

Executive Director's Report
May 15, 2019
(two-month report covering mid-March to mid-May)

Submitted to the Executive Committee
by Marc Draisen
Executive Director

Smart Growth Planning

Transportation

Charles River Dam Road bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements

The roadways in front of the Museum of Science have long been without dedicated bicycle accommodation, one of the last remaining gaps in the Charles River Basin. A recent cyclist death prompted further advocacy to develop accommodation. MassDOT recently announced that this summer, Charles River Dam Road will undergo a road diet, removing a travel lane that will result in clarifying automobile travel, and a largely protected bike lane along the corridor. MAPC engaged MassDOT, DCR, and the public to work toward this outcome, and the enhanced safety it will provide.

Electric scooter hearing and municipal coordination

On March 28, the Joint Committee on Transportation held a hearing on several bills, including those addressing pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility devices. Kasia Hart, MAPC's Transportation Policy and Planning Specialist, along with Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental and Transportation Planning in Cambridge, and Heather Hamilton, Select Board Member in Brookline, testified in support of H.3073/S.2049, *An Act relative to micro-mobility and motorized scooters*, sponsored by Representative Adrian Madaro and Senator Nick Collins. Some of the key issue areas highlighted in testimony included limiting the operating speed of electric scooters to 15 miles per hour, ensuring cities and towns can regulate how shared scooter companies operate on their streets, and allowing for MassDOT to regulate future micro-mobility devices.



In addition to developing this legislation with Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, and Somerville, MAPC has continued working with those four communities to devise a strategy for coordinating local permitting processes for electric scooter sharing services. We also have been in close contact with additional neighboring municipalities that are exploring electric scooter sharing services, several of whom are considering joining this regional process.

Lime Bike Share update

Following several discussions with Lime and the communities participating in the regional dockless bike share system, we have decided to extend Lime's contract for an additional one-year term. Now that spring is here, Lime has begun rolling out their fleet in the participating communities.

This year, Lime is solely offering pedal assist electric bicycles, given that those bicycles generate higher ridership, although they cost more for the user to ride. As part of this transition, Lime will be working closely with the communities to expand membership in the Lime Access program, which reduces user fees by 50%. Also new this year will be Lime’s data-driven approach to determining the number of bicycles on the ground. Lime will be increasing or decreasing the number of bicycles on the ground based on demand (as measured by trips/vehicle/day).

Ride-hailing pilot in the MAGIC subregion

MAPC assisted Sudbury in securing an \$80,000 Community Compact Best Practices grant to create a pilot program (called “Making the Connections”) to provide subsidized taxi and ride-hailing service for seniors, people with disabilities, financially vulnerable residents, and veterans, with the objective of providing them with transportation services to health and community resources and to other transit services (bus, commuter rail), as a way to help close first/last mile gaps in areas with limited transit options. The communities include Acton, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Stow, and Sudbury, acting as lead municipality. The program is modeled after the successful ride-hailing partnerships that the MBTA/The Ride, Needham Community Council, North Shore Community College, and GATRA/Community Accessing Rides have developed.

Bus presentation at the New England Parking Council Annual Conference

Assistant Director of Transportation Sarah Lee recently spoke about the implementation of the Roslindale bus lane at the New England Parking Council Annual Conference. Sarah, along with representatives from the City of Boston and LivableStreets Alliance, shared information on the collaborative, multi-year process that transformed more than 100 parking spaces along a mile-long street into a bus priority corridor.

Sarah and her colleagues explained that for transformative projects like this one to be successful, municipal leadership, data analysis, and robust community engagement need to work in tandem in order to change the status quo of our streets; transforming space typically reserved for parking into dynamic mobility use.



Jacob Wessel (Boston), Andrew McFarland (LivableStreets Alliance), Sarah Lee (MAPC), Brad Garrett (Boston)

Brockton Area Transit Authority ride-hailing impact study

As part of a study to determine the impacts of ride-hailing on the Brockton Area Transit Authority's (BAT) bus services, MAPC deployed an on-line field survey at the end of April. A day long effort, the field survey focused on collecting data at the BAT Center as well as off-site locations, which included Westgate Mall and Massasoit Community College. MAPC, BAT, the Old Colony Planning Council, and the CTPS all assisted with data collection, which resulted in 600 completed surveys. This work will culminate in the development of a locally informed final report for BAT to use as a resource when assessing the impact of TNCs on ridership, patterns indicating gaps in transit service, and identifying potential partnerships with TNCs.



Land Use

North Scituate E-TOD zoning project

MAPC held a kick-off forum for a rezoning project around the North Scituate commuter rail station, which seeks to implement a visioning plan the town recently completed. Despite expectations of a modest showing of 25-35 participants, approximately 160 residents attended the forum. Participants used a live online polling system to provide input on various elements to help shape the proposed zoning, which seeks to combine a modern, mixed-use environment with a traditional coastal village center. The town recently adopted a form-based code for its Greenbush station area, and North Scituate will follow a similar approach.

Canton Junction E-TOD plan

MAPC held a forum for a visioning and zoning process around the Canton Junction commuter rail station. Following a presentation, participants were guided through a series of table exercises. This information is now being synthesized and will form the basis of an illustrative plan and associated fiscal impact analysis. Numerous participants told both MAPC and the town planner they both appreciated and enjoyed the interactive nature of the meeting.

Woburn 4OR application design review and E-TOD plan

Following adoption of the 4OR district at the 23 acre Woburn Mall site, the developers EDENS and Avalon submitted an application to develop housing under the 4OR zoning. Woburn's City Council, the Special Permit granting authority, hired MAPC to review the application for conformance with the 4OR Design Standards, which MAPC developed as part of the 4OR district. Although the applicant largely conformed to the standards, MAPC noted a number of instances where the applicant's proposal did not fully comply with the applicable standards, as well as additional suggestions that MAPC felt would improve the application. The developers subsequently made numerous changes, which will greatly improve pedestrian comfort and safety.

The 4OR work is part of a larger E-TOD corridor plan for Woburn (a draft is currently being reviewed by the city). One of the E-TOD plan's key recommendations is the construction of a river-walk along the Aberjona River stretching from the 4OR site up to Anderson Station.

The developers of the 40R have preliminarily agreed to fund a feasibility and initial design study, which will help towards implementing a critical recommendation. (Note that a transportation engineering firm would likely undertake this work, not MAPC.)

Norfolk Town Center mixed-use zoning

Norfolk established a Working Committee in January 2019 to guide the B-1 District Zoning Study to encourage mixed-use development in the town center. MAPC has met with the Working Committee in February, March, and May to advance the zoning and design guidelines analysis and outline recommendations. The meeting in March was a joint meeting among the Working Committee, the Planning Board, and Design Review Board. In April, MAPC facilitated a public workshop to share the focus of the study, establish the justification for modifying the zoning, and invite feedback regarding uses, scale, type, and design of development in the town center. The public workshop utilized interactive live voting on participant's cell phones, which was well received. In addition, an online community survey was prepared to better understand how respondents were using the town center today, what they would like to see improved in the future, and thoughts about potential development. The survey received 540 responses that form a solid foundation for the recommendations.

Arlington multifamily zoning project

This project suffered a setback when proposed amendments to Arlington's Zoning Bylaw, which were intended to facilitate multifamily housing development along the town's main corridors, was withdrawn from Town Meeting due to opposition. Another proposal to allow accessory dwelling units by special permit failed to achieve a two-thirds majority by just nine votes, well above a simple majority. MAPC will continue to work with Arlington staff in the coming months to consider next steps.

South Lincoln E-TOD village zoning district

MAPC has been working collaboratively with town staff and the land use subcommittee of the South Lincoln Planning Implementation Committee (SLPIC) on a new zoning district for the area around the Lincoln commuter rail station, and on April 23 MAPC and SLPIC members presented the draft zoning to the Planning Board. On May 7, the town and SLPIC hosted a public forum, where MAPC presented the draft zoning and design guidelines. Roughly 50 people attended the forum and had a robust and thoughtful discussion about the proposed zoning, which will enable mixed-use projects and increased housing density to support a vibrant village center.

Salem inclusionary zoning

MAPC is also working with Salem to develop an inclusionary zoning ordinance. As a follow up to the March 5th forum, where attendees expressed interest in several housing tools, the city hosted another forum on the evening of April 23rd to talk with residents about zoning recommendations for the inclusionary policy and changes to the current accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations. MAPC facilitated the event, with the help of municipal staff and Advisory Committee members. Approximately 50 people attended.

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll also attended, opening the event with an overview of Salem's current housing landscape and summarizing key themes from the March 5th forum. Following the Mayor's address, city staff presented recommended amendments to the existing ADU ordinance, which attendees discussed in small groups, and then MAPC staff presented inclusionary zoning recommendations, which attendees also discussed in small groups. At the close of the evening, attendees were polled on their degree of support for the recommendations. Poll results show significant public support for both inclusionary zoning and more permissive ADU regulations.

PRO Neighborhoods, Dorchester

The team completed a ground breaking study of supportive housing needs at a community scale to inform the Equitable Uphams Coalition in their PRO Neighborhoods Equitable Development Plan. Supportive housing combines affordable housing with services needed by the residents. The findings revealed a striking need for supportive housing for small families and elders in the community, as well as a need for housing that can accommodate and provide services for individuals with substance abuse challenges. The team is now preparing a presentation on preserving neighborhood scale affordable housing within Uphams Corner's traditional small multifamily housing stock.

Revere Master Plan

The Revere Master Plan team held the first of two community forums on April 10, focused on Housing, Economic Development and Historic and Cultural Resources. Over 140 participants attended, with over 20 participants utilizing Spanish interpretation services. The materials for the forum were also translated into Arabic, Haitian Creole, Khmer and Portuguese. Discussion focused on the importance of preserving and creating more deed-restricted affordable housing as well as encouraging naturally occurring affordable housing. Participants also discussed their priorities for small business support as well as workforce development, through training programs, encouraging new businesses to hire local residents, and improving transportation access to regional jobs. The Historic and Cultural Resources discussion focused on increased funding for arts programming, cultural spaces and education, as well as ways to document stories among Revere's diverse communities.



The second forum focused on Open Space & Recreation, Public Health, Energy & Climate, and Transportation was held on May 8 with nearly 100 participants. Discussion focused on ways to improve climate resiliency and preparedness in the city, as well as ways to increase the tree canopy to address extreme heat. Discussion about Open Space, Recreation and Public Health centered around the need for a community center, increased outdoor recreation options, and comprehensive solutions to key public health challenges such as drug use and public safety.

Transportation focused on improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers, as well as increased coordination with state agencies to improve key roadways and MBTA service.

Metropolitan Mayors Coalition – Regional Housing Taskforce

The MMC Regional Housing Taskforce reconvened to kick off Phase 2 of its work on April 30. More than 20 Taskforce members attended, including 6 mayors and managers. The meeting included a review of the Phase 2 scope of work, which will focus on adding detail to the regional housing goal of 185,000 units by 2030, such as affordability mix, bedroom distribution, tenure, and accessibility; establishing local housing goals; identifying local housing strategies; establishing state policy priorities; and working on housing communications and coalition-building. There was also discussion of how to track progress towards the regional goal and a legislative update. Finally, the Taskforce discussed how to increase understanding of housing need and support for meeting it. Municipal leadership and staff shared stories of local opposition to housing, explored concerns around new development, assessed pain points in planning processes, and discussed how to strike a positive message about housing and identify allies to help deliver it.

American Planning Association (APA) National Planning Conference

The APA National Planning Conference was held in San Francisco from April 12 – 16. The conference was attended by Marc Draisen, Ralph Willmer, Tim Reardon, Jenn Erickson and Annis Sengupta. Ralph is on the Executive Committee of APA's Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division, which organized the 6th Annual Regional Livability Forum, an all-day meeting of RPAs/MPOs from around the country. He led a panel on regional housing issues at the forum. Tim was a member of a panel entitled "Quantitative Scenario Planning in Practice", Jenn spoke on "Equity-driven Cultural Planning in Three Cities", and both Jenn and Annis organized the Arts & Planning Interest Group Program and Social. Also of note at the conference was the adoption of two new policy guides: an updated policy guide on housing and a new one addressing equity in planning.

Environment

South Shore Climate Resilience Symposium

Around 150 municipal staff, board members, and residents attended the second South Shore Climate Resilience Symposium on May 9. MAPC staffers Anne Herbst and Sarah Philbrick presented on inland flooding risks, and the fiscal impacts of sea level rise respectively. Town staff from Duxbury and Scituate described MAPC supported planning projects to address downtown areas vulnerable to sea level rise. Braintree DPW staff described their successful effort to establish a stormwater utility and the resultant stepped up resources to improve water quality and reduce flooding. The Symposium was a joint project of MAPC, MA CZM, Mass Bays, MA Audubon, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, and the towns of Norwell, Duxbury and Scituate.

National Adaptation Forum

From April 22-26, MAPC staff Sasha Shyduroff (Clean Energy), Anne Herbst, and Darci Schofield (both from the Environment Department), presented at this premier national climate adaptation conference, which was held in Madison, WI. Topics included "#Zero101. Aligning Clean Energy with Nature-Based Solutions toward Net Zero", "Innovative Strategies for Municipal Conservation for Climate Resilience", "Resilient Land Use Zoning: Lessons Learned from Metro Boston," and "Inland Flooding: Challenges and Strategies for Identifying and Addressing Future Risk". (Anne's poster session on Inland Flooding also featured work by Caitlin Spence of MAPC's Data Services Department.) I also presented the work of the Metro Mayors Climate Preparedness Task Force, which is coordinated by Sasha, describing the group's accomplishments and priorities, along with colleagues from South Florida, Seattle, and other regions.

MAPC also helped to organize a pre-conference afternoon meeting of regional climate resilience programs from throughout the country, with the assistance of several national intermediary and technical assistance organizations. It is important for regional programs to share data, experiences, and strategies to increase effectiveness, and to establish influence on the national level. (For additional information, see the Clean Energy section of this report.)

Climate-smart parks

On May 9, MAPC and the Town of Millis hosted a public forum for its Open Space and Recreation Plan, which includes a climate assessment for advancing parks and open space for climate resilience, including design strategies for managing stormwater and inland flooding as well as wildlife habitat and ecological restoration opportunities to enhance flood storage capacity along the Charles River. On May 1, the City of Medford and MAPC hosted the final public forum for “Designing Parks and Open Space for Climate Resilience.” The plan is a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) implementation strategy, funded by the state’s MVP Action Grant and includes design recommendations for Medford’s 33 parks to manage urban heat, riverine flooding, and extreme precipitation events.

Greater Boston Research Advisory Group

MAPC is working in partnership with Professors Paul Kirshen and Ellen Douglas from UMass Boston as well as the Urban Harbors Institute on the Greater Boston Research Advisory Group (GBRAG). Originally known as the Boston Research Advisory Group, this team of climate scientists worked together in 2016 to build consensus on climate science projections for the *Climate Ready Boston* effort. MAPC subregional coordinators hosted the GBRAG at each of MAPC’s subregions to solicit municipal needs for climate change projections, and to discuss current vulnerability issues, as a means to guide the direction of the climate science research and analysis.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program

MAPC facilitated an MVP workshop in Wayland on April 3, where 29 stakeholders including town staff and community leaders focused on identifying climate vulnerabilities and solutions for the town. A public listening session was held on April 16. Having completed certification in the MVP program, the town was able immediately to submit an application for grant funds to address flooding.

Rockland held its MVP workshop on April 11, with 22 town staff and community leaders, including several representatives of low-income housing residents, completed the process of identifying town strengths and vulnerabilities and proposing solutions. Rockland will hold its listening session on May 13. (For details on the MVP effort in Millis, see above.)

Community Partners for Resilience

Community Partners for Resilience (CPR) is a NOAA-funded joint project with the New England Aquarium (NEAq). The ultimate goal of the project is to create a replicable model for empowering middle-school-age students to educate their communities about climate change and resilience. MAPC and NEAq have built teams of local officials, community organizations, and school systems in Chelsea, Hull, and Lynn to create and implement student-led public education projects in each municipality. The program requires that we build and nurture learning communities among people, departments, and organizations who seldom work together, that we educate educators about climate change and resilience, that we train educators in project-based learning, which is a student-led approach to education, and that we also train educators in communications and community engagement, so they can guide their students in creating public education projects. This month, at NOAA’s invitation, NEAq delivered an MAPC-developed presentation on the project at the National Adaptation Forum (see more about NAF on the preceding page). More exciting, this month saw the release of the first batch of student-led Public Education Projects in Lynn.

Pictured to the right is a now-complete portable mural about urban heat islands during its creation by students of Lynn's Breed Middle School.

Neponset Stormwater Partnership

On April 25, the Neponset Stormwater Partnership held its the spring quarterly workshop in Sharon. The workshop featured the roll-out of an innovative new tool developed by MAPC's GIS Analyst Caitlin Spence in collaboration with the Neponset River Watershed Association. The tool allows communities to identify and prioritize sites with conditions favorable for installation of green infrastructure and other sustainable stormwater best management practices. The tool has been set up initially with parcel data from the towns in the Neponset watershed, but it can be utilized by any of MAPC's communities based on their local parcel data. MAPC will seek opportunities to apply the tool in other parts of the region and state.



Hazard Mitigation Plans

On March 12, MAPC facilitated the first Hazard Mitigation local team meeting for Arlington. On March 19, MAPC facilitated the first Hazard Mitigation local team meeting for Wayland, held jointly with the town's final MVP team meeting.

On March 20, FEMA issued a notice of Approval Pending Adoption for the Danvers and Watertown plans. On April 9, the Watertown Town Council voted to adopt their Hazard Mitigation Plan. On May 5, MAPC presented to the Danvers Board of Selectmen on its plan update.

On April 2, MAPC presented the final draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to the Braintree Town Council. On April 18, MAPC submitted the Braintree draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to MEMA for review.

On March 14, FEMA issued a notice of Approval Pending Adoption for the Ipswich Hazard Mitigation Plan. On March 25, the Ipswich Select Board voted to formally adopt their plan, and on April 2, FEMA issued final approval of the Ipswich plan.

In March, MAPC submitted proposals to prepare Hazard Mitigation Plans for Gloucester and Salem. Both cities have selected MAPC to prepare their plans; work will begin in May 2019.

On May 10, MAPC submitted the Essex draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to MEMA for review.

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, April/May 2019:

MEPA#	PROJECT	COMMUNITY	MEPA STATUS	MAPC REVIEW
16024	Riverside Station Redevelopment	Newton	ENF	B
16025	Wellfield 4A	Maynard	ENF	C
16026	Sharon MWRA Pump Station	Sharon	ENF	C
16027	411 Waverley Oaks Road, Wetland Remediation	Waltham	ENF	C
16003	Sewer Siphon Replacement and Interceptor Rehabilitation Project	Ipswich	ENF	C
16011	Parcel 12	Boston	ENF	B
16012	Massachusetts General Hospital - 2019 IMP Projects	Boston	ENF	B
16014	Happy Valley Ventures	Boston	ENF	C
16015	Mystic River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing	Everett & Somerville	ENF	B
16016	Ipswich River Coastal Resiliency Project	Ipswich	ENF	B
16018	16, 18 and 20R Franklin Street	Salem	ENF	C
15882	Hood Park Master Plan	Boston	FEIR	C
14127	Stone Ridge	Milford	NPC	C
15898	Route 140 Development	Bellingham	NPC	C

Allston Yards

MAPC submitted a comment letter on the Expanded Environmental Notification Form/Draft Project Impact Report (EENF/DPIR) for Allston Yards in Boston. The EENF/DPIR proposes to redevelop a 10.6-acre site with a mixed-use, transit-oriented development comprising approximately 375,000 square feet (sf) of office space; 895 residential units; 117,000 sf of retail space, including a 67,000-square foot grocery store; and public open space comprising one acre. The total building area is approximately 1.26 million sf. At full-build, the project is expected to generate an estimated 8,170 adjusted trips per day and will include up to 1,400 parking spaces. In accordance with MAPC's letter, the Secretary's Certificate has directed the developer to provide a phased development strategy, encourage reducing the number of parking spaces, as well as develop a robust Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program when the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is submitted. MAPC's comment letter is here: mapc.org/our-work/expertise/environment/mepa-review.

Public Health

Climate Perspectives: Art and Public Health

On May 4, staff from Public Health, Arts and Culture, and Economic Development exhibited an art installation at Wake Up the Earth Festival in Jamaica Plain. The exhibit, “Schools of Thought on Climate Change: Stories from Land and Sea,” integrates story-telling with participatory art-making to help people learn about climate change and actions people are taking in their workplaces and community to prevent, prepare for, or adapt to climate impacts. The installation shares findings from focus groups recently completed with workers across farming, construction, fishing, and home healthcare about the role of climate change in their industries.



Project staff partnered with Harvest New England Conference, Associated Builders and Contractors of Massachusetts, Red’s Best, and the 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers to conduct focus groups for this project. The next steps for the project will include release of a findings report and one-on-one interviews with focus group participants from each industry, and integration of interview audio into the installation for a second exhibit later this summer.

Health Lens Analyses in Cambridge and Somerville

MAPC partnered with Cambridge Public Health Department to conduct a Health Lens Analysis (HLA) regarding their proposed urban agriculture policy. The HLA investigated potential health impacts of urban agriculture as they relate to social, economic, nutritional, and environmental determinants of health. Working with city staff, community organizations, and residents, the drafter of the HLA produced a set of recommendations for ensuring the urban agriculture policy is implemented to make local healthy food accessible to residents regardless of their income and housing tenure, to mitigate negative health effects, and to promote engagement of residents of all ages in urban agriculture.

The Public Health Team also completed an HLA on a proposal to install noise barriers along Interstate 93 in Somerville. The community-driven HLA culminated in an impact report and a participatory design charrette to generate design recommendations for neighborhoods near the highway.



In April, recommendations were shared back with a group of Somerville representatives – including state representatives, city councilors, and leaders of community groups – and residents to set next steps in motion. Work is now underway to advance recommendations related to the location and design of proposed barriers, building envelope improvements for nearby public housing, and design interventions (e.g., vegetated barriers, building placement) to protect nearby recreational fields from traffic related air pollution. These were MAPC’s first two HLAs, and Public Health is excited to bring the new approach to other communities throughout the region.

Placemaking in East Boston (Update)

In 2016, MAPC’s Public Health and Transportation teams collaborated with Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) CDC on a community-led Photovoice and placemaking effort. Residents helped us identify areas that posed traffic safety issues for pedestrians and cyclists and then develop – and test – design solutions for those areas. At least one of those locations saw permanent changes made and mirrored the solutions that were identified and tested.



On left: Crosswalk test in Placemaking event; On right: permanent changes including proposed crosswalk

Strategic Initiatives

MetroCommon 2050

The MetroCommon 2050 goals are drafted and out to the public. They comprise nine high-level, narrative goals detailing what the lived experience of someone in the region will be like in 2050. They also contain approximately 65 sub-goals nested underneath the goals. MetroCommon’s External Advisory Committee will meet on June 10 to advance the goals, which will then go to the Executive Committee for approval on June 19.

The MetroCommon team continues to pop up at local events, including Somerville Bicycle Committee’s MA Bike Week Kickoff and the Asian Women’s Health Conference. We are actively recruiting partners and scheduling focus groups with under-represented populations to provide information on regional planning and to collect feedback on our process and goals.

The external Scenario Planning and Community Engagement Advisory Committees have held two meetings each, gathering external expert feedback on how MetroCommon should proceed in each area.

Internally, research staff are closing in on completing a handful of research reports on displacement, climate, electric vehicle adoption, dockless bike usage, and housing market typologies. The Action Area leads have completed initial drafts of five briefs describing the background and importance of our five provisional Action Area categories for the plan.

Getting MAPC Plans Adopted and Implemented

DSI recently hosted a brownbag so that staff from MAPC, the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance and the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association could discuss past efforts, current projects, and future collaborations. MSGA, CHAPA, and MAPC share a vision for the region that draws heavily on smart growth practices and equitable values, and the three organizations have complementary strengths and resources. MAPC works with municipalities to develop plans and policies; MSGA and CHAPA rally residents around adopting these plans and policies, while all three organizations play a critical role in advocating for policy. The brownbag helped orient staff members to the regional problems we are trying to solve and how each organization can contribute to the solution. Further coordination is planned for upcoming planning processes, most likely in Revere and Milton.

Evaluation

DSI continues to surface, analyze, and provide support on organizational “pain points,” which are problems that occur frequently across implementation of similar processes. One pain point staff identified is community members objecting to MAPC planning processes and proposals. This is not to say community objections are painful in a malicious way, it's merely pointing out that unaddressed community concerns can derail a planning process.

To that end, DSI worked with MAPC staff and partners to collect common concerns raised during planning processes and best practices for ameliorating these concerns. We put both the concerns and the best practices into a toolkit that we are calling, “Strategies for Addressing Common Concerns during Planning Processes.”

The guide is included in a recent blog post by MAPC: <https://www.mapc.org/planning101/strategies-for-addressing-common-concerns-during-planning-processes>.

If you have any questions or additions to the toolkit, email Ben Faust at bfaust@mapc.org.

In winter 2018, DSI completed a review of the progress municipalities have made on five recently delivered plans and recommendations. DSI presented the findings to MAPC's Land Use Department and asked them to use the findings to create a hypothesis regarding how to improve plan outcomes. Their hypothesis is that early interventions with local boards will make MAPC planning processes and outcomes more successful. The department is a month into a series of experiments to see if they can get local boards invested in support of MAPC planning processes and plans. These interventions include: completing a power map with the municipal partner to identify the people and processes that control the planning process; recapping past plans with partners to identify if local boards are indeed a part of the problem; and adding time and resources for implementation into scopes.

Community Engagement

Revere Master Plan Community Forum #1 & #2

The Community Engagement team has supported the “Next Stop Revere” master planning process by helping to organize outreach efforts for both spring Community Forum, which allowed Revere residents an opportunity to provide input into Master Plan topics. The first forum focused on the topics of Housing, Economic Development, and Historic and Cultural Resources.

The second forum focused on the topics of Public Health, Open Space and Recreation, and Climate and Energy. Christian Brandt and Iolando Spinola worked to draft a guide to master planning that was translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Khmer, and Haitian Creole for both forums. Iolando worked with Betsy Cowan and the City of Revere team to work out event logistics. The forums were well attended, with about 140 and 100 attendees, respectively, and they have resulted in very meaningful conversations about goals and general feedback that will support Revere's Master Plan.

Community engagement training

On May 2, Community Engagement staff supported MassDevelopment in hosting 15 municipal staff members in Chelsea for a community engagement training. This was an opportunity for participants, most of whom work in Gateway Cities, to learn how to best make community engagement inclusive and impactful. The first part of the day was a deep dive into MAPC's community engagement strategy and best practices. The second part of the day was an opportunity for participants to connect with local Chelsea stakeholders who are practicing community engagement in the city. Participants received a walking tour of downtown Chelsea and learned about providing interpretation services.



MVP for Rockland and Wayland

Iolando Spinola supported Anne Herbst (Environment) and others in facilitating Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) meetings in Rockland and Wayland in early April. Conversations in both towns highlighted appropriate steps to prepare their communities for climate change. Iolando was able to learn more about the steps towns are taking now to prepare for climate change and help to facilitate small group conversations about what can be done going forward.

Networking nights

Carolina Prieto and Christian Brandt supported outside partners in hosting a Building Resilient Communities networking night on April 4 at Democracy Brewing on Temple Place. The Mel King Institute, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Tufts University Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning, and Citizens' Housing & Planning Association hosted the networking event for professionals, practitioners, and community organizers. This network night allowed the Community Engagement team to get to know some new grassroots and regional stakeholders.

MAPC's Community Engagement team also partnered with MIT's The Move Podcast and Howard Stein Hudson to host an Ignite Engagement networking night at Scholars on School Street, on April 24. This event focused on connecting community engagement professionals and emerging leaders. The event had engagement activities that sparked conversations connected to inclusion and access. Attendees were energized by statements made by Ceasar McDowell, Professor of the Practice of Community Development at MIT and host of The Move.

Subregions

Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)

Senator Michael Barrett and Representatives Jennifer Benson, Michelle Ciccolo, and Tami Gouveia joined the Annual MAGIC Legislative Breakfast on May 3, along with about 40 participants from the subregion. During the breakfast, I shared MAPC's suite of legislative priorities. Legislators spoke about their own bills on topics as diverse as transportation improvement districts, health care, the environment, and climate change and carbon pricing. During the question and answer period, participants sought the perspectives of legislators on issues of importance. The breakfast was held at the Lexington Community Center, a recently renovated center, a remarkable and active center, funded in part by Community Preservation Act funds. MAGIC will hold its next meeting on June 6, during which members will discuss and vote on their work plan for FY2020.

MAGIC's subregional coordinator is transitioning from Heidi Stucker (Public Health) to Lizzie Grobbel (Strategic Initiatives). Congratulations to Heidi on her superb service in supporting MAGIC over the past several years!

North Shore Task Force (NSTF)

On March 21, the NSTF heard a presentation by Principal Planner Josh Fiala on the role of local master plans in the MetroCommon regional planning effort. In April, Ellen Douglas and staff from the Greater Boston Research Advisory Group met with the NSTF in Danvers regarding the development of more concise climate change data for Boston area; and on opportunities from communities to provide input into the GBRAG report.

North Suburban Planning Council (NSPC)

NSPC met on March 21 in Wilmington and on April 11 in Lynnfield. In March, the group heard from Martin Pillsbury, MAPC's Environmental Planning Director, about MS4 permits and stormwater, and Anne Herbst, MAPC Senior Regional Environmental Planner, about climate change. After the meeting NSPC members stayed for lunch and were joined by representatives from the Greater Boston Research Advisory Group to discuss current efforts to update climate change projections for the Metro Boston region. In April, the group heard from Scott Hamwey, Manager of Transit Planning at MassDOT, about Rail Vision, the MBTA's plan for the future of the Commuter Rail system. The group meets again on May 16 in Reading. Members will hear from James Fuccione from the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative about age friendly planning.

South Shore Coalition

The South Shore hosted its Annual Legislative Breakfast on April 26, with the participation of Senators Patrick O'Connor and John Keenan and Representative Joan Meschino. Over 30 participants from throughout the region heard the legislators' thoughts on the key relationship between housing and economic development in the South Shore, as well as their priorities regarding climate change and transportation. The event also highlighted the numerous MAPC projects recently completed and underway in the South Shore.

SouthWest Advisory Planning Committee (SWAP)

SWAP met at the Franklin Public Library on April 9 to learn more about the creation of the Franklin Cultural District.

Bryan Taberner, Director of Planning for the town, presented an overview of how the cultural district came to be, and then Felicia Oti, the library's director, offered us a brief tour of the building. We were joined by Pandora Carlucci, Chair of the Cultural District Committee, who led a walking tour of different sites within the cultural district.

SWAP's next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 14 in Bellingham. Ben Faust will facilitate a discussion of the draft MetroCommon 2050 goals, and we will begin work planning for the 2019-2020 year.

New Coordinators

MAPC welcomes three new Subregional Coordinators:

- Josh Eichen has replaced Laurie Zivkovich at TRIC;
- Leah Robins has replaced Karen Adelman at MetroWest; and
- Lizzie Grobbel will replace Heidi Stucker at MAGIC (see above).

I wish to thank Laurie, Karen, and Heidi for their excellent work as Subregional Coordinators over the past several years.

I particularly wish to acknowledge Karen, who facilitated the transition of the MetroWest Regional Collaborative from an independent organization to an MAPC subregion. Karen conducted this delicate task with diplomacy and hard work, expanding the accomplishments of the Subregion, bringing in new people and projects, and advancing the relationship between MAPC and MetroWest. She resigned as coordinator after her election to the Natick Board of Selectmen, but continues as MAPC's Senior Communications Strategist and a key member of the MetroCommon2050 team.

Clean Energy



MAPC Delivers Final Draft Climate Action Plan to Newton

Newton contracted MAPC in August 2018 to update the city's greenhouse gas inventory and to develop a plan for climate action. Over the past nine months, MAPC has facilitated an engagement process to collect input from the community at large, local climate and environmental advocates, and city staff. The draft Climate Action Plan, delivered to the city on April 26, represents a culmination of MAPC staff expertise, city staff and mayoral input, and substantive volunteer contributions on action recommendations. The draft will be reviewed and revised by city staff in the coming weeks, and presented to the City Council for consideration to adopt as an amendment to the city's comprehensive master plan.

The draft lays out a plan for the city to take aggressive actions in next five years to make significant progress toward achieving carbon neutrality. It focuses on points of municipal leverage where the city can either lead by example, implement structural changes with community-wide impact, or take actions that enable large scale changes. The focus action areas cover municipal climate leadership, mobility, clean energy supply, new construction and major renovations, existing buildings, and consumption- and disposal-based emissions.

MA Voter Registration for the International Energy Conservation Code Exceeds Expectations

MAPC has been conducting outreach to Massachusetts municipalities since spring of 2018 to educate them about –and prepare them to – register to vote on the next edition of the International Energy Conservation Code, or IECC. This code will subsequently be adopted as the MA State Building Energy Base Code. MAPC created numerous resources, including a new webpage dedicated to the importance of building codes for tackling climate change (www.mapc.org/resource-library/building-codes-climate/); hosted multiple webinars; and provided intensive technical assistance to support municipalities in registering to vote for the 2021 version of the code.

Our initial goal was to build capacity for 400 municipal voters nationwide, as history dictated that this number could be sufficient to swing the IECC vote to advance more significant energy efficiency. The deadline to register was March 29, and we exceeded this goal in Massachusetts alone, registering the capacity for 530 municipal staff in the Commonwealth to vote on the upcoming code cycle. The IECC vote will take place in November 2019. In the interim, we will work to continue our outreach to registered voters in preparation for a final vote on the 2021 IECC.

Creating energy efficiency compliance options within state building energy codes is one of the most productive ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our region. An energy efficient code should be a tool in any municipality's toolbox when seeking to make progress toward Net Zero or other climate-related targets. It is also a cost-effective way to create a safer and more resilient building stock for our future.

Kick-off to the Peak Demand Management Season

MAPC hosted a webinar on April 9 to highlight opportunities for municipalities to reduce their energy costs by managing their power demand. The webinar featured MAPC's Peak Demand Notification Program, incentive programs available from Eversource and National Grid, and presentations from Boston Public Schools and the City of Medford as use cases to inform participants about their ongoing demand management efforts. Municipalities participating in demand management saved more than \$450,000 in avoided costs in 2018. The highlights of the webinar were published in MAPC's Planning 101 [blog](http://mapc.org/planning101/gearing-up-to-ramp-down-preparing-your-municipality-to-manage-peak-demand). (Full link: mapc.org/planning101/gearing-up-to-ramp-down-preparing-your-municipality-to-manage-peak-demand).

Comments on National Grid's Rate Case Proposals

On November 15, 2018, National Grid filed a comprehensive electric rate case with the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) with an array of proposals, including significant revenue increases, new rate structures, and investments. MAPC submitted a comment letter to DPU on April 9 in regard to various aspects of the comprehensive rate case.

The rate case contained significant positive investments for the second phase of National Grid's electric vehicle (EV) programs, comprising \$166.5 million in support. However, many concerning elements were present in the filing as well. MAPC saw many of the same issues it raised in the Eversource 2017 rate case mirrored in National Grid's rate case proposals, and raised them similarly here. MAPC took a position in opposition to: (1) the increase of National Grid's return on equity (significantly higher than the rates in other states served by National Grid, and across New England), (2) the flawed performance based ratemaking mechanism, which would fail to tie performance to customer and climate benefits, and (3) the additional monthly fixed charge, or minimum monthly reliability contribution (MMRC), on net metering customers (e.g., customers with solar, storage, and other customer-owned distributed renewable generation).

In addition to encouraging high levels of EV investments as described above, MAPC also voiced support for the portion of incentives National Grid proposed to set aside for Environmental Justice communities, the addition of fleet advisory services to support transitioning to electric vehicle options, and the inclusion of specific incentives for charging infrastructure to support electrification of public transit and school buses.

Clean Energy at the National Adaptation Forum

MAPC was well represented at the National Adaptation Forum in Madison, WI, the week of April 22. The agency sent Clean Energy and Climate Planner II Sasha Shyduroff alongside the Environment Department's Senior Planners Anne Herbst and Darci Schofield, and me. Sasha helped organize the pre-forum workshop for Regional Collaboratives, in which she and I participated on behalf of the Metro Mayors Coalition Climate Preparedness Taskforce. The workshop brought together regional climate collaboratives from around the country to discuss accomplishments, share challenges, and learn from one another. The pre-forum event was led by Institute for Sustainable Communities and Georgetown Climate Center. Sasha facilitated a group discussion on the use of metrics and indicators in resilience planning. During the formal conference, I spoke on the panel, "Adapting Across Scales: Learning from Regional Adaptation Practices" alongside several other regional organizations from across the country, including King County, WA; Eastern Maryland; and Broward County, FL.



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Sasha led and moderated the panel, "Resilient Land Use and Zoning: Lessons Learned from the Boston Metro Region," which featured panelists from Boston, Cambridge, and Natick. The speakers focused on their current efforts to incorporate climate resilience into their land use policies and zoning, including addressing coastal flooding, inland flooding, and urban heat island impacts.

Data Services

Boston Area Research Initiative

MAPC had a strong presence at the Boston Area Research Initiative conference on "Data Driven Policy and Planning around the Region," held on April 26 at the State House. Data Services Director Tim Reardon and Socioeconomic Analyst Sarah Philbrick both appeared on a panel focused on housing policy, with presentations about the Metro Mayors Regional Housing Task Force and forthcoming research on occupancy of three-bedroom housing units, respectively. Steve Gehrke presented a new bike network planning tool developed for the City of Cambridge, which estimates improvements in "destination accessibility," which may result from new bike infrastructure. Finally, Research Manager Jessie Partridge Guerrero was featured on a closing plenary panel and discussed MAPC's approach to facilitating regional collaboration through shared data. The conference was attended by over 400 participants and MAPC's research, data products, and policy work were referenced frequently throughout the day.

West Station Accessibility Modeling Tool

Working with CTPS and and MassDOT, MAPC selected a consultant to develop a new sketch modeling tool for assessing the transportation accessibility benefits of alternative transit services, active transportation links, and land use policies around the planned West Station in Allston. This tool, which is a major component of the project that MAPC will be undertaking in the next year to inform transportation and development policy in the neighborhood, will provide a “rapid-response” assessment of trip generation, destination accessibility, and mode share for trips to, from, and through the West Station area. The selected vendor, Renaissance Planning Group, is a national leader in the development of such tools and has deep experience in their implementation in Maryland and Florida. This work will kick off in the summer and should conclude in early 2020.

Municipal Collaboration

Statewide Fiduciary

MAPC was notified by EOPSS that Massachusetts has received an approximate \$1.6 million increase in State Homeland Security Program funding for FFY2019. This increase will be passed on in part to the Massachusetts homeland security regions. MAPC worked with the members of the Statewide Fiduciary Team to develop regional plans for the spending of FFY2019 homeland security funding that were in line with the three funding priorities that have been identified by EOPSS including 1) active shooter preparedness 2) cybersecurity 3) interoperable communications.

In addition, given that there has been staff turnover in the Central, Southeast, and Northeast Regions, MAPC held an in-person Statewide Fiduciary Team meeting in March at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

At the meeting, team members shared best practices related to project management and homeland security plan development and discussed ways in which the homeland security regions could better work together, such as the joint offering of trainings and exercises.

Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC)

NERAC held a school safety training – PREPaRE Workshop I – for 27 school resource officers, school psychologists, teachers, and other school-based professionals on May 9. The PREPaRE curriculum, developed by the National Association of School Psychologists, educates educators and schools safety personnel on how best to establish and maintain school safety, crisis management, and preparedness efforts with an emphasis on dealing with psychological trauma.

In addition, NERAC submitted its FFY2019 Regional Plan for approval by EOPSS on April 26. The Regional Plan is submitted to EOPSS annually after FEMA/DHS publishes the official Notice of Funding Opportunity. NERAC anticipates a budget of \$1.4 million for FFY2019, which is projected to become available in mid-October. The projects that make up the Regional Plan are developed through months of planning by the Council and several rounds of targeted stakeholder outreach. In FFY2019 NERAC will fund improvements to the region’s public safety communications infrastructure, provide relevant trainings and exercises on topics such as active shooter preparedness and hemorrhage control, and continue to support regional partners such as the Region 3 Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) and the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) with equipment purchases and educational seminars.

Metro Mayors Coalition Shannon Grant Site

The Metro Mayors Shannon Grant site held its monthly collaboration meeting at the Quincy Police Department on April 9. The discussion focused on the role of the arts in programming for at-risk youth, and several partners shared examples of current programs that leverage visual arts and music in prevention programs. Representatives from the Everett Teen Enrichment Center, for example, displayed pictures and presented an overview of the portable digital music studio that program participants use to write and record original songs.

MAPC is currently in the process of scheduling a follow-up meeting that will invite programs from beyond the Metro Mayors Shannon Grant site to share best practices for providing arts-based programming to at-risk youths. Representatives from RAW Art Works in Lynn and the Actors' Shakespeare Project in Boston have agreed to participate in the meeting, at a date and time to be determined.

The 2019 Shannon Grant Basketball Tournament will be held at Hoyt Field in Cambridge on Saturday, August 3. The rain-out location is the indoor gym at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School. The MetroCommon team will be on site during the tournament to engage with players and spectators, in order to capture the thoughts and opinions of young people on the issues that matter most to them.

Mark Fine, Amy Reilly, and I also met with the new director of Teen Empowerment, Abridged Forrester, to explore ways to expanding our collaboration in serving teens throughout the region.

Region 3 HMCC

On March 20, the Region 3 HMCC hosted an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Workshop for stakeholders from across the region.

Approximately 40 attendees discussed key concepts related to the development of an EID Policy and Operations Appendix for local and regional Public Health Emergency Dispensing Site Plans. This will be valuable for stakeholders in the event they need to set up an Emergency Dispensing Site to deliver mass quantities of medicine or vaccines to citizens.

On April 30, MAPC's HMCC staff facilitated a region-wide Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) meeting. Attendees joined small groups to discuss the probability and impacts of possible natural and man-made hazards to the region. The results of the HVA will help shape the trainings and exercises needed for the region to prepare for these events. HMCC staff worked to develop all materials for the event. Stakeholders received a workbook outlining statistics for the region, a map of the region, as well as a Threat/Hazard Assessment Module (THAM) to provide stakeholders with a broad look of the hazards in the region. Once the event concluded, the HMCC partnered with NERAC to offer stakeholders a tour of the NERAC Beverly Cache Site, which hosted the event.

On May 1, the Region 3 and Region 5 hospitals, along with HMCC staff, participated in the annual DPH Health Coalition Surge Test Exercise. This exercise is designed to test the Patient Placement Coordination Plan for the state in the event DPH would need to coordinate the large-scale movement of patients in an emergency event.

On May 6, the Region 3A/Tri-Town Public Health Coalition held a tabletop exercise to evaluate key elements of their Regional Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Plan. This project was funded through the Region 3 HMCC and MAPC staff oversaw its progress. Particular emphasis during the tabletop was placed on activation and notifications, command and control, site staffing/resources, security, public information, and dispensing operations.

Communications

MetroCommon 2050

Communications worked closely with Digital Services to redesign the <http://metrocommon.mapc.org> home-page and weigh-in page; Communications staff took on responsibilities as the design and content leaders for the Digital Hub.

Spark: A MetroCommon 2050 publication

Communications developed and designed content for Spark and coordinated with Community Engagement to develop an outreach strategy. Communications also developed an editorial calendar for email and social media distribution.

Arts and Culture

Communications assisted the Arts and Culture team on event outreach for two events, “Arts and Transportation: Rails Trails and Streets and Drafting Contracts for Artists.” Tasks included designing visuals and formatting invite, tracking a registration list, developing an outreach strategy and creating print materials for the event. Communications also recreated from scratch the Art and Planning Toolkit, including logo and branding, for its April launch – creating templates for the team to use in the toolkit to give it a consistent look and feel.

Check it out! <http://artsandplanning.mapc.org>.

Addressing the Opioid Epidemic: Connecting People to Services

Communications worked with members of the Public Health and Municipal Collaboration departments to translate interviews and research about how municipalities are connecting people to services into a resource with tips for cities and towns of all sizes. Communications staff wrote the initial draft of the booklet, designed and printed the final project, and helped plan a panel and workshop event for communities. Staff also designed a [digital version of the resource](#) and wrote a [follow-up blog post about the event](#). We are hoping to see some results from the press outreach after the event, too.

Mapc.org Site Updates

- Environment main page rewrite and redesign
- MetroWest Subregion Site Update
- Reorganized the resource library so that categories are more useful and easy to sort. Users can now sort by Topics, Plan Types, Subregions, and Resource Types. Communications staff are currently working on tagging old resources correctly and are encouraging staff to make sure that all current plans and reports are included in the library, so that our work is easy to find and a resource for the region.

Legislative Advocacy

Communications staff worked with Government Affairs on online advocacy around our legislative priorities and the House Budget process. This included designing Constant Contact emails, publishing blog posts, and extensive efforts to share priorities and celebrate successes on social media. This will continue to be coupled with strategic press efforts as the budget cycle evolves throughout the next few weeks. Communications staff also attended two legislative breakfasts (SWAP and MAGIC), promoting over social media and writing follow-up blog posts.

Powerpoint Design

Assisted the Economic Development team and Transportation team on designing powerpoints for presentations on the Landline and Topsfield Downtown Revitalization Project.

Qualtrics

Utilizing our new survey and outreach tool, Qualtrics, Communications built a survey of taxi and livery drivers and operators to help determine the best uses for the Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Fund, as part of a project with the Economic Development Division. The team built the survey, including translations into four languages, and helped distribute via email and print. Communications also assisted the Transportation team with a Qualtrics survey of Brockton Area Transit Authority riders on Uber and Lyft use.

Special thanks are due to Senior Communications Strategist Karen Adelman and Procurement Manager Marjorie Weinberger for helping to bring this exciting, improved survey tool to MAPC.

Planning101 Blog Posts

During this term, Communications rolled out nine blog posts:

Blog Posts	Page views
Strategies for Addressing Common Concerns During Planning Process	40
Spark: Weigh in On MetroCommon 2050 Goals	127
Addressing the Opioid Epidemic: How MA Cities and Towns are Connecting People to Services	56
Gearing up to Ramp Down your Municipality to Manage Peak Demand	36
MA House Ways and Means Committee releases FY2020 State Budget Proposal	40
Call to Action: Ask Your Legislator to Support MAPC Priority Amendments	32
SWAP Legislative Breakfast: Town Officials and State Reps Discuss Local, Regional Priorities	15
How Do We Fix Congestions Around Sullivan Square?	148
Community Safety Day Advocates for Funding to Combat Violence	34

Government Affairs

Budget and State House Advocacy

State budget deliberations for the FY20 budget are well underway. The House passed its version of the budget after four days of deliberation in April.

This table summarizes where we stand in the House on MAPC's line item priorities:

	Within line item 1599-0026			line item 8100-0111
	District Technical Assistance	Local Community Compact Grants	Efficiency and Regionalization Grant	Senator Shannon Safety Initiative
FY2019	\$2.8 million	\$2 million	\$0.5 million	\$ 8 million
MAPC Request: FY2020	\$3.4 million	\$2 million	\$2 million	\$10 million
House FY2020	\$3 million	\$0 <i>enabling language included</i>	\$0 <i>enabling language included</i>	\$ 10 million <i>(also related: Safe and Successful Youth Initiative: \$10 million)</i>

Importantly, the House showed strong support for the **Community Preservation Act**, including a \$30 increase in the deeds fee and adopting a provision that allows for \$10M in surplus FY19 funds to be deposited in the Community Preservation Trust Fund. These two increases would yield a nearly 48% match for CPA and marks the first time that the House has supported increasing the deeds fee to fund for the program.

The House also increased funding for the **Regional Transit Authorities**, but it is still a cut from FY19 funding. Additionally, the House adopted an amendment that RTAs would have to sign an MOU in order to be eligible for additional funds above their base funds.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means introduced their version of the budget on May 7, and will debate the budget on the week of May 20. As is often the case, the Senate Ways and Means proposal did not include funding for DLTA or a CPA fee increase, and only funded Shannon at \$9 million. We are supporting amendments for all of these investments. In addition to the budget, Committees have started to hold hearings on various bills. We have testified on several of MAPC's priority bills and have helped to organize panels and letters of support for some of our coalition partners.

Transportation Advocacy

On April 4, MAPC held an event co-convened with the Rappaport Institute and the Kennedy School that served as a follow up to the Future of Transportation Commission's work. It was the first event held since the report was released where several members of the Commission talked about the work of the Commission and the recommendations. This included Deputy Director Rebecca Davis and Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Executive Director Karen Conard. The event was very well attended. We have also been helping to provide background and expertise for several of the business convenings around transportation funding priorities. Finally, we have been working closely with many of our allies involved in the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI). We are particularly focused on efforts to convene our regional planning counterparts in the TCI region in order to increase the role that regions and local governments can play in TCI.

Staffing Update

Guy Hydrick has joined the Data Services Department as its new GIS Administrator. Guy comes to MAPC with several years' experience working in municipal, county, and state planning and data administration. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Geography at Clark University, where he has been researching GIS and spatial analysis as it relates to urban forestry and social justice. Guy holds a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management from University of Manchester, Central European University, and Lund University; and a Bachelor's degree in Geography and International Studies from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Prior to pursuing his doctoral degree, Guy worked as a GIS Developer at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, a GIS analyst/coordinator at the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and as a GIS Analyst at the York County Department of Emergency Services, also in Pennsylvania.

Alyssa Kogan has joined the Data Services Department as its new Regional Planning Data Analyst. Alyssa holds a Master's degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University and a Bachelor's degree in International Development and Social Change from Clark University. Prior to joining MAPC, Alyssa worked as an analyst in the Department of Health and Environment at Abt Associates on mixed-methods evaluation and research design, surveys, qualitative interviews and focus group facilitation for issues such as mental health, HIV/AIDS, social and economic policy, and poverty. Alyssa joins the Analytical Services Working Group, where she will use her diverse skills to support MAPC staff in their planning projects and provide technical assistance to municipalities.