



FY24 MetroWest Regional Collaborative Special Assessment Projects for Consideration

As of November 8, 2023 MWRC has \$76,592.63 of unallocated special assessment funding from the current and previous fiscal years. Annually, the Collaborative collects approximately \$38,000 from member communities through a per population charge.

If the projects below are adopted as proposed, the Collaborative would have \$40,592.63 in unallocated funds from past years to carry forward.

Regional School Fleet Electrification in MetroWest

MWRC Request	\$18,500
Other funding secured	\$26,500 District Local Technical Assistance and Augmentation Funds \$10,000 PMTA
Communities Committed (50% MWRC members)	The MetroWest school districts of Acton-Boxborough Regional, Ashland , Concord/Concord-Carlisle, Dedham, Dover and Sherborn, Framingham , Harvard, Holliston , Hopkinton, Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough , Medfield, Millis, Natick , Needham (Lead Municipality), Northborough and Southborough, Wayland, Wellesley, Weston , Westwood

School departments will lead the project, in collaboration with a range of municipal officials and groups including sustainability staff, public works departments, municipal finance departments and related elected/appointed officials. The project will study pathways to electrification of school transportation in each community with consideration of opportunities for funding and regional collaboration. The aim is a study that results in recommended strategies and considers financial, operational/logistical, political and equitable access implications. This report aims to position communities to be able to apply for anticipated state and federal funding.

Each school district has an administrator to support the project and some, though not all, also have sustainability related staff that can also support. All participating districts are also members of Accept Collaborative which partners on transportation for special education students.

The project addresses several community needs: reducing GHG emissions and improving air quality, reducing noise pollution in the community, diminishing racial and social disparities by providing equal access to clean and safe transportation for all students.



MetroWest Climate Equity – Climate Readiness for Environmental Justice Populations

MWRC Request	\$12,500
Other funding secured	\$7,500 District Local Technical Assistance Funds National Association of City and County Health Officials Climate Change Grant
Communities Committed (100% MWRC members)	Ashland, Framingham, Natick

A recommendation from the MetroWest Climate Equity Project from 2021-2022*, this project will offer technical assistance to create and disseminate climate readiness materials for MetroWest Environmental Justice neighborhoods.

Through the project, MAPC will convene and facilitate workshops with the municipalities and community climate liaisons to develop communication materials and a dissemination plan. Materials will be translated in Portuguese and Spanish to meet the local language needs and could include items such as postcards, magnets, website pages and information about topics such as cooling/heating centers and emergency alerts. The project is being co-led by residents living in EJ communities.

Staff from each of the communities have a demonstrated commitment to carrying the work forward through this project. There is also interest in continuing to connect with other municipal and community partners about the work. This could include additional conversations about the work with the Collaborative in the coming year.

*The aim of the 2022 project was to learn how MetroWest EJ communities experience climate change and to seek changes to conditions that affect their climate resiliency. A central component of the work was the partnership with Community Climate liaisons which centered the voices of environmental justice communities.

Regional Trails Creative Placemaking Strategy project

MWRC Request	\$5,000
Other funding secured	\$5,000 MAGIC special assessment funds
Communities Committed (50% MWRC members)	Holliston, Acton

The [Regional Trails Creative Placemaking Strategy](#) project sponsored by the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) and MetroWest Regional Collaborative (MWRC) subregions whose goals are to use creative placemaking and art to strengthen connections between trails and downtown centers while promoting equitable public spaces, as well as



identifying areas for inclusive signage and wayfinding and using arts and culture for larger community revitalization efforts.

The project deliverables include data and spatial analysis; creative placemaking workshops in Acton and Holliston; technical assistance and funding to develop a Call for Temporary Public Art; a Demonstration and Celebration of the selected Temporary Public Art; and a Regional Trails Creative Placemaking Strategy Report. This report will be sent to and will benefit all MWRC member communities, as it will include strategies for using creative placemaking to better connect trails to commercial centers.