



North Shore Task Force

Identifying Transportation Needs, Construction Projects,
and Studies in Your Subregion

FALL 2024



Beverly • Danvers • Essex • Gloucester • Hamilton • Ipswich • Manchester-by-the-Sea • Marblehead • Middleton • Nahant • Peabody • Rockport
Salem • Swampscott • Topsfield • Wenham

What Transportation Needs did the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Identify in North Shore Task Force (NSTF) Communities?

The [Boston Region MPO](#), which is responsible for allocating federal funds to transportation projects and planning for the Boston region's transportation future, conducted an assessment of transportation needs in the Boston region to inform the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), [Destination 2050](#). The LRTP and Needs Assessment inform the MPO's planning and policy work and guide the MPO's investments in transportation infrastructure projects each year through its rolling capital plan, the [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#).

The following information highlights transportation needs identified in the NSTF subregion based on MPO staff's analyses and past engagement with NSTF communities. This booklet also contains a list of NSTF projects currently programmed in the TIP.

Transportation Needs Identified in the LRTP Needs Assessment

The MPO identified transportation needs throughout the Boston region during the development of the *Destination 2050* LRTP through public engagement and data analyses conducted between 2019 and 2022. These needs are documented in the [Destination 2050 Needs Assessment StoryMap collection](#). Key themes from the Needs Assessment are listed here by goal area. More information can be found at bostonmpo.org/lrtp or by clicking on each goal for a table with detailed needs and recommendations.



Safety



Mobility and Reliability



Access and Connectivity



Resiliency



Clean Air and Healthy Communities



Equity



Transportation Needs Identified through Public Engagement in the NSTF Subregion

The following comments were collected during MPO subregional engagement activities in the fall of 2023 and subsequent outreach.

Theme	Municipality	Specific Location	Comment
Safety	Beverly	Commuter Rail/Route 1A corridors/ intersections downtown	Poor bridge conditions
Land use	Beverly	Route 128 corridor	Insufficient access to developable commercial industrial land
Land use, connectivity	Danvers	Southeast part of town/ Route 128 corridor	Potential large development with only access to 128 for all car trips
Resilience, land use	Gloucester	Western Avenue area along waterfront	Low-lying commercial street. Also, publicly subsidizing container truck parking in what could be a more multimodal area
Resilience, connectivity	Gloucester	Route 128 corridor/ Commuter Rail corridor	Frequent flooding on low-lying 128 entering/leaving Gloucester. Inter-community bike trails along MBTA route would be awesome (perhaps unrealistic). State routes 133/127 usually inter-community bike routes but not protected.
Land use, connectivity, transit	Gloucester	Gloucester Commuter Rail station	Downtown train station not a real multimodal hub. Land use around station is suburbanized—large parking lots/single-use businesses—thus increasing runoff/car-dependency/limiting usefulness of downtown train station, etc
Connectivity, transit	Hamilton	Commuter Rail corridor (near Route 1A)	Last-mile connections from Commuter Rail needed

Theme	Municipality	Specific Location	Comment
Safety	Ipswich	Commuter Rail corridor (near Route 133)	Nonmotorized safety and access concern
Safety	Ipswich	Route 1A/133 intersection	Safety concern
Safety	Ipswich	Route 1A/133 intersection	Safety concern
Safety	Ipswich	Route 1A/Route 133 intersections	Safety concern
Resilience	Ipswich	Route 1A/Route 133 area	Existing bridge conditions and impact of sea level rise on bridges
Resilience	Ipswich	Ipswich River delta	Significant road flooding risks
Resilience, transit	Manchester-by-the-Sea	Commuter Rail corridor	Low-lying rail line is a resilience issue
Safety	Middleton	Middleton Square	Pedestrian safety concern
Safety	Middleton	Route 114	Sidewalk improvements needed/pedestrian safety concerns
Resilience, transit, connectivity	NSTF	NSTF subregion	Intraregional transit alternative to reduce auto dependence needed
Resilience, transit	NSTF	Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail corridor	Climate change and sea level rise concerns
Connectivity	NSTF	NSTF subregion	Bike routes between communities need to be promoted/developed
Transit, connectivity	NSTF	NSTF subregion	Need for high-volume/frequency transit options within highly trafficked residential and commercial zones across municipalities

Theme	Municipality	Specific Location	Comment
Transit, connectivity	NSTF	NSTF subregion	Expansion, future funding, of on-demand shuttle type service in North Shore
Equity	NSTF	NSTF subregion	Very few circumferential public transportation routes—disadvantage to low-income residents
Safety	Peabody	Route 128 South	Solar glare safety issues
Connectivity	Peabody	Route 1 corridor	East to West bike access needed
Resilience	Salem	Route 1A corridor/coastline	Development happening in areas vulnerable to flooding
Safety	Swampscott	Atlantic Avenue	Pedestrian safety and school crossings
Safety	Swampscott	Atlantic Avenue intersection	Safety concern
Safety	Swampscott	Stetson Avenue	Traffic calming needed
Resilience	Swampscott	Puritan Road/Jackson Park area	Roadway flooding on Puritan Road near Jackson Park
Safety	Swampscott, Lynn	Kings Beach at Monument Avenue	Pedestrian safety—crossing at Kings Beach at Monument Avenue safety issues
Resilience	Swampscott	Town Pier area	Rising sea levels and flooding at town pier in Swampscott
Resilience, transit	Wenham	Commuter Rail corridor	Rail electrification is a priority

MBTA = Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. NSTF = North Shore Task Force.



NSTF Projects Funded in the Federal Fiscal Years 2025–29 TIP

The MPO funds transportation projects that align with LRTP goals and addresses needs identified in the Needs Assessment and priorities identified by NSTF municipalities and other stakeholders through engagement. The following projects are currently programmed for MPO funding over the next five years. The MPO solicits new project applications each year and programs selected projects on the TIP on an annually rolling basis. You can find more information about the TIP and how to get a project in your community funded at bostonmpo.org/tip.

Project Number	Project	Category	Municipality	Fiscal Year(s) Programmed	Cost
S12124	Community Connections Program	Community Connections	Regionwide	2026–29	\$8,423,415
S12113	Transit Transformation Program	Transit Transformation	Regionwide	2026–29	\$23,000,000
S12820	Bikeshare Support Set-Aside	Community Connections	Regionwide	2026–29	\$7,000,000
S12968	CATA- Fare Upgrades for ADA and Dial-a-Ride Customers	Transit Transformation	Regionwide	2025	\$65,000
S12969	CATA - CATA Gloucester Facility Modernization	Transit Transformation	Regionwide	2025	\$1,293,000
S12970	CATA- Vehicle Replacement (4 Vehicles)	Transit Transformation	Regionwide	2025–26	\$2,460,000
610544	Peabody- Multi-Use Path Construction of Independence Greenway at I-95 and Route 1	Bicycle and Pedestrian	Peabody	2025	\$13,966,099

Project Number	Project	Category	Municipality	Fiscal Year(s) Programmed	Cost
609437	Salem-Peabody- Boston Street Improvements	Complete Streets	Salem, Peabody	2027	\$26,122,721
605743	Ipswich- Resurfacing and Related Work on Central & South Main Streets	Complete Streets	Ipswich	2027–28	\$11,728,698
610666	Swampscott- Rail Trail Construction	Bicycle and Pedestrian	Swampscott	2028	\$8,624,000
612738	Ipswich- Argilla Road Roadway Reconstruction	Complete Streets	Ipswich	2029	\$6,600,000

ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act. CATA = Cape Ann Transportation Authority.

TIP = Transportation Improvement Program.

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