

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

1599-0026

Photo by Chris Lovett



We respectfully request dedicated funding of **\$3.4 million** for DLTA within 1599-0026.



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.**

DLTA helps cities and towns plan and take action:

Project Examples:

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

Questions? Contact:

Leah Robins
617.933.0710
lrobins@mapc.org



2018 Project Examples

Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Regionalizing municipal IT networks - FRCOG is exploring how to regionalize municipal IT. The project includes an IT audit of 10 municipalities and the creation of a regional model.

Electricity supply aggregation - Taking 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.

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Sidewalk inventory and analysis - MVPC developed a region-wide sidewalk inventory and analysis on behalf of seven communities.

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.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Zoning for agriculture in Williamstown - Creating an agricultural overlay zoning district to allow enhanced economic opportunity for farmers.

Marijuana technical assistance - BRPC will provide technical assistance and information to help Berkshire communities pass marijuana legislation. BRPC lead workshops and directly assisted with six communities' zoning bylaws.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Bike share agreement - Collaborated with UMass Amherst and five communities to contract a bike share agreement for the region.

Old Colony Planning Council

Streetscape policy and design guidelines for town center in Stoughton

Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Mansfield Business and Permitting Guide - With local partners, SRPEDD completed a user-friendly Mansfield Business and Permitting Guide, market profile, and "Who Can I Call?" flyer.

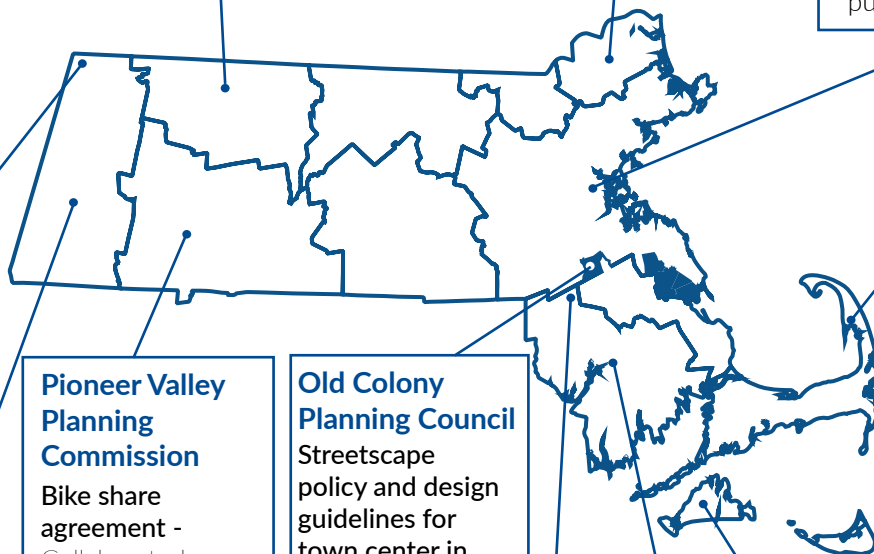
Berkley Master Plan - The Town of Berkley is working with SRPEDD to complete a multi-year Master Plan.

Cape Cod Commission

Regulatory approaches to climate resilience in Wellfleet - Developing model bylaws for communities facing impacts from climate change.

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Water quality monitoring - Summertime water quality monitoring since 2016 to assess nutrient load reduction strategies.



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