



South Shore Coalition

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

South Shore Coalition FY21 Highlights

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 Betsy Cowan Neptune, Chief of Economic Development. **The Coalition is chaired by Val Massard, Duxbury Planning Director, and Lauren Lind, Cohasset Planning Director, serves as Vice-Chair.** Through 2020, **Mary Savage-Dunham, Director of Community Planning for Hingham, served as Vice-Chair**, prior to taking a position outside of the region at the end of the year. **The South Shore seat for the MPO is held by the Town of Rockland and is represented by Jen Constable, Assistant Town Administrator.**

SSC Highlights

This year brought tremendous challenges to the SSC region and each of us personally. In the midst of these challenges, SSC members developed and implemented regional projects, with the support of several key partners. In addition, members collaborated on a range of topics from transportation to climate to racial equity and continued to provide planning guidance and support to each of their communities.

Site Readiness Project: MAPC partnered with the South Shore Chamber and South Shore Economic Development Corporation to secure a grant from MassDevelopment as part of the Site Readiness Program. The project was designed to analyze six sites in five communities (Hanover, Hingham, Norwell, Rockland, Weymouth) to provide recommendations for increasing water and wastewater infrastructure capacity to facilitate development on those parcels and in the region. The project began in July of 2020 and will be completed this coming August 2021. We are very grateful for the work of Rich Beal, CEO of A.W. Perry and Chair of the South Shore Economic Development Corporation, who proposed this project. His legacy lives on through this project and many other initiatives throughout the region.

Transportation: Transportation became a significant focus of the region due to the proposed MBTA cuts affecting the Green Bush Commuter Rail and the Hingham/Hull Ferry. Elected officials, business representatives, and residents organized their advocacy efforts to communicate the value of public transportation in the region. The advocacy efforts spurred a discussion about regional transportation goals, building on the South Shore Chamber Transportation Committee's work and the work of many other long-standing transportation advocates.

As a result, MAPC together with a working committee launched a last-mile pilot project to explore options to provide connections between transit spots and key destinations on the South Shore.

Resilience: As the region continues to experience the impacts of severe weather and climate change, many leaders in the region are implementing creative resilience and mitigation strategies, many of



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Housing: Several municipalities participated in a project analyzing smaller housing typologies on the South Shore, led by MAPC. With the efforts of the South Shore Chamber and other partners, housing will continue to be a focus of the South Shore Coalition to ensure that the housing available allows the region to continue to thrive.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: In addition to the pandemic, one of the other major issues of 2020 was the increased attention to racial justice. Several efforts are underway in the South Shore to advance diversity, particularly in relation to housing, quality of life, and access to economic opportunities. The SSC will continue to explore opportunities for discussion and collaboration on these topics.

SSC DLTA Projects in FY21

- Cohasset Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Cohasset Housing Production Plan
- Hingham Harbor-Downtown Vision Plan
- Hull Housing Production Plan
- North Scituate Rezoning Initiative
- Norwell Economic Growth Plan Phase 2
- Norwell Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Rockland Master Plan
- Small Housing Typologies Project

Looking Forward

As the reopening process continues, we are excited about the opportunities to continue to work together to address pressing challenges on the South Shore, such as water and wastewater infrastructure, climate resilience, transportation, housing and of course, economic recovery. We are fortunate to have a strong network of partners from municipalities, to non-profits to our partners in the legislature. MAPC is grateful for the efforts and contributions of the SSC members and others who are working to make the South Shore an even better place to live, work, and play.

Best,

Betsy Cowan Neptune
Chief of Economic Development
South Shore Subregional Coordinator
MAPC