



FY24 MetroWest Regional Collaborative Special Assessment Projects for Consideration

As of February 9, 2024 MWRC has \$34,454 of unallocated special assessment funding from previous fiscal years and FY24. Annually, the Collaborative collects approximately \$38,000 from member communities through a per population charge.

If both projects below are adopted as proposed, the Collaborative would have \$21,454 in unallocated funds from past years to carry forward.

Housing Data

MWRC Request	\$3,000
Other funding secured	MAGIC Subregion funding requested; MAPC Special Assessment funding
Communities Committed (100% MWRC members) plus MAGIC Communities	All MetroWest Regional Collaborative Communities plus MAGIC communities (Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, and Sudbury)

Data Services staff at MAPC will assemble municipal and subregion-level housing data from the U.S. Census Bureau, EOHL, and private sources to illustrate characteristics of people living in communities in the MAPC region and the housing market generally. MAPC will analyze home sales at the same levels of geography to understand the fiscal implications of levying a transfer fee (in accordance with the outline for a transfer fee included in state level legislation). Additionally, to follow up on MAPC's "Homes for Profit" report, MAPC staff will put together information about the types of home buyers and sellers, how they are paying for properties, and how home prices and rents are affected by investor purchases in the MAPC subregions.

The data collection and analysis will provide municipal planning and development staff with an image of the people living in their municipalities and their housing status and needs. Cognizant of the current conditions of their municipality's residents, municipal housing staff and elected officials can make more informed decisions about policy, zoning, and development. While the data analysis is not specific to MBTA Communities/3A, the analysis will provide an idea of what the status quo zoning and development has helped create in communities. The data should help define how changes to the typical structures of development will produce different outcomes, including potentially lowering housing costs, building a sense of place, and access to goods/services/jobs in denser areas of their towns.

The deliverable will be a hard copy pamphlet of the data and analysis for each attendee at the legislative breakfast. The information may be digitized if this is of interest to subregion members.



MetroWest Trails and Greenways

MWRC Request	\$10,000
Other funding secured	Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) funds for trail work in the MAPC region
Communities Committed (100% MWRC members)	All MetroWest Regional Collaborative Communities , plus Hopkinton

The tasks below summarize MAPC’s proposed work in 2024 with regards to trails and greenways planning within the MetroWest communities. Along with the MetroWest communities, Hopkinton (specific to one trail) will be engaged in this process.

Task 1 – MW Trail focused meetings. During 2024, up to three trail focused meetings will be held, as well as the annual summit. The trail focused meetings to occur separate from regular MW meetings. The budget currently allows for specific trail projects in two communities.

Place based focused meetings, with deep dive discussion on scoping, planning or implementation of priority projects on two of the below plus the annual trail summit.

- Framingham focus – recap of the fall trail summit progress toward next steps on a number of projects
- Ashland Upper Charles Trail – work toward revisioning the Upper Charles Trail
- Southborough and Marlborough – focus developing a Greenway corridor to connect the Assabet and Open Channel Trails
- Aqueduct Trail Network – focus on completing the last remaining sections, and identify challenges and opportunities
- *Annual trail summit* focusing on information sharing and an outdoor walk. Target locations – Marlborough, Southborough, or Ashland

Task 2 – Project Tracking and Mapping. Trail projects in the MW region have been identified in the [MW Project Spreadsheet](#). The spreadsheet identifies projects in each of the MW communities, and indicates whether a MassDOT project, or located in an environmental justice block group. Key tasks are to contact each community and update the project sheet.

Task 3 – Priority Project Deep Dives. Corridor specific meetings will held with no more than two of the communities below to brainstorm ideas, develops specific tasks, track progress and identify next steps.



Framingham

A continuous north south greenway corridor between the Bruce Freeman and Sherborn is desired. This corridor would connect to Framingham Centre, MBTA station, Framingham State Univ, and several residential neighborhoods. Framingham is currently focused on the Chris Walsh Trail, which is adjacent to Farm Pond. The City is also planning to work with MassDOT to engage with CSX to identify a trail ROW into Sherborn.

Additional work that can be the focus of Metrowest in Framingham include connection between the Bruce Freeman and Chris Walsh Trail, and opening the remaining permitted aqueduct corridors in South Framingham and adjacent to Callahan State Park.

Ashland

The Ashland Selectboard has expressed a commitment to move forward with implementation of the Upper Charles Trail that would connect Sherborn and Hopkinton via downtown Ashland and the MBTA station. A few sections have been implemented however the proposed alignment identified in the feasibility study requires some revisioning. MAPC has engaged with the Town to identify a revised corridor for the Trail. Several sections are being reviewed by the Town, with a revisitation proposed in the next months.

Marlborough and Southborough

Marlborough has the Assabet trail that runs north from downtown. Southborough has the open channel trail which is not accessible. The desire is to connect downtown Marlborough and Southborough with the MBTA commuter rail station, and Hopkinton State Park. Connecting with the communities will identify the priorities in this area.

Aqueduct Trails

The aqueduct trail network is close to completion. However, there are still a few segments that have not yet been opened to the public, or designated by the communities. This task will focus on work to complete the last segments of the network.