

South Shore Coalition (SSC) FY2026 Revised Work Plan

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Note on Revision:

The FY26 SSC Work Plan was updated in July-August 2025 to reflect several changes. First, it incorporates more intentional one-on-one outreach with new municipal staff and community-based organizations (CBOs) to strengthen relationships and broaden participation. Second, the meeting cadence has shifted from monthly to a quarterly schedule. This adjustment is intended to make meetings more accessible for current and future members, while also allowing agendas to be more thoughtfully programmed, which we anticipate will help boost attendance and engagement. Finally, an additional activity has been introduced: regional data collection, to be hosted on the subregion's website, providing members with a shared resource for planning and decision-making.

1. Purpose of the Work Plan

The SSC FY2026 Work Plan sets forth the goals and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. It serves as a roadmap to:

- Identify and advance regional priorities and planning projects
- Support inter-municipal collaboration and local capacity
- Establish an inclusive meeting and engagement calendar
- Propose resource sharing and technical assistance opportunities
- Expand SSC's representation and leadership

This plan also offers the opportunity to revisit SSC's mission, update goals, and ensure alignment with regional and state priorities.

2. Overview of the Coalition

The South Shore Coalition is one of MAPC's eight subregions and includes communities along the South Shore. It consists of thirteen (13) communities: Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Rockland, Scituate and Weymouth, working collaboratively on regional issues.

Existing Structure:

- Mission and Goals
- Bylaws ([Link](#))

- Subregional Coordinator funded through UPWP and Assessment Funds

3. Mission and Goals

Mission: The South Shore Coalition promotes informed and active cooperation in planning for growth and preservation.

Goals: Plan for growth and preservation across South Shore communities

- Planning for growth and preservation of South Shore Communities
- Prioritizing Regional collaboration
- Pipeline for communication with state legislators
- Develop sustainable solutions for shared environmental challenges
- Data analysis in South Shore Communities and comparison to rest of state

4. Proposed Activities

A. Technical Assistance

Provide direct TA to communities on topics of interest including but not limited to housing, zoning and land use, emergency preparedness, climate and coastal resilience.

- Connect municipalities with MAPC experts and state/federal funding sources.
- Support municipalities with project ideation and project scoping.
- Coordinate across communities on applications for regional TAP or DLTA programs.

B. Meetings, and Engagements

- Topical meetings held on a near-quarterly basis (virtual or in-person)
- Legislative Breakfast (Annual) – Potentially in collaboration with OCPC.
- One on one meetings to broaden participation with CBOs and newer municipal staff.
- Conduct joint meetings with other subregions when opportunities arise.
- Peer exchange and resource sharing embedded in each meeting

C. Special Projects (proposed, or in development)

- **Exploring shared housing or planning services:** Members have expressed interest in exploring shared staff or service models to increase municipal capacity for housing and planning initiatives. This builds on past discussions around regional housing services offices and shared planning staff to help towns manage technical and administrative workloads more efficiently.
- **Regional wastewater and storm preparedness planning:** Given the subregions coastal geography and infrastructure constraints, members have identified wastewater management and climate resilience as recurring concerns. Building on past SSC conversations, a regional approach could help pursue multi-municipal funding opportunities.
- **Transportation planning advocacy:** SSC has frequently engaged with the MPO and MassDOT on transportation project priorities and TIP access. Continued advocacy ensures South Shore communities' needs are visible in regional planning processes, particularly for advancing stalled projects, improving transit options, and aligning with state transportation investments.

D. Data Bucket

As part of quarterly meetings, the SSC will include a standing activity focused on identifying and sharing regional data needs. The goal is to make data sharing and analysis a regular feature of SSC conversations, supporting evidence-based planning and strengthening cross-community learning. This will:

- Highlight what types of regional data could best support municipal planning and decision-making.
- Apply qualitative lens on top of data work to tell stories rather than statistics.
- Provide a channel for members to request specific information they would like to see collected, analyzed, or distributed to better meet SSC goals.
- Establish standing check-ins at quarterly meetings to review progress, surface new requests, and ensure data continues to meet municipal needs.
- Deliver on these requests by housing collected and curated data on the SSC subregion's webpage, creating a shared, accessible resource for all members.

5. Topics of Interest

Topics prioritized in FY2025 and reaffirmed for FY2026 include:

- Regional Water and Wastewater Planning
- Transportation related topics: priorities, advocacy, TIP pipelines, trails.
- Housing related topics of interest: ADUs, MBTA Communities Production Tracking, Affordable Housing Trusts, Shared Housing Services Office.
- Shared Services for Planning and Development
- Coastal Management and Climate Resiliency
- Industrial Land and Zoning
- Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation
- Public Health Infrastructure and Food Systems Planning
- Digital Equity and Technology in Planning
- Support for Immigrant Populations

6. Governance and Membership Development

In the new fiscal year, the coalition with aim to:

- Confirm and expand council representation from member communities.
- Conduct elections for Chair position (including creation of position role and responsibility description) – tentative and dependent on member capacities.
- Conduct outreach to encourage participation from CBOs and underrepresented municipalities.

7. Funding and Resources

FY2026 SSC activities are funded through MAPC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Annual assessments from SSC municipalities.

8. Schedule (Tentative)

Meeting Schedule	Meeting Details	Other Activities
JUL-25	—	MPO Elections coordination; World Cup 2026 planning lens, Transportation priority discussion debrief; workplan revision.
AUG-25	Meeting (Virtual) on third Thursday at 2pm – Workplan updates; Community Exchange, World Cup updates, MPO elections	Kickoff for FY26 work plan implementation including revisions
SEP-25	—	Data requests survey to inform “Data Bucket” work; one on one outreach with new municipal staff, chamber, MPO.
OCT-25	Meeting (In-person) on third Thursday at 2pm – Transportation priorities (TIP pipeline); Trails related site visit (tentative); TAP releases	Housing Shared Services model follow-up
NOV-25	—	Coordinate with MPO on TIP readiness; regional wastewater/stormwater check-in; CBO outreach; TAP coordination if needed, explore joint meeting opportunities; listening/visiting tour
DEC-25	—	Data Bucket check-in; collect municipal success stories for SSC webpage; TAP coordination if needed.
JAN-26	Meeting (Virtual) on third Thursday at 2pm – Equitable economic development on Main Streets; Housing focused topics;	Election discussions
FEB-26	—	Prep for Legislative Breakfast; review state legislative priorities; coordinate with OCPC (tentatively); listening/visiting tour
MAR-26	Legislative Breakfast (In-person) likely on a Friday at 9am.	Direct dialogue with legislators
APR-26	—	Data Bucket update; begin shaping FY27 priorities; explore joint meeting opportunities.
MAY-26	—	CBO outreach; Data showcase on webpage; draft workplan for FY27; listening/visiting tour
JUN-26	Meeting (Virtual/In-person) on third Thursday at 2pm – Arts & culture planning OR Industrial land & zoning; FY27 work plan discussion, Elections Discussion	Look back at FY26 success and challenges