



Transportation

A Metropolitan Area Planning Council Legislative Priority



The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is the Regional Planning Agency for the people who live and work in the 101 cities and towns in the Metropolitan Boston region, which includes roughly half the state’s population and two-thirds of the state’s jobs.

Accessible, frequent, and fast public transit gets people to their destinations without contributing to traffic. Connected, well-maintained, and extensive roads, trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks encourage active transportation, health, and recreation. Making our entire transportation system safe, comfortable, and accessible for users of all ages, abilities, income, and travel modes leads to healthier and stronger communities.

SD 1008 HD 808 Regional Transportation Ballot Initiatives

“An Act Relative to Regional Transportation Ballot Initiatives”

Sponsors: Senator Eric Lesser & Representatives Adrian Madaro and Andres Vargas

This bill would enable a municipality, or a group of municipalities as a district, to raise additional local money for transportation projects, operations, or transit-oriented development via ballot initiatives. A supplement to other state and federal transportation revenue, these funds would give voters a more direct role in the process and show a clearer correlation between revenue and transportation projects. In states that allow these initiatives, there is an average 70-80% success rate.

SD 1214 HD 1915 Transportation Network Companies

“An Act To reduce traffic and encourage shared rides” / “An Act to reduce congestion and encourage shared rides”

Sponsors: Senator Brendan Crighton & Representatives Jay Livingstone and Adrian Madaro

This proposal increases the current 20-cent per-trip surcharge on Transportation Network Companies to bring MA into parity with cities and states nationwide. Through including a reduced fee for shared trips, the proposal incentivizes shared trips which would contribute to a reduction in traffic.

Value Capture Tools

SD 1638 / HD 1983 “An Act to improve the local infrastructure development program”

Sponsors: Senator Adam Hinds & Rep. Christine Barber

This legislation amends an existing provision that allows property owners to finance public infrastructure improvements with tax-exempt bonds. This update reduces approval thresholds from their current level of 100%, allows for greater role for municipalities in the creation and management of districts, and clarifies language to ensure investments prioritize smart growth principles.

SD / HD “An Act Relative to Transportation Infrastructure Value Capture”

Sponsor: Representative William Straus

This legislation allows for the increased land value created by a transportation project to be used to fund that project directly. This is a tool not currently available in Massachusetts, but it is one that is used all across the country to finance transportation investments.