

# South Shore Coalition 2017 Annual Report

Representing the Towns of Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Rockland, Scituate & Weymouth

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The South Shore Coalition provides a venue and structure for representatives of 13 towns on the South Shore to discuss issues of mutual interest and develop strategies for regional collaboration. Each municipality may appoint two official representatives to the coalition: one appointed by the Planning Board and one appointed by the Board of Selectmen or Town Council. All meetings and events are open to the general public. The Coalition is staffed by Emma Schnur, Regional Land Use Planner. Peter Matchak, Town Planner for the Town of Hanover, and Marcia Birmingham, Project Coordinator for the Town of Rockland, served as SSC Co-Chairs during the 2017 calendar year.

## Meetings and Events Overview

The January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the South Shore Coalition involved work planning and elections for the year as SSC operates on a calendar year schedule (January 1 to December 31). Peter Matchak, Town Planner for the Town of Hanover, was elected as SSC Co-Chair for his second term and Marcia Birmingham, Project Coordinator for the Town of Rockland, was elected for her first term.

On February 16, MAPC staff presented to SSC about Vision Zero Policy and the Local Access Score website. Vision Zero is an approach to transportation safety planning that sets a target of eliminating all serious injuries and deaths due to road traffic crashes. The concept focuses on how we design and operate our roadway system and how we can remove the risk of harm for roadway users, especially those who are most vulnerable. MAPC's Local Access Score helps Massachusetts cities and towns prioritize sidewalk and bike route improvements on the most useful connections between residents and important local destinations.

SSC met on March 16 to prepare for April's Legislative Breakfast and discuss the South Shore Coalition's legislative priorities with MAPC's Government Affairs team. Following the meeting, SSC members went to the Snug in Hingham Center for a pre-Saint Patrick's Day celebration and opportunity to network and connect with one another.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast was held on Friday, April 7 at the Nantasket Beach Resort. It was hosted by Representative Joan Meschino, who serves the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset, and North Scituate. MAPC's Government Affairs Manager, Lizzi Weyant, presented MAPC's legislative updates and a discussion followed with Representative Meschino and Representative Josh Cutler, who serves the Towns of Duxbury, Hanson, and Pembroke. About 50 people attended from a wide variety of municipal offices and boards, state agencies, and local nonprofits. Jennifer Constable, Hull's SSC Rep and a member of the Hull Board of Selectmen, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation at the event for demonstrating exceptional leadership and collaboration.

SSC did not meet in May and met again on June 22 for a South Shore Planners Lunch at the Hingham Shipyard. In addition to a discussion of subregional items, SSC honored Laura Harbottle at this lunch for her retirement from the Town of Scituate Department of Planning and Development.

SSC broke for the months of July and August and held no monthly meetings. The Subregional Coordinator, Emma Schnur, used the summer break to schedule tours of South Shore communities and meetings with their planners and SSC representatives. She visited the Town of Rockland on August 10, the Town of Cohasset on August 24, and the Town of Hull on September 6. Community visits/tours conducted later in the year include the Town of Holbrook on October 18, the Town of Duxbury on November 20, and the Town of Norwell on December 6.

On the morning of September 21, the Subregional Coordinator and MAPC staff, Ralph Willmer and Karina Milchman, attended the South Shore Chamber of Commerce's 7:44 Breakfast Meeting. The focus of this large event was the release of the Chamber's Housing Report, a part of the South Shore 2030 effort, a comprehensive economic and community development plan for the South Shore region. At SSC's monthly meeting later that afternoon, Peter Forman, President & CEO of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, presented the Housing Report's findings and critical strategies and Ralph Willmer discussed MAPC's role in the process. A group conversation followed about the plan and ways that South Shore communities and the Chamber can best support one another.

The South Shore Coalition hosted a Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) workshop in Braintree on October 19 about "Planning with Community Support." Eight planners and residents from the area attended the training which was led by Brian Currie, the Planning Director for the Town of Falmouth. SSC met the following week, on October 26, for its monthly meeting. Staff from the Boston Region MPO attended the meeting to discuss SSC's transportation needs and the MPO's various federal transportation funding strategies, with a focus on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

On November 16, SSC was joined by the UMass Boston team researching harbor barriers that could protect Boston and neighboring communities from coastal flooding. As a part of the Boston Harbor Protection Study, three harbor barrier configurations are being weighed, including one that would connect Winthrop and Hull. The research team presented their conceptual findings at the November SSC meeting, which was followed by a discussion regarding the positive/negative impacts of a harbor barrier on the South Shore and how the UMass Boston team can best present their results and obtain feedback from community members. The Subregional Coordinator is communicating with the project leaders about expanding their outreach efforts, including a potential community forum in the South Shore during early 2018.

SSC did not meet for the month of December, and the first meeting of 2018 will occur on Thursday, January 18. The Subregional Coordinator has distributed an online work planning survey to SSC to determine what topics and events are of most interest to members for 2018.

### Current MAPC Planning Projects in the South Shore

- Braintree Climate Vulnerability Assessment & Action Plan
- Cohasset Master Plan
- Duxbury Hazard Mitigation Plan
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- Duxbury Master Plan
- Hanover Master Plan
- Hanover Open Space Plan
- Holbrook Economic Development Plan
- Hull Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Norwell Economic Development Plan
- Rockland Open Space Plan

- Scituate Climate Vulnerability Assessment & Action Plan

- Green Communities Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) projects for Cohasset, Norwell, Scituate, Weymouth

## SSC Core Members

### **Braintree**

SSC Rep: James Downey  
 Town Planner: Christine Stickney  
 Mayor: Joseph Sullivan  
 MAPC Council Rep: James Downey

### **Cohasset**

SSC Rep: Clark Brewer  
 Town Planner: Peter Matchak  
 Town Administrator: Chris Senior  
 MAPC Council Rep: Chris Senior

### **Duxbury**

SSC Rep: Valerie Massard  
 Town Planner: Valerie Massard  
 Town Manager: Rene Read  
 MAPC Council Rep: Valerie Massard

### **Hanover**

SSC Rep: Michaela Shoemaker  
 Town Planner: Michaela Shoemaker  
 Town Administrator: Tony Marino (interim)  
 MAPC Council Rep: Michaela Shoemaker

### **Hingham**

SSC Re: David Alschuler  
 Town Planner: Mary Savage-Dunham  
 Town Administrator: Ted C. Alexiades  
 MAPC Council Rep: David Alschuler

### **Holbrook**

SSC Rep: Matthew V. Moore,  
 Town Planner: n/a  
 Town Administrator: Tim Gordon,  
 MAPC Council Rep: Matthew V. Moore

### **Hull**

SSC Rep: Jennifer Constable  
 Town Planner: Chris Dilorio  
 Town Administrator: Philip E. Lemnio  
 MAPC Council Rep: Jennifer Constable

### **Marshfield**

SSC Rep: Greg Guimond  
 Town Planner: Greg Guimond  
 Town Administrator: Michael Maresco  
 MAPC Council Rep: Greg Guimond

### **Norwell**

SSC Rep: Kenneth Kirkland  
 Town Planner: Kenneth Kirkland  
 Town Administrator: Peter Morin  
 MAPC Council Rep: vacant

### **Pembroke**

SSC Rep: Ed Thorne  
 Town Planner: n/a  
 Town Administrator: Ed Thorne  
 MAPC Council Rep: Matthew Dovell

### **Rockland**

SSC Rep: Marcy Birmingham  
 Town Planner: n/a  
 Town Administrator: Allan Chiocca  
 MAPC Council Rep: Marcy Birmingham

### **Scituate**

SSC Rep: Brad Washburn  
 Town Planner: Brad Washburn  
 Town Administrator: Patricia A. Vinchesi  
 MAPC Council Rep: Patricia A. Vinchesi

### **Weymouth**

SSC Rep: Owen MacDonald  
 Town Planner: Robert Luongo  
 Mayor: Bob Hedlund  
 MAPC Council Rep: Robert Longo

## Communications

The South Shore Coalition has a monthly newsletter that goes out on the first Thursday of the month. It includes information on South Shore meetings and events, technical assistance/grant opportunities, local projects, and more. The newsletter currently has more than 300 recipients which include municipal staff, legislators, non-profits, state agencies, residents, landowners, business owners, and academic and health institutions.

SSC Website: <https://www.mapc.org/get-involved/subregions/ssc>

SSC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/southshorecoalition/>