Executive Director’s Report
Mid-July through Mid-September
Submitted to the Executive Committee
September 21, 2022

Arts & Culture

Lynninstallation: Laces of Lynn Installed

In mid-August, Orlosky Studio’s “Laces of Lynn” sculpture was installed in the pedestrian plaza at Mount Auburn and Exchange Streets, representing the culmination of an effort launched in 2019 to bring a signature work of public art to the Downtown Lynn Cultural District. The sculpture features 251 words that represent personal attributes residents hold dear. The words were solicited in partnership with community organizations, Lynn Public Schools, and submission boxes at local businesses, and are translated into the many languages spoken throughout Lynn.

MAPC staff supported the city in developing a new model for municipalities to commission public art in Massachusetts. Our Arts & Culture and Procurement teams continue to train and advise municipalities across the state on how to use this process to commission public art. A hearty congratulations to the Arts & Culture team, Legal, and Procurement staff for this important model project.

Watertown Public Art Funding Policy Recommendations

Working with the Funding Subcommittee of the Watertown Public Arts & Culture Committee (PACC), MAPC facilitated the process of identifying potential funding sources for public art in Watertown and developing policy language for the city’s consideration. Over four months, MAPC Arts & Culture staff provided the subcommittee with a series of deliverables to inform their discussions, including a synthesis of existing policy priorities related to funding public arts, as well as a research memo outlining municipal approaches to funding public art in Massachusetts and their potential limitations. In August, MAPC delivered a template of policy language that would enable adoption of three sources of funding for public art. This final deliverable included draft language to establish a percent-for-art program, to dedicate a
portion of local option tax revenue to public art, and to create a stabilization fund for public art. The Public Arts & Culture Planner and Assistant City Manager/Community Development & Planning Director are reviewing these draft policies with the City Auditor and will work with PACC to identify which policy to advance to the City Council.

**Boston/Cambridge/Somerville Cultural Infrastructure Project**

In July 2022, the Arts & Culture Department launched the Regional Cultural Infrastructure Planning project with Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville. This project will identify policies and strategies to foster and protect the region’s cultural infrastructure — the physical spaces used across creative disciplines for making and experiencing arts and culture. By applying a regional lens to the project, MAPC will create guidance and tools to streamline and strengthen cultural planning and policymaking across city boundaries. The Arts & Culture team is collaborating with Land Use staff to audit existing cultural policies and related zoning across the three municipalities and draft a shared policy agenda. Community Engagement staff will assist with a multi-municipal and cross-discipline engagement strategy; and the Digital Services team will develop a digital platform to assist planning staff to track cultural infrastructure, assess policy impacts, and advocate for more effective cultural policy. The MAPC project team hosted a kickoff meeting with the three municipal partners at Boston Center for the Arts on September 15 to start an 18-month planning process.

**“Making It Public” Workshop Series for Municipalities**

Municipalities who participated in the 2022 Making It Public training series facilitated by Forecast Public Art, MAPC, and the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) began to release calls for temporary art this summer. Watertown released a call for artists to submit works to “Plants of Our Past,” an initial project to launch a long-term creative initiative, “Edible Watertown.” The Watertown Public Arts & Culture Committee selected artists on July 25. Lowell’s call for artists remains open to submissions. The other seven participating communities will release calls for art before the end of December.

MAPC, Forecast Public Art, and NEFA announced the 2023 Making it Public for municipalities series in early September. An information session for interested municipalities will take place on September 26 at 11 AM. Applications are due by November 4. Selected municipalities will be eligible to receive up to $15,000 to support a call for temporary art issued after completion of the five-week training series.

**Clean Energy**

**Commission on Clean Heat Update**

[Executive Order No. 596](https://www.mass.gov/government/executive-order-no-596) established a Commission on Clean Heat to develop recommendations for the Administration on how best to decarbonize the Commonwealth’s building stock expediently and equitably. Governor Baker appointed former Clean Energy
Director Cammy Peterson to the Commission to represent municipal perspectives in early 2022. The Commission focuses on reducing GHG primarily from heating fuel consumption in residential and commercial buildings, both new and existing, to help achieve the state’s commitment to reduce GHG emissions at least 50% by 2030 below 1990 levels and attain net zero emissions by 2050. Over the summer, Commission members dug into several relevant subject areas, including regulatory mechanisms to cap emissions from building heating fuels, service delivery models, and policy and program implementation, via topical work groups. Each working group aimed to center equity in its development of recommendations for consideration by the larger Commission this fall. Once the recommendations are finalized, they will be presented to the Governor by December 2022. More information about the Commission can be reviewed here and the Commissioners here.

E-Cargo Bikes Project Kicks Off

The Clean Energy and Transportation teams are kicking off a project with Boston to pilot an electric cargo bike (E-Cargo Bike) delivery program, called Boston Delivers, in the Allston neighborhood. The project seeks to replace traditional delivery trucks with electric cargo bikes, to reduce traffic congestion and emissions in the neighborhood while getting local goods delivered safely and quickly. The pilot will start this fall, and MAPC will assist in evaluation, as well as leading outreach and engagement with other interested communities for potential expansion of the program.

Peak Demand Program Wraps for Summer 2022

MAPC’s Peak Demand Notification Program wrapped up for the summer, after a season of keeping 312 subscribers informed and active on peak demand reduction. Subscribers to MAPC’s program include municipalities, schools, non-profits, and state government officials. Peak Demand Reduction asks energy users to reduce electricity use during times of high demand on the grid to help avoid drawing on polluting peak plant sources for electricity. Peak demand reduction can also save participants significant money on their electricity bill. This season’s system-wide peak demand occurred on July 20 and reached 24,291 MW. From the limited survey data received back, MAPC calculated a total energy reduction of 15,100 kWh, though the savings from the program are likely much higher since we know many participating municipalities reduced their peak demand but did not report back data.

Belmont Net Zero Implementation

MAPC has been working with Belmont Light and the town’s Energy Committee to prioritize and implement strategies from their previously published Net Zero Roadmap. As part of this work, MAPC pursued primary and secondary climate communications research to better understand how to reach different demographic groups with tailored messages that resonate. This included reviewing varying styles of communication, demographic and cultural factors, case studies that relate to community engagement and public art, and understanding social media presence and strategies. MAPC has also helped Belmont to prioritize their Net Zero Roadmap strategies and align their content with other town and Belmont Light planning documents. This work has included holding interviews with town officials, staff, and community-based
organizations, and prioritizing strategies based on categorical criteria and stakeholder feedback. In October, MAPC will present this work to the Belmont Select Board.

**Communications**

The Communications team is embarking on a strategic communications planning effort to set goals and targets for improving our press relationships, frequency of coverage, our connection with diverse outlets, and our analysis of the tactics, so we know where to devote more energy and time. The department will link this effort to the agency’s broader strategic planning work and align media relations goals with larger efforts to elevate MAPC’s public profile through an upcoming website overhaul and refreshed brand standards.

We are currently supporting press for the upcoming Accelerating Climate Resiliency grants, our Digital Equity work, our policy work around transportation, the DEI Guide launch, and continuing to work with Government Affairs to plan the MARPA-DLS conference taking place at the end of this month.

**Data Services**

**Wicked Hot Mystic Data Explorer**

In August, MAPC worked with the Museum of Science, the Mystic River Watershed Association, and the Resilient Mystic Collaborative, to create a series of web maps to share heat data developed through the Wicked Hot Mystic project. This data was collected by 80 volunteers who traveled along 19 predetermined transects at different times of the day and evening. These volunteers measured ground-level air temperature, humidity, and air particulate matter using special sensors mounted on cars and bikes.

The project was funded through the state’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, with sponsorship by the Town of Arlington. It builds on earlier work conducted by the Museum of Science in Boston, Brookline, and Cambridge. The data layers will be published to the MAPC Data Services page later this fall.

**Environment**

**Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs)**

The Hingham HMP update received final approval on July 11.

The Norfolk HMP project convened a Local Team, which met in September to update hazard areas and critical facilities. The Local Team will meet again in October to update mitigation goals and actions, as well as plans to host a public meeting in November.
The Concord HMP Team held its second meeting on August 25. The first public meeting to provide updates and gather additional community input will take place in early October.

Marlborough kicked off its HMP update with a Mitigation Team meeting on August 16, which Environment Director Martin Pillsbury attended in person at the DPW office, and Regional Planning Data Analyst Rachel Bowers attended via Zoom, to assist with mapping hazard sites using the online platform Google My Maps.

**Climate Resilient Zoning**

Winthrop adopted ground-breaking zoning that requires Special Permit and Subdivision applicants to identify the projected likelihood and depth of flooding with 2.4 feet of sea level rise. The zoning ordinance gives the town authority to condition projects to protect against future flood impacts. Winthrop also adopted language that allows elevation of existing structures in the 1% chance flood zone to exceed zoning height limits for flood protection.

**Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant (ACR)**

The Invitation for Proposals (IFB) for FY23 Accelerating Climate Resilience was released on September 14. Prior to the release of the IFB, MAPC offered a period of Expression of Interest, from August 22 through September 9, for municipalities to submit project ideas and schedule a brainstorm session with MAPC staff. During this time, MAPC received 25 project ideas from 19 municipalities and organizations.

MAPC will host an informational webinar on September 20 to present a program overview and priorities, plus lessons learned and recommendations from previous ACR grant rounds. Proposals are due October 14, with decisions expected in November. In the FY23 grant round, MAPC anticipates funding both 1-year projects (up to $50,000) and 2-year projects (up to $125,000).

**Regional Collaborations on Climate Resilience Planning**

The *Saugus Pines River Advocacy for Regional Resilience (SPARR)* project held their second-to-last monthly working group meeting in September, and is working on finalizing project deliverables. During this process, the MAPC team developed a mapping series visualizing future flood impacts; an analysis of impacts to Environmental Justice populations, parcels, and property values; and a series of public education, outreach and engagement materials. These deliverables will set the Working Group up for success as they move forward into the next phase of work – SPARR was recently awarded $150,000 in MVP Action Grant funding.

Charles River Climate Compact’s Resilience Strategic Plan. The Compact held stakeholder interviews, convened a Municipal Advisory Group, and conducted a Visioning & Goal Setting workshop in September. Key themes from the engagement process include the need to build on local as well as regional resiliency efforts, the importance of developing accessible public-facing deliverables, and an interest in incorporating both adaptation and mitigation strategies into the final roadmap.
Neponset River Watershed Association. Dedham and the Neponset watershed communities received a $389,457 MVP Action Grant for their proposal to creation a “Neponset Watershed Regional Adaptation Strategy and Flood Model.” As part of this project, led by the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) with support from MAPC, these communities will develop a regional framework, identifying and prioritizing goals and implementation strategies that will help the group advance climate resilience. MAPC will provide support on key stakeholder mapping, engagement facilitation, and framework content development.

North Shore Water Resilience Task Force. Senator Bruce Tarr re-convened the Task Force on August 2 to begin adopting the draft charter that was developed over the last year. After the meeting the facilitation team, which includes Martin Pillsbury from MAPC and Sara Cohen from DCR, continued outreach to confirm members’ approval of the charter. To date, 14 members have formally joined the Task Force, including 12 municipal members, the Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board, and the Ipswich River Watershed Association. The facilitators continue to reach out to the remaining communities in the Ipswich River Watershed. A charter signing ceremony is scheduled for September 28 in Danvers. MAPC is also supporting this initiative by retaining an engineering consultant to assist the Task Force.

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 recently reviewed and ranked by MAPC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEPA #</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>COMMUNITY</th>
<th>MEPA REVIEW</th>
<th>MAPC RANKING</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16576</td>
<td>350 Irving Street Remediation Project</td>
<td>FRAMINGHAM</td>
<td>ENF</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16580</td>
<td>Trident Logistics Center</td>
<td>REVERE</td>
<td>EENF</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6563</td>
<td>Cliff Stabilization and Road Repair at Fourth Cliff</td>
<td>SCITUATE</td>
<td>ENF</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16566</td>
<td>380 Stuart Street</td>
<td>BOSTON</td>
<td>EENF</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>16568</td>
<td>1 and 2 Monarch Drive</td>
<td>LITTLETON</td>
<td>EENF</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16569</td>
<td>Malden River Works</td>
<td>MALDEN</td>
<td>EENF</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>16433</td>
<td>Logan International Airport Runway 27 Safety</td>
<td>BOSTON</td>
<td>DEIR</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16486</td>
<td>Mary Ellen McCormack Redevelopment</td>
<td>BOSTON</td>
<td>DEIR</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
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<td>REVERE</td>
<td>DEIR</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
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<td>295 Eastern Avenue</td>
<td>CHELSEA</td>
<td>Single EIR</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>15898</td>
<td>Route 140 Development - Red Mill</td>
<td>BELLINGHAM</td>
<td>SFEIR</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>16241</td>
<td>Multi-Family Development</td>
<td>LYNN</td>
<td>FEIR</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>4054 Mystic Valley Parkway</td>
<td>MEDFORD</td>
<td>Single EIR</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16536</td>
<td>Alden Fire Station</td>
<td>REVERE</td>
<td>Single EIR</td>
<td>C</td>
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I-90 Allston Multimodal Project – Notice of Project Change (NPC)

MassDOT has filed an NPC for the I-90 Allston Multimodal Project, which will reconstruct the Allston interchange and replace the existing highway network with a new street grid to enable development of a new neighborhood in Allston. In reviewing the NPC, MAPC recommended expanding the project’s purpose to cover all aspects of sustainability, resiliency, and equity, in addition to advancing sustainable non-auto transportation to and through this new development district. We underscored the importance of mitigating the impacts of noise, traffic, and poor air quality for Allston residents.

MAPC’s comment letter recommended that the I-90 Allston Multimodal Project advance the recommendations in MAPC’s West Station Area Transit Study. These recommendations include, but are not limited to: analyzing parking availability, pricing, and policy assumptions; including a high-quality lower-stress bicycle network; and incorporating a design that includes seamless connections of bus, rail, and pedestrian connections in and around West Station.

MAPC’s comment letter recommended establishing a multi-agency mitigation program similar to the Lower Mystic Regional Working Group, which was established by the Secretaries of MassDOT and EOEEA in response to the Everett casino project. The comment letter for this project is available on MAPC’s MEPA comment letter website here: mapc.org/ourwork/expertise/environment/mepa-review/.

Government Affairs

Session Wrap-Up

The Legislature’s 192nd session ended early in the morning on August 1. MAPC’s top fiscal priorities, District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) and the Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon Grant), both received level funding in the final FY23 budget. Advocacy to increase funding for both programs will continue into the fall as legislators craft their close-out supplemental budget.

For the second session in a row, the Legislature passed major climate legislation, which will facilitate the workforce and infrastructure development necessary to jump-start offshore wind and improve incentives and infrastructure for electric vehicles.

The Economic Development bill expected to provide much of the funding necessary for the climate bill’s offshore wind initiatives stalled in the Legislature following Governor Baker’s projection that a 1986 tax law would be triggered, requiring the Commonwealth to return nearly $3 billion in “excess revenues” to taxpayers. This potential return of so much revenue left lawmakers wary of moving forward with the bill, which carried more than $1 billion in
appropriations. On September 15, the Auditor certified that the law, Chapter 62F, had been triggered, and that excess revenue required to be returned under the law totaled $2.94 billion. As the Chapter is written, this revenue must be returned to taxpayers in a manner proportional to their tax liability, meaning those with higher incomes will enjoy a disproportionate benefit from the policy. With this certification, the proposed Economic Development bill is unlikely to move forward, barring further action on Chapter 62F or significant cuts to the bill’s appropriations. However, advocacy to maintain the Economic Development bill’s proposed investments, particularly in offshore wind and affordable housing, continues.

Planning for the Next Session

MAPC has also started planning for next session by meeting with municipal leaders, advocacy partners, legislators, and staff from each department at MAPC to better understand community needs and how our legislative priorities can advance our Strategic Goals (smart growth, regional collaboration, equity, and climate mitigation and resilience) as well as the policy recommendation of MetroCommon2050.

As MAPC works with partners to establish the agency’s legislative priorities, staff are also working with the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition to prepare the Coalition’s priorities for the next session. While still in formation, these priorities will focus on federal relief and recovery funding, housing, climate, transportation, opioids and substance abuse, and more.

MBTA Safety Concerns

In early August, Government Affairs staff worked with legislators, municipal officials, and the MBTA to ensure information concerning the now-complete Orange/Green Line shutdowns was clearly communicated to municipalities and municipal officials, and to ensure that concerns raised by municipal officials were addressed as replacement service rolled out. With the shutdown now complete, the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition will soon be meeting with General Manager Steve Poftak to discuss lessons learned from the shutdown and the path forward to restoration of full service systemwide, as well as future maintenance and modernization, and expansion needs. To read the Metro Mayors statement released on the Orange/Green Line shutdown, see https://www.mapc.org/planning101/orange-line-shutdown-mapc-statement/

Annual MARPA/DLS Conference

MAPC is also hard at work with regional and statewide partners to plan the annual MARPA and Division of Local Services (DLS) Municipal Conference, this year entitled “Building the Foundation for Our Future: Equitable Infrastructure Modernization in Massachusetts.” The conference will focus on generational infrastructure funding opportunities currently available, featuring remarks from Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, Secretaries Acosta, Card, Kennealy, and Tesler, and other senior administration officials who will discuss how to make the most of these resources. We will also be joined by special guest, Steve Kadish, former Chief of Staff to Governor Baker, for a closing keynote address. The conference will be held on Thursday, September 29, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM in the Hogan Campus Center at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Register here and join us!
Land Use

Acton-Maynard Powder Mill Road Corridor Initiative

Acton and Maynard are continuing to work together to revitalize the 1.5-mile stretch of Powder Mill Road that connects the communities. MAPC completed a redevelopment strategy this summer, and now the towns have secured funding to proceed with plan implementation. In August, MAPC kicked off Phase II, which includes helping the towns jointly create an overlay zoning district that allows mixed-use development, expands housing types, and supports walkability. The towns plan to adopt the same zoning to allow for consistency across jurisdictional boundaries. The project also will include design guidance for how to incorporate streetscape improvements and access to the Assabet River as properties are redeveloped. MAPC presented to a joint Acton/Maynard Planning Board meeting on September 13. A community forum will follow on September 28 to hear ideas about how zoning can better benefit the area. Focus groups will occur in October with local business owners, developers and realtors in the area, and historically underrepresented groups (like renters, seniors, people of color, people with lower incomes, etc.). This project will run through Fall 2023.

Wakefield Master Plan 2022-2033

Wakefield and MAPC held a second virtual public forum on June 29. The forum addressed the second two master planning topics of Historic & Cultural Resources, and Housing & Residential. The forum was also paired with a carefully designed 4-week community survey (with input from the 28-member Advisory Group) as an extended opportunity for the community at large to provide feedback. The survey received 359 responses. A link to the public forum’s recording can be found on YouTube at https://youtu.be/OqOq6_M1q8c. A link to the PowerPoint presentation can be found here.

The WMP-2033 Land Use team is currently working with Clean Energy to prepare for the third public forum in October, which will be in-person. This forum will cover two different topics: Sustainability and Resilience, and Mobility Options. The team has drafted purposeful survey
questions for those two topics for another 4-week online survey that will be paired with that upcoming forum.

**Racial Equity Diversity & Inclusion Internal Glossary**

Led by the Land Use Department in collaboration with Strategic Initiatives, the REDI Glossary team recently completed a final draft of the Evolving Internal REDI Glossary. As a result of ongoing MAPC staff of color meetings during the pandemic, a variety of ideas emerged regarding ways to address equity within the agency as well as externally with stakeholders. One of the ideas was for an internal MAPC Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (“REDI”) toolkit to help project managers and staff who publicly present to community stakeholders often, as well as those who scope project proposals. The Glossary is one element of the toolkit, which will help staff to incorporate REDI into our presentations, plan reports, scopes, and contracts. Other elements of the toolkit include the [REDI Statement](#), and the [Request for Open & Inclusive Advisory Groups (Self) Nomination Form](#). The REDI Glossary is currently under review and should be ready for use later this fall.

![REDI Glossary](image)

"You have to understand that progress is not promised ... we've got to find amongst ourselves heroes for this era. Martin Luther King said that the arc of the moral universe is long and it bends towards justice. Well, it only bends towards justice because people put their hand on that arc and pull it towards justice."


**Salem Open Space and Recreation Plan (2023-29)**

Led by the Land Use team, MAPC recently kick-off the first meeting of the 18-member OSRP Advisory Group in late August, beginning the process of updating Salem’s open space and recreational inventory, exploring community outreach efforts, and establishing a methodical approach to identifying community needs and future open space priorities through a series of online survey, public forums, advisory group discussions, and focus groups. MAPC will also work with students from a Salem State undergraduate open space resource management class to report existing conditions in the field and help with accessibility assessments.

**Housing**

**Multifamily Zoning for MBTA Communities (Section 3A)**

The housing team is currently assisting Acton, Millis, and Nahant in achieving compliance with Section 3A, which requires MBTA communities to zone for multifamily housing by right. DHCD released the final Section 3A guidelines in August, and we anticipate that in the coming months more communities will seek technical assistance to draft compliant zoning districts. Housing staff is working with our partners at DHCD and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership to create educational tools and coordinate TA to municipalities.
Overall, the revised guidelines were disappointing. On the plus side, DHCD recognized the need to reduce minimum unit requirements for very small communities, which tend to be communities quite far from transit. However, they failed to take into account two critical recommendations from MAPC. The new guidelines will not allow municipalities to phase in the zoning requirements over time, which we fear will make it more difficult for communities to achieve the required votes of City Council or Town Meeting. More importantly, the guidelines provide no incentive for affordable housing units. Furthermore, they restrict the ability of municipalities to adopt inclusionary zoning requirements in excess of 10% of the units produced; they also restrict the ability of cities and towns to require the production of units with an income requirement below 80% of Area Median Income.

**Hull Housing Production Plan (2023-27)**
Hull unanimously adopted their Housing Production Plan 2023-2027 at one joint session with the Select Board and Planning Board, and at a second dedicated Planning Board session. MAPC transmitted the HPP report to DHCD for final review. The plan features 7 goals, 13 strategies, and approximately 8 combined geographic sites for proactive housing production. The final report presentation can be viewed here: [Presentation_Planning_Board_Hull_HPP_Draft_1_of_2_13JULY22_cjm_minor_supplements_13JULY2022 5 19 pm.pdf](#).

**Metro Mayors Coalition Regional Housing Taskforce**
Co-Chairs Mayor Michelle Wu of Boston and Mayor Brian Arrigo of Revere hosted a remote meeting of the Metro Mayors Housing Taskforce on August 25. We are reconvening the group, which was largely on hiatus during the COVID pandemic, prior to which they had adopted a regional housing production target of 185,000 units to be built between 2015 and 2030. Mayor Wu and Mayor Ruthanne Fuller of Newton gave presentations about housing production and policy achievements that have occurred recently in Boston and Newton.

The Taskforce also voted to approve a Phase 2 scope of work focused on achieving the regional target and addressing the issues raised in the principles. Phase 2 includes a renewed focus on responding to the housing impacts of COVID-19 and its aftermath, especially as we see a resurgence of sales prices, rents, and now interest rates throughout Metro Boston.

**Burlington Housing Needs Assessment (HNA)**
MAPC staff finalized the HNA, with supporting communication materials and video in July. To wrap up the project, MAPC helped the Burlington Housing Partnership Committee strategize how to communicate report findings with town leaders and residents. The Committee is scheduled to present the report and video at a series of meetings with boards and committees in September, with the culminating presentation being an informational item at the Fall Town Meeting. This project aimed to bring awareness of housing needs in Burlington, and MAPC staff are pleased to see the Committee take proactive steps to share the work and continue having conversations about housing in Burlington.
Economic Development

Good Jobs Challenge – Greater Boston Regional Workforce Training System
The EDA has awarded $23 million in support of the Good Jobs Challenge submitted by Boston’s Office of Workforce Development (OWD) in collaboration with MAPC and sectoral partners in clean energy, childcare, and health care. The project, titled Greater Boston Regional Workforce Training, focuses on ensuring an equitable recovery through partnering with more than 100 local employers to create demand-driven pathways into quality childcare, healthcare, and clean energy jobs. Together, the project aims to place thousands of residents into well-paying jobs in these three crucial industries, with an emphasis on women and people of color.

MAPC will coordinate, convene, and facilitate the establishment of a Greater Boston Regional Workforce Training System to include the three career pathways. MAPC has been building up engagements to support our most vulnerable workers - including BIPOC community members who are over-represented in the low end of the labor market. MAPC will also provide strategic and technical analysis and content development for all phases of the project, assess project activities, and provide connections to municipalities, sister RPAs, CBOs, and employers.

An announcement was made on August 17 at an event at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center with many of the partners and funders, including the US Department of Commerce, EDA, City of Boston officials, Jewish Vocational Services, Boston Private Industry Council, Massachusetts General Hospital, Community Advocates for Young Learners, Bunker Hill Community College, UMass Global, and Nurtury Early Education.

MassBay Community College
EDA awarded $2 million in ARPA funds to MassBay Community College in support of infrastructure and workforce development. Construction on the 68,500-square-foot project is currently underway at the MassBay Center for Health Sciences, Early Childhood, and Human Services (the Center) and is expected to conclude in the fall of 2023. Located on Franklin Street in Framingham, the Center will house MassBay’s health care associate degree programs including nursing, surgical technology, and radiological technology, and certificate programs in central processing technology, computed tomography, certified nursing assistant,
emergency medical technician, medical coding, medical office administrative assistant, paramedicine, phlebotomy, and practical nursing. In addition, the Center will feature degree programs in early childhood and elementary education, and certificates in substance abuse, human services, direct support, and infant-toddler teacher.

As the federally designated Economic Development District for Greater Boston, MAPC provided technical support to MassBay. This project supports both CEDS and MetroCommon goals, particularly helping residents in the region achieve financial stability to withstand economic hardship. Economically distressed areas in the region are in desperate need of quality educational training facilities to help pull people out of poverty. Training early childcare educators will allow them to teach at higher pay levels and will increase the likelihood of children’s success in school. Furthermore, the Center will partner with employers in the region to provide high-quality careers for many residents in MetroWest and across the state.

**Museum of Science, Boston**
EDA is also investing $209,000 in the Museum of Science to support a plan for the creation of a pedestrian link to the surrounding business and tourism ecosystem at the Riverwalk at Science Park. This project will be matched by $53,000 in local investment through in-kind services from the Museum.

**Municipal Collaboration**

**Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC)**
Staff continue to support Region 3 hospitals by convening Load Balancing Meetings where bed availability and patient transfer needs are discussed, among other issues hospitals are facing. On July 28, MDPH issued an update to the Resurgence Guidance to include a Capacity Tier “0” or steady state. Due to the success of the program, the new guidance is designed to no longer focus on COVID-19, but rather to facilitate regional collaboration among health care providers, consistent with DPH guidance, to address overall capacity constraints, maintain patient safety, and avoid mandatory service reductions or closures wherever possible.

By July 1, I signed contracts with all Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) contractors for new fiscal year. This is a labor-intensive effort involving input and conversations with Public Health Coalitions as well as approval from MDPH. It could not have been achieved without the management of our HMCC team and the help of our legal team.

**Emergency Preparedness Practice**
MAPC staff have been working with the City of Medford to develop a project that would re-shape their Emergency Management Department. Key components of the project would include updating plans, forming Emergency Management working groups, offering training and exercises, as well as facilitating meetings.
**Metro Mayors Coalition Shannon Grant Community Safety Initiative**

The Metro Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative came together for the 13th Annual Shannon Grant Basketball Tournament on August 6 at the Everett Recreation Center. Youth from seven of the Shannon communities participated in this event, which not only included basketball, but also an art project, a DJ, backyard games, and a cookout. Over 50 youth from across 18 partner programs participated in this event, which also fostered relationships with Shannon program staff and enhanced positive connections among youth across the region. Several MAPC staff volunteered to help during this fun event, which was organized by Program Specialist Rosemary Volinski of Municipal Collaboration team, with help from Policy Analyst Matt Walsh from Government Affairs.

**Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC)**

NERAC offered the Department of Homeland Security sponsored Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response (LASER) course on July 26-28 in Marblehead. This course addressed technical aspects of planning and implementing a rapid law enforcement deployment to an active shooter incident through classroom presentations, hands-on performance-based field training, and scenario-based practical exercises. 30 officers participated, representing 18 different communities within the region.

There is a renewed effort from NERAC members to support school safety preparedness, which prompted a bylaw change to add another Public Schools representative to the Council. During the September Full Council meeting, the Council approved two new members: Dr. John Buckey of Marblehead Schools and Dr. Scott Morrison of the Tri-Town School District. These two members will bring subject matter expertise to forum discussions, to further enhance the region’s school safety stature. This work will build on NERAC’s past efforts to improve school safety in the region, which include support for the School Threat and Assessment Response Team, development of floorplans for every public school in the region, and the offering of school safety conferences and trainings for educators and emergency response personnel.

**Strategic Initiatives**

**Strategic Plan & DEI Assessment**

MAPC will complete a Strategic Plan and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assessment (DEIA) in 2022/2023. Director of Strategic Initiatives Eric Hove and Director of Equity & Culture Angela Howard are leading the initiatives as a joint project. We have assembled a committee of staff, board, and Council members and met with them in late August. We announced and requested feedback on the topics we want to explore as well as a prospective timeline for the effort. The topics that we seek to address are:

- designing programs and projects to implement MetroCommon2050
- intentions and expectations of municipal projects
- organizational commitment to equity
• partnering and supporting community-based organizations
• internal collaboration and communications
• funding allocations and charge code system
• expectations for learning and improvement

We are finalizing the RFP that we will use to select a consultant to support this process. We expect to choose a vendor by year’s end and will continue to update you and seek your input.

Community Engagement

National Presentations

Events and Special Projects Specialist Sasha Parodi participated in an in-person Peer Exchange hosted by the Minnesota DOT to share about MAPC Community Engagement Team's Hybrid Engagement Strategy. Over two days, Sasha participated in conversations with over 40 participants from Minnesota, Ohio, Utah, and North Carolina to discuss meaningful and equitable engagement in a COVID-world, e.g., building trust across virtual platforms, maintaining consistency, and follow through with constituents.

Community Engagement Director Emily Torres-Cullinane was invited to Atlanta to speak on community engagement strategies at ConnectATL: The Future of Communities and Mobility. Atlanta Regional Commission’s (ARC) biannual Transportation Summit. Over 400 people convened to hear U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff, Federal Administrator Nuria I. Fernandez, and local leaders discuss critical work, infrastructure funding, and upcoming priorities for the region. Emily also met with staff at the ARC offices and offered consultation on their new community engagement practice and approaches.

On September 2, Emily was invited to speak (virtually) at the University of Arizona for a class on Public Participation and Dispute Resolution taught by Manisha Bewtra, former MAPC staff member, who now resides in Arizona working in the Office of the Mayor of Tucson.

MA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Coalition

Please visit the Coalition’s new webpage that Visual Designer Ellyn Morgan developed. The page hosts the new Guide and is currently promoting a Guide Launch event coming up September 28. We encourage to register for this event by clicking on the registration link on the webpage. Additionally, the group convened on August 5 for their annual luncheon in Waltham at Bistro 781, a local black owned business. Special thanks to Community Engagement Specialist Najee Nunnally for planning the event.
Hybrid Engagement

MAPC’s Community Engagement staff supported MACDC’s Mel King Institute’s Annual Breakfast on June 23. Staff consulted on the development of the hybrid event and led the hybrid facilitation – making it a fun and engaging experience for participants! It was held at Lawn on D in Boston’s Seaport District.

Subregions

Over the summer, most of the Subregional groups focused on work planning for the new fiscal year, held elections and in place of meetings, held social gatherings to reconnect in person or met one-on-one with their Subregional Coordinator.

Additionally, Community Engagement Specialists Gloria Huangpu and Najee Nunnally joined the Subregional Coordination team supporting engagement and partnership efforts. As a pilot program, both staff members will be co-collaborating with the Subregional Coordinators and members on updating engagement strategies. They will each take on four subregions. Najee will be supporting MWRC, MAGIC, NSPC and NSTF and Gloria will be working with the ICC, SSC, TRIC and SWAP.

The **Metro West Regional Collaborative** kick-off its annual regional trails planning with a Summit event August 11 at Hopkinton State Park (on the Ashland side). Senior Transportation Planner David Loutzenheiser presented on progress in the region making connections and highlighted areas of collaboration as well as resources. MWRC members, elected officials, local planners, trail committee members and enthusiasts shared important updates, future plans and needs. Additionally, Arts & Culture Fellow Archana Menon elevated the intersection
of culture, equity and open space and highlighted opportunities to bring this work to trail planning. The discussion ended on priorities for the year and the group will reconvene in the Fall to continue the cross-collaboration. DCR hosted the event and included a walking tour of the new accessible bridge across the spillway. Special thanks to Emily Torres-Cullinane, Interim MWRC Coordinator, Najee Nunnally, Community Engagement Specialist, and Alyssa Kogan, Interim Inner Core Coordinator (who biked from Brighton!).

With the recent completion of the South Shore Mobility Study by MAPC’s transportation team, the South Shore Coalition has been engaging in a series of conversations to address regional transportation challenges and potential solutions. In July, the SSC met in Hingham to learn more about the process for setting up a regional TMA. The group heard from TransAction Associates and Neponset Valley TMA, followed by a discussion of what may be possible for the South Shore. Following this, in September, the group met in Hull to delve into the recommendations from the Mobility Study and identify priority recommendations that they would like to focus on implementing over the next year.

Public Health

Collective and School-Based Procurement of Local Foods

In collaboration with Municipal Collaboration and Mass Farm to School, MAPC passed the first application round and submitted a final application to the Kendall New England Food Vision Prize. The proposed project would provide technical assistance services including collective procurement contracts with food hubs, engagement, and evaluation to support the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in implementing $3.5 million in funding for local food purchases in school districts.

Active Living and Healthy Eating – TA for a New Mass in Motion Cohort

MAPC continues to provide healthy community design technical assistance to a new cohort of Mass in Motion coalitions across the state. Public Health staff helped kick off the new MiM cohort by leading a root cause analysis and needs assessment training, that focused on identifying health inequities in communities, inclusive community engagement techniques, and analysis and use of data to develop intervention strategies. Initial work with individual coalitions has included improving food access, establishing a Bay State Regional Food Policy Council, and assistance with Complete Streets retrofits of neighborhood roadways.

Research Publication in the Journal Environmental Justice

The Public Health team has long engaged in municipal and community-based work to address and mitigate the effects of local air pollution. Sharon Ron has led much of this recent work through projects that focus on neighborhoods adjacent to highways, school environments, and open spaces and parks. Sharon’s work with a team a researchers and neighborhood leaders, Advancing Environmental Justice in the Community Using Charrette: A Case Study in Boston Chinatown, has recently been accepted in the journal Environmental Justice and will be published in Fall/Winter 2022.
Transportation

NACTO’s "Designing Cities" Conference

MAPC staff lead NACTO conference attendees on a bike tour of the Charles River Esplanade and the Longfellow and Massachusetts Avenue bridges.

From September 7-10, MAPC Transportation staff Eric Bourassa, David Loutzenheiser, and Adi Nochur attended NACTO’s (National Association of City Transportation Officials) “Designing Cities” conference, which finally came to Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville after two years of pandemic delay. Although the conference ironically took place during the unprecedented Orange Line shutdown, local mayors and officials (including Boston Mayor Michelle Wu) highlighted Greater Boston’s recent progress in implementing pop-up bus lanes, protected bike lanes, and free BlueBikes memberships. All these measures are not only mitigating the transit shutdown impacts, but they are also creating new possibilities for sustainable and equitable transportation.

On the Thursday and Friday of the conference (with MAPC Transportation staff Marah Holland joining on Friday), MAPC led a “Two Communities, Two Bridges, Connected by Bike” tour for conference attendees. With support from colleagues at Boston Cyclists Union, WalkBoston, and the City of Cambridge, the tour visited the Charles River Esplanade, Longfellow and Massachusetts Avenue bridges, Kendall and Central Squares, and Back Bay to highlight past and present transportation and open space projects. Of particular note, participants viewed several examples of protected bike lanes and learned about current and future opportunities for bus priority infrastructure. Tour participants commented about how bikeable Boston and Cambridge were, which is a testament to the great work our regional partners have done in recent years to make Boston (and Massachusetts) one of the best biking areas in the country.

The NACTO conference included numerous workshop sessions on topics ranging from bus service to roadway safety to last-mile transportation connections, many of which featured inspiring presentations from municipalities and transit agencies that are “walking the talk.” Finally, the conference presented a welcome opportunity to connect in-person with like-minded colleagues from across the US and Canada, as well as local municipal, agency, and advocacy partners. MAPC looks forward to building upon the knowledge and relationships from “Designing Cities” to continue advancing sustainable and equitable mobility in the region.
**Bluebikes**

MAPC has been working with Medford and Malden over the last year to join the Bluebikes bikeshare system. In August, both communities signed their contracts with Lyft and are hoping for a fall launch of Bluebikes in their municipalities. In addition, multiple communities are expanding the number of stations and bikes in their municipalities. Salem, Cambridge, Medford, and Malden were approved for new stations through the Boston MPO’s Community Connections Program, and Boston has dedicated city funding to add 100 Bluebikes stations over the next three years.

During the Orange Line shutdown, Bluebikes have been an essential form of public transportation for commuters. The first week of the Orange Line shut down (8/19-8/23), the system had nearly 80,000 trips taken. During that same period, over 15,000 passes were redeemed for Bluebikes rides. The system has continued to hit nearly daily ridership records since the shutdown began, despite challenges with rebalancing due to increased usage.

**Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application**

MAPC Transportation staff in coordination with CTPS, submitted a grant application for federal funding to create a regional comprehensive safety action plan. The Safe Streets and Roads for All is one of the new grant programs available from US DOT under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed into law last year. MAPC requested over $2.2 million in funding for a $2.8 million plan that will create a comprehensive safety action plan (sometimes known as a Vision Zero plan) for the 97 municipalities in the Boston Region MPO. If awarded, MAPC and CTPS would work together with a consultant team to create the region’s first comprehensive streets and roads safety plan, with the MPO Board adopting the plan with a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries. The scope of work will include a robust public and stakeholder engagement effort to connect with the 97 municipalities, with a strong equity component to connect with under-represented communities and communities overburdened by traffic accidents. Having an adopted safety plan would then allow the MPO and municipalities to be eligible to apply for implementation funds through the same grant program.

**Data from Ride-hailing Companies**

One of the provisions in the Transportation Bond Bill approved by Governor Baker in August 2022 will require ride-hailing companies, such as Uber and Lyft, to share granulated data with the Department of Public Utilities on a monthly basis. Examples of data include, but are not limited to: the total time a driver spends providing a ride, the geographic position of the vehicle during the duration of the ride, vehicle type, and the total cost paid by the rider for the ride. Since the agency’s 2018 release of [Fare Choices: A Survey of Ride-Hailing Passengers in Metro Boston](#), MAPC has been advocating for the sharing of granulated data. Analysis of this data will enable better forecasts of travel behavior and infrastructure needs, measure the region’s progress toward a more sustainable future, and establish more efficient operations and management practices for existing roadways.
Measuring and Managing the Curb

On July 20, the Boston MPO and the American Planning Association’s Transportation Committee co-hosted a virtual event titled *Measuring and Managing the Curb*, which featured two recent studies the Boston MPO authored that address curb management:

- Managing Curb Space in the Boston Region: A Guidebook (October 2021)
- Transportation Recovery Guidebook for Commercial Business Districts (January 2022)

Blake Acton and Betsy Harvey, the Project Managers of each study, spoke about curb management in the Boston region by identifying case studies, best practices, and strategies as well as how to develop a curb management framework. Attendees heard from Jason Schrieber of Stantec who discussed how municipalities can measure the curb, a basic step in understanding curb usage, and what tools are being used to collect, share, and analyze curb data. The on-line event then concluded with a Q&A panel with the three speakers. Daniel Amstutz, Arlington’s Senior Transportation Planner, moderated. About 90 people attended the webinar a recording of which is available here: [Measuring and Managing the Curb](#).

**New Staff**

The Communications Department is thrilled to welcome our new Senior Communications Specialist, Tim Viall. Tim comes from the worlds of health care and higher education, having supported public relations efforts at Boston Medical Center and Massasoit Community College prior to joining MAPC. He brings a wealth of press and marketing experience and has already hit the ground running with our media relations work. He hopes to improve our outreach, engagement, and methods for measuring our success and reach in the press, and is excited to learn more about our climate, sustainability, public health, and policy efforts in particular.

Camille Jonlin has joined the Economic Development Team as an Economic Development Planner II. Camille comes to MAPC having served as Project Fellow in Business Investment for the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, where she completed research and developed content to recruit life sciences firms to underutilized areas of the Pittsburgh region. Camille also spearheaded research to support development of the clean technology/clean energy cluster. At MAPC, her portfolio will include commercial/industrial land use, research to inform industrial and commercial development strategies, Main Streets and small business recovery, and workforce and wealth creation activities. Camille holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Carleton College.

Hannah Gathman has joined the Arts & Culture Department as a Senior Regional Arts & Culture Planner. Hannah’s portfolio will include community-wide arts and culture planning, cultural district planning, creative engagement, and cultural infrastructure projects. Hannah began her career in Boston as the Director of Events and Social Programs at the ICA. For the past four years, Hannah worked in arts and culture planning and implementation in Maine. Hannah has run her own consultancy and recently served as the Interim Executive Director of
the Desert of Maine Center for Arts and Ecology. Hannah holds a Master’s Degree in Arts Administration from Boston University.

Lindsay Randall has also joined the Arts & Culture Department as a Regional Humanities Specialist. Lindsay’s portfolio includes historic and cultural resources planning with an emphasis on expanding inclusive and equitable history, heritage, and culture. Lindsay brings over 14 years of experience in humanities and engagement. Most recently she served as the Curator for Education and Outreach at the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archeology at Phillips Academy in Andover. In addition, Lindsay is a trustee of the Massachusetts Archeological Society and Robbins Museum, where she handles all consultations with state and federally recognized tribes regarding repatriations and ethical stewardship. Lindsay holds a Master's Degree in Archeology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.