Please support Sen. Eldridge’s amendment (#110) to increase DLTA funding to $3.4 million!

DLTA funding helps cities and towns throughout the state expand what they can do, enabling them to take on projects they don’t have the capacity to complete on their own.

At least half of Massachusetts communities don’t have professional planners to help shape their future economic development, transportation, housing, green spaces, and town facilities.

Thirteen regional planning agencies (RPAs) in Massachusetts help the Commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns with these essential tasks, providing technical assistance on everything from updating stormwater guidelines to managing data to preparing economic development plans. The technical assistance work of most of these RPAs is funded almost entirely by DLTA.

DLTA funding is incredibly in demand - every year, RPAs have to turn away worthy project proposals.

A Little Goes a Long Way

For every DLTA project a regional planning agency works on, it provides a 10 percent funding match - meaning that funding DLTA at $3.4 million will support at least $3.74 million of technical assistance work.

Many of the 13 regional planning agencies leverage this funding even more with outside funding and grant assistance, as much as doubling the amount of money the state provides.

Questions? Contact:
Leah Robins
617.933.0710
lrobins@mapc.org

DLTA helps cities and towns plan and take action:

Project Examples:
- Housing production plans
- Rewrite zoning codes
- Expedite permitting
- Establish development or conservation districts
- Develop design guidelines
- Regional service delivery
- Regional procurement of goods and services
- Data collection and analysis
- Economic development plans
- Public health planning
- Public safety and emergency response
- Energy & climate resiliency plans
- Stormwater planning and guidelines
- Open space and recreation plans

DLTA is unique in that it directly funds much-needed technical assistance for cities and towns. While it’s often used in conjunction with other state programs like Community Compact and Regionalization & Efficiency grants, we’re asking for dedicated funding for DLTA to ensure that these services are able to continue.
2018 Project Examples

1. **Franklin Regional Council of Governments**
   - **Regionalizing municipal IT networks** - FRCOG explored how to regionalize municipal IT. The project included an IT audit of 10 municipalities and the creation of a regional model.
   - **Electricity supply aggregation** - Took advantage of economies of scale to aggregate the purchase of residential and commercial electricity in 13 towns, with the goal of lowering costs and encouraging renewable energy development.

2. **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission**
   - **Zoning for agriculture in Williamstown**
     Created an agricultural overlay zoning district to allow enhanced economic opportunity for farmers.
   - **Marijuana technical assistance** - BRPC provided technical assistance and information to help Berkshire communities pass marijuana legislation. BRPC led workshops and directly assisted with six communities’ zoning bylaws.

3. **Montachusett Regional Planning Commission**
   - **Tourism brochure** - Working with town officials and the Lunenburg Business Association, created a tourism brochure to highlight the Town of Lunenburg’s local economy. The brochure highlights Lunenburg’s resources, points of interest, trails, farms, and other recreation areas.

4. **Northern Middlesex Council of Governments**
   - **40R Zoning feasibility analyses** in Billerica, Dracut, and Westford.

5. **Merrimack Valley Planning Commission**
   - **Sidewalk inventory and analysis** - MVPC developed a region-wide sidewalk inventory and analysis on behalf of seven communities.

6. **Metropolitan Area Planning Council**
   - **Metropolitan Mayors Coalition**
     - **Regional Housing Priorities** - Fifteen communities undertook a planning process to establish a regional housing production goal and identify best practices to achieve the identified targets.
   - **Clean Vehicles Technologies and Purchasing** - MAPC sought to expand the range of clean vehicle technologies covered by the group purchasing program.

7. **Old Colony Planning Council**
   - **Streetscape policy and design guidelines** for town center in Stoughton.

8. **Cape Cod Commission**
   - **Regulatory approaches to climate resilience in Wellfleet** - Developed model bylaws for communities facing impacts from climate change.

9. **Martha’s Vineyard Commission**
   - **Water quality monitoring**
     Summertime water quality monitoring since 2016 to assess nutrient load reduction strategies.

10. **Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District**
    - **Berkley Master Plan** - The Town of Berkley worked with SRPEDD to complete a multi-year Master Plan.

11. **Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission**
    - **Regional services** Working in the Northeast Subregion, CMRPC facilitated the exploration of possible solutions to the challenge of providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) response.

12. **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission**
    - **Bike share agreement**
      Collaborated with UMass Amherst and five communities to contract a bike share agreement for the region.