

Executive Director's Report
Mid-September through Mid-November
Submitted to the Executive Committee
November 16, 2022

Arts & Culture

Charlotte Forten Park Commemorative Public Art (Salem)

In September, MAPC staff completed research and outreach with a regional network of Salem stakeholders, including representatives from the arts community, public historians and scholars, artists who've previously worked on memorial projects, educators at Salem State University, the City of Salem's DEI Director, and local community leaders. These interviews provided a basis for recommending the formation of a Project Advisory Committee, drafting the Call for Artists, identifying relevant case studies of commemorative public art, and informing future community engagement. In October, Salem and MAPC hosted a kickoff meeting to convene these regional stakeholders, provide updates about the project and invite participation in a Project Advisory Committee. And this month, Salem was notified of a \$30,000 award for the Charlotte Forten Memorial from the National Endowment for the Arts, in addition to the \$50,000 that the city will contribute to the memorial.

Revere Beachmont Fire Station Arts Center

In September, MAPC kicked off a visioning process with Revere to develop a concept plan for the Beachmont Fire Station and its potential conversion to a community arts and cultural center. Built in 1901, the 4,000 square foot fire station was decommissioned in 2008. Since 2019, Revere City Councilors and planning staff have discussed the feasibility of turning this city-owned building into an arts center and were awarded a Technical Assistance Grant from MAPC in July to develop a concept plan. After conducting preliminary research on Revere's existing cultural landscape and available community space, MAPC convened an initial stakeholder meeting on October 25, to outline the project and gauge interest in community participation in a Project Working Group. MAPC will facilitate the first Working Group meeting in November and collaborate with this group of stakeholders to develop a vision and set of values for the project and create a community engagement plan to solicit feedback that represents the diverse communities living and working in Revere.

This concept plan will build on recommendations and findings from recent MAPC work in Revere, including the comprehensive plan *Next Stop Revere* and a digital access and equity project. Both projects highlight the need for equitable community engagement and access.

Chinatown Cultural Plan

In September, MAPC kicked off a yearlong cultural planning process in Chinatown with an initial partners' meeting. A wide array of public and private partners have come together to guide the creation and publication of a Chinatown Cultural Plan, as an addendum to the 2020 Chinatown Master Plan. The plan will include a collective vision for preserving and enhancing the culture, history, and heritage of Chinatown. In October, MAPC convened the project partners through a hybrid meeting at the Pao Arts Center to develop an engagement plan for the project that will leverage partners' existing networks and establish roles for artists in the planning process.

Needham Arts & Culture Action Plan

MAPC also launched a cultural planning project with Needham in October. MAPC will provide technical assistance towards the development of an Arts & Culture Action Plan. This project is Needham's first cultural planning process and will help to implement the historic and cultural goals outlined in the town's FY 2022 – FY 2026 Capital Improvement Plan.

Regional Tourism Project

In October, MAPC staff drafted an interactive map using Social PinPoint, a digital engagement platform that provides a flexible suite of digital tools to enhance community and stakeholder engagement, encourage diversity and inclusion, and eliminate participation barriers to drive better project outcomes. The interactive website and mapping tool helps situate historical sites at the intersection of the Revolutionary War and African American histories as entry points to explore and highlight arts, culture, and civic organizations as well as small businesses that are striving to build more inclusive and welcoming communities.

As part of the work of developing the map, our Arts & Culture staff analyzed resource maps from the Battle Road Scenic Byway that connects Arlington, Lexington, and Concord. We identified gaps and biases in existing resources and developed a set of themes and research questions that would inform a more inclusive tourism strategy. The research uncovered efforts in all three communities that are elevating African American history and heritage. The tool illustrates a framework developed by the MAPC project team to link important African American historic sites to civic organizations, arts initiatives, and local businesses in the three communities in order to create a direct link between inclusive tourism and inclusive economic development. This work comes at a pivotal moment, as cultural organizations and small businesses, two lynchpins of the regional tourism economy, struggle to recover from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sharing the stories of these organizations and their contributions to their communities will be a vital element of reframing the region's identity in more inclusive terms.

This tool is the final deliverable in the Regional Tourism Project, a collaborative effort by MAPC and the three towns to study the economic impacts of tourism and to establish data collection and management strategies to support inter-municipal collaboration and ongoing tracking of these impacts. It will be vetted with the businesses and organizations represented on the map and shared with the three towns this month.

Renewal of Barr Funding*

On November 1, the Barr Foundation awarded MAPC \$850,000 to deepen the work of its Arts & Culture Department and to integrate arts and culture planning strategically across MAPC departments and within the region more broadly. This funding will support development and refinement of arts and culture data platforms and analytic tools, support cultural planning and policy making at the municipal and state levels, and deliver high quality workshops and trainings to facilitate municipal investment in public art and commitment to cultural equity. The department will also use the funds to support projects and initiatives that integrate arts and culture into public health, land use, transportation, and climate resilience planning. Congratulations to Director Annis Sengupta for this incredible award!

Clean Energy

North Suffolk Zero Carbon Action Plan Kicks-off Community Engagement

MAPC is working with the [North Suffolk Office of Resilience and Sustainability](#), a regional partnership among Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop to develop a Zero Carbon Action Plan, which will guide municipal and regional efforts to reduce carbon emissions and create a cleaner and healthier future. In September and October, MAPC worked with municipal project partners and GreenRoots to host a series of public forums to kick off the community engagement. A forum was hosted by each community,



including a bilingual forum in Spanish and English in Chelsea. MAPC also staffed a table with Winthrop officials at Bike Winthrop's Halloween Parade, to raise awareness about the planning process and encourage residents to participate in visioning for the future. The planning process is anticipated to run through next April. Please see the website: [North Suffolk Zero Carbon Action Plan – MAPC](#).

Gloria Huangpu, MAPC Community Engagement Specialist, gets ready to table at Bike Winthrop Halloween Event to talk with residents about Zero Carbon Action Plan. Photo Credit: Sasha Shyduroff, MAPC.

Keeping Metro Boston Cool: A Regional Heat Preparedness and Adaptation Plan

In late September, MAPC and the Metro Mayors Climate Taskforce released a regional plan to address climate-driven heat, culminating a two-year planning process that involved stakeholders across the 15 Metro Mayors communities. The plan provides an actionable roadmap and recommendations on how the region can better prepare for and adapt to extreme heat and rising temperatures. It includes strategies and actions to reduce the risk of and exposure to climate-driven heat and increase preparedness through municipal and regional actions in public health, planning, land use, and policy. In addition to municipal partners, the Heat Prep Committee that supported the plan included representatives from ten local community-based organizations and non-profits. A link to the full plan can be found here: [Metro Mayors: Building Resilience to Climate-Driven Heat – MAPC](#)

Municipal Pathways to Networked Geothermal Charrette*

On October 18, MAPC co-hosted and helped to facilitate a charrette for municipal officials about networked geothermal systems, which can heat and cool buildings using a shared network or ground source heat pumps. The interactive workshop featured presentations from experts discussing the basics of networked geothermal heating systems. The workshop covered how these systems can be deployed at the local level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs, as well as exploring the pros and cons of different ownership models. More than 100 participants from all over the MAPC region and beyond attended.

Salem Green Building Ordinance and Net Zero Plan Questionnaire

The Clean Energy Department worked with the City of Salem on a [green building ordinance](#), which passed earlier this year. MAPC also helped draft the city's Net Zero Energy Plan and Questionnaire for

Developments that trigger a site plan review with the Planning Board. The ordinance includes a number of exciting policies, including a requirement that new city-owned buildings or major renovations be certified Passive House or LEED Gold and a stipulation that the city's municipal light-duty vehicle fleet will be 100% zero-emission by 2030. The final questionnaire and accompanying guide were published on the [city's website](#)

Communications*

The Communications team supported Government Affairs in the execution of the 2022 MARPA-DLS Conference in September. The team led media relations, social media, and general promotion efforts regarding the DEI Guide Launch, Making it Public 2023, and several municipal-focused projects. Throughout September and October, Communications worked on and finalized several reports: Taxi Grant Evaluation; Wakefield Bicycle and Pedestrian Report; Milton Bicycle and Pedestrian Report; and the South Shore Coalition Mobility Study.

Additionally, Communications created style sheets/logos and subsequent webpages for information about Building Belmont's Future, the Nahant HPP, the Charles River Climate Compact, the South Acton Vision & Action Plan, and the Salem Charlotte Forten Memorial projects, among others. Communications is also working closely with Community Engagement to streamline the communications and marketing process related to MAPC events, webinars, and other agency offerings.

Data Services

Digital Equity*

The last few months have been a busy time for MAPC's digital equity team, which includes staff from Data Services, Municipal Collaboration, and Economic Development. In October, we completed final edits to the Digital Equity Plan for Chelsea, Everett, and Revere and shared the document with the municipalities and other partners. The report will soon be posted on a new digital equity section of the MAPC website along with other resources and information. We are also in the final stages of procurement and contracting for installation of in-unit Wi-Fi for approximately 200 units at public housing in Chelsea and Revere, funded by Mass Broadband Institute (MBI). We also began the process to procure similar Wi-Fi services at a housing authority site in the Germantown neighborhood of Quincy, where the housing authority owns hundreds of senior and family housing units. In conjunction with these capital investments, MAPC is also coordinating the provision of digital literacy trainings and laptops so that residents can take full advantage of the new services.

MAPC has also prequalified as a consultant for the *Digital Equity Planning Services* program, through which MBI will fund digital equity reports and charrettes for municipalities. We also submitted a concept paper in response to the MBI *Digital Equity Partnership* RFP and have been invited to submit a full proposal. In the concept paper, we propose to develop a pipeline of "apartment WiFi" projects at public housing sites and CDC properties; to conduct the procurement for the provision of free in-unit WiFi; and to follow up with digital literacy trainings and distribution of refurbished computers. Partners on the proposal include Education SuperHighway, a national nonprofit with expertise in apartment WiFi; and Tech Goes Home, a local nonprofit focused on digital literacy. The total proposed budget for the four-year program is just over \$15 million, of which about \$3 million would be for MAPC staff, \$2.5 million would go to partners, and the remainder would be for capital costs. Our goal is to provide free WiFi and digital equity services to 10,000 high-need households in Metro Boston.

Visualizing SNAP-Ed

MAPC completed our fifth year of the Visualizing SNAP-Education (SNAP-Ed) project this September. The primary goal of this project is to create a database of Massachusetts SNAP-Ed nutrition education programming and apply this data to programming decisions, such as program locations and target participants. A secondary goal is to streamline data collection so that staff at the MA Department of Transition Assistance (DTA), the SNAP-Ed program administrator, and MA SNAP-Ed Implementing Agencies (IAs), the organizational partners that run nutrition education programs, have more time to focus on program implementation.

In Phase V, the Public Health and Data Services departments worked to transition DTA and IAs over to the program database we designed and piloted earlier and then use that database as the primary means of reporting each month. We will begin work on the sixth year of the project later this fall and look forward to using this database to inform future programming.

Tufts UEP Field Project

In October, MAPC worked with the Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library to propose a 2023 Urban and Environmental Planning (UEP) “Field Project” to Tufts University. Our proposal was accepted, which means we’ll now be matched with a team of four to six Tufts UEP graduate students to digitize historical wetland maps. The locations of historical wetlands have been a long-standing interest of the Environment and Data Services departments because of the potential relationship between filled wetlands and present-day inland flooding; work conducted by the Environment Department in Newton suggests an association, but we’ve been unable to explore this further because of a lack of spatial data. A connection, should one exist, would be very useful information because to date our inland flooding analysis indicates only weak associations with other factors, such as proximity to existing wetlands, soil type, and other factors, making it difficult for municipalities to determine where they should target mitigation efforts.

Cybersecurity

The IT team continues to make progress in our ongoing effort to keep MAPC’s network secure and performing well. We recently completed installation and configuration of CrowdStrike, a security service that scans incoming email and files for viruses, as well as files moving within the network. This way if a virus, malware, or ransomware happens to get onto the network undetected, it can be identified before it has a chance to replicate. CrowdStrike is installed on all our local servers, desktop machines, and the laptops recently purchased for all staff members. There are over 500 assets being monitored at this time. In the coming months, IT staff will begin tests of the disaster recovery system in preparation for an agencywide test

Presentations and Panels

Data Services staff appeared at a variety of events over the last two months: Director Tim Reardon delivered testimony to the Boston City Council Committee on Census and Redistricting about the importance of accurate parcel and permitting data for census accuracy; was a panelist at a NAIOP event on November 9 entitled “Tackling the Housing Crisis”; delivered a guest lecture at an MIT transportation policy class taught by former MassDOT Secretary Jim Aloisi; and presented to an MIT class about the Massachusetts Zoning Atlas. Tim and Socioeconomic Analyst I Brandon Stanaway appeared separately as guest experts at two Big Data for Cities workshops taught by author and urban scientist Dan O’Brien.

Environment

Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs)

The Dover HMP received its FEMA Letter of Approval on September 30, and Malden received FEMA's notice of Approval Pending Adoption on November 3.

The Norfolk HMP project held its second Local Team meeting on November 3 to update mitigation goals and existing mitigation measures, and plan for a public meeting on December 6. MAPC also worked with the town to update development data in October, and completed the FEMA HAZUS analysis, which assesses risks from earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding.

The first public meeting of the Concord HMP to gather additional community input took place on October 12. The next and final public meeting is expected to take place in early December, along with a 10-day public review period of the draft HMP Update. The team anticipates submitting the draft plan to MEMA by mid-December.

Hanover was awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant, which will complete the 101st MVP project in the MAPC region! The grant scope includes preparation of an MVP plan as well as a FEMA HMP. MAPC kicked off the project with a meeting of the MVP Core Team in Hanover Town Hall on October 12.

The Marlborough Hazard Mitigation Team held its second meeting October 19. The team updated the city's critical infrastructure and reviewed the status of the city's existing mitigation measures.

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. MAPC also hosted an informational webinar on September 20 to present a program overview and priorities, plus lessons learned and recommendations from previous ACR grant rounds. Proposals were due October 14, with 22 proposals received. It should be noted that the submitted proposals represent all eight of MAPC subregions. A Technical Review Team has been formed, including eight staff from Environment, Clean Energy, Public Health, Land Use, Economic Development, Arts & Culture, Data Services, and Municipal Collaboration. The proposal review is in progress, and recommendations for final selection/awards is anticipated by early December. In the FY23 grant round, MAPC anticipates funding both 1-year projects (up to \$50,000) and 2-year projects (up to \$125,000).

North Shore Water Resilience Task Force*

After more than a year of outreach and discussion among the members, the Charter Agreement for the Task Force was officially adopted at a meeting in Danvers on September 24 (see the historic photo below!). The members include 19 cities and towns and the Ipswich River Watershed Association.

MAPC's Government Affairs Director Leah Robins and Environment Director Martin Pillsbury co-facilitate the Task Force, along with Sara Cohen of DCR. MAPC is also supporting this initiative by retaining an engineering consultant to assist the Task Force in evaluating alternative water supply options for the region, based on a state budget earmark secured by Senator Bruce Tarr. MAPC has prepared an RFP that will be distributed this month. A second earmark was included in the current FY23 state budget, and the Task Force will scope the work to be done later this year.



Lincoln Climate Action Plan (L-CAP)

The team completed contracting in October, held a kickoff meeting with the town and the MVP coordinator from EOEEA, and began meeting with key stakeholders, including the Climate Action Lincoln subcommittee. Staff have begun scheduling stakeholder interviews to help refine an engagement plan. MAPC is preparing to support the town with a presentation at the Select Board meeting in late November.

Boston Metro Coastal Flood Management Study

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in coordination with EOEEA, is conducting a regional assessment of long-term coastal flood risk to populations, property, ecosystems, and infrastructure, in order to develop strategies to manage risk. MAPC is supporting EEA and USACE with the stakeholder engagement process. To date, MAPC has developed an inventory of key stakeholders and is developing meeting materials in order to convene a Working Group of representatives from municipalities, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and community organizations. The Working Group will provide key feedback regarding stakeholder engagement activities and recommendations on how this regional study can help advance local coastal flood management. The first Working Group meeting is scheduled for December 5. EEA and USACE are preparing communication materials (including formal letters, a press release, and webpage content) to share information about the project publicly.

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:

MEPA #	PROJECT	COMMUNITY	MEPA REVIEW	MAPC RANKING
16612	Seawall and Revetment Reconstruction	Scituate	ENF	C
16616	The Exchange Salem	Salem	EENF	C
16617	Ryan Playground Improvements	Boston	EENF	C
16618	Salem Wind Port	Salem	EENF	C
6620	Hampton Circle Playground Renovation	Hull	ENF	C
16621	600 Windsor Place	Somerville	EENF	C
16622	MBTA South-Side Maintenance Facility	Boston	EENF	C
16624	Highland Ave Gas Station/Convenience Store	Salem	EENF	C
16540	88 Water Street	Watertown	FEIR	C
16548	40 Roland Street	Boston	DEIR	C
5484/ 8696	Hanscom Field	Lexington, Bedford, Lincoln, Concord	PCN	B
16272	1234 and 1240 Soldiers Field Road	Boston	DEIR	C
16355	Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program	Metro Boston	DEIR	B
16491	Modera Revere Beach	Revere	FEIR	C
6534	585 King Street Warehouse	Franklin	FEIR	C
16566	380 Stuart Street	Boston	SEIR	C

No MEPA comment letters were submitted during the past two months.

Government Affairs

MARPA-DLS Conference*



Pictured (left to right): Governor Charlie Baker; MAPC Policy Analyst Matt Walsh (standing); Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Community Development; Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director, Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Lizzi Weyant, Deputy Executive Director for Public Affairs & Advocacy, MAPC (standing)

On September 29, MARPA partnered with the Division of Local Services (DLS) to host the annual MARPA-DLS Conference in Worcester. The conference kicked off with remarks from Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito, followed by a panel discussion on maximizing current federal resources with Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta, EOEAA Secretary Beth Card, EOHED Secretary Michael Kennealy, and MassDOT Secretary Jamey Tesler. The conference featured four breakout sessions focusing on areas of opportunities and available resources for communities across the Commonwealth including: building a more robust municipal workforce pipeline, expanding early education and childcare, expanding broadband access, and navigating transportation infrastructure funding streams. We were glad to be joined by more than 120 municipal and regional officials and staff from across Massachusetts.

Special kudos to MAPC's Government Affairs team, which does most of the heavy lifting relating to this annual event.

Economic Development and Close Out Supplemental Budget

On November 2, the Legislature released a revised proposal to close out the FY22 budget and make numerous investments included in previous versions of both chambers' economic development bills, which stalled in the final days of the formal session. The bill, now signed by the Governor (despite a few line item vetoes), provides funding for numerous MAPC priorities, including more than \$300 million for housing, \$100 million broadband infrastructure, \$20 million for state support to immigrants and refugees, \$20 million for the CPA matching fund, \$57 for low-income residential energy assistance, \$100 million for off-shore wind, and \$50 million for EV infrastructure and incentives. The bill also included over \$100 million for MBTA safety, a significant investment, but about half of what we sought.

Additional funding for DLTA, Shannon, and downtown revitalization were not included, but will be our advocacy agenda in the coming session (see below).

Session Planning Continues

As legislators work to conclude the 192nd General Court in informal sessions, the Government Affairs team continues to work with MAPC staff, partner organizations, and legislators to develop MAPC's legislative priorities for the coming session. These priorities will be reviewed by the Legislative Committee, which will then make a recommendation for a formal vote of approval before the Executive Committee in December.

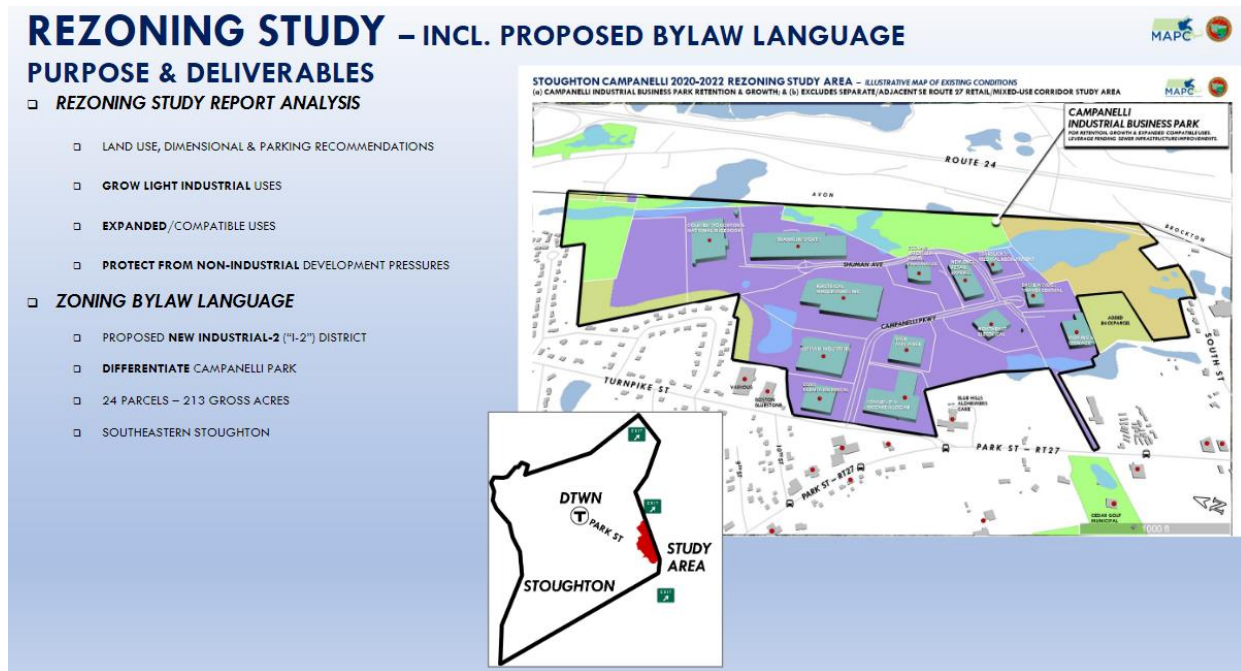
Land Use

Lynnfield Visioning

MAPC helped Lynnfield to secure a \$50,000 Community Compact Best Practices grant for a Community Visioning project to guide municipal policy and funding priorities over the next ten years. The project could lead into a larger comprehensive planning process to help shape growth and development over the long-term. MAPC is now finalizing the scope and contract to begin work on the project by December 2022.

Stoughton Campanelli Rezoning Study & Recommended I-2 Zoning

MAPC completed a rezoning study with recommended bylaw language for the Campanelli industrial business park near Route 27 in Stoughton. The purpose was to retain necessary industrial uses, encourage economic growth, and expand the use regulations to allow for compatible and supporting uses. The final report and plan presentation can viewed here and [here](#), respectively.



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.

We were pleased when DHCD amended the guidelines in October. There were a number of salutary changes. Most importantly, the revised guidelines allow a community to require more than 10% of the

units to be affordable under inclusionary zoning, if they can demonstrate that such projects are feasible. MAPC has been working with a number of communities on inclusionary requirements, including some who are eager to set targets higher than 10%.

Belmont Housing Production Plan (HPP)

On November 3, the Town of Belmont, Belmont Housing Trust, and MAPC hosted the first of two public forums for the Belmont 2023 HPP. Just over 50 people attended the hybrid event to learn about the HPP process, review key findings from the Housing Needs Assessment, and discuss housing priorities in Belmont.

Economic Development

Good Jobs Challenge

The Good Jobs Challenge Grant is underway, led by the Good Jobs Metro Boston Coalition (GJMBC). MAPC is assisting the Boston Economic Development & Industrial Corporation to coordinate, convene, and facilitate the coalition across three targeted sectors: health care, clean energy, and childcare.

New and existing clean energy workforce training programs by local providers – including the Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology (BFCIT), Asian American Civic Association, and Bunker Hill Community College – will prepare and place a diverse workforce in jobs in renewable energy, electric vehicles, building retrofitting, and weatherization - among other clean energy sectors.

As an example, BFCIT will use the funds to support its energy efficiency and renewable energy educational programs to expand workforce access to its students – 74% are students of color and 57% are first-generation college students – and connect the school's highly-trained, career-ready graduates to high-paying jobs in the clean energy industry.

Overall, GJMBC will invest \$3.7 million of the grant in scaling clean energy training opportunities and placing nearly 1,000 workers in jobs that help metro Boston mitigate climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve decarbonization goals.

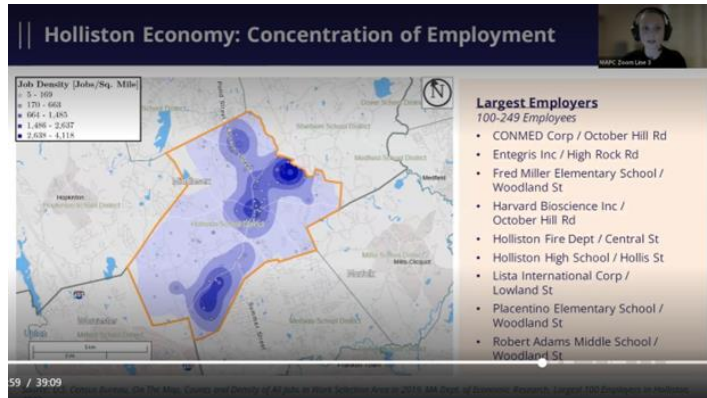
New England Aquarium Corporation/SeaAhead*

The EDA is investing \$750,000, matched by \$750,000 in local investment, to the New England Aquarium Corporation (NEAC) to fund the Blue Angels Upswell project, which will expand the amount of angel investment provided to bluetech startups that benefit the environment and create new, inclusive jobs of the future. Bluetech is the advanced technology sector of the maritime industry, which drives sustainable innovation across emerging markets of the Blue Economy. The project will help build a robust pipeline of diverse angel investors to support bluetech startups, such as H2Ok Innovations, a data analytics platform helping water-dependent businesses and communities with environmental management, and Aloft Systems, which is making zero-emission propulsion accessible to all vessels through self-contained wind propulsion units and software to operate them autonomously. The project will target early-stage investors and bluetech startups throughout the Greater Boston region.

MAPC provided guidance to NEAC/SeaAhead during the formation of their application, which aligned with the goals of the MAPC CEDS, MetroCommon2050, as well as EDA's project investment priorities.

Holliston Economic Development & Service Model Plan

MAPC and Holliston continue to advance the development of an Economic Development Vision & Service Model Plan. The collaborative effort, launched in August 2022 and supported by \$45,000 in local ARPA funds, will include analysis and recommendations that address economic development challenges and opportunities, local administrative capacity, and potential approaches to sustainable, effective economic development. In mid-October, MAPC staff facilitated a hybrid community workshop in support of the project, with approximately 45 registrants for in-person or remote participation. The event included a presentation the project target areas, demographic and economic indicators, and



qualitative data on community priorities, as well as small group discussions focused on local economic development opportunities, challenges, and potential action areas. Looking forward, the project team will conduct an organizational assessment of the Holliston Economic Development Committee before compiling the local economic development vision and service model.

Municipal Collaboration

Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) *

On November 1, MDPH escalated all HMCC regions to Tier 2 due to widespread capacity constraints and workforce challenges, in addition to pediatric capacity issues within hospitals, as well as the recent increase in RSV cases. Hospitals will now meet weekly via virtual meetings convened by MAPC staff to discuss challenges and review mitigation strategies.

On October 24, MAPC staff hosted a Region 3 HMCC stakeholder meeting where Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Chief of Cybersecurity, Region 1 (New England) Daniel King provided resources, tools, and best practices to enhance cybersecurity across the healthcare sector. In addition to Region 3 stakeholders, Region 2 (Central Mass) also attended the event. Some key takeaways include how critical IT infrastructure and security are to all aspects of healthcare, the need to pay attention to information that is shared over public Wifi, and the need to train staff continuously on cybersecurity.

Emergency Preparedness Practice*

Municipal Collaboration and Government Affairs staff have been working with Metro Mayors municipalities to help them to develop an emergency guidance document in the event that a large group of unexpected new immigrants arrives in their community. On October 20, MAPC staff worked with municipal staff to review any current plans and challenges communities have providing assistance to these individuals. MAPC staff is conducting surveys and targeted outreach to the municipalities to further develop the guidance document. The purpose of this document is to suggest potential courses of actions, available resources, and an analysis of gaps when it comes to managing the initial 96 hours of an influx of a migrant population.

Metro Mayors Coalition Shannon Community Safety Initiative

The FY2023 Shannon Grant funding application was submitted to EOPPS on October 17. Next year will mark the 17th year of collaboration among our now 19 partner organizations. Metro Mayors and MAPC submitted the application with our new Local Action Research Partner, Boston University. The municipalities will also be looking to expand during the next grant cycle to include a ninth community, Braintree, in this regional work. This expansion will fulfill program needs across nine communities in metro Boston, in an effort to address youth violence across the region and provide positive opportunities to youth who reside in member communities.

Statewide Homeland Security Fiduciary

EOPSS has once again selected MAPC to serve as the Statewide Fiduciary Agent for the Commonwealth's State Homeland Security Program. This new contract is for the FFY 2022 grant year, with funds totaling \$4.95 million. Under this contract, MAPC will provide management and administrative services to the Central, Northeast, Southeast, and Western Homeland Security Planning Regions and their associated Advisory Councils. We will continue to partner with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments in this work. Funding will be focused on enhancing preparedness and response capabilities in the following areas: cybersecurity, protection of soft targets and crowded places, information and intelligence sharing, and violent domestic extremism.

Procurement

Great Boston Police Council (GBPC)

New RFPs were sent out to bid for vehicle and aftermarket contracts after both contracts were terminated early due to the massive price fluctuations in the current market. The only exception was vehicles sold through Chevrolet dealerships, who asked for the current contracts to remain, as they were experiencing less flux than the others. We received nine bids for vehicles, all of which were previous contract participants. Aftermarket received 12 bid packages, including 2 new bidders. We hope that the changes we made to both bids and the new applications we received will be sufficient to mitigate the current instability in the market.

Our truck vendors have also faced market instability, but the current contracts remain at this time to be revisited in the new year, as the vendors expect to have more concrete information on their pricing variations and schedules.

Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM)

We have completely overhauled our bid process for FCAM equipment, including pumpers and aerials. Through a desire to streamline the process, we have changed from issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to issuing an Invitation for Bids (IFBs), which operates under different rules. We have also combined the bid for both types of fire apparatus into one document. Ambulances have been excluded at this time, but we expect to follow a similar process for their procurement when the time comes.

Road Paint

We have once again collaborated with the MBTA in the pursuit of purchasing and installing bus lane specific roadway paint and markings. This is the third time we have bid for this project with continued success and interest from the participating communities.

Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Plan & DEI Assessment Update*

We finalized the RFP for our Strategic Plan and DEI Assessment and posted it on Comm Buys, which you can find using this link. We ask that you share the link with any consultants who engage in strategic planning and/or DEI work. We will close the application process on November 21, review the applications to be sure they meet our minimum criteria, and then score their applications. Strategic Initiatives Director Eric Hove, Director of Equity & Culture Angela Howard, and Senior Strategist for Evaluation & Learning Ben Faust are managing the application review. An Advisory Committee comprising staff and board members is supporting the process and a sub-committee will join Eric, Angela, and Ben in scoring the applications and selecting the consultant. We anticipate selecting the consultant in mid-December and starting the planning process and assessment in early January 2023.

Conferences

Rail-Volution

Eric Hove and I attended the Rail-Volution conference in sunny and hot Miami over Halloween. Eric organized a panel with Council member Jarred Johnson of TransitMatters and Lauren O'Connell from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy on electrification of our transit system and impacts on EJ communities. We both learned a lot from our peers across the country, particularly on bus network redesign, BRT expansion, and ETOD policy in Miami-Dade County.

Mass Healthy Aging Collaborative's (MHAC) Annual Meeting

Eric presented on MetroCommon at the MHAC annual meeting, highlighting the ways that planning and policy work focusing on the needs for older adults. MAPC has undertaken a number of projects that focus on older adults and we intend to keep growing this focus in our work. We are also working with MHAC and the AARP to pursue an age-friendly designation for our region, following similar efforts in the Central Mass and the PVPC regions.

National Association of Regional Councils

I also attended NARC's Executive Directors' Conference in Kansas City in October, which included a side trip to Chicago for meetings with our colleagues at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). At NARC, MAPC spearheaded a dinner discussion about how regional agencies can address racist and insensitive remarks that are often made at public meetings, and not infrequently by elected officials. It was a spirited and illuminating conversation about a growing challenge in public discourse.

Community Engagement

"Drawing a Line" Webinar*

On October 6, MAPC hosted a webinar titled "Drawing a Line: From Redlining to Food Access Disparities in Greater Boston." The webinar allowed MAPC and 120 audience members to explore the historical and present context of redlining and its impacts on grocery stores, food access, and community wellbeing in Greater Boston through data, online mapping tools, and community narratives.

The webinar was the culmination of a four-month planning effort, motivated by MAPC staffs' collective interest in forming a compassionate and actionable response to the racially motivated shootings at the Tops grocery store in Buffalo earlier this year. The planning effort involved deep collaboration among MAPC departments and staff of different levels as well as uplifting the work of our community

partners. We hope this webinar can serve as a model for our role in convening interdisciplinary change makers to serve our region with a racial equity focus.

Sasha Parodi, Events and Special Projects Specialist, conceived this idea and led the planning process. We plan to continue the conversation with a series of related webinars over the course of next year. Thanks and congratulations to Sasha for her leadership!

Hybrid Engagement: MACDC Annual Conference

On Saturday October 29, MAPC's Community Engagement team provided hybrid facilitation assistance for MACDC's Annual Conference. The event was held at Polar Park in Worcester with more than 200 people and about 70-80 people attending online. Sasha Parodi, Events Specialist, was on the ground managing the technology and making sure the participants at home were seeing and hearing what was going on at the event. And Emily Torres-Cullinane, Director of Community Engagement, was the virtual host interacting with people at home and engaging them in conversation, making the experience interesting and welcoming. She also oversaw the interpretation on zoom in Spanish.

ARPA Engagement: Somerville

MAPC's Community Engagement Manager, Christian Brandt, and Somerville City staff completed the ARPA Community Engagement process this month, presenting the final values and funding priorities to City Council on November 3. This report summarizes what residents raised as current needs and



will guide how the rest of the funds will be spent. The Finance Committee moved to adopt the final tranche of ARPA funding. This closes out about a year and a half process that included two community forums, over 20 focus groups, tabling at community events, online engagement through a new digital tool purchased for this effort, and a community wide survey. For more information, please visit www.somervillema.gov/arpa.

Three Somerville residents respond to the prompt "ARPA Funding For" at the ARPA Community Engagement Booth at Somerville's Fluff Festival.

Subregions

Over the past month, all eight of our subregions convened special sessions with DHCD to discuss and learn more about the new MBTA Communities/Section 3A program requirements. This was a valuable opportunity for municipal staff and board members to ask questions and join in on localized discussions with their neighboring municipal colleagues. All sessions were recorded and can be shared upon request. Please contact Emily Torres-Cullinane, Director of Community Engagement, etorres@mapc.org.

Over the course of October and the start of November, the **Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC)** has been managed by Community Engagement Specialist Gloria Huangpu, who convened the group to

discuss subregional clean energy initiatives. Gloria has stepped in as Interim Coordinator after the departure of former transportation staffer Jessica Boulanger.

Additionally, Community Engagement Specialist Najee Nunnally has been leading the **North Suburban Planning Council**, covering for housing staffer Alex Koppelman while he is on parental leave. Najee facilitated an extended morning session in Burlington on November 8 with Town Administrators, planners, and municipal staff discussed Section 3A, and heard presentations on MAPC's Technical Assistance Program (TAP), electric vehicles, and Burlington's economic development initiatives.

The **North Shore Task Force** held an event in Salem with North Shore CDC and City of Salem staff on October 20. At Charlotte Forten Park, NSTF members heard about ongoing work to develop a call for public art memorializing the park's namesake, Charlotte Forten. The presentation also focused on the community engagement work involved in that project.

Public Health

Food Hubs for Schools: Catalyzing New Local Food Supply Chains*


The Henry P. Kendall Foundation has awarded a Food Vision Prize of \$149,500 to MAPC, Massachusetts Farm to School, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to catalyze new purchasing of regionally grown and harvested food as part of the farm-to-school supply chain in the Commonwealth. The project will support a network of regional food hubs and farms to provide all eligible K-12 public schools in Massachusetts with locally grown, caught, and produced foods and to build systems, leveraging a one-time infusion of USDA federal funds for local food purchases. Food systems planners on our Public Health team and staff from the Municipal Collaboration Department will provide technical assistance as well as evaluate the project activities to enhance impact of the work.

Metro West Climate Equity Project - Action Conversations



The Metro West Climate Equity Project, which involves Natick, Ashland, and Framingham, continues to focus on building lasting relationships with residents in order to enhance climate change resilience and update plans to reflect priorities of those living in these neighborhoods.

Work to date has included establishing a corps of Climate Community Liaisons, climate and equity trainings with municipal staff and officials, a community survey co-created and distributed with the Liaisons, and an initial summary of climate resiliency findings. More on the work can be found here: <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/metro-west-climate-equity/>.

People saw climate change in:

-  More severe storms and weather that bring heat waves, flooding, and high winds
-  Unsafe water quality in local lakes and ponds
-  More allergies, ticks, and mosquitos
-  Expensive groceries and food shortages

Important climate actions survey takers would like their city/town to lead

-  "Helping residents and community groups prepare for emergencies"
-  "Helping residents, especially lower income residents and renters/landlords, access programs for reducing energy use."
-  "Making it easier to get around without a car (expanding public transit and fixing/ adding sidewalks and bike lanes)"
-  "Addressing summer water quality in the ponds in the city (if no one can safely get in the water during the hottest weeks of the summer that is a problem)"

Several Liaisons are now leading focus groups related to survey findings. The focus groups are being held in several languages and with a specific focus on residents who live in or share characteristics of Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Results from these discussions are being linked to short term action (2-3 months) such as changes to language accessibility of municipal communications and specific recommendations to update relevant local plans (e.g., NetZero, MVP, Transportation).

Transportation

Boston MPO Municipal Election

At MAPC's Fall Council Meeting on October 27, four of the twelve municipally elected seats on the MPO Board were elected. The City of Somerville was reelected to the Inner Core Committee subregion seat. The City of Framingham was reelected to the Metro West Collaborative seat. The Town of Acton was reelected to the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) seat. The Town of Hull was elected for the first time to the South Shore Coalition seat. These municipalities will represent their subregions on the MPO Board for three years. MAPC and the MBTA Advisory Board oversee the Boston MPO municipal election process.

North Suffolk Freight Decarbonization Study*

MAPC is working with CTPS to study factors that currently, and in the future, may affect the ability to decarbonize the freight and logistics sector in parts of Chelsea, Everett, Revere, East Boston, and Winthrop. Home to Logan Airport, several port facilities, and rail and highway infrastructure, the study area is a key node for freight transportation and logistics, serving the entire Boston region and much of New England. The area is also home to a variety of industries, including distribution of road salt, fuel storage, and produce distribution, all of which use the multimodal transportation infrastructure. At the same time, the study area is densely settled, and its population contains major clusters of Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. The jobs provided by the industrial and commercial sectors within the study area are critical for the economy of the area and the wider region, but at the same time the transportation sector plays an outsized role in emitting carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, particulate matter, and ultrafine particulate matter, degrading public health. The [scope of work](#) seeks to balance the preservation of this economically critical industrial and logistical cluster, which supports numerous blue-collar jobs in a heavily immigrant community, with analysis and development of strategies for the relief of the environmental and health burdens it imposes on the residents of surrounding municipalities, along with substantial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Bluebikes*

MAPC staff attended the Medford and Malden Bluebikes ribbon cutting ceremony on October 17 at Tufts Park in Medford. Municipal staff and elected officials from both Medford and Malden attended, as well as staff from Lyft, Blue Cross Blue Shield, neighboring municipalities, and MAPC. Both municipalities received funding from the Boston MPO's Community Connections Program to fund three stations in each city and are actively pursuing additional funding for further expansion. Both municipalities are also offering free 30-day passes for a limited number of residents as they kick off their bikeshare programs.



Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn and Malden City Councilor Steve Winslow do the honors at the inauguration of Bluebikes service in both cities.

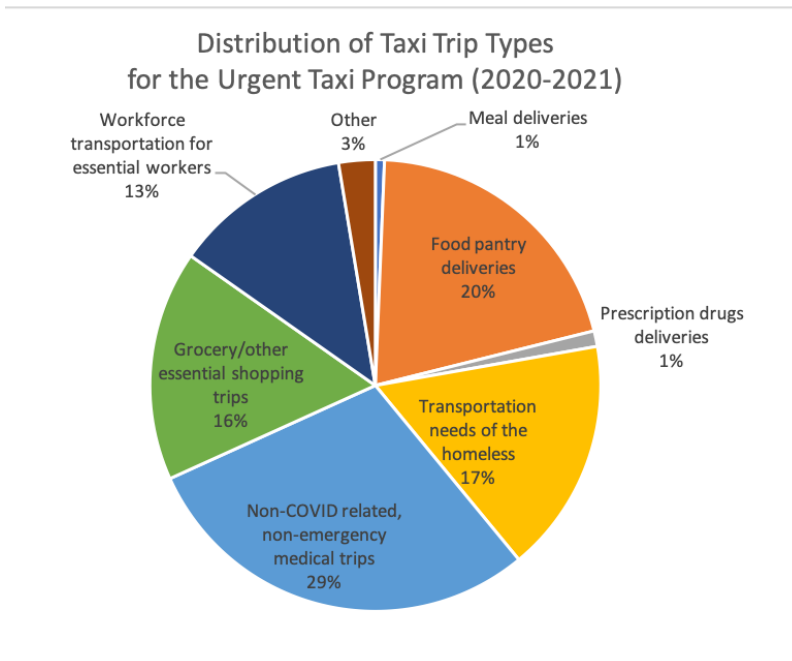
The Bluebikes system as a whole is seeing record ridership this year. As of October 31, 3,390,170 rides had been taken in 2022, the most rides of any year for the system.

Taxi, Livery and Hackney Transportation Partnerships Grant Program

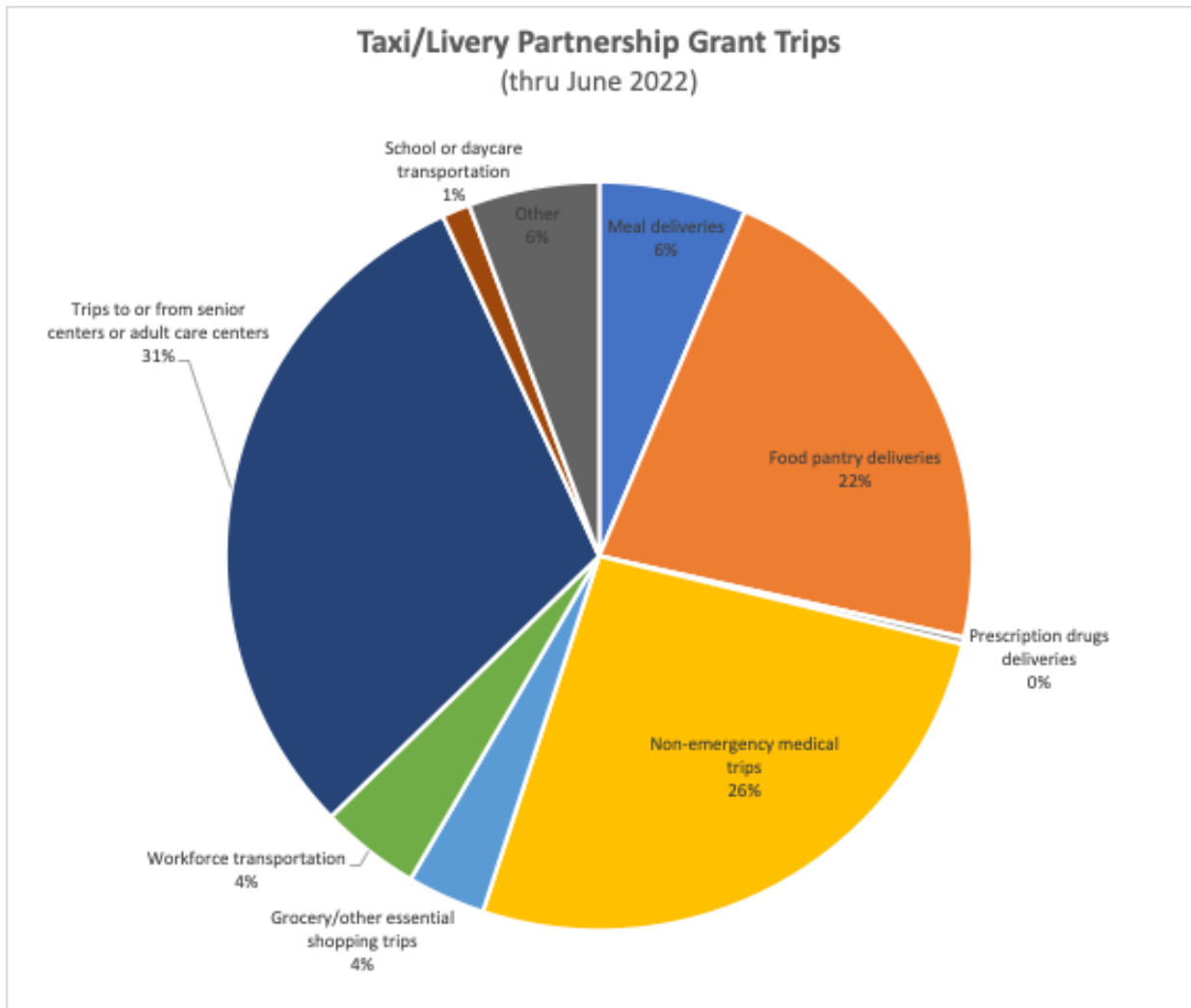
MAPC completed its role facilitating the Taxi, Livery, and Hackney Transportation Partnerships Grant Program in October, while all grantees finished their programs in June. Although the program was designed pre-COVID to help the taxi industry compete with TNCs such as Uber and Lyft, the program became a crucial COVID-response tool for our grantees throughout the state.

MAPC administered two grant rounds for the taxi program with 25 grantees in the first round, and 46 grantees in the second round. Combined, the program facilitated over 130,000 trips and deliveries of essential goods to people throughout the Commonwealth.

Below is the breakdown of trips and deliveries the two grant rounds facilitated. The first grant round (Urgent program, 2020-2021) was restricted to essential trips and deliveries of essential goods for the state's most vulnerable residents. The second grant round (2021-2022) was not restricted but continued to provide trips and deliveries for essential services and goods. Through both grant rounds, the highest needs were for trips to non-emergency medical services, and food access.



Support for the program was high from both grantees and taxi companies. Ninety-five percent of grantees in the first and second grant rounds reported they were "extremely satisfied" with the program. Eighty-eight percent of taxi companies that responded to our business survey in the first grant round reported they were "extremely satisfied," as well as 76% in the second grant round.



Revised MBTA Bus Network Redesign Map

On October 27, the MBTA released a revised map for its proposed Bus Network Redesign (BNRD). MAPC continues to support the MBTA's efforts to reimagine the bus network in response to shifting demographics, emerging employment districts, increasing traffic congestion, and changing travel patterns. The centerpiece of the BNRD is a 25% service increase across the entire bus network – including a doubling from 15 to 30 of the number of high-frequency corridors with buses running every 15 minutes or better, all day, 7 days a week.

The revised bus network map reflects an huge amount of public feedback, with the T receiving over 20,000 comments on its draft network map released in May 2022. MAPC appreciates the thoughtful engagement from many municipalities and advocacy groups throughout the BNRD process. MAPC raised awareness about the BNRD by supporting a briefing for state legislators in November 2021, by inviting MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak to present at a Metro Mayors Coalition meeting in April 2022, and by disseminating information about the BNRD to MAPC subregions.

The revised network map makes changes to over two-thirds of the bus routes from the May draft proposal, while still maintaining the overall 25 percent service increase. The MBTA board will take an

initial vote on the revised map on November 17, with a final vote expected in December after the MBTA hosts a public meeting on a forthcoming equity analysis for the project. Once the BNRD is approved, implementation of the new bus network will begin in summer 2023 and continue in phases through 2028.

MAPC will continue working with state and local partners to ensure that the ambitious goals of BNRD become a reality. These efforts will include collaborating with cities and towns to implement high-quality bus priority infrastructure (including dedicated bus lanes), as well as advocating for MBTA workforce training, operational improvements, and funding to enhance bus service.

Moving Together 2022 Conference

On November 1, MAPC Transportation staff Eric Bourassa, David Loutzenheiser, and Adi Nochur attended the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) Moving Together conference in downtown Boston. This annual conference brings together agencies, municipalities, and advocates from across the state and beyond to explore topics related to walking, biking, and public transit. The 2022 edition of Moving Together marked a return to gathering in person since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing over 1,000 people to the Park Plaza Hotel and several hundred more online.

MAPC Transportation Director Eric Bourassa presented on MAPC's MetroCommon 2050 plan as part of a conference session on "The Importance of Long-Range Planning." Keynote speaker Ken McLeod, Policy Director for the League of American Bicyclists, highlighted the League's 2022 ranking of Massachusetts as the most Bicycle Friendly State in the country – another testament to the great work that MAPC and its partners in Greater Boston and beyond have done to improve local and regional biking conditions.

Southern New England American Planning Association Conference

On October 6, transportation staffers Alison Felix and Travis Pollack presented new research on the use of apps to order meals from restaurants, items from convenience stores, and same-day packages from e-commerce at a session entitled, *Managing the Curb - "Delivering" Efficiency for Deliveries and Multimodal Access* at the Southern New England American Planning Association Conference. MAPC's research suggests that the number of food deliveries may equal the number of ride-hailing trips, with similar impacts on streets. To manage the growth and impacts of these deliveries sustainably, both the public and private sectors can collaborate in areas such as data sharing, incentives for efficient delivery methods, and better curb management, minimizing impacts on small businesses and encouraging non-auto deliveries (e.g., bicycles). A report summarizing this research will be released by year's end.

Northern Strand Trail Ribbon Cutting

The official ribbon cutting of the Northern Strand Trail extension was held on October 26 in Saugus. Despite a drenching rain, chief executives assembled from Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, and Lynn to celebrate this key upgrade and extension the trail. The Northern Strand is a critical part of the LandLine network, as well as the East Coast Greenway and the Border to Boston trail that will extend eventually to New Hampshire and beyond. MAPC has supported the planning for this project for many years.

Chelsea Road Safety Audit

MAPC participated in a road safety audit (RSA) held in downtown Chelsea on October 12, led by the engineering firm TEC. The RSA is done in advance of a project to identify key safety issues with roadways. The streets assessed were Hawthorne, Park, and Pearl Streets. Though streets are generally narrow in Chelsea, there were ample areas, particularly at intersections where improvements could be made to better channelize traffic, narrow pedestrian crossings, and slow traffic. MAPC noted these potential solutions in the RSA.

New Staff

Amanda Belles has joined MAPC as the new Digital Media & Marketing Specialist in the Communications Department. She brings an experienced marketing communications lens to the agency, supporting our social media strategy, audience engagement, digital outreach, internal and external brand alignment, and our upcoming website redesign. Born and raised in Colorado, she has a BA in Political Science from Colorado State University and a Master's in Political Science with an emphasis in Politics and Public Policy from the University of Colorado Denver. Prior to joining MAPC, Amanda worked at Second Nature in Cambridge, leading climate policy communications and overseeing marketing campaigns and partnerships. She is a passionate disability rights advocate who serves on the Malden Disability Commission, representing that group on the Wellington Circle Study alongside commissioners from Medford, Somerville, and Revere.

Krishna Bhola has joined MAPC as the new Operations Manager. Krishna comes to MAPC with over 20 years of operations management of building systems, contract negotiation and oversight, lease management and administration, front office management, office space design, maintenance systems, and team management. Most recently, Krishna owned and operated his own construction company, but he has also worked for the Hilderbrand Family Self-Help Center and Phillips Hospitality.

Stephen Larrick has joined our Data Services Department as the new Digital Services Manager. His ten years of experience include time spent as the Planning Director in Central Falls, Rhode Island; at the start-up technology firm State; and at the Sunlight Foundation, a non-profit focused on government transparency and open data. At MAPC, Stephen will be overseeing the Digital team working on new web applications as well as the digital equity.

Lindsay Randall has joined the Arts and Culture Department as our new Regional Humanities Specialist. Her portfolio will include historic and cultural resources planning with an emphasis on expanding inclusive and equitable history, heritage, and culture, supporting commemorative arts initiatives and projects with interpretive storytelling components, developing inclusive tourism and cultural planning practices, and developing storytelling as a strategy for equitable planning. Lindsay brings over 14 years of experience in humanities and engagement. As an educator, museum administrator, and non-profit board member, Lindsay has designed and managed an array of multi-year projects and budgets while overseeing culturally diverse, cross-functional teams. She also brings expertise in historic preservation, heritage tourism, and community development through creative engagement.

Tanaya Tonpay has joined our Public Health Department as the new Public Health & Climate Planner. Her work will include the COVID-safe Cooling project and several MVP projects that are focused on climate resiliency and environmental justice communities. Tanaya comes to us from Johns Hopkins University, where she was a research assistant working on maternal and child health issues influenced by environmental exposures and health determinants. She also brings project and research experience related to contamination from superfund sites, disaster preparedness and recovery, and climate impacts on vulnerable communities. Prior to her more recent work, Tanaya was a Community Health Worker in India, where she worked directly with residents on health screenings, contributed to public health communication campaigns, and used street performances to raise awareness.

Sarai Zelada has joined our Public Health Department as the new Public Health Planner. She has recently completed a Masters' Degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a Graduate Certificate in Healthy Cities at the University of Michigan. Her concentration in healthy cities focused on the interdisciplinary relationships that link policymaking, health science, and spatial planning to promote public health in urban environments. Sarai joins us with several experiences in organizational DEI efforts and serves on the boards of Lynn Main Streets and Lynn Grows.