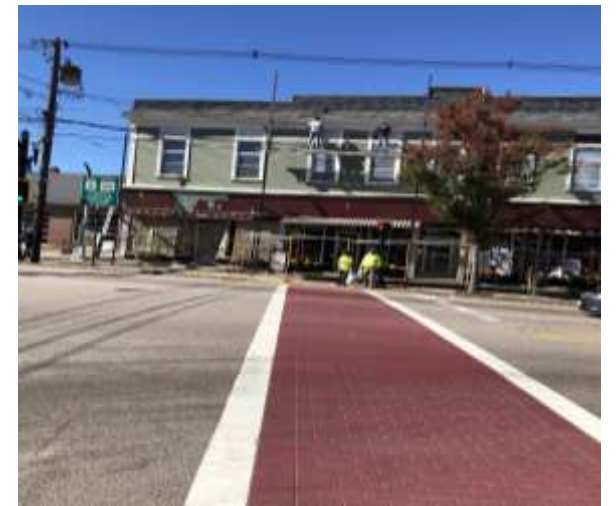


Transportation Connections

MetroWest Regional Collaborative

October 23, 2025





MPO Transportation Funding and Planning Support Opportunities

October 23, 2025

Where do TIP projects come from?



Time Horizon: 5 years

Updated: Annually

- Programs approximately \$750 million across five years for critical regional projects
- Projects are evaluated using criteria for how well they support the LRTP goals and objectives
- In FFYs 2026-30, 58 projects have been prioritized for regional funding



Eligible Project Types

Major Infrastructure Program

Large scale projects that:

- Change capacity of regionally-significant roadway facilities,
- Extend or add new rail, fixed guideway, or bus rapid transit connections, and/or
 - Have a cost that exceeds \$50 million

Core Investment Programs

- Bicycle Network and Pedestrian
 - Complete Streets
- Intersection Improvements
 - Transit Transformation

Community Connections Program

- Bicycle Lanes
- Bicycle Racks
- BikeShare Expansion and Support
 - Wayfinding Signage

Technical difficulties?

Call xxxxxxxxxxxx
at 857.702.xxxx or
email xxxxxx@ctps.org

Where do TIP projects come from?

Funding Process MPO TIP Development

Conversation with MPO Staff

Universe of Projects

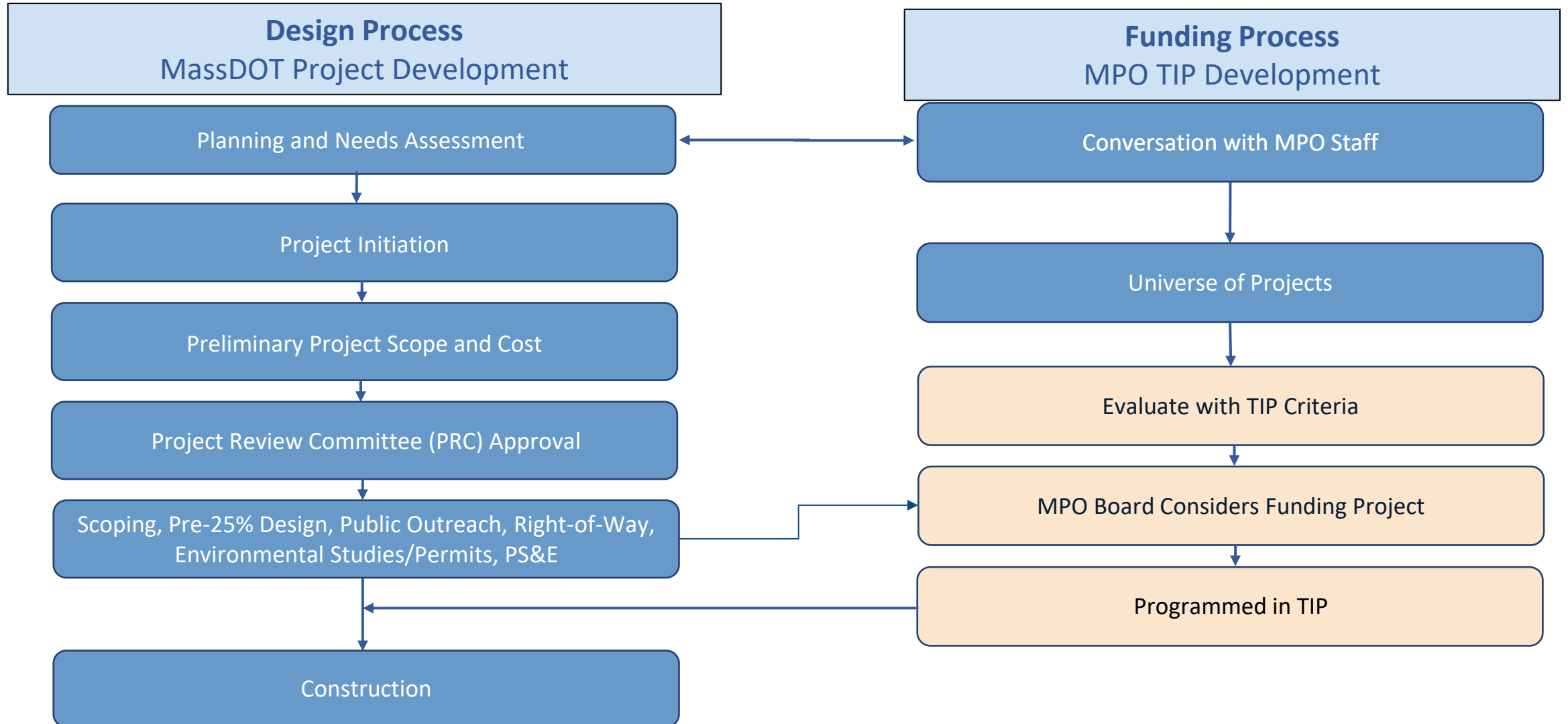
Evaluate with TIP Criteria

MPO Board Considers Funding Project

Programmed in TIP

- The TIP's primary objective is to fund local priority projects with regional benefits
- Historically most MPO-funded projects have municipal proponents
- Proponents include:
 - Cities and towns
 - MassDOT
 - Transit providers
 - Other state agencies/authorities

How does the MPO process relate to the MassDOT project process?





MetroWest Opportunity Areas: Planning and Design Support

- Boston Region MPO is now able to fund **new** design activities for projects, with funding in FFY 2027 to do so.
 - Funds 80% of design costs through up to 100% design
 - Successful awardees would start procurement process as early as October 1, 2026
 - Build a bench of construction projects for funding surpluses
- Transportation planning support is available through the MPO's technical assistance program
 - Rolling applications
 - Potential for planning grant awards in the future

Technical difficulties?

Call xxxxxxxxxxxx
at 857.702.xxxx or
email xxxxxx@ctps.org



South Shore Coalition Opportunity Areas: Construction?

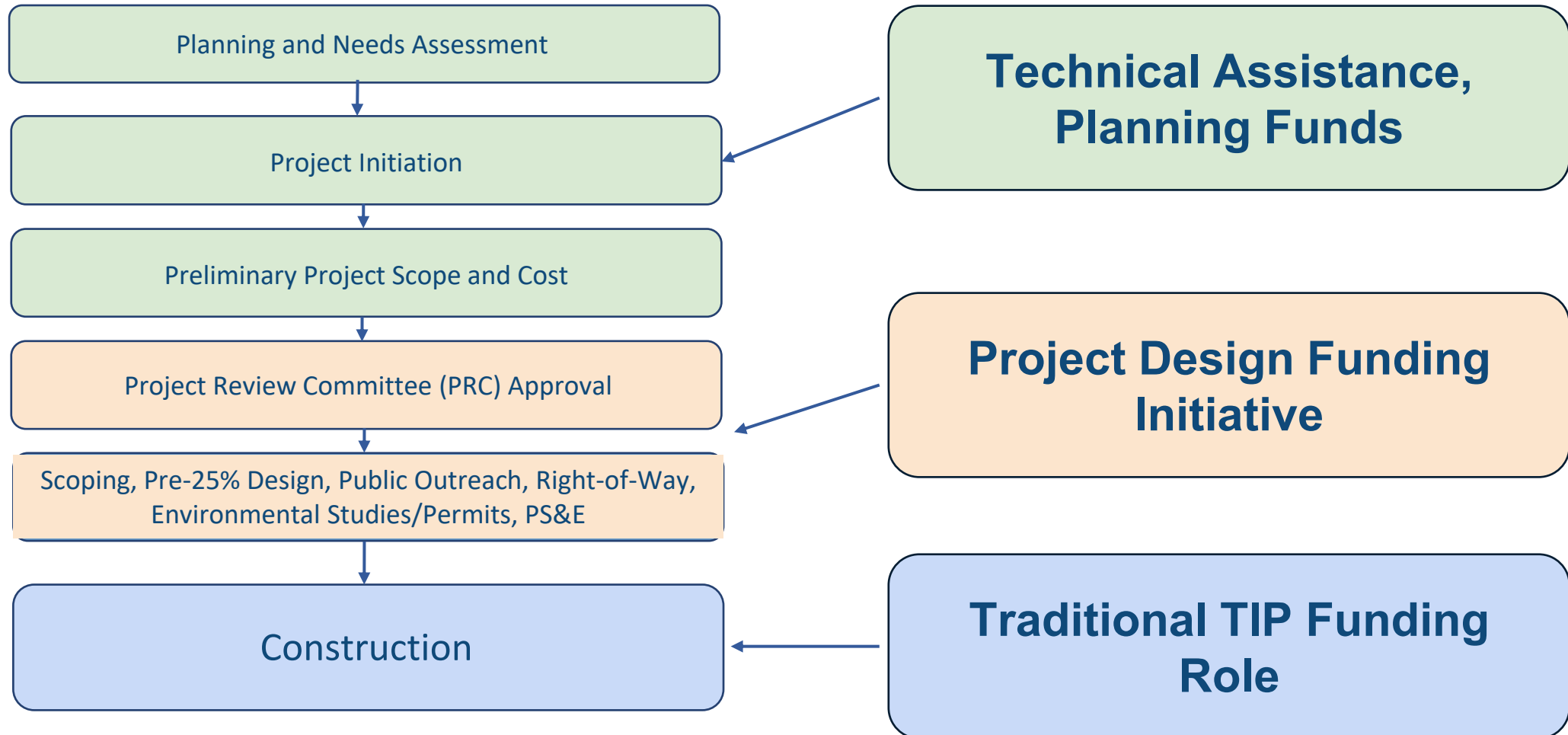
- Persistent project design and cost control challenges are constraining the MPO's ability to fund new construction projects in later TIP years
 - Planning and design investments should help correct this trend in the long term
- Transit improvements are more flexible
 - Requires coordination with MBTA or MWRTA depending on project type

Technical difficulties?

Call xxxxxxxxxxxx
at 857.702.xxxx or
email xxxxxxxx@ctps.org

MBTA = Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. MWRTA = MetroWest Regional Transit Authority.

The best way to support local-priority projects with regional benefits is to provide support at all project stages.





Municipal Planning & Support (MP&S) Team

LEAP

Local Early Actionable Planning



Introduction and Available Services

Background

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- MassDOT's Municipal Planning & Support Group's mission is to **connect municipalities with federal funding opportunities** to advance local and regional transportation needs.
- The group will also **provide technical assistance** to Massachusetts communities, with a focus on rural areas and Gateway Cities, to **prepare projects for the receipt of federal funding, develop discretionary grant applications, and assist with coordination efforts** across MassDOT, municipalities, and our partner agencies.



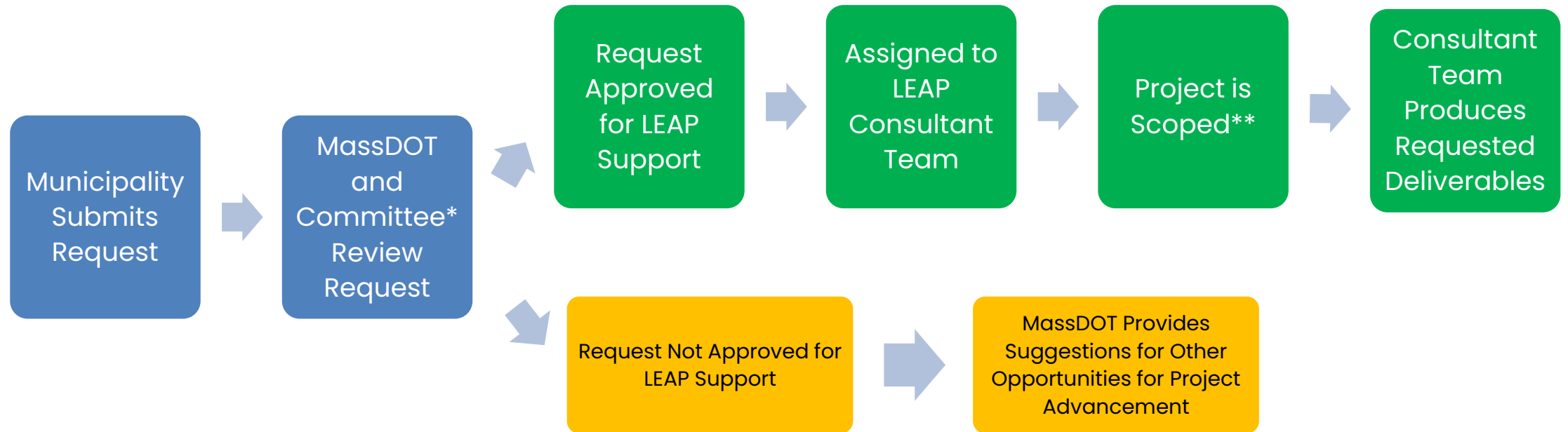
LEAP Program Overview

- **Overview:** MassDOT's Municipal Planning & Support Team has procured consultant support to provide early-stage planning and project development activities for underserved municipalities in Massachusetts.
- **Cost of Available Services:** \$1 million is available in State Fiscal Year 2026. Individual tasks will be roughly between **\$25,000 – \$100,000 for the first round.**
- **Eligible Projects:** Alternatives Analyses to Inform Project Scope, Conceptual Designs, Safe Streets Network Strategy, Grant Application Development, Safety Analysis, Traffic Analysis, Visual and Mapping Support, Cost Estimation, etc.
- **Timing:** Requests are accepted on a rolling basis but priority deadline was 9/30/2025. **MassDOT received 52 total submissions and is reviewing these now.**
- **How to Request Assistance:** Form on Grant Central [LEAP Page](#)
- **Contact:** Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us



LEAP Program Process Flow

13



*The Review Committee will be made up of MassDOT HQ and District Staff as well as RPAs

** Scoping process will define consultant staffing hours, finalize project budget, and outline specific tasks

Eligible Activities

14

Concept Development

- ☐ Develop conceptual designs or sketch plans
- ☐ Provide high-level alternatives for short-term improvements
- ☐ Provide high-level alternatives for long-term improvements

Complete Streets Engineering & Design

Safe Streets Network Strategy

- ☐ Identification of priority streets for improvement and development of strategies to support the creation of a safe network for all users, with an emphasis on walking, biking, and taking transit.
- ☐ For an example, please see the [Lynn Safe Streets for People Playbook](#)

Grant Application Development

- ☐ Draft technical components of federal or state grant application

Safety Analysis

- ☐ Create crash diagrams
- ☐ Conduct hot spot/crash pattern analysis

Traffic Analysis

- ☐ Conduct a traffic study
- ☐ Conduct a traffic impact assessment

Eligible Activities (cont.)

15

Site Investigation and Data Collection

- ☐ Perform field reconnaissance of the project area / Field measurements
- ☐ Collect traffic volume data
- ☐ Conduct speed studies
- ☐ Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR) counts

Design Documentation Support

- ☐ Assist with completing a Design Justification Workbook (DJW)
- ☐ Provide guidance on required documentation for project development

Cost Estimation

- ☐ Develop preliminary cost estimates for proposed improvements

Visual and Mapping Support

- ☐ Create maps to support project understanding or communication
- ☐ Provide graphic design for outreach materials or plan illustrations

Technical Analysis

- ☐ Conduct geotechnical analysis (e.g., soil and subsurface conditions)
- ☐ Conduct hydraulic analysis (e.g., drainage or flood impacts)

Review Process and Criteria

16

MassDOT will work **in partnership with Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) and MassDOT District offices** to review and score each request on a recurring (likely quarterly) basis.

A review team specific to each region will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria:

Scoring Criteria:

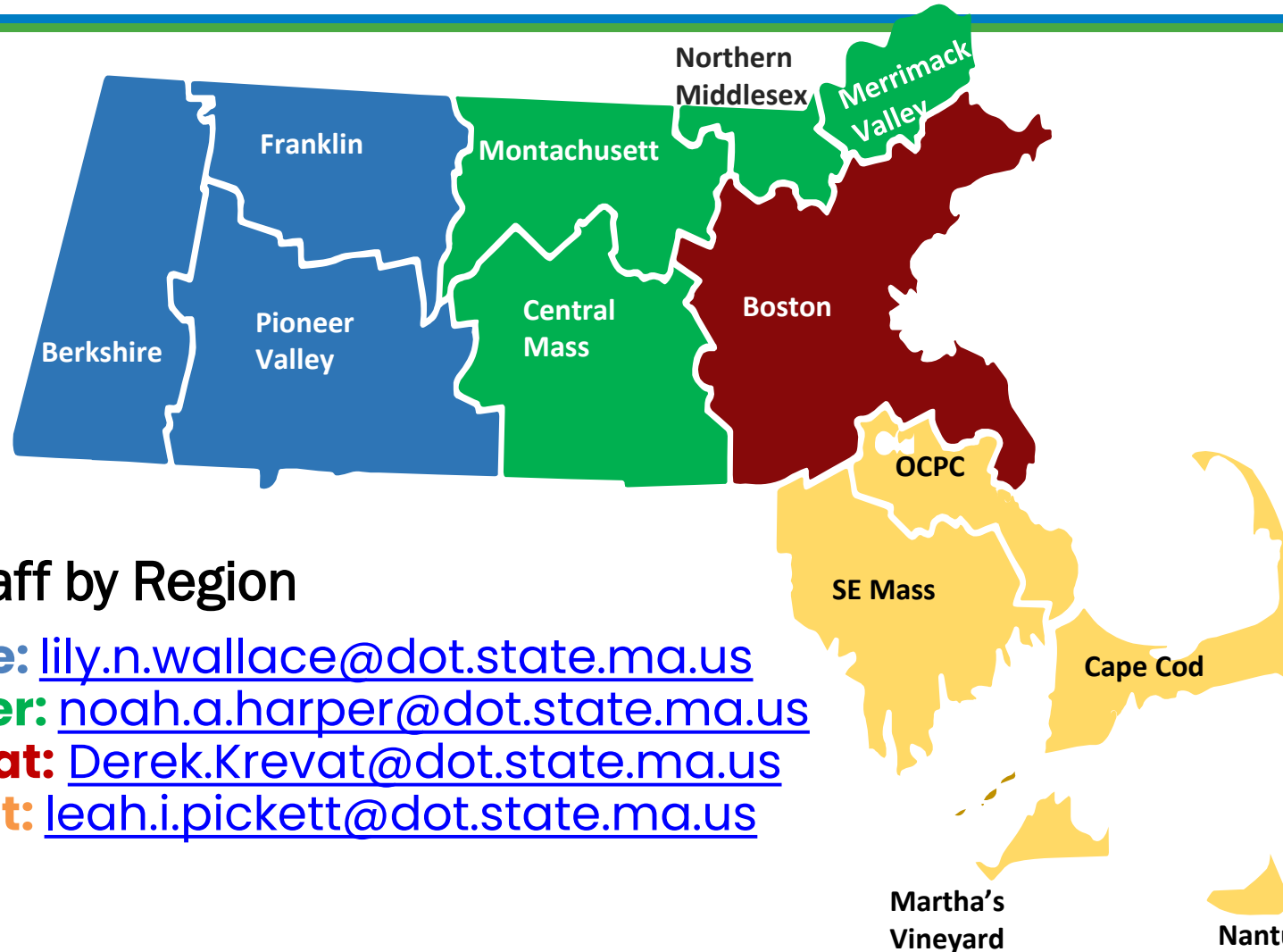
- **Community Designation (30%)**
Prioritizes **Rural and Gateway Cities**; also considers similar high-need communities.
- **Community Needs (30%)**
Assesses **municipal capacity** based on request form responses.
- **Project Momentum (20%)**
Favors projects with a **clear, realistic path to implementation** following LEAP Program assistance.
- **Availability of Alternative Funding (20%)**
Considers **local funding constraints** and how program support fills gaps.

Past and Planned Outreach

17

- Presentations have been made or will be made to Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Joint Transportation Committees, and other statewide and regional groups throughout summer and fall 2025.
- MassDOT staff is also building an **inventory of potential project locations** that may be good candidates for LEAP Program support based on completed local or regional plans (e.g. Vision Zero Plans, corridor studies, etc.) and will be contacting individual RPAs and municipalities about potential needs.

Contact Us



Program Staff by Region

Lily Wallace: lily.n.wallace@dot.state.ma.us

Noah Harper: noah.a.harper@dot.state.ma.us

Derek Krevat: Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us

Leah Pickett: leah.i.pickett@dot.state.ma.us



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Planning at the MBTA

Sandy Johnston, Deputy Director of Regional Transit Planning

MetroWest Regional Collaborative

October 23, 2025

Meeting Commonwealth Goals

Through long-range planning, the T is supporting Commonwealth goals:



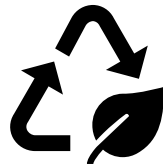
Housing

Increasing access to transit for many communities and support transit-oriented development



Economic development

Building connections and address congestion that impacts employment centers and jobs across the region



Sustainability and resilience

Supporting mode shift to more sustainable modes and decreasing the environmental impact of transportation



Mobility

Improving access and transportation options to more destinations for travelers

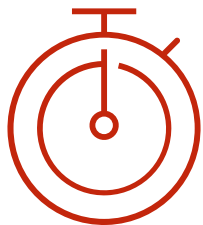


Showing Where We're Headed:

Sharing a Vision for Future Service

MBTA recently developed a vision for service, **Choose Transit: Full  Ahead**

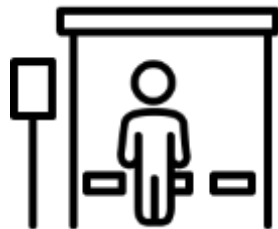
- Builds on our successes and focuses on making public transit the preferred way to travel.
- Centers the experience of riders and proposes actionable results to increase ridership for each of the T's modes.
- Creates a way to track progress and to tell the story of the T's work.
- Supports restoration of public trust in the T.



Robust,
reliable, all-day,
frequent service.



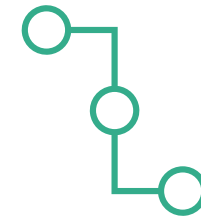
Timely and appropriate
maintenance with less
rider impact.



Accessible, safe,
modernized,
multimodal system.



Real-time
information and
communication.



A transit network that serves
the changing needs of today
and builds for the future.

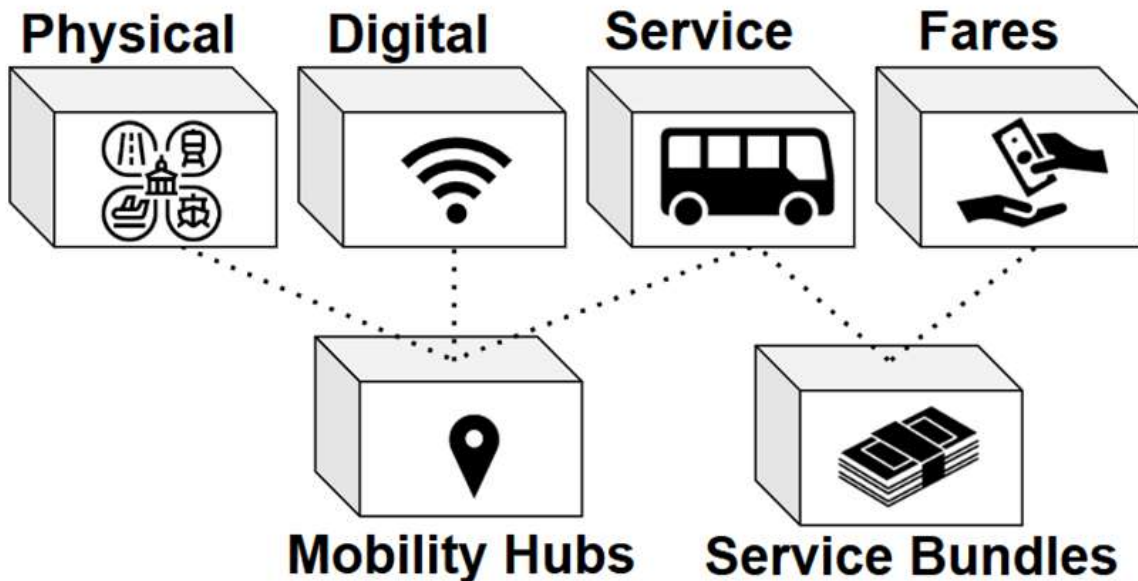


MBTA Mobility Integration Plan

Improving connections supports better service

- Between 15-33% of trips include a modal transfer within the MBTA system
- Most heavy and light rail stations and 60%+ of Commuter Rail stations are transfer points within the T system.
- Many MBTA facilities connect to other providers and modes.

Types of Integrations Addressed



Supporting the rider, the region, and the T

The Rider

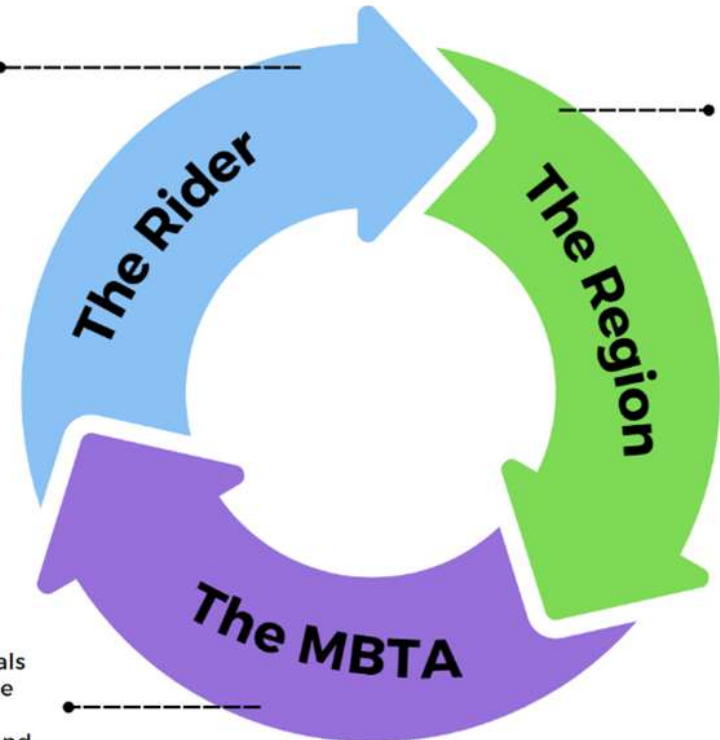
- To improve customer experience
- Reduce wait and travel times
- Increase equity and accessibility

The MBTA

- To align projects with strategic goals
- To manage service disruptions
- Increase service and ridership

The Region

- To increase access to transportation options across modes
- To address the first and last mile problem
- To encourage mode shift and decrease environmental impact
- Promote economic vitality



What have we done so far?

MBTA existing or new mobility integration activities

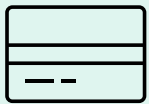
MBTA has already taken steps to build integrations between our modes and to other service providers:



Partnered with MassDOT to develop a comprehensive service map of providers



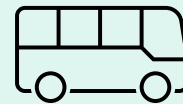
Coordinated Regional Rail Schedules with RTAs so they receive schedules several weeks earlier



Contactless "Tap to Ride" payment implemented on bus, subway, and ferry



Launched special event trains connecting transit to trails network



Enabled pick-up and drop-off by RTAs and certain TMA shuttles at MBTA stations (e.g. Alewife, Ashmont, etc.)



Partnered with Lyft to offer on-demand paratransit trips using RIDE flex



Received a grant from the Boston Region MPO to modernize pedal and park infrastructure



Developing the Program for Mass Transportation (PMT)

MBTA's Long-Range Capital Plan

What is the PMT?

- A requirement in the MBTA's enabling legislation to create a long-term priority-setting document for the MBTA with a 25-year outlook
- The way to **highlight MBTA progress and priorities** in a public-facing document
- Will develop priorities that will inform an evaluation framework for potential tradeoffs
- A tool for public engagement about what our constituents think is most important for the MBTA to invest in

Statutory Requirement (in MGL §161A (g)) requires that it:

- Be reviewed by the MBTA Advisory Board
- Shape and be implemented through the CIP
- Be developed in consultation with RTAs; Executive Branch offices in the environmental and housing spheres; MAPC; and other relevant entities
- Be “reviewed not less than every five years”

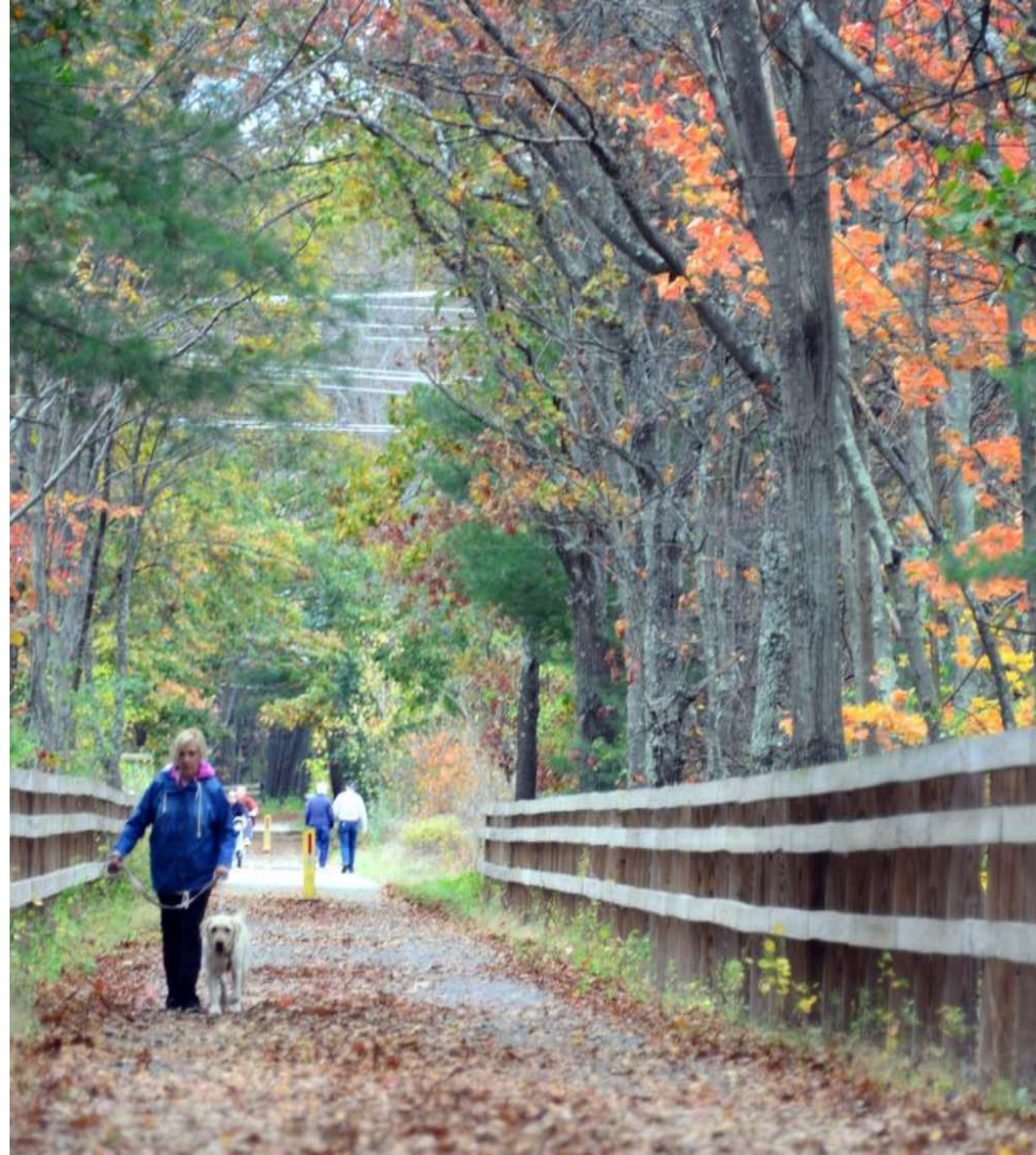


MBTA and Rail Trails

- We know that rail-trails are topic of significant interest in MetroWest
- The MBTA is currently working to improve its intake process for municipalities that are interested in exploring feasibility of rail-trails
- We are working to identify our operational needs, for the short and long term, because they are always the first priority and form the basis for clear communication
- In addition, the MBTA is engaging in a systemwide review of its design standards

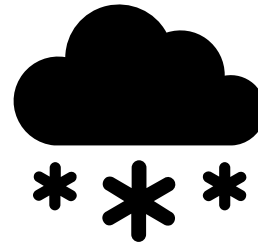
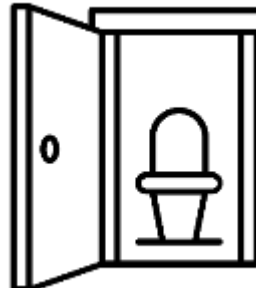
Photo credit:

<https://massbytrain.com/blog/hiking-rail-trails-along-the-commuter-rail/>



Call to Action and Partnership

How can municipalities and regional partners work with the MBTA to enhance transit?

						
Support transit priority on municipal and state roadways, including automated enforcement	Help clear snow and ice from routes to transit stops	Help support frontline MBTA staff, such as by facilitating restroom access	Provide safe routes to transit stops for people walking, biking, and rolling	Support density of jobs and housing around transit	Work together on resilient infrastructure and sustainability strategies	Support funding so MBTA can provide better service to everyone



Thank you!

Useful MBTA contacts for coordination

For general regional planning coordination:

Sandy Johnston, Deputy Director of Regional Planning

sjohnston2@mbta.com

Sanja Stegich, Senior Project Coordinator

sstegich@mbta.com

For Rail Trails:

Jay Maddox, Deputy Director of Regional Projects

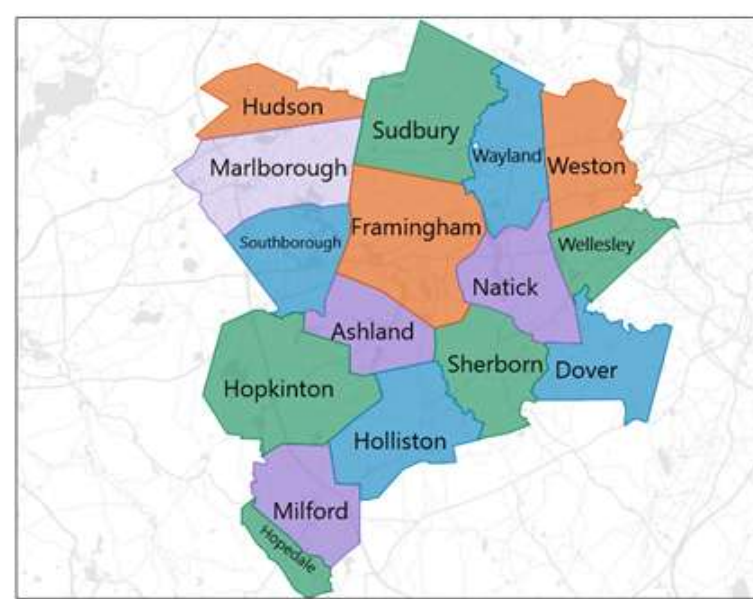
jmaddox2@mbta.com

For accessibility:

Laura Brelsford, AGM for Systemwide Accessibility

lbrelsford@mbta.com





Sixteen (16) Member Communities + Year Joined

Ashland (2007)	Dover (2013)	Framingham (2006)	Holliston (2007)
Hopedale (2017)	Hopkinton (2007)	Hudson (2014)	Marlborough (2008)
Milford (2015)	Natick (2007)	Sherborn (2007)	Southborough (2008)
Sudbury (2007)	Wayland (2007)	Wellesley (2007)	Weston (2007)

MWRTA Mission Statement

- We prioritize safe, efficient, and cost-effective transit.
- Continuing to expand service availability and improve system dependability in line with population growth.
- We collaborate with the Boston Region MPO, councils on aging (COAS), workforce development agencies, educational institutions, and social service agencies.
- Align transit services with community needs.



MWRTA Current Initiatives

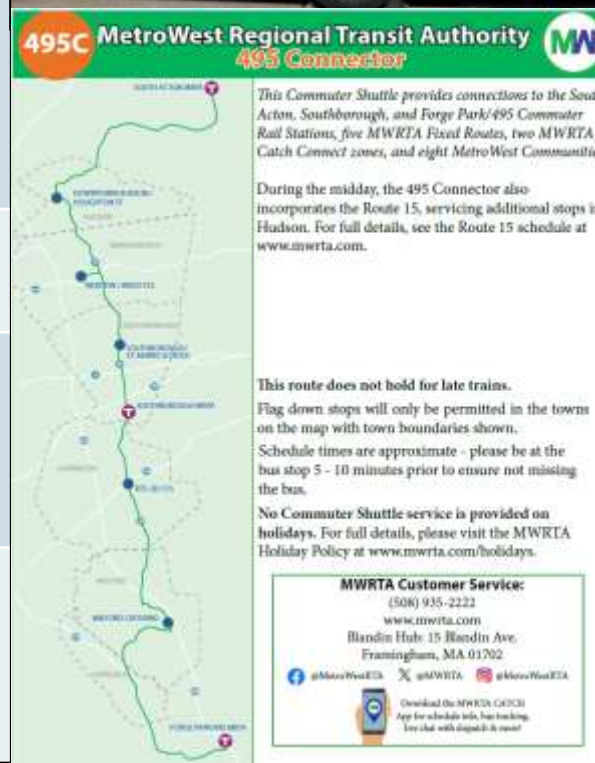
Expansion of fixed route/MicroTransit services to later evenings & Weekends

Launched 495 Connector and Berlin MicroTransit (MT) service pilot programs in coordination with Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA)

Acquisition of larger capacity Gilligs

Designing and planning the Blandin hub Expansion Project

Public comment period for Bus Network Redesign through 11/30



Opportunities for Municipal Coordination

- MWRTA regularly conducts public engagement activities throughout its member communities.
- Currently conducting public feedback workshops related to fixed route network redesign initiative.
- Actively working to enhance bus shelter access.
- We integrate transportation goals into broader municipal plans (housing, economic development, zoning, and climate action).
- Municipal data (population/housing growth, traffic counts) guide our service expansion planning efforts.
- MWRTA is open to partnering with its member communities on grant applications designed to enhance multimodal transportation access.



Promoting Student Active Transportation

Metrowest Regional Collaborative, October 2025

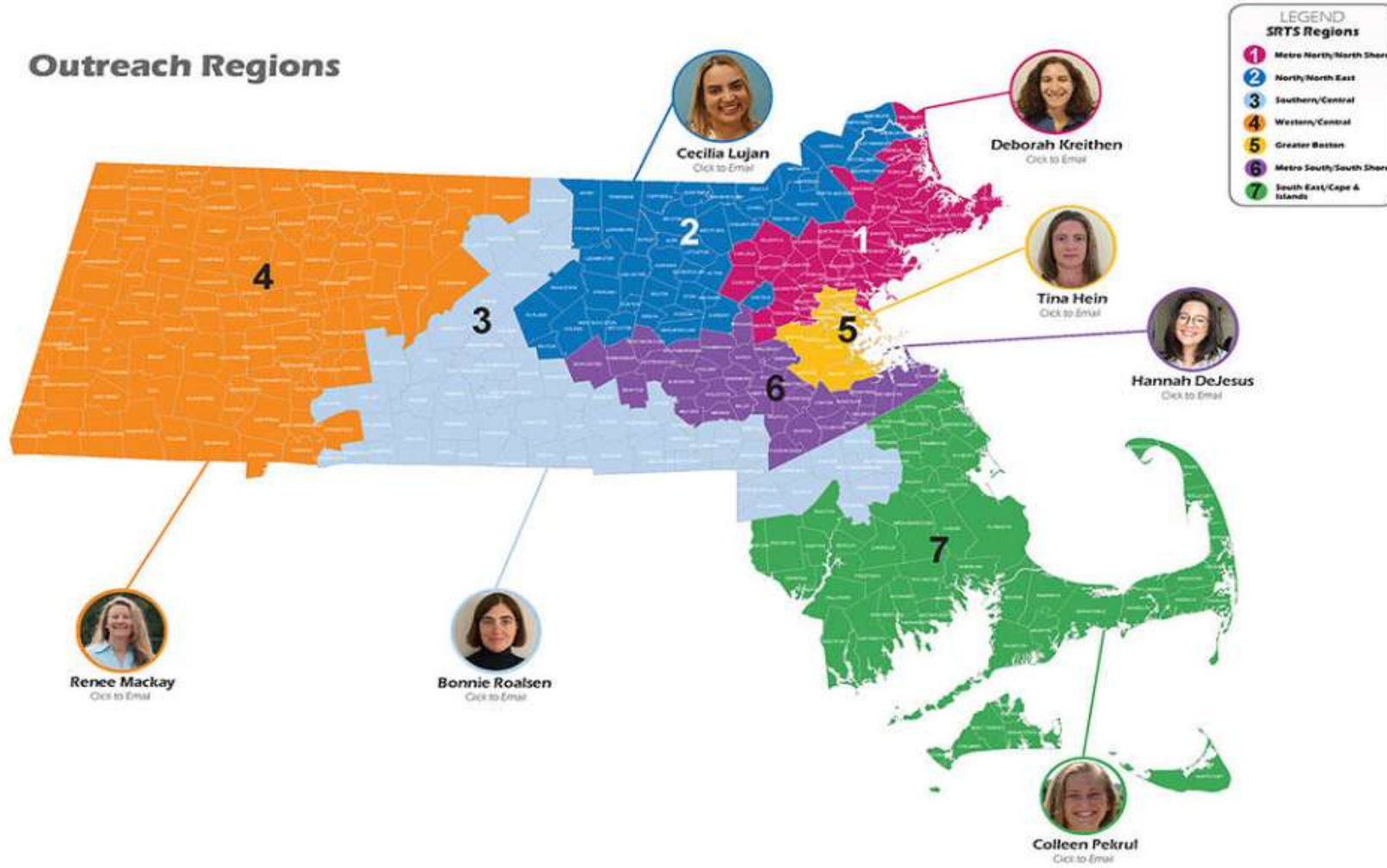
Judith Crocker, MA Statewide Coordinator





SRTS Outreach Coordinators

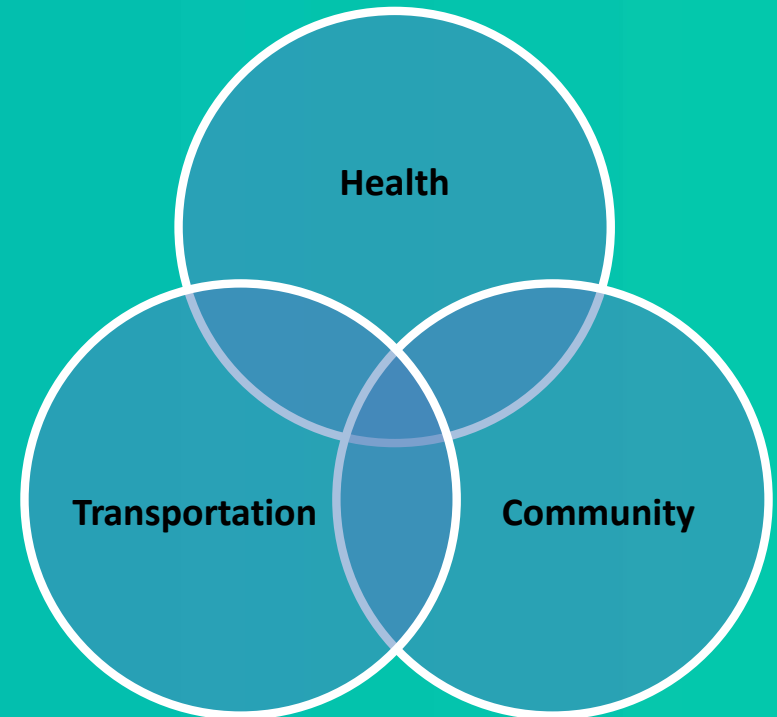
Outreach Regions



Massachusetts Safe Routes to School

- ✓ *Creating Community Connections*
- ✓ *Fostering a Sense of Community*
- ✓ *Embracing Life Skills: Physical Activity and Healthy Living*
- ✓ *Solving Local Challenges*

**1240 School Partners
and
340 Alliance Partners**



Coalescing School Planning, Policy, and Education

- ✓ All students *arrive and depart* school.
- ✓ Massachusetts' nearly 1,000,000 students and staff arrive and depart their school properties twice daily using *numerous modes of transportation*.
- ✓ Supporting and managing these school-related interactions on and abutting school property prioritizes the *health and safety* of those on school campus and within the greater community.

Accommodating 5 Travel Modes in Every School Zone



Meeting Local Needs

Balancing Health with Transportation



- Physical Activity
- Education
- Safety, Independence, & Socialization
- Absenteeism and Tardiness
- Traffic Congestion
- Built Environment
- New Construction/Swing Space
- Redistricting

Using the Six E's to Meet Today's Challenges



- ✓ Strategic Planning
- ✓ Community Building
- ✓ Age-Friendly Use
- ✓ School Wellness Policy

- ✓ Crossing Guard Resources

- ✓ DESE-approved Ped/Bike Education
- ✓ Professional Development

Equity

Encouragement

Engagement

Evaluation

Education

Engineering

- ✓ Comparing Modal Trends
- ✓ Mapping Ped/Bike Zones
- ✓ Master Ped/Bike Plans
- ✓ School Community Use
- ✓ School Site Planning
- ✓ Walk Audits and Arrival/Dismissal Audits
- ✓ Communication

- ✓ Signs & Line Grant
- ✓ Infrastructure Grant
- ✓ Bike Rack Grant
- ✓ Technical Assistance
- ✓ Traffic Gardens
- ✓ Non-Infrastructure Grant partnerships

Upcoming SRTS Events

**Safe Streets Smart Trips High
School Video Contest
Winners Announced
October 28**



**Safe Routes to School
FY26 Grants**

*Bike Rack application period:
October 31-November 14*



**Rudy Bridges Day
November 14**





Judith Crocker, Massachusetts Statewide Coordinator

judy.crocker@aecom.com #781-454-6617



www.facebook.com/SafeRoutes.MA



www.twitter.com/SafeRoutes_MA



www.instagram.com/srts_ma/



www.linkedin.com/company/ma-safe-routes-to-school

MBTA Appendix



MBTA Regional Engagement



Represent the T on Boston MPO Board and at MAPC subregional forums



Attend all FTA certification reviews for MPOs in our service area



Represent the T on the RTA Council



Participate in EV and Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Councils



Represent MBTA in state planning initiatives, including transportation plans by MassDOT (*Beyond Mobility*, Water Transportation Study, etc.) and state climate planning initiatives (such as Resilient Mass Action Team)



Represent the T on Massachusetts Bike/Ped Council



Municipal Coordination on key projects, local plans, TOD, regional climate collaboratives, and other MBTA needs



Strategic Transit Planning Team

Building capacity for longer-range planning at the T



Laura Gilmore
**Senior Director of
Strategic Transit
Planning**



Sandy Johnston
**Deputy Director of
Regional Transit
Planning**



Jay Maddox
**Deputy Director of
Regional Projects**



Paul Nolan
**Deputy Director of
Strategic Planning**



Sanja Stegich
**Senior Project
Coordinator**



What's Next for MBTA Planning?

Implement early action recommendations from
Mobility Integrations Plan

Begin development and public engagement for the
Program for Mass Transportation

Collaborate with Commonwealth partners on connection between
housing and transportation

Support MBTA modal planning (for ex: **Future of Water Transportation** study with MassDOT)

Roll out ***Resilience Roadmap***

Planning for the future of
Regional Rail



MBTA Transit and Other Possible Connections

Connecting the broader transit network



MBTA Fixed Route Transit

Heavy Rail
Light Rail
Commuter rail
Ferry
Contracted bus



Local Buses and Shuttles

RTAs
TMAs
Local buses
University and employer shuttles



Regional and National Services

Logan Express
Amtrak
Intercity buses



Demand Response

Micro-transit
Dial-ride
TNCs
On demand paratransit



Parking

MBTA Parking Lots



Bikes

Blue Bikes
Pedal and Park/bike parking



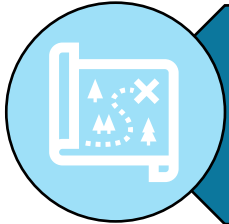
Other

Carshare
Human services



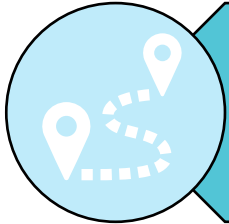
Recommendations to build a more integrated MBTA

Examples of the Mobility Integration Plan's recommendations



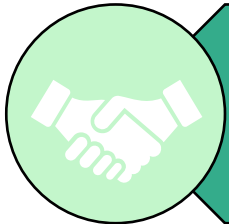
Internal Alignment and Capacity

- Enhance wayfinding for connections to MBTA services
- Identify and publicize geographies where mobility integration initiatives would be especially welcome and impactful



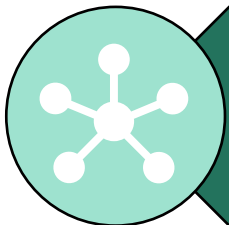
Opportunities Led by MBTA

- Expand fare and other integration between MBTA modes
- Inventory and provide opportunities to enable mobility partners access to MBTA assets, such as bus turnarounds and wayfinding signage, as feasible
- Develop station access design guidelines that guide mobility priorities



Pursuing Partnerships

- Develop or update policies and standards that guide partnership with existing and emerging mobility providers
- Improve connections to all MBTA modes with other public sector mobility providers by addressing system-to-system connection points, schedule alignments and partnerships



Fostering Integration

- Pursue intermodal fare and service integration of public and private mobility providers into an MBTA fare payment system
- Expand institutional programs to support fare payment
- Explore bundled fare subscription packages



Climate Planning Updates

One year since the MBTA released the Climate Assessment



- First annual report forthcoming (final review)
- Highlighting leadership from teams across the agency:
 - Climate: Drafted systemwide resilience plan, incorporating sustainability and resilience into MBTA's updated Design Standards and Guidelines
 - Environment: Established the Utility Vendor Program to perform energy efficiency projects, first projects to be completed this fall
 - Infrastructure Planning: Completed power master plan prioritizing SGR investments for power assets
 - Safety, E&M and others: Initiated new worker heat safety trainings, expanded PPE offerings and worksite water availability, and more!

Spotlight on Upcoming Plan: Resilience Roadmap

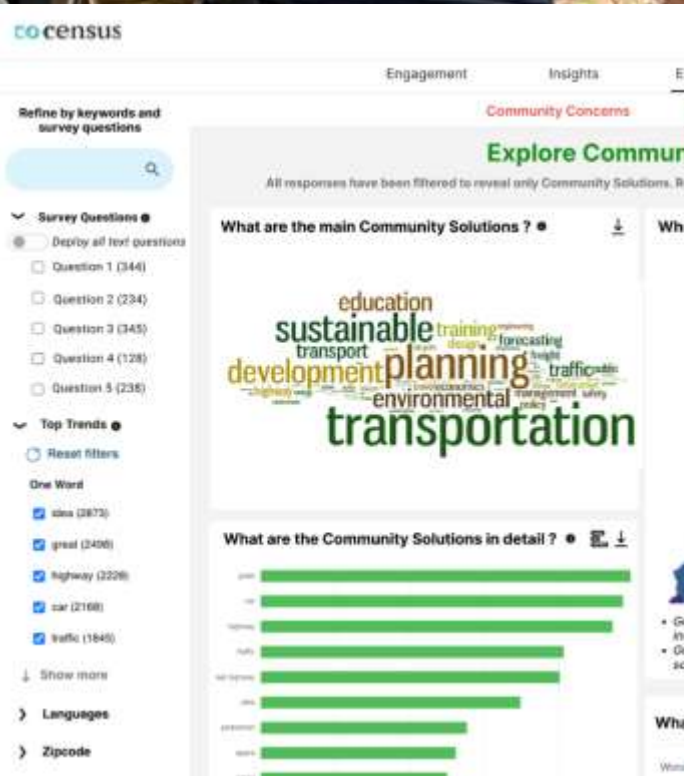
- Developing a systemwide resilience plan to prioritize initiatives across assets and operations
- Builds on climate change vulnerability assessments and asset master plans
- Launched internal engagement in spring with topic-specific focus groups
- Draft under review for release in Winter '25/'26



MBTA Objectives for the PMT

- ***Provide focus*** on modernizing the system and investing in ways that lay the groundwork for future transformative plans (e.g. “no-regrets decisions” in double tracking before expansions)
- ***Communicate accomplishments*** since Focus40 and lay out a universe of future capital projects to inform CIPs.
- ***Engage the public*** in the T’s future, while asking the public to consider how projects achieve the T’s goals.
- ***Demonstrate impact*** of MBTA investments, including support for Commonwealth priorities
- ***Lay out a path forward*** to inform investments and better service





Extensive Public Engagement

PMT is an opportunity for the public to inform the future of the T by:

- Sharing feedback about future service and projects
- Weighing tradeoffs in how the T achieves its goals

Engagement Opportunities:

- Meetings and workshops across the service area
- Popup events
- Surveys



Full T Ahead Service Priorities Highlights

Regional Rail

Increase all day and weekend frequency; headways of 30 min. or less in the inner core as well as on key corridors with higher ridership.

Heavy Rail

Improve service to more traditional off-peak periods and improve headways, with wait times of 5 minutes or less.

Light Rail

Make trains available every 1-1½ minutes in the core; every 6 minutes on each branch, and increases in accessibility.

Bus

Increase service 40%, including prioritizing those who depend on transit.

Ferry

Continue to improve headways to every 10 mins in the inner harbor and every 30 mins in the outer harbor.

Paratransit

Work towards a seamless transition between paratransit and fixed-route service.



Completed Work: Mobility Integration Plan

Planning for improved connections between modes and services

The MBTA has developed a **Mobility Integration Plan** to guide how the MBTA builds connections between modes.

Mobility integration refers to better connecting between MBTA's existing services and building partnerships with other mobility services and providers – both public and private - to help riders move efficiently throughout the region. Some but not all integrations may leverage new technologies.

This plan builds on recommendations in existing plans and will guide the MBTA's response to mobility integration opportunities, pilots and partnerships.



Mobility Integration Plan

Informing connectivity between modes through partnerships, infrastructure, and technology

2025

