



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

To: Ms. Elaine Wijnja, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC)

From: Gloria Huangpu, Technical Assistance Program Coordinator, MAPC

Date: July 22, 2024

Re: District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)
2024 Report to the General Court

This memo constitutes the 2024 MAPC Mid-Year report on DLTA projects and activities for briefing the Massachusetts General Court.

The total funds available to MAPC cities and towns for DLTA projects during 2024 is \$712,086, which consists of \$647,351 in state funds and a \$64,735 MAPC match. Thus far, these funds are enabling MAPC to undertake a total of 44 projects with our member municipalities, as outlined below. Note that MAPC has also extended the influence of the DLTA funds by making some allocations to projects that have additional funds (e.g., municipal funds, MAPC member assessment funds, MAPC transportation funds, Community Compact grants, EEA grants, etc.), but need the DLTA funds to complete their full proposed project. In total, as can be seen in the information below where additional budget information is accessible, over \$1,089,000 of non-DLTA funds are associated with these projects, representing a significant increase over the DLTA and MAPC match funds allocated.

Every year, a project solicitation memo from Marc Draisen, MAPC's Executive Director, is sent to the MAPC communities, which encourages communities to submit proposals for DLTA funding. This same memo outlines the criteria by which MAPC would make decisions related to funding of projects, which include a) the Supporting the Community Compact including Regionalization; Planning Ahead for Housing (including Supporting the MBTA Communities); Planning Ahead for Growth; and Supporting the Housing Choice Initiative categories outlined in the contract between MAPC and the state, and b) the priorities from MAPC's Regional Plan, *MetroCommon2050*.

The following is a list of MAPC's projects that are funded fully or partly using DLTA funds provided by EOHLC.



Boston: Chinatown Cultural Plan - DLTA \$8,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$65,806. The Boston Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture (MOAC) has engaged MAPC to provide technical assistance towards the creation and publication of a Chinatown Cultural Plan as an addendum to the 2020 Chinatown Master Plan. In addition to DLTA 2024, this project has received funding from the Barr Foundation and DLTA 2022. This project was created in partnership with the Asian Community Development Corporation, Chinatown Community Land Trust, Pao Arts Center and Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy. The plan will be anchored by a collective vision that identifies the culture, history and heritage of Boston Chinatown with a policy agenda that links to the 2020 Master Plan's goals for housing, mobility, health, environmental justice and open space.

Boxborough: Section 3A Compliance - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$82,000. Boxborough is working with MAPC to meet Section 3A compliance through data analysis, drafting of zoning, and community engagement. MAPC leveraged DLTA funds as a match to help Boxborough secure Community One-Stop for Growth grant funds (pending award decision).

Cambridge: Active Living Assessment - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$49,000. This multi-year collaboration between MAPC's Public Health Department and the City of Cambridge has resulted in a Physical Activity Assessment that documents programs, spaces, and infrastructure for physical activity in the City. In 2024, the project team will focus on completing the assessment and implementing recommendations to reduce barriers to physical activity in the city, especially for those who may experience linguistic, physical, or economic barriers.

Chelsea: Food Systems Planning - DLTA \$10,000. MAPC is working with stakeholders from various sectors across the food system in Chelsea to design a peer learning program to advance food justice policies and programs in the region.

Cohasset: Resilient Zoning - DLTA \$12,500. MAPC staff are providing technical assistance to update Cohasset's Floodplain and Watershed Protection bylaw, to ensure they are consistent with the state model and the Town's current context. These updates will ensure that the Town remains in compliance with updated FEMA floodplains and continues developing in alignment with environmental planning best practices.

Dedham: Formalizing Human Services - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$25,000. This multi-year project was previously funded through DLTA 2023 and is continuing to receive funding from DLTA 2024. In this year's work, the team is convening a more formal working group of municipal and community stakeholders dedicated to providing social services in Dedham. The project is also anticipated to include potential for replicating or scaling aspects of the model to other local health departments that are in the shared public health service group as Dedham.



Duxbury: Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance and Open Space Residential Development Bylaw Updates - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$53,000. MAPC is working with Duxbury to update their Open Space and Residential Development and Inclusionary Zoning bylaws. In addition to DLTA, this project is funded by an EEA grant.

Essex: Housing Production Plan - DLTA \$5,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$70,000 This project is primarily funded through municipal affordable housing trust funds. DLTA 2024 funding will allow the team to complete additional community engagement and analysis.

Essex: Zoning Bylaw Update - DLTA \$3,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$100,000. MAPC is supporting the Town of Essex by preparing a report recommending zoning bylaw updates. As a result, seven articles based on the zoning recommendations were placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. This project received previous MAPC technical assistance funds and a Community One-Stop for Growth state planning grant, and this small allocation of 2024 DLTA funding allowed for completion of the work.

Everett: Electrify Everett - DLTA \$30,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$40,000. The Electrify Everett program seeks to encourage the installation of energy efficiency, weatherization, and heat pump measures in residential buildings, with a focus on the Justice40 census tract 3425. MAPC staff are working closely with the City of Everett and its Electrify Everett partners (e.g. La Comunidad, Everett Community Growers, Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts, Neighborhood Developers, Eliot Family Resource Center, National Grid) to develop a timely and complete Buildings Up Phase 2 submission and to ensure the successful launch of the Electrify Everett program.

Everett: Housing Production Plan - DLTA \$19,500. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$80,000. The Everett HPP was initially funded through DLTA 2023 and is continuing to receive funding to complete activities through DLTA 2024. Everett also used CDBG funding to support this planning effort. MAPC's team has conducted extensive community engagement with residents and community-based organizations in Everett, leading to a set of draft goals and strategies to encourage the production of affordable housing in the City.

Framingham, Ashland, Natick, Holliston: Citizen Heat Mapping Project - DLTA \$7,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$16,200. This project was previously funded through DLTA 2023 and is continuing to receive funding to complete activities through DLTA 2024. Funded in part through a NOAA Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign grant, this collaboration between Framingham, Ashland, Natick, and Holliston and Framingham State University has resulted in the development of a mapping tool that displays local data on heat vulnerability and air quality. The 2024 DLTA funding is supporting the project team to share



the tool across these communities and explore opportunities to apply the results to furthering resilience measures in the face of extreme heat.

Framingham: Framingham Facilities Creative Placemaking - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$70,000. This comprehensive planning process is centered on spaces located in and adjacent to Framingham's vibrant and diverse downtown neighborhoods, within a corridor that encompasses Framingham City Hall and the City's new Community Center. This is an opportunity to bring cultural facilities and creative placemaking planning to a city where it can be applied with an explicit equity lens to integrate the needs and identities of the Brazilian community.

Gloucester: Climate Resiliency Assessment - DLTA \$14,500. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$33,000. This project was initially funded through DLTA 2023 and has been completed with the support of DLTA 2024. MAPC developed a database of resilience strategies for the coastal community of Gloucester by inventorying strategies identified in a number of Gloucester's plans and studies. The team also interviewed key municipal staff and conducted public engagement for further input. The database includes over 100 strategies organized by topic area, location, department lead, and status, as well as a summary of key statistics from the database in a digestible fact sheet.

Hudson, Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Holliston, Maynard, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick: Climate Hazards Roundtable - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$50,000. Municipalities in the MetroWest region sought support from MAPC to plan, coordinate, and implement resilience measures against climate hazards, such as extreme heat and flooding. The project team believes that working at a regional level is necessary to avoid worsening outcomes and seeks to build cross-sector capacity through the Climate Hazards Roundtable.

Ipswich: 3A Zoning and Adoption - DLTA \$11,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$115,000. This project was previously funded through DLTA 2023 and through state grants from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership and Community One-Stop for Growth programs. This project is continuing to receive funding to complete activities through DLTA 2024. MAPC is providing technical assistance to help the town prepare 3A-compliant zoning for consideration at Town Meeting ahead of the 12/31/2024 deadline. The Town is also including affordability requirements, so project funding is allowing MAPC to conduct economic feasibility testing.

Lynn: Lynn Grows Food Justice Initiative - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$131,000. Lynn is working with MAPC on both a Community Health Assessment and a Community Food Assessment and Plan (CFAP). The CFAP assesses current conditions of food systems in the City and will make recommendations to the new Lynn Food Policy Council to address local food insecurity.



Lynn: Mass care and shelter coordination plan update and exercise - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$30,000. Lynn is reviewing its current mass care and shelter coordination plan. As part of this update, MAPC is developing a workshop to test the plan and the final step will be conducting a shelter activation and set up drill.

Lynnfield: Visioning Plan - DLTA \$2,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$70,000. Initially funded through DLTA 2023 and a Community Compact grant, the Lynnfield Visioning Plan has been completed through the support of DLTA 2024. In the first year of the project, MAPC helped the town develop a vision to guide their master plan update. In 2024, MAPC completed the visioning plan, which was shared with community stakeholders for feedback and review before being approved by the Planning Board.

Malden: OSRP - DLTA \$13,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$33,000. The City of Malden has engaged MAPC for technical assistance to develop and write a new Open Space and Recreation Plan. The City's desire to focus on public art in their open spaces has led to the MAPC Arts & Culture Department taking a lead on the project, with Land Use and Community Engagement staff also involved.

Manchester: Emergency Preparedness - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$25,000. This project was initially funded through DLTA 2023 as a phased process to establish a regional approach to better emergency planning efforts pertaining to major storm events and other disasters. In the second year of work, the project is undertaking its second phase with a focus on partnering with neighboring communities along the North Shore interested in a regional approach that to emergency management procedures like sheltering, distribution, and public education.

MAPC Region: 3A TA - Commuter Rail / Adjacent Communities - DLTA \$20,000. As commuter rail and adjacent communities must comply with 3A this year, this funding will allow MAPC to provide ad hoc 3A TA to communities as they run compliance models, write zoning, prepare for adoption, and submit post-adoption compliance applications.

MAPC Region: Affordable Housing TA (Inner Core, NSPC, NSTF) - DLTA \$20,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$30,000. This is a multi-municipal effort to expand local capacity for administering Local Action Units and maintaining subsidized housing units. The project will be done in phases, with phase I equipping cities and towns with policy and procedures to respond to annual rent increases and prevent displacement. The project will result in an Affordable Housing Toolkit to build local capacity and explore regional housing shared services.

MAPC Region: DEI Coalition - DLTA \$20,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$72,000. MAPC facilitates the Massachusetts Municipal DEI Coalition, a group of professional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practitioners employed by cities and towns. This is a group of professional DEI practitioners in the local MA



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government space that share experiences, compare best practices, and support each other through common challenges. At bi-monthly meetings, group members share experiences, compare best practices, and support each other through common challenges. In addition to hosting these conversations, the group created a guide for fellow municipal DEI employees, identifying potential partnership opportunities, and advocating for resources and support at the state level. In 2024, the DEI Coalition is updating its municipal DEI guide and continuing to formalize a governance structure to ensure sustained efforts.

MAPC Region: Local Public Health Collaboration - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$52,500. This multi-year collaborative workstream has built up local capacity for planning and implementing public health initiatives in the MAPC region. This year's focus will be on behavioral health and opioid settlement funding.

MAPC Region: Metro Mayors Climate Task Force - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$25,000. This project was previously funded through DLTA 2023 and is continuing to receive funding through DLTA 2024 to support the continuation of the Metro Mayors Climate Task Force. In 2024, the Task Force has convened to share knowledge and resources on social resilience, with a focus on resilience hubs and community liaison programs. The Task Force is also kickstarting a strategic planning process to guide the group's work together in the future.

MAPC Region: Metro Mayors Housing Task Force - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$50,000. The Metro Mayors Housing Task Force is a multi-year convening of municipalities dedicated to working regionally toward housing goals. The Task force has received DLTA funding in previous years. This year's DLTA 2024 funding will support the group to collect and analysis data to assess progress toward housing production goals, as well as discuss the impacts of the landmark Affordable Homes Act.

MAPC Region: South Shore Recycling Collaborative Hazardous Waste Facility Buildout - DLTA \$20,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$30,000. Municipalities working with the South Shore Recycling Collaborative sought support from MAPC for project management and technical assistance related to procurement. Through this work, a facility will be constructed that will give 400,000+ residents and business owners on the South Shore the ability, throughout the year, to properly and conveniently dispose of hazardous materials.

Marblehead, Salem: Navigating the Nexus of Historic Preservation and Green Energy - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$25,000. The Town of Marblehead seeks to develop guidelines for clean energy initiatives in its Old and Historic Districts. The primary objective of this project is to offer a balanced approach that increases environmental sustainability while also preserving the area's historical significance. The guidelines will provide a roadmap for the community to embrace clean energy solutions. To achieve this, the project will focus on developing practical and context-sensitive recommendations that



align with the town's conservation goals and preservation priorities. The guidelines will help property owners implement clean energy technologies such as solar panels, geothermal systems, and energy-efficient windows, etc. This approach aims to reduce uncertainty and streamline the approval process. The anticipated impact of these guidelines includes enhanced energy efficiency and reduced carbon footprint.

Maynard: Fowler School Reuse Study - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$38,000. This project was initially funded through DLTA 2023 and is receiving DLTA 2024 funding to complete planning activities. In 2024, MAPC has supported the Town in engaging community stakeholders on redeveloping the former Fowler School building. The school, sited on two acres, is no longer habitable and requires many building improvements to meet the current safety standards. This project has been completed, with MAPC providing five development scenarios to guide the Maynard Select Board in issuing an RFP for redeveloping the site.

Medford: Emergency Management Program Development Phase 2 - DLTA \$20,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$35,000. Medford is continuing to work with MAPC to continue growing and evolving their Emergency Management Program. In the next phase of the work, MAPC is supporting the City to identify neighboring cities and towns for collaboration and regionalization of emergency shelter and mass care operations

Milford: Comprehensive Plan - DLTA \$50,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$160,000. Milford is developing a community-driven comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the Town. An interdisciplinary planning team is supporting the community to develop this plan.

Milton, Walpole, Norwood: TRIC Expanding Language Access - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$30,000. MAPC is supporting communities in the TRIC Subregion to develop a Language Access Plan that would not only analyze data on language needs, but also embedding interpretation and translation processes in how they support their communities.

Natick, Framingham, Ashland: Metrowest Climate Equity Outreach - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$30,000. The MetroWest Climate Equity Project is a long-term collaboration between MAPC, Framingham, Natick, and Ashland to highlight the intersection between inequities in climate and public health. In 2024, work on this initiative will focus on the impacts of climate change on older adults in communities of color. In addition to DLTA funds, the work will be supported by an AgeSpan grant.

Norwood: Norwood Resilient Regulations - DLTA \$20,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$35,000. This project involves reviewing and suggesting edits for climate resiliency to Norwood's Subdivision Rules and Regulations, and potentially other Town bylaws.



Randolph, Arlington, Beverly, Danvers: Regional Community Interpreter - DLTA \$10,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$25,000. This project seeks to train community-based interpreters who can provide culturally and locally relevant interpretation at public meetings and municipal events. This project is taking place in partnership with the municipalities of Arlington, Beverly, Danvers, and Randolph, as well as community organizations like Quincy Asian Resources and Embracing Culture (an organization that provides Community Interpreter Trainings).

Somerville: Commercial Tenant Rights and CLT Research - DLTA \$6,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$51,000. Somerville is working with MAPC to help prevent commercial displacement of Somerville's small businesses, funded in part through a Community One-Stop grant. DLTA 2024 funding will extend staff's capacity for this work to include a commercial tenant rights training that will ensure business owners know their rights under local and state law. The MAPC team will also conduct research on the feasibility of a Commercial Community Land Trust to promote increased property ownership by small business owners.

Somerville: Sustainable Development Code - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$25,000. Somerville requested MAPC to support updating the City's zoning ordinance in follow-up to adopting the Specialized Energy Code. In 2023, the City of Somerville became one of the first municipalities in the state to adopt the Specialized Energy Code, a building energy code that impacts energy efficiency and onsite renewable energy requirements for residential and commercial building projects, including new construction, alterations, and renovations. City staff have subsequently found that many of the sustainable development requirements currently in the City's zoning ordinance and municipal code must be updated to ensure that they do not conflict with state regulations. MAPC staff from the Land Use and Clean Energy teams will be working with the City on these updates.

Stoughton: Stoughton CAP - DLTA \$20,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$90,000. The Town of Stoughton requested support from MAPC to develop a climate action plan to advance its climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, social resilience, and infrastructural resilience projects. This project is pending funding from an EEA grant to supplement DLTA 2024 funding to support more extensive community engagement work.

Swampscott: Grant Match - Comprehensive Plan - DLTA \$15,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$160,000. Swampscott is in the process of updating its Master Plan with support from MAPC. This 2024 DLTA funding serves as a grant match to the One-Stop Grant that the town has received from EOHLIC.

Swampscott: Swampscott Hazard Mitigation Plan - DLTA \$5,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$25,000. Swampscott received grant funding to develop their updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Recognizing they were facing a budget shortfall, this small DLTA budget will ensure the project team can complete the project with comprehensive analyses and engagement.



Topsfield: Topsfield Stormwater and Floodplain Bylaw - DLTA \$20,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$30,000. Topsfield is requesting technical assistance from MAPC to help in identifying necessary changes to their local Stormwater and Erosion Control and Floodplain bylaws. These changes would ensure the town remains in compliance with the state's most recent MS4 regulations (and the EPA Clean Water Act) and the new Floodplain Model Bylaw (for compliance with FEMA and the NFIP).

Watertown: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment - DLTA \$8,000. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$28,000. Watertown is seeking MAPC's support to develop a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment, a recommendation from their 2022 Climate and Energy Plan. The Assessment will identify ways to enhance community resilience in the face of climate change impacts.

Weymouth, Milton, Randolph: Blue Hills Mass in Motion Food Survey - DLTA \$2,500. Total budget all sources (approx.) \$12,500. The Towns of Weymouth, Randolph, and Milton are seeking technical assistance from MAPC to conduct a food survey. The results of this survey will help the Towns' Mass in Motion program coordinators understand availability and access to food in the region, particularly for historically marginalized groups.