update and then finalizing the Statement of Principles. Attendees next discussed which key stakeholders to engage and preparing for the public forum at the end of Phase 1 of the project. All agreed that the business community, community development corporations, councils on aging, fair housing groups, and others should be engaged going forward.

Tim Reardon, Data Services Director, gave an update on developing a regional housing production goal, including estimates on labor force and housing demand, as well as development capacity. Attendees discussed best practice areas for additional research, and expressed interest in developing a greater understanding of planning, funding, and policy strategies to meet housing demand, including those focused on production, community benefits, and displacement. The Task Force will meet twice in May as we work towards a final housing production target.

Revere OSRP

On April 17, MAPC and the City of Revere held a public forum on the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) update, capping almost a year of planning and public engagement. Over 40 residents provided feedback on the future of parks and open spaces in the city. Emma Schnur, OSRP Project Manager, presented on the community outreach process, the city’s demographic and land use characteristics, key open space and recreation features, and the goals and objectives recommended in the plan.

Following the presentation, the group broke out into an open house where attendees could provide feedback at different stations focused around the results of the recent survey, which was completed by over 400 residents. Participants set priorities among the recommendations, indicated preferences for arts and cultural elements, and responded to information about health behaviors and indicators.

At one station, attendees could even contribute to a piece of public art known as the “Vision Tree” by decorating a leaf with their version of a “perfect day in the park.” Many residents have already participated in this public art project, which was built by MAPC Artist-in-Residence Carolyn Lewenberg, and the tree with all its decorated leaves was unveiled at the forum. (Earlier in its life, the tree with all

the uncompleted leaves graced the welcome space on MAPC's 3rd floor for several months before traveling to its final home in Revere!)

MAPC staff will now incorporate all the feedback from the event into a final draft of the plan for review by the city and submission to the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) at EOEEA.



Rockland OSRP

MAPC is preparing Rockland's first OSRP since 2005, complete with two public forums. Attendees validated and shaped the recommendations made in the plan, and provided input to improve the maps to be included in the plan. Many of the recommendations focus on short- and long-term plans for significant upgrades to its park and recreation facilities, including needed ADA accommodations. MAPC anticipates that the plan will be completed in early May for submission to DCS.

EDA Grant to Chelsea

The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded Chelsea \$3 million for infrastructure improvements along the Beacham/Williams Corridor. This corridor is a critical industrial thoroughfare serving the New England Produce Center and its surrounding food distribution cluster, a vital asset to the local economy. The funding will allow the city to remedy the deteriorated condition of the corridor, which currently lacks sidewalks and has insufficient drainage. The improvements will help to protect the area from future storms, and was a critical priority of the Metro Mayors Climate Adaptation Task Force. Special kudos are due to Steve Winter, who oversees MAPC's partnership with EDA, for providing technical assistance and support to Chelsea as they applied for these funds.

Opportunity Zones

In March, MAPC submitted draft recommendations to EOHEd for the Opportunity Zones program, a new federal program under which the state designates Census Tracts to be eligible for special tax incentives. Under these incentives, investors can receive tax benefits for investments related to jobs and housing investments. MAPC staff proposed that a scoring system be established to rate the eligible Opportunity Zones so the state could choose the ones that would have the most impact in areas of greatest employment and housing need.

Additionally, once the state application was available, MAPC informed our municipalities as to their eligibility and provided them examples of some of their most recent planning efforts in order to add strength to their applications. We also offered our services in the application process and MAPC staff assisted towns like Rockland and Gloucester in their successful designations as Opportunity Zones.

Environment

Hazard Mitigation Plans

Hull held their final public meeting on February 8. The plan, which integrates a climate vulnerability analysis completed in 2016, includes 17 mitigation items related to future sea level rise. The measures include retrofitting and relocating town infrastructure, incorporating sea level rise in all capital planning, updating evacuation plans, improving the primary dune, and flood protection outreach to residents. FEMA has issued a notice of Approval Pending Adoption for the Hull plan. After adoption of the plan by the Board of Selectmen, FEMA will issue a final Letter of Plan Approval.

The Norwood Planning Board hosted the first public meeting for their plan on March 12. Residents suggested specific flooding locations in need of attention and suggested improvements to storm water management and the emergency notification system.

The town of Acton Conservation Commission hosted the first public meeting for their plan on April 18.

MAPC completed draft Hazard Mitigation Plans for Sharon and Lynnfield and both were submitted to MEMA for review. MEMA has completed their review and submitted the plans to FEMA.

FEMA has issued a notice of Approval Pending Adoption for the Lincoln Hazard Mitigation Plan. After adoption of the plan by the Board of Selectmen, FEMA will issue a final Letter of Plan Approval.

MAPC staff held meetings of the Local Hazard Mitigation Teams in Bolton, Medway, Millis, and Wrentham, all of which began to review the mitigation measures in each town. Watertown held its kickoff meeting to begin the process of updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Integrated Climate Planning

At the tail end of one coastal storm and on the cusp of another nor'easter, MAPC submitted Scituate's Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan, called "Building a Resilient Scituate" to the state for certification under the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. The town received certification concurrently with the Governor's announcement of the Environmental Bond Bill, which took place at Scituate Lighthouse in March. MVP certification enables Scituate to qualify for state funding for climate resilience.

MAPC is also finalizing Duxbury's Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan after two public forums. Darci Schofield presented the plan to 56 participants at the Duxbury First Church Open Mind Series on March 16. PAC TV did a story on the program: youtu.be/NafCV8ljzWU.



Open Mind Speaker Series: Sea Level Rise and Climate Vulnerability in Duxbury

On April 12, Darci also presented on a climate change planning panel at the Northeast Energy and Commerce Association’s annual environmental conference. Darci spoke about regional climate planning, with a focus on regional collaboration in regard to both mitigation and adaptation.

The impact of March storms on inland towns such as Watertown and coastal communities like Scituate and Duxbury underscore the importance of planning for hazard mitigation and climate resilience.



Watertown, March 2018



Scituate, MA, March 2018

The Climate Vulnerability and Action Plans prepared by MAPC for Brookline and Braintree also received MVP certification from the state. The towns are now eligible for state grant funding for implementation of their plans. Brookline Senior Planner Maria Morelli and MAPC’s Anne Herbst presented Brookline’s Climate Action Plan at a public forum during Brookline’s Climate Action Week.

Gloucester and Essex completed their day-long community climate planning workshop in early April.

Altogether, MAPC is helping eight municipalities to prepare their MVP plans. MAPC staff are planning to hold trainings in Rockport, Norwood, and Chelsea in the near future.

MEPA Project Review

The projects listed below for the region were filed with the MEPA office and were ranked by MAPC for the level of review. The MAPC review categories are defined as follows:

- A Major regional project to be reviewed by the Officers and/or Executive Committee
- B Regional project to be reviewed by staff and approved by Executive Director
- C Local or regional project to be tracked by MAPC; no MEPA review needed

Summary of MEPA Projects reviewed and ranked by MAPC, March/April 2018:

| | | | | |
|-------|---|----------|------|---|
| 15278 | Allston Interchange Project | Boston | DEIR | B |
| 15821 | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center - New Inpatient Building | Boston | ENF | C |
| 15824 | Milford Regional Physicians Group - Medical Office | Franklin | ENF | C |
| 15827 | 283 Derby Street | Salem | ENF | C |
| 15064 | Fore River Avenue Seawall | Weymouth | ENF | C |
| 15810 | 135 Morrissey | Boston | ENF | C |
| 15813 | The Residence at Penniman Hill | Hingham | ENF | C |
| 15815 | New Water Supply Source - Holbrook Street | Norfolk | ENF | C |
| 15818 | Shoreline Restoration at Coughlin Park | Winthrop | ENF | C |
| 15632 | 1000 Boylston Street | Boston | FEIR | C |
| 15630 | Houghs Neck Maritime Center Improvement Project | Quincy | NPC | C |
| 15820 | Dunham Ridge | Beverly | ENF | C |
| 15832 | Pilot Seafood Properties at the Massport Marine Terminal (Parcel 6) | Boston | ENF | C |
| 15834 | 21 Revere Beach Boulevard & 40 Ocean Avenue | Revere | ENF | C |
| 15610 | 115 Winthrop Square | Boston | FEIR | C |
| 12668 | Nantasket Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project | Hull | NPC | C |

Arts & Culture

Beverly Arts District



On February 26, Arts and Culture partnered with Community Engagement to convene an Advisory Committee meeting to kick off the Beverly Arts District Implementation Plan, which aims to help Beverly Main Streets and the City of Beverly to strengthen the Beverly Arts District through a shared vision, new partnerships, and a long-term funding strategy.

The Advisory Committee includes local artists, performing arts venues and organizations, creative businesses, and arts and culture organizations. Held over lunch, the meeting included a series of visioning exercises, including collage (examples shown above), which led participants toward a shared vision for the district's future. The meeting closed with a discussion of public engagement in the process through focus groups to be held in March.

On March 28, MAPC held a series of three focus groups on the Beverly Arts District. Through these events, the project team spoke to creative seniors at the Beverly Senior Center, students at Endicott College, and creative professionals at Clay Dreaming, a pottery studio on Cabot Street. Over 30 community members attended these focus groups, shared their insights on Beverly's arts and cultural assets, provided feedback on the arts district and shared their ideas for its future. Additional outreach is underway to local community organizations and businesses in the Arts District, and we will present our analysis of the feedback to the Advisory Committee at our next meeting on May 7.

Rockland Creative Placemaking Project

The "Sole of Rockland" concept was accepted to the Commonwealth Places program April 2, and MAPC has assisted Rockland to the launch a Patronicity crowd-funding website to raise money for the project to be matched by MassDevelopment. On April 24, MAPC assisted with the Patronicity video shoot for the project webpage. Video interviews were shot in the studios of Kim Smith and Scott Ketcham, artists at the Sandpaper Factory, a converted mill building that houses artist studios and creative businesses in Rockland. Carolyn Lewenberg, Mallory Nezam, Annis Sengupta, from MAPC, and Marcy Birmingham from the Town of Rockland, helped coach Robin Cook Hill, a local artist and Farmer's Market Coordinator, Mike Mullen, member of the Rockland Board of Selectmen and chair of ReImagine Rockland, and Shannon McDonald, a local artist active in the ReImagine Rockland effort, through the interview process. Prior to the shoot, Karen Adelman provided communications support in developing talking points for the video and revisions to the Patronicity crowd-funding website, which will be used to solicit donations for the Sole of Rockland project during the month of May.

Everett Earthworks

Everett Earthworks is a collaboration among the City of Everett, Everett Community Growers, and MAPC's arts & culture, public health, and environment staffs. The project will result in a community-engaged public art and urban agriculture experience in the form of a sculptural garden. The garden will encourage a sense of place, community building, and innovative thinking with regard to sustainably growing food and creating habitat. On February 27, a group of community gardeners from both the Florence Street Community Garden and the Tremont Community Garden gathered to discuss the second iteration of a design for a proposed public art and urban agriculture project. Residents discussed a plan for a garden area featuring a central sculptural seating element with concentric circles of paths and garden mounds radiating out from that point. The design concept represents a ripple on the surface of water, caused by a drop of water. In this vision, community gardeners are all drops of water, creating a ripple effect to encourage more people to get involved in the community.

The design is intended not only to inspire and spark visual interest, but also to provide two main functions: to grow food and to build community. Saturday work days from March 24 until the end of April will engage community members in work parties, and we hope this will be a great community building experience for all involved.

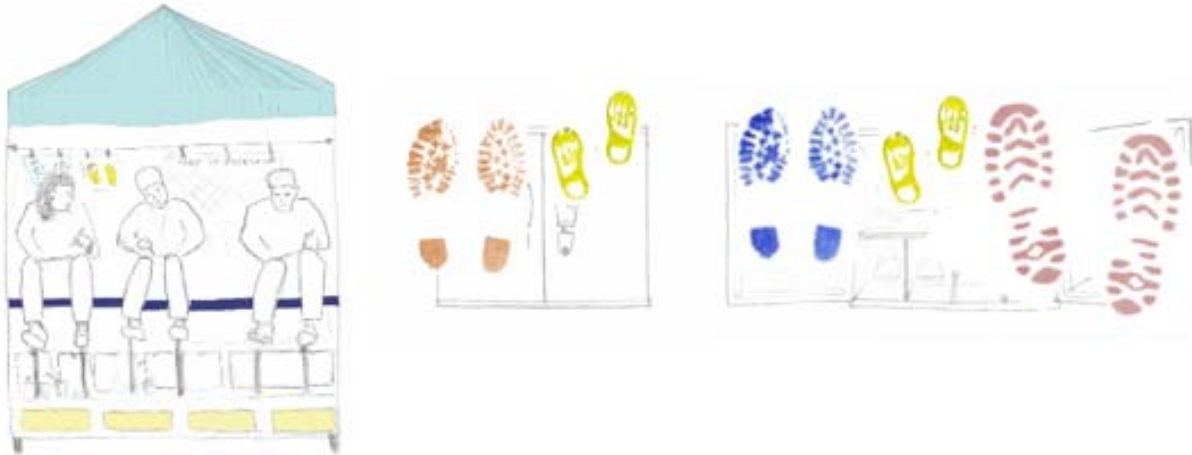
Natick Creative Placemaking Workshops

On Tuesday, March 27, and Friday, April 6, community members and local stakeholders took part in workshops to envision the next steps for a Natick Center creative placemaking strategy. Thanks to Mutual One and Natick High School, which provided the spaces, around 45 participants engaged in the workshops facilitated by MAPC. Stakeholders ranging from business owners to high school students worked together to learn about creative placemaking and envision how Natick Center can be a more vibrant, accessible, and culturally inclusive place. Through hands-on activities, group discussions, and visioning sessions, participants spent the first part of the day discussing how arts and culture could enhance the future of Natick Center in ways that engage various groups and honor diverse artistic and cultural expressions. Attendees learned about the principles of creative placemaking, and identified the civic issues the project should strive to advance, as well as guiding values that will inform the design to enhance Natick Center.



Rockland Creative Placemaking

On February 21, MAPC and Rockland kicked off their Creative Placemaking project with an Advisory Group meeting hosted by the Sandpaper Factory, a converted mill building, which is home to artist studios and emerging creative businesses. The Advisory Group includes artists, residents, business owners, and members of a cross-section of volunteer town committees and organizations.



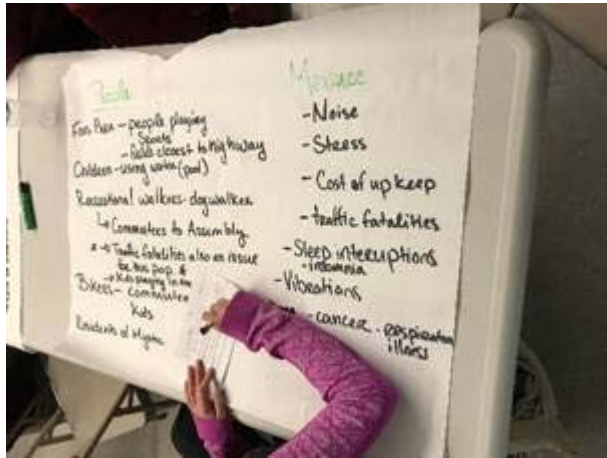
The meeting served as both an orientation to the project and a working session to discuss a project concept for submission to MassDevelopment’s Commonwealth Places crowd-granting platform on Patronicity. The group’s enthusiastic participation and creative ideas helped to transform a preliminary idea developed by Artist-in-Residence Carolyn Lewenberg and Arts & Culture Fellow Mallory Nezam into a multi-faceted concept for creative community engagement through collaborative public art. If funded, this concept would serve as the first phase of our longer-term creative placemaking project. The concept envisions a temporary public art installation that engages visitors to the Rockland Farmer’s Market at a public art-shoe cart — in making and painting their footprints, creating stencils from those footprints to mark important historic and cultural assets along Union Street, and constructing small cabinets with information about the assets’ historic and contemporary value, with compartments to hold artifacts and stories contributed by visitors to the cabinets.

Public Health

Near Roadway Air Pollution HIA

The Public Health team, along with community partners in Somerville and at Tufts University, has held three public meetings as part of scoping for a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), which will look at the potential health effects from the possible installation of noise barriers along the I-93 corridor in Somerville. Research has shown that noise barriers may provide some protection from exposure to traffic related air pollution, which is linked to neurological, cardiovascular, and respiratory health issues, as well as other issues more directly related to noise, such as mental health and sleep.

The scoping meetings have been facilitated by project partners along with East Somerville Main Streets and the Welcome Project. The most recent meeting, which occurred at Mystic Avenue Housing in Somerville, included residents from English as a Second Language programs and was interpreted by youth into Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole. Community input from the scoping sessions have indicated air pollution, noise, and changes in urban design (e.g., physical aesthetics) as the key topics for the HIA.



Weymouth Gas Compressor Station HIA

MAPC has also initiated a new HIA with DPH and DEP. This HIA will look at the proposed Weymouth Gas Compressor and MAPC will assist in facilitating the HIA process, assessing baseline health status of potentially impacted communities, developing pathway diagrams to illustrate potential positive and negative impacts, and identifying benefits and mitigation measures to promote and protect health. The HIA is expected to be complete by November.



Public Health Leadership Award

Barry Keppard, the Director MAPC's Public Health Department, received the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health's 2018 Leadership Award. The award recognizes exceptional leadership in promoting healthier and more equitable communities.

Barry was recognized for his inclusion of health and equity in urban planning projects and policy work, as well as his sustained cross-sectoral work to build partnerships in government and with community organizations around the social determinants of health.

We are very proud of Barry's commitment to the values of MAPC, and his accomplishments at the intersection of health and regional planning. This award is an indication that people outside of MAPC deeply value Barry's work as well. Congratulations, Barry!

Boston Health in All Policies Task Force

MAPC is partnering with Health Resources in Action (HRiA) to assist the Boston Public Health Commission to re-launch a Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force. HRiA, a Boston-based public health institute, and MAPC's Public Health Department have a history of collaborating on HIA and HiAP projects. Working with the Commission and other city staff, HRiA and MAPC will support the capacity building of the task force and the integration of health and racial equity assessment and decision making into policy, planning, institutional processes and procedures across city departments.

Health Needs Assessment for Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop.

MAPC's Public Health and Municipal Collaboration Departments assisted the North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative (NSPHC) to convene health care providers and municipal leaders in a conversation about conducting a joint Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. The meeting included representatives from Mass General Hospital, Cambridge Health Alliance, Beth Israel Deaconess, and Hallmark Health and was facilitated by the Director of the NSPHC. The meeting produced a series of action steps, and a subset of meeting participants are now scoping out a potential workplan, timeline, and MOU in order to guide collaboration and completion of a CHNA that is conducted jointly among public and private sector partners.

Strategic Initiatives

Regional Plan Update

In early March, the subcommittees delivered their proposed two-year process design plans. Because the subcommittees' work streams are so inter-connected, the subcommittees worked closely with one another to develop a coherent and logical progression for the planning process. While there are still many details and decisions to come, the outline and framework are coming into focus. Some of the highlights of what we will propose include:

- Updating the MetroFuture vision and goals through a more abbreviated visioning process than last time (3-6 months, as compared to several years of visioning);
- Studying local plans as a starting point – but not an end point – to develop regional priorities for growth and preservation;
- Instead of using different scenarios to come up with a preferred vision, we will use scenario planning to explore how various “driving forces” (macro-trends like climate change that are, to some degree, out of our control) might affect the region’s ability to achieve its preferred vision; and then we will test policy decisions that could be taken to enable the region to come as close to its preferred vision as possible;
- Targeting two separate time horizons to incorporate shorter- and longer-term recommendations;
- Utilizing robust engagement techniques, tailored to specific audiences;
- Employing a “high saturation” media strategy that elevates the profile of the planning process, including the possibility of paid advertising; and
- Conducting an ambitious research agenda, with the help of stakeholders, to select the driving forces we will study, to create reasonable scenarios based on each driving force, and to design robust policy recommendations.

As we receive input from the External Advisory Committee and Subregional Councils, we are revising the first drafts and will have a near-final proposal by early May. We plan to present the two-year process design at the May or June Executive Committee meeting, as well as highlighting it at the Annual Council Meeting in May.

Over the summer, we will be in “start-up” mode, preparing materials, conducting initial research on driving forces, designing a web presence, and launching the shorter – but still critical – visioning process.

Although we are still hopeful that the Barr Foundation will contribute significantly to the regional planning process, their decision has been postponed from June to September. We are also exploring

additional financial contributions to the effort from other foundations, municipalities or subregions, and corporate and institutional allies.

Equitable Transit Oriented Development Evaluation

DSI organized an evaluation of MAPC's Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD) work to date. The evaluation spanned 11 projects completed between 2013 and 2017 and included conversations with staff and municipal partners and a review of our ETOD plans and recommendations. These are some of the questions that guided the evaluation and the subsequent findings that we surfaced.

1. Are our partners satisfied with our work?
 - 11 of 11 reported they were satisfied with our work and 9 of 11 reported they were extremely satisfied with our work.
 - 11 of 11 reported they would recommend MAPC to other municipalities pursuing ETOD planning.
2. Are our recommendations getting implemented?
 - The process of defining a recommendation as "implemented" raised more questions than it answered, so we did not attempt to quantify implementation. That being said, municipalities reported many positive outcomes, including: 700+ new or planned units of housing, major infrastructure investments around station areas, increased access for bikes and pedestrians, reduced parking requirements, and arts and place making programming. Many municipalities updated their inclusionary zoning ordinances, but to date few new units are affordable. It is important that we continue to monitor affordability in project areas, and work with communities to achieve better results.
3. What prevents our recommendations from being implemented?
 - Constituent and political obstruction.
 - Lack of municipal funding for implementation.
 - Some municipalities reported that they would like more specific implementation plans.
 - MAPC is focused primarily on providing a high quality plan, and less so on making sure that plan can be implemented, which raised the question of directing more MAPC resources towards supporting implementation.
4. What helps our recommendations get implemented?
 - Community engagement: ETOD event attendance was double the turnout for similar events and municipal staff lauded MAPC's ability to make connections with a variety of stakeholders.
 - Connect with residents early and often. In at least three municipalities, MAPC assuaged residents' concerns about an MAPC "agenda" by effectively communicating how we work and what our mission is.
 - High quality visualizations and data analyses make the plan more accessible and convincing to residents and stakeholders.
 - Recruiting local plan champions and effective steering committees to help promote the need for change.
 - The inclusion of technical zoning language and a thorough implementation plan with periodic follow ups to work through challenges.
5. How equitable are our plans?
 - We identified that there is a difference between leading with equity versus simply offering recommendations we deem equitable and that ETOD plans trend more towards the latter. This will require continued attention, and perhaps adjustments to our planning process.
 - While all ETOD plans focus on equality – making sure everyone has the same access and opportunity – not as many focus on equity – giving specific groups what they need to be

successful. It was recommended that we more clearly define what makes an ETOD plan “equitable.”

MAPC staff used these findings to identify improvement opportunities. One idea is to include an equity assessment in the scope so we can offer recommendations directed at local, specific inequities rather than assumed inequities. Another is to include a rapid feedback survey so municipal staff can immediately report back on what they liked and what they’d change about our ETOD process. MAPC staff are also interested in exploring and tracking the anticipated outcomes of our work to enable faster learning and innovation, better measuring MAPC’s impact on the region, and assessing how the region is moving towards MetroFuture’s vision and goals. We will continue to offer updates as these conversations continue.

Evaluating MetroFuture Strategies

MetroFuture offered 13 implementation strategies, each of which includes from 3 to 7 sub-strategies; in turn each sub-strategy has a handful of recommendations. DSI is in the process of evaluating the extent to which the region has pursued and accomplished these strategies. This is a sister project to the indicators work MAPC’s Data Services team has undertaken, which attempts to quantify the degree to which the MAPC region has (or has not) achieved the vision embodied in MetroFuture’s 65 goals. We expect the majority of the implementation strategy evaluations will be completed this spring, and we would appreciate feedback from anyone interested in reviewing them. If interested, please email Ben Faust (bfaust@mapc.org) for more information.

New England Aquarium’s Community Partnerships for Resilience Kickoff

On March 1, the Community Partnerships for Resilience – an effort to empower youth and spark their involvement in local climate resilience in Chelsea, Hull, and Lynn – held its official kickoff. The event brought together educators, municipal officials, and community groups from each of the participating communities. The stakeholders discussed resiliency with MAPC climate experts, and met both as a large group, by municipality, and in mixed-municipality groupings. The event began the process of team building among groups who seldom work together, but whose collaboration will be key to the success of this three-year project. This project is being co-led by Community Engagement and Communications staff.



Subregions

MetroWest Regional Collaborative (MWRC)

MWRC devoted its February meeting to public health, and several Board of Health members from different towns joined the regular attendees. The meeting featured a presentation by MAPC Public Health Director Barry Keppard and a discussion about public health in MetroWest towns, a conversation that turned largely around the regulation of medical and recreational marijuana.

In other MWRC news, the Subregional Council submitted a comment letter to the MPO on the 2018 TIP, and Coordinator Karen Adelman spoke on the subregion's behalf at an MPO meeting. The Democracy project and the LandLine project continue apace, and the group is looking forward to a discussion at its late April meeting about the Regional Plan Update.

Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)

Over 50 local officials, municipal staff, and other members of MAGIC gathered at the Maynard Golf Course on April 10 to meet with Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, and State Representatives Jennifer Benson and Kate Hogan. MAPC President Keith Bergman presented Congresswoman Tsongas with MAPC's Congressional Leadership Award for proudly representing the 3rd Congressional District, exemplifying bipartisanship in the halls of the U.S. Congress, and her fierce advocacy for priorities benefitting Massachusetts and the nation. Congresswoman Tsongas reflected on her career, her legislative successes, and the political situation in Congress before fielding questions from participants.

The members of the Legislature explained their own recent work, after Government Affairs Manager Lizzi Weyant and I discussed MAPC's legislative priorities. A robust discussion followed. More on the

breakfast and photos is available on the MAPC blog, www.mapc.org/planning101/magic-legislative-breakfast-connects-legislators-local-officials/.

At the time of this writing, 11 MAGIC towns submitted their applications and most of those have joined the **AARP/WHO Age Friendly Network**. Next, MAGIC will discuss the project scope and explore funding options for a Regional Age Friendly Plan.

The next MAGIC meeting will take place at the meeting room of the Concord Planning Department on May 3 from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. The agenda and more information will be made available on the **MAGIC webpage**, www.mapc.org/get-involved/subregions/magic.

North Suburban Planning Council (NSPC)

After a snow cancelation, NSPC met on March 19 in Winchester. The Council heard from Chris Kluchman, Housing Choice Program Director. Chris presented information about the state's Housing Choice program and answered questions about the application process for a housing choice designation.

NSPC also met on April 5 in Wakefield. The Council heard from MAPC's Government Affairs group about the agency's legislative priorities and had a discussion with MAPC's Strategic Initiatives team about the upcoming regional plan update.

NSPC meets again on May 10 and will participate in an MAPC staff-led discussion on housing. Francis Goyes, Regional Housing and Land Use Planner, will present her work on "Living Little," research on smaller housing typologies. The Council will also hear from MAPC's Public Health Department about healthy housing options.

North Shore Task Force (NSTF)

In February, the NSTF met in Danvers and heard a presentation on the new Housing Choice program by Chris Kluchman, Housing Choice Program Director. Attendees asked questions and learned how they can become part of a program designed to encourage the creation of 135,000 new housing units by 2025.

The March meeting of the NSTF in Danvers focused on MAPC's renewal of its regional plan, MetroFuture. Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives Emily Torres-Cullinane gave an outline of the process and then discussed with meeting attendees how they would like to engage with the regional plan update.

SouthWest Advisory Planning Committee (SWAP)

At the end of March, SWAP met in Wrentham with Susan Nicholl, Executive Director of the MetroWest Visitors Bureau, to discuss the impact of the tourism industry on regional economic development. Susan highlighted the impact of both residents and tourists in promoting assets in the region. The group also began work planning for the 2018-2019 program year.

Eric Hove and Lizzie Grobbel of the Department of Strategic Initiatives joined SWAP for the April meeting in Medway. They provided the group with some information on MAPC's upcoming regional plan update, and solicited ideas on what the subregion would like to see in the plan, and how they would like to be engaged during the planning process.

SWAP's next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 8 (location TBD). We will be having a discussion about Land Line, and, weather permitting, doing a site walk of a portion of the emerging regional rail trail network with David Loutzenheiser, MAPC Senior Transportation Planner.

South Shore Coalition (SSC)

At SSC's March meeting, Chris Kluchman, Housing Choice Program Director, presented about the state's new Housing Choice Initiative and how communities can harness new sources of grant funding. Following her presentation and discussion, MAPC Strategic Initiatives staff gave an update about the status of the Regional Plan Update and engaged SSC in a conversation about how to make it as useful and productive a process as possible. SSC did not meet during the month in April as the Legislative Breakfast, which will be hosted by Senator O'Connor, is being held on April 27 in Weymouth.

Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC)

In February, TRIC participated in a housing-for-the suburbs exercise. In preparation for its February monthly meeting, MAPC staff developed and distributed a survey to better understand and gauge each municipality's housing priorities. The results were compiled, presented and discussed at TRIC's meeting and were incorporated into TRIC's March meeting. TRIC members attended a joint SWAP and TRIC training led by Massachusetts Housing Partnership on February 27. The training, which was targeted for local officials and board members, provided an overview of the 40B statute and reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) and other municipal boards. A second MHP workshop, this one focusing on multi-family zoning for municipal staff, will take place on April 26.



In between a series of March nor'easters, TRIC traveled to Gillette Stadium on March 9 for its well-attended annual Legislative Breakfast, which was co-hosted by Representative Jay Barrows. Senator Paul Feeney, and Representatives Shawn Dooley, William Driscoll, and Louis Kafka also attended. It was quite exciting to see the TRIC and MAPC logos all over Gillette Stadium! Diego Huezo provided an update on MAPC's legislative priorities, Marc Draisen gave a summary on zoning reform/housing, and the legislators provided their legislative priorities for the upcoming session. Following the panel discussion moderated by Leah Robins, the

legislators took questions from TRIC's members in the audience. Some of the key issues addressed included transportation, traffic, economic development, zoning reform, and opportunities for shared services among municipalities. Thank you to all who were able to attend and to the Kraft organization for providing the amazing venue.

TRIC returned to Gillette Stadium on March 28 for the Bridging Transportation Gaps in Neponset Valley forum, which was hosted by the Neponset Valley TMA, TRIC, and MAPC. The forum attracted a large turnout and good conversation about transportation challenges in the Neponset Valley region. Paige Duncan, TRIC's Chair and Foxborough's Planning Director, presented on the Foxborough Commuter

Rail Pilot, and David Loutzenheiser, Senior Transportation Planner at MAPC, facilitated a group-wide discussion. One outcome of the forum is the formation of a Suburban Mobility Working Group.

At its March meeting, TRIC participated in an MAPC staff-led discussion on Housing in the Suburbs. Francis Goyes, Regional Housing and Land Use Planner, presented an update on her work on "Living Little" and smaller housing typologies. Karina Milchman, Chief Housing Planner, provided informative responses to several housing-related questions, concerns and "how to's" raised by TRIC members at the February meeting, such as responding to NIMBYism, harnessing municipally owned land to encourage affordable housing, creative financing tools, how to start a municipal affordable housing trust, and use of Housing Production Plans. TRIC also heard from MAPC's Emily Torres-Cullinane, Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Lizzie Grobbel, Regional Planner, about the upcoming update to MetroFuture, our region's 30-year plan, and opportunities for municipalities and community stakeholders to engage.

Inner Core Committee (ICC)

This March, the Inner Core Committee (ICC) met at MAPC for a discussion of arts and culture planning. The agenda included an opening presentation by Jenn Erickson, MAPC's Arts and Culture Manager, and staff from Boston and Arlington, with whom her division has recently worked. A second presentation on cultural vitality in Metro Boston was given by the Arts + Business Council of Greater Boston and the Transformative Culture Project. Finally, facilitated discussion on opportunities for collaboration included all attendees, and was kicked off with remarks from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

In April, the ICC had its final meeting in the Field Visits Knowledge Exchange series of FY18. Discussion focused on opposition to planning and housing initiatives at the local level. Several municipalities shared their stories of facing opposition to change, and discussion focused on traditional NIMBYism versus new concerns from the affordable housing community, the burgeoning YIMBY movement, and tools and strategies to address opposition. The May ICC meeting will include an opportunity to discuss the FY19 work plan, including future topics for joint exploration.

Clean Energy

Advocacy on Access to Home Energy Information

On April 3, Governor Baker filed "An Act Relative to Consumer Access to Residential Energy Information." H. 4371 would require a home energy scorecard with an energy rating be provided to homeowners following an audit, and, after January 2021, would require that home energy ratings be made public when homes are listed for sale. The scorecard could be provided to homeowners at no cost through existing programs, and would include an energy efficiency rating, a list of improvements that could increase a home's efficiency, and the existing incentive programs that could offer financial support. In this way, it could serve as a valuable tool for home buyers, sellers, owners, and professionals, increasing access to energy performance data and, in turn, encouraging energy conservation measures that can create healthier, greener, and more livable homes.

MAPC, along with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM), among others, attended the announcement at the Administration's invitation. The Executive Committee will be considering our position on the legislation.

Wayland Ordinance Encourages Higher Performing Municipal Buildings

Wayland passed an ordinance at its April Town Meeting to promote carbon savings in municipal building construction. This innovative ordinance provides guidelines on new construction and renovation of municipal buildings, and emphasizes energy efficiency and building envelope measures. As part of our “Net Zero to 101” initiative, MAPC worked with the town to create a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource about the warrant article that was distributed before Town Meeting, responding to questions about costs, other use cases, and lessons learned.

Webinars on Wireless Controls for LED Streetlights, Peak Demand, and EV Charging Stations

On February 15, MAPC hosted the webinar, “Electrify Your Community! EV Charging Station Purchasing 101,” to provide communities with information on the basics of selecting charging stations to meet their needs and reduce costs. The webinar also provided information on MAPC's Green Mobility Group Purchasing Program and potential funding sources for EV charging stations and other clean vehicle technologies. More than 20 people tuned into the webinar and engaged in a robust Q&A with MAPC.

Missed it? Watch a video of the webinar on our YouTube channel! www.youtube.com/watch?v=cycR8TldrbE&feature=youtu.be.

On February 22, MAPC hosted a webinar on pairing LED streetlights with wireless control systems, which generates the benefits of additional savings through dimming, maintenance tracking and coordination, and future “smart city” applications. MAPC is currently administering a state-wide grant program from DOER to help municipalities retrofit their streetlights with LEDs, saving significant amounts of energy, money, and GHG. The webinar helped explain the costs and benefits of wireless controls to over 20 interested participants. Municipalities that have installed controls through MAPC's program thus far include Ayer, Brockton, and Leominster, and they expect to achieve an additional 10% to 18% in energy savings by using the controls to dim or turn off lights at strategic times.

The webinar is available online at this [link \(bit.ly/2HSnrH6\)](http://bit.ly/2HSnrH6) and a quick overview of the topic is available on our [blog post \(mapc.org/planning101/wireless-streetlight-controls-enabling-cities-of-the-future\)](http://mapc.org/planning101/wireless-streetlight-controls-enabling-cities-of-the-future).

On April 4, MAPC hosted a webinar centering on new demand response opportunities offered by Eversource. Municipalities that have been active with MAPC's peak electricity demand notification program learned how they can leverage these opportunities. They learned of multiple types of peak demand demonstrations that may be available to them for deployment in the summer of 2018 or 2019, including battery storage, thermal storage, software and controls, and traditional demand response.

A recording of the [webinar](#) is available on YouTube and can be viewed for further information: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITFpl6cSlf4.

MAPC Clean Energy Showcased at Local Building Energy and Environmental Conferences

On March 8-10, MAPC was in full force at the prestigious Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) BuildingEnergy Boston Conference in Boston. Three MAPC Clean Energy staff members presented in three sessions: “The Future City: An Integrated Ecosystem,” “Cities as Climate Leaders: Net Zero & the Urgency of Now,” and “Getting Solar Ready with Permitting and Inspection Processes.”

Topics included net zero resources and best practices, the smart city potential of LEDs and district energy, and municipal processes to expedite solar adoption. In the latter, audience members participated in a small group activity to map their community's permitting pathways and shared reflections in real time. The activity serves as a first step toward creating a solar permitting checklist, a best practice in streamlining solar permitting.

On March 3, MAPC presented in two sessions at the Local Environmental Action 2018 Conference hosted by the Massachusetts Climate Action Network and Toxics Action Center at Northeastern University. At the first session, "Net Positive Communities," MAPC highlighted how its Local Energy Action Dashboard (LEAD) can help cities and towns begin the process of setting net zero or greenhouse gas reduction goals. At the second session, "Cutting Climate Pollution Where It Counts," MAPC highlighted net zero planning best practices and our clean energy programs in which municipalities can engage to tackle GHG emissions. Both sessions met room capacity, with over 40 attendees learning how to take action toward net zero in their communities.

High Performance School Tour

On April 5, MAPC co-sponsored a National Healthy Schools Day tour of James Morton Middle School in Fall River, led by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) and the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS). The original James Morton Middle School building from 1920 was renovated in 2014 as a MA-Collaborative for High Performance School Verified Leader.

The renovation retained the historic exterior of the school as well as exposed wooden trusses in the library and cafeteria and the vestibule. The new building has a 60 kW solar PV installation, which powers both part of the school's load and electric vehicle charging stations. An impressive 90% of construction waste was diverted to recycling and 60% of the learning spaces have daylighting.

This school serves as a clear model of the high performance, energy-efficient, healthier buildings that can be constructed and renovated with clear guidance and forethought to healthy air, materials, sustainability, efficiency, and renewables.

Data Services

DPW Online Permitting Project underway across four communities

Digital Services is finalizing an online permitting system to process trench and street opening permits and better coordinate paving plans between utility companies and municipal Departments of Public Works in Ayer, North Reading, Milton and Westborough. Funded through an Efficiency and Regionalization Grant, the pilot will be complete by May 1, and will offer municipalities a streamlined, digital mechanism to manage permits and coordinate street openings.

River Report Cards for the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers

On March 1, Eliza Wallace traveled to Sudbury to participate in a workshop that kicked off the creation of report cards that will assign letter grades to the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers and their tributaries. The workshop was hosted by OARS, an organization working to improve and preserve three rivers that comprise the core of the SuAsCo watershed, and facilitated by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. These letter grades will combine traditional water quality measurements with assessments of each river's ecological, historical, social, and scenic features. The

report cards will provide OARS with a powerful tool to communicate the importance of their mission to residents and businesses, and will allow the organization to track its progress over time. Go to <http://oars3rivers.org> to learn more about OARS and the report card process, and visit <https://ecoreportcard.org> to learn about the River Report Card program.

Understanding the Impacts of SNAP-Ed Services in Massachusetts

The Analytical Services Group is assisting the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program in enhancing SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) services in Massachusetts. In collaboration with Heidi Stucker in the Public Health Department, Alaa Mukahhal is working to review and interpret data to demonstrate patterns and trends of the SNAP-Ed program and community policy, system, and environmental changes through a mapping project.

Uncovering Opportunities for Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Investments

Analytical Services began work with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), an organization that supports local community developers by providing loans, grants, equity investments, policy support, and technical assistance. Alaa has been working with LISC Boston to map their investments, demonstrate its impact on neighborhoods, and identify areas where LISC Boston can focus its future investment, and highlight opportunities to coordinate its initiatives and programs.

Projections Advisory Group

On March 24, our Research group hosted the first of four advisory group meetings to discuss initial findings and solicit methodological support in updating the statewide and regional household projections, and in developing housing demand projections for the Metro Mayors Coalition Housing Taskforce. Advisory group members are experts in the fields of housing, economics, demographic modeling, and municipal planning; they include representatives from the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, Dukakis Center at Northeastern University, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, UMass-Donahue Institute, Massachusetts Housing Partnership, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, EOEEA, MassDOT, City of Boston, and City of Cambridge. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for April 20, May 4, and May 25.

Municipal Collaboration

Shared Inspectional Services IMA

At the request of the Wenham and Hamilton chief administrators, MAPC's Municipal Collaboration Department worked to develop and present an inter-municipal agreement (IMA) and business model that would enable both towns to pursue a shared inspectional services or building department, including the areas of building, electrical, plumbing and gas and code enforcement. Both communities have faced recurring frustrations with inspectional service delivery in recent years. To better understand their current challenges and to develop the model, MAPC staff conducted several meetings and interviews with town personnel and reviewed the towns' building department operations and their current and past fiscal years' staffing (i.e., number of personnel, hours worked per week, and compensation paid), expenditures, permit volume, and revenues generated. MAPC also looked at the departmental data of several other towns for comparison.

The IMA provides the structure to hire a shared full-time building commissioner to provide regular oversight of all inspectional services, improving the effectiveness of operations, attracting and

retaining strong personnel, enhancing customer service, ensuring greater consistency in enforcement, and increasing overall productivity levels in both towns.

Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC)

At the March 15th NERAC Full Council meeting, Chief Jason Gilliland of the Marblehead Fire Department was named Chair of the Training and Exercise Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Full Council. In both roles Chief Gilliland replaces Chief David Cody of the Salem Fire Department, who was honored at the Full Council meeting for his 12 years of service to NERAC. Chief Cody played an integral part in building NERAC's training and exercise program to ensure first responders are properly trained to respond to critical incidents. His leadership and collaborative approach to problem solving served to advance the work of the Council. Chief Cody will retire from the Salem Fire Department at the end of March after a 35-year career.

NERAC devoted much of March and April to developing a multi-faceted approach to improving school safety. Due to an increase in demand, g, NERAC allocated funding to supply the Northeast Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) with additional copies of the 2nd Edition School Threat Assessment and Response (STARS) Toolkit, recently updated in collaboration with NEMLEC in 2017. The STARS Toolkit has served as a useful guide for communities working to establish comprehensive safety and preparedness programs since the 1st Edition was published in 2006.

NERAC also funded two Active Attack and Integrated Response (AAIR) courses held at Pentucket Regional High School in West Newbury from April 16-19. The course improves the integration among Police, Fire, and EMS personnel during active shooter events through a series of hands-on simulations and role playing exercises modeled after real-life scenarios.

NERAC secured approval from the EOPSS to fund several other school safety training programs, such as PREPaRE Workshops, which provide school-based mental health professionals, administrators, and educators with the knowledge and resources to establish and sustain comprehensive school safety and crisis prevention and preparedness efforts.

Also, NERAC will sponsor a CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) Train-the-Trainer course in the fall of 2018, provided by the ALERRT Center at Texas State University. The ALERRT Center is recognized by the federal government as a leader in active shooter research and training development, and the CRASE Train-the-Trainer course will enable participating law enforcement personnel to present to schools, businesses, and other community organizations on what they should do if confronted with an active shooter event.

Metro Mayors Shannon Grant Community Safety Initiative

The Metro Mayors Community Safety Initiative (CSI) kicked off the FY18 grant year with a meeting in Somerville hosted by Teen Empowerment. The group outlined program goals for the year including new initiatives they are implementing in 2018. For example, two new programs spearheaded by Malden Police Department include a Junior Police Academy and basketball league coached by officers for at-risk and high-risk youth. In addition, the coalition outlined 2018 goals developed by the Steering Committee, which include: maintain attendance through featured guest speakers and presentations; increase attendance of youth and school personnel at monthly meetings; continue data collection and successfully implement the individual risk assessments; and host a statewide Community Safety Summit. The group provided examples of guest presentations for future meetings including a focus on youth and mental health trauma.

In April, MMC partners met in Winthrop to discuss the grant year ahead as well as see a feature presentation from the Everett Teen Enrichment Center on the success of their in-house and mobile DJ Studio Music Program. The Teen Center Director, Lisa Crossman, explained how the program began through a creative use of space and grew to incorporate a mobile music studio that can be taken to community events both in Everett and throughout the region. While the Teen Center is a drop-in program, the music studio has a regular attendance of 35-50 youth a day between ages 10 and 18. The music studio has proven to be a way to engage youth in an arts-focused activity outside of the typical recreation and sports programs offered in the area.

Youth have learned self-esteem, leadership skills, and how to engage in creative thinking through the program. Recently youth put together a music video about the Teen Center, available: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeE56h_myHE&feature=share. This program is directly funded by the Shannon Grant.

In addition to the monthly collaboration meetings of the partners, the Community Safety Day on the Hill took place on April 11. Local officials, mayors and city managers, prevention community leaders, law enforcement officers, and youth gathered at the State House. Speakers addressed a standing-room only crowd to discuss effective ways of combating youth and gang violence, educate attendees about the importance of supporting youth violence prevention programs, and to call on the Legislature and Governor to increase funding to \$10 million for the Senator Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon Grant) and \$8.9 million for the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI). Featured speakers included: Representative Adrian Madaro as host, Mayor Brian Arrigo of Revere, Secretary Daniel Bennett of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Superintendent-in-Chief William Gross of the Boston Police Department, Representative Aaron Vega, and Senator Joseph Boncore. Attendees also had a chance to hear powerful testimonies from youth enrolled in Shannon Grant and SSYI- funded programs: Shawn Johnson of the Worcester Youth Center and Samuel Jean-Francois of Teen Empowerment Somerville.

Communications

Communications has lent press support to numerous projects in the past two months, including the Norwell Economic Development Plan, the Revere Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Winchester Master Plan, the Shannon Day on the Hill, and the launch of our new regional “dock-less” bike share program with LimeBike and Spin. Communications also upgraded the agency’s camera equipment to include a GoPro and a new DSLR with video capabilities; the GoPro has already been put to use in several meetings and events, as well as in an outdoor project led by Arts and Culture staff. If you haven’t read our blog lately, visit <https://www.mapc.org/planning101/> to see the tremendous amount of writing our staff has done to highlight recent projects under the guidance and leadership of Digital Communications Specialist Elise Harmon. She and Kit Un also recently redesigned the blog to be more welcoming visually and to help users find content by topical category.

Strategic Communications has had a productive several months. New project and product marketing sheets are underway, and the entire Communications team is working with the Integrated Communications subcommittee to craft a Communications Plan for the Regional Plan Update. We expect this to be a major focus for our entire team over the coming months.

An especially exciting project has been the Community Partners for Resilience project, a joint Community Engagement/Communications project in partnership with the New England Aquarium (NEAq). As is detailed in the Community Engagement update in this report, after months of relationship-building with individuals in the participating communities (Chelsea, Hull, and Lynn), participants came

together for a kickoff meeting. Anne Herbst and Darci Schofield of MAPC's Environmental team presented to the group on the realities of climate change and on what communities are doing about resilience. The rest of the MAPC/NEAq team presented about the project in general, using materials created by MAPC.

Of note is that both the technical presentation and the general project presentation were carefully developed with the communications techniques shown as most persuasive by the social science research organization, Frameworks, Inc. The purpose of using these techniques was to be as persuasive as possible to the participants, for some of whom the information was new; and to model the kind of messaging the adult participants will want to pass on to students, and that the students will want to use with the public in their capstone Public Education Projects.



We took a graphical, lighthearted approach to explaining the structure of the project.

The Community Partners for Resilience Kickoff presentation, from which the image to the left is a slide, started with shared values, which were repeated throughout.

Government Affairs

FY19 Budget

The House filed its version of the budget on Wednesday, April 11. There would be a 2.65% increase in Chapter 70 funding under the House's proposal. This is a breakdown of our budget priorities:

- **DLTA.** While the Governor funded DLTA at \$2.8M in his budget proposal, the House re-wrote the line item and didn't specifically earmark funding for DLTA. Without this earmark, DLTA would compete for funding with the Administration's Community Compact and Efficiency and Regionalization Grants. Rep Donato has filed an amendment to carve out funding for DLTA.
- **Shannon.** The House proposal would fund Shannon at \$6M in FY19. This represents a \$1M increase over last year's opening proposal from House Ways and Means. Rep Madaro filed an amendment to increase Shannon funding to \$10M in this budget. For the first time in several years, House Ways and Means increased funding for most of the community safety programs, and we have been encouraged by Chairman Sanchez's commitment to the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, which saw an increase this year as well.
- **Community Preservation Act.** No additional funding for CPA was included in the House Ways and Means Budget. Rep Michlewicz filed an amendment to increase the deeds fee, which is particularly important because the match is projected to be at an all-time low of 11% this year.

- **Transportation Funding and Policies.** The MBTA would receive a slight increase in funding under the House proposal, up from \$127M to \$154M. The \$27M difference would keep the MBTA on track to pay employees out of its operating budget, rather than shifting back to its old practice of paying salaries out of its capital budget. Regional Transit Authorities, which were hoping to see an increase from the Governor’s proposal, would be funded at just \$80M under the House Ways and Means proposal. Both the Regional Ballot Initiatives bill and the Value Capture bill have been filed as amendments to the budget, by Representatives Walsh and Straus, respectively.

Zoning Reform and Housing Choice

Both the Governor’s Housing Choice bill and the Great Neighborhoods bill were reported out of committee and are presently before the Joint Committee on Rules. The redrafted zoning reform bill made significant changes to the sections covering accessory apartments and cluster developments and removed those sections relating to multifamily zoning and master planning. The Governor has continued to prioritize housing, recently holding a press conference with members of the business community to highlight business support for housing production and indicating that housing legislation is one of his top priorities for this session. We are working closely with our allies to push for a balanced bill that includes elements that prioritize both housing production and zoning reform.

Other Moving Bills

As has happened toward the end of several recent legislative sessions, there are a number of other “big bills” currently on the move in the State House:

- **Economic Development bill:** The Governor filed his economic development bill on March 9 and it includes a number of important provisions, including \$300 million for MassWorks and funding for small business grant programs. We are taking a closer look at this bill, and particularly the changes that it would make to the CPA and public housing.
- **Environmental Bond bill:** The Governor filed an environmental bond bill on March 15, which includes funding for adaptation and mitigation programs, \$50 million for Complete Streets, a new MassTrails program, and a new Transfer of Development Rights revolving fund.
- **Housing Bond bill:** The Housing Bond Bill has now been passed by both branches. The bills are substantially similar, but the Senate included higher funding for the Community Investment Tax Credit and we will weigh in with conferees in support of this particular item.
- **Short Term Rental bill:** The Short Term Rental bill was also reported out of committee and both the House and the Senate have passed a version of the bill. The two bills differ significantly, with the House taking an approach that would create tiered systems of taxation and the Senate taking a more streamlined approach that focuses on treating short term rentals like hotels. A conference committee was named and we plan to weigh in with conferees in support of an amendment that was adopted in the Senate version of the bill, which requires more stringent data collection measures.

We are tracking all of these legislative items closely and looking for opportunities to include our priorities into the bills as they move forward in the legislative process.

Metro Mayors Coalition

The second meeting of the Metro Mayors Housing Task Force took place on March 27. The meeting focused on establishing a regional housing production goal, an update on the project’s statement of principles reflecting input given at the last meeting, and an overview of best practices on housing production. For more information, see page 3 of this report.

On April 11, we held our Community Safety Day to bring young people into the State House who have benefitted from the Shannon Grant Program and the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, and to advocate for funding for both of those programs. For more information, see page 22 of this report.

Staffing Update

Matt Flaherty has joined MAPC as the IT Department's new Systems Administrator. Matt comes to us with a BS in Management Information Systems from UMass-Dartmouth. Matt has worked in the public sector at Barnstable County and the last few years as a Systems Administrator in the private sector. Matt has worked with a wide variety of operating systems, software and hardware, and he has an exceptional skillset that will allow him to jump right into MAPC operations. As the Systems Administrator at MAPC, Matt will provide Level 2 support to the staff and the Helpdesk Analyst. He will also be in charge of day-to-day network and back-end operations.

Daniel Koff has joined our Arts & Culture Division as a Regional Arts & Culture Planner. Daniel comes to MAPC with over ten years of experience in public design, digital storytelling, and arts and culture planning. He spent five years with Favermann Design, a locally based consultancy where he was a Lead Designer, working on community branding, wayfinding, and placemaking in over a dozen cities and towns in Massachusetts. For the past two years he has taught human-centered design at Olin College of Engineering. Daniel has considerable experience in the Merrimack Valley, where he developed an Action Plan for the waterways in Lowell, and in Lawrence where he developed an interpretive digital history trail and a Public Art Master Plan. Daniel received a Master's Degree in Design Studies from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Alexis Smith has joined our Land Use Department as a Senior Regional Housing & Land Use Planner. She'll be working on housing planning and policy efforts, including Housing Production Plans, housing elements of master plans, zoning, design guidelines, and research on key topics like middle-income housing. Alexis recently completed an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship with Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly in Brighton, where she focused on creating affordable housing in which seniors of all backgrounds can age and thrive in community. She previously worked for the San Francisco Planning Department, where she managed urban design projects of varying scales, as well as implementation of neighborhood plans and policies. She began her career in Washington, DC, where she spent several years designing and constructing affordable housing. Alexis is a registered architect with a Master's Degree in City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree in architecture from Carnegie Mellon University.