MAPC collects information on commercial and residential development from developers, municipal officials, and the public through MassBuilds, an interactive and public website. MassBuilds data helps us keep track of development trends and plan for the future.

One clear trend found in MassBuilds is that commercial development is increasingly likely to be built near public transportation. From 2010 to 2014, 48% of commercial development was within a half-mile of transit, increasing to 57% from 2015 to 2018. Looking out to 2030, 68% of commercial development projects in the pipeline are situated near transit.

The trend towards more transit-oriented commercial development is not surprising. These developments, and the businesses and jobs that fill them, are easily accessible to the potential workers and customers who live near and commute via transit. Since fewer people need parking, developers can use more area for rentable space. These developments also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions since fewer people drive to reach them. Municipalities and legislators should continue to push for policies, programs, and incentives for transit-oriented commercial development.

To view and download the data, visit MASSBUILDS.COM.