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**MWRC Minutes**

Thursday, October 23, 2025  
8:00-9:30 am  
Via Zoom

**Attendees**

- Ashland: Yolanda Greaves, Jasmin Farinacci, Deepa Venkat
- Framingham: Yvonne Johnson, Joe Norton
- Holliston: Barbara Peatie
- Marlborough: Katie Robey
- Natick: Morgan Griffiths, Amanda Loomis
- Sherborn: Marian Neutra, Heidi Doyle, Sam Stivers
- Southborough: Meme Luttrell; Alan Belniak, Debbie DeMuria
- Wayland: Mary Antes, Robert Hummel
- Wellesley: Eric Arbeene, Colette, Aufranc; Sheila Page
- Weston: Tom Palmer, Imai Aiu, Laura Reinoso-Graham
- Associate Members: Susan Nicholl (Senate President Spilka’s Office); Dennis Giombetti (MPO rep); Jason Palitsch (495/MW Partnership)
- MAPC Coordinators: Travis Pollack, Camille Jonlin
- MAPC Staff: Austin Knipper
- Guests: Ethan LaPointe, Adriana Jacobsen (CTPS/Boston MPO); Sandy Johnston, Sanja Stegich (MBTA); Derek Krevat (MassDOT); Tyler Terrasi, Jeff Coletti, (MWRTA); Judy Crocker (Safe Routes to Schools)

**Welcome & Call to Order**

- Quorum reached and Yolanda called the meeting to order at 8:01.

**Approval of September 2025 Minutes – Yolanda Greaves**

- Motion to approve by Colette, seconded by Mary. Approved by show of hands.

**Announce Communications/Engagement Primary Participating Communities – Travis Pollack**

- Travis: Southborough, Wellesley, Natick, and Framingham are the primary participating communities. We had great discussions with many of you and appreciate the engagement. The learnings will be shared with all Collaborative members.

**Transportation Connections – Travis Pollack and others**

- Travis: Transportation agency representatives serving the MetroWest region will present current initiatives, outline areas for strategic municipal coordination, and participate in a Q&A to foster stronger partnerships with the Collaborative.
- We have 5 state and regional transportation agency speakers for you today to help you build relationships with each agency
- We will send you a “transportation contact cheat sheet” so you can reference all contacts.
- Speakers – see slides for more:

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- Ethan Lapointe, MPO: 5-year capital plan called the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), there are \$750M to advance local priorities this year; generally any surface level transportation project is eligible but funds are federal so there are some limits; TIP funding is a parallel process to the MassDOT design process; MPO has funds in FY27 for design funding for new projects; TIP has historically funded construction, but doing so less in the short term; do work closely with the other agencies here; please send us project concepts!
  - Derek Krevat, MassDOT: LEAP new program for municipal transportation planning – have \$1M statewide this year; intended for earlier stage projects and technical consultant support; the priority deadline past 9/30 but it's a rolling deadline; do prioritize communities with lower capacity
  - Sandy Johnston, MBTA: long range planning goals of T: housing, economic development, sustainability/resilience, mobility; conducting "Full T Ahead" initiative to improve service and MBTA Mobility Integration Plan to better meet schedules; tap-to-ride payment improvements; special event trains; Program for Mass Transportation (PMT) long-range MBTA capital plan; let the MBTA know when rail trails are in municipal plans, and please reach out to our team any time,
  - Tyler Terrasi, MWRTA: prioritize safe, efficient, and cost-effective transit on fixed bus routes in 16 MW communities; expanding microtransit services to later in evenings and weekends; incorporating more trolleys; currently conducting public feedback workshops
  - Judy Crocker, Safe Routes to Schools; free program through MassDOT for K-12; in 70% of schools already; almost 1M students and staff daily commute to school; bridge the gap between health and transportation; SR25 FY26 grants open 10/31-11/14
  - Dennis Giombetti, MetroWest MPO: rep since being a Select Board member in Framingham: the number of projects in MetroWest has grown lately, and more focus lately on smaller communities that don't have as many resources for projects; contact Dennis if any issues arise
  - Travis: Today's session was intended to establish relationships, and we all know each other so if you have a question, we can point you in the right direction
  - Summary of questions/responses:
    - Is TIP funding in jeopardy with recent Federal actions?
      - TIP is funded through federal formula, whereas most projects or grants cancelled are discretionary. This isn't to say it couldn't happen, but it's more secure.
    - MBTA new/upcoming programs
      - <https://www.mbta.com/plans/choose-transit-full-t-ahead>
      - <https://www.mbta.com/plans/mobility-integration>
      - MBTA one day event fall ride! <https://www.mbta.com/destinations/fall-rail-ride>
    - Marlborough has a new Trolley on one of its routes. Where does it come from?
      - This is an MWRTA initiative.
    - For semi-rural towns, people generally need to drive and park at MBTA stations. Are there and plans to increase parking options at or near MBTA stations?
      - The Mobility Integrations plan includes some recommendations about exploring streamlining paying for parking, and MBTA is working to understand capacity and demand for station design.
    - We have been hearing about increase in the number of trains on the Worcester/ Framingham line. When will that be going into effect? How many new trains?
      - The plan being discussed is local trains to Framingham every 30 minutes and expresses to Worcester--with limited stops east of Framingham--every 30, some stations every 15 minutes. But not 100% sure on details or timing. Will pass along the question.
    - Who are MWRTA working with in municipalities to update the fixed routes?

- 92                                   ▪ Contact Tyler Terrasi or others at MWRTA to provide you with their specific  
93 information regarding their outreach activities.  
94

95 **Community Share Prompt: What is one initiative you are working on right now? – Yolanda Greaves**

- 96                   • Marian, Sherborn: received a design grant that may lead into a TIP in the future to redesign the  
97 intersection of Route 27/Route 16 that currently impedes access to school and the town center;  
98 have identified a consultant for the design phase and will launch public outreach soon
- 99                   • Imai and Laura, Weston: Working on an equity and inclusion project for the Weston Unified  
100 Master Plan committee to imbed DEI in the plan; reaching out to peer communities
- 101                  • Katie, Marlborough: Select Board contested election upcoming
- 102                  • Colette, Wellesley: community concern over housing project in existing park space that is state-  
103 owned property.
- 104                  • Meme, Southborough: Town Meeting on Monday, biggest issue is changing zoning that previously  
105 housed Dell EMC, hoping for a Costco, located on Route 9 East by 495
- 106                  • Robert, Wayland: ADU public forum next month hosted by many town boards; Church and school  
107 expansions happening as well
- 108                  • Yvonne, Framingham: Logan Express planning a temporary TSA pre-check in Framingham, starting  
109 infrastructure and construction for late spring/early summer 2026; considering zoning change for  
110 Shoppers World site to enable new housing; Carrol Getchel and Bruce Freeman trail updates
- 111                  • Barbara, Holliston: Town Meeting happened on Monday, updated ADU bylaws
- 112                  • Morgan, Natick: Town Meeting upcoming, have first Community Preservation Act project up for  
113 funding approval; proposed zoning changes next to W Natick train station; overhaul of signage  
114 bylaw for downtown district for increased business owner flexibility
- 115                  • Yolanda, Ashland: bringing updated Comprehensive Plan to Town Meeting in November
- 116                  • Jason, 495/MetroWest Partnership: November 30 housing committee meeting about modular  
117 construction
- 118                  • Susan, Senate President Spilka’s office: legislature all about funding, Governor will begin  
119 releasing funds for FY26 budget; today Senate is voting on supplemental budget to close out  
120 FY25; Fair Share revenue continues to flow
- 121                  • Yolanda: on the 28<sup>th</sup>, House will hear testimony on Municipal Empowerment Act, if anyone wants to  
122 support hybrid/remote meetings you can still submit testimony or give input to the committee; co-  
123 chaired by MW Rep Jack Lewis

124

125 **Other Business Not Known at Time of Posting**

- 126                  • MAPC Technical Assistance Program (TAP) open for applications now; please tell Camille or Travis  
127 if you are considering an application
- 128                  • MPO regional meeting on Dec 2
- 129                  • Next MWRC meeting in November: Historic Preservation
- 130                  • Next Wednesday is MAPC Fall Council meeting, can carpool

131

132 Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Colette, seconded by Robert. Meeting adjourned at 9:29, by  
133 show of hands.

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135 **Attachments:**

- 136 • Transportation Agencies Presentation

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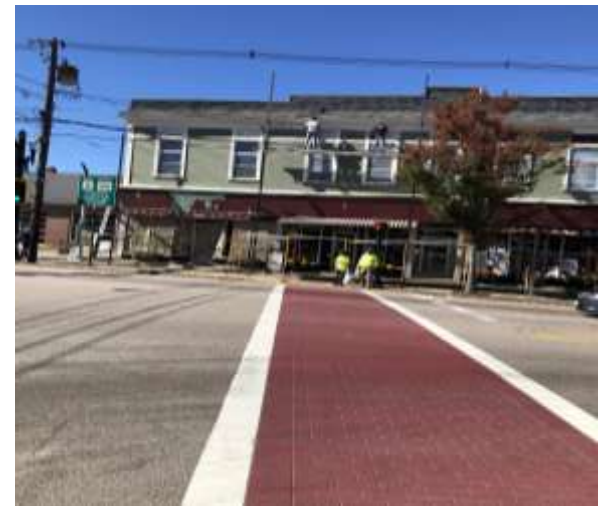
138 *Minutes compiled by Camille Jonlin, MAPC*

139 *Minutes approved 11.20.25*

# 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

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## 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

# Where do TIP projects come from?

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## Funding Process MPO TIP Development

Conversation with MPO Staff

Universe of Projects

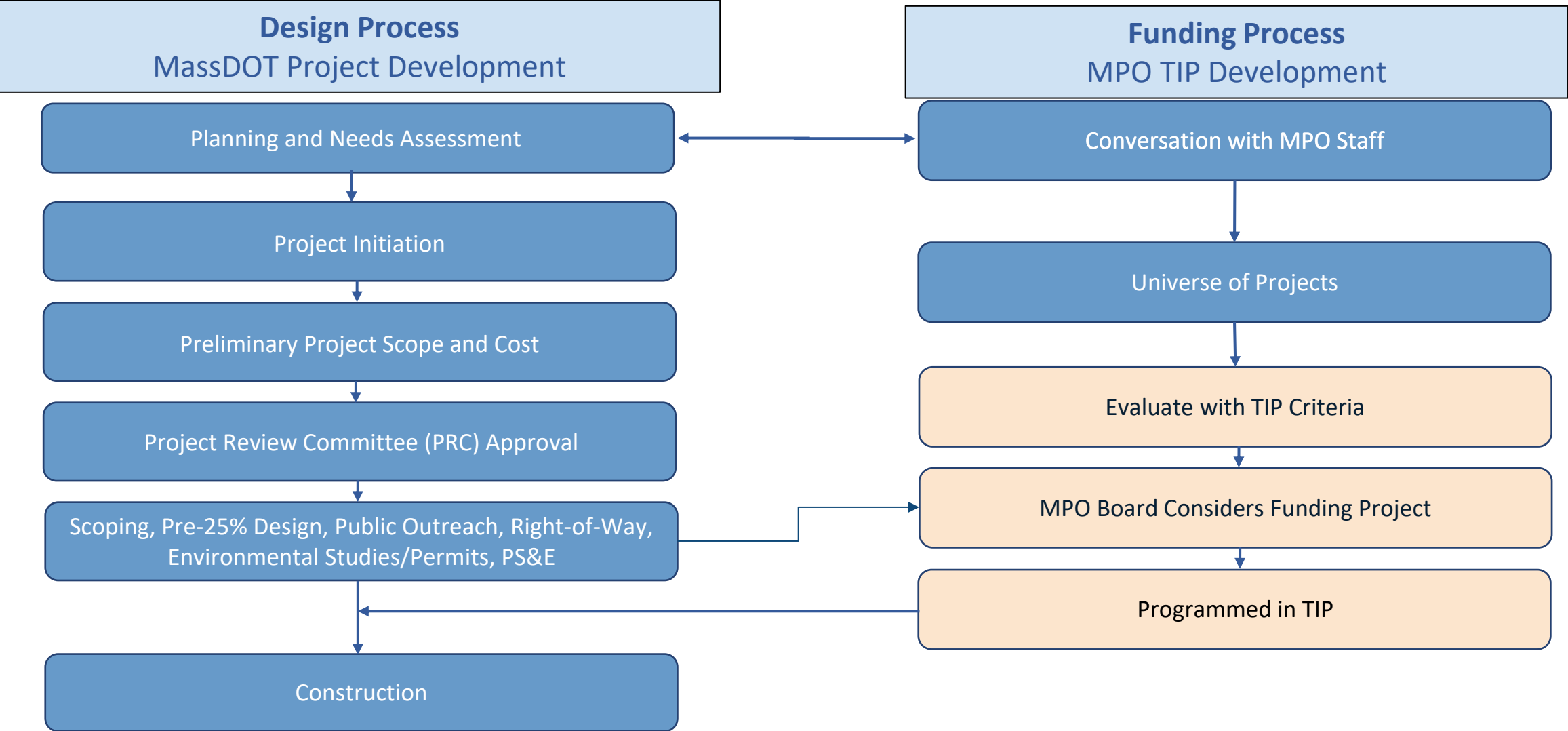
Evaluate with TIP Criteria

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

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- 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

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*Technical difficulties?*

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



# South Shore Coalition Opportunity Areas: Construction?

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- 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

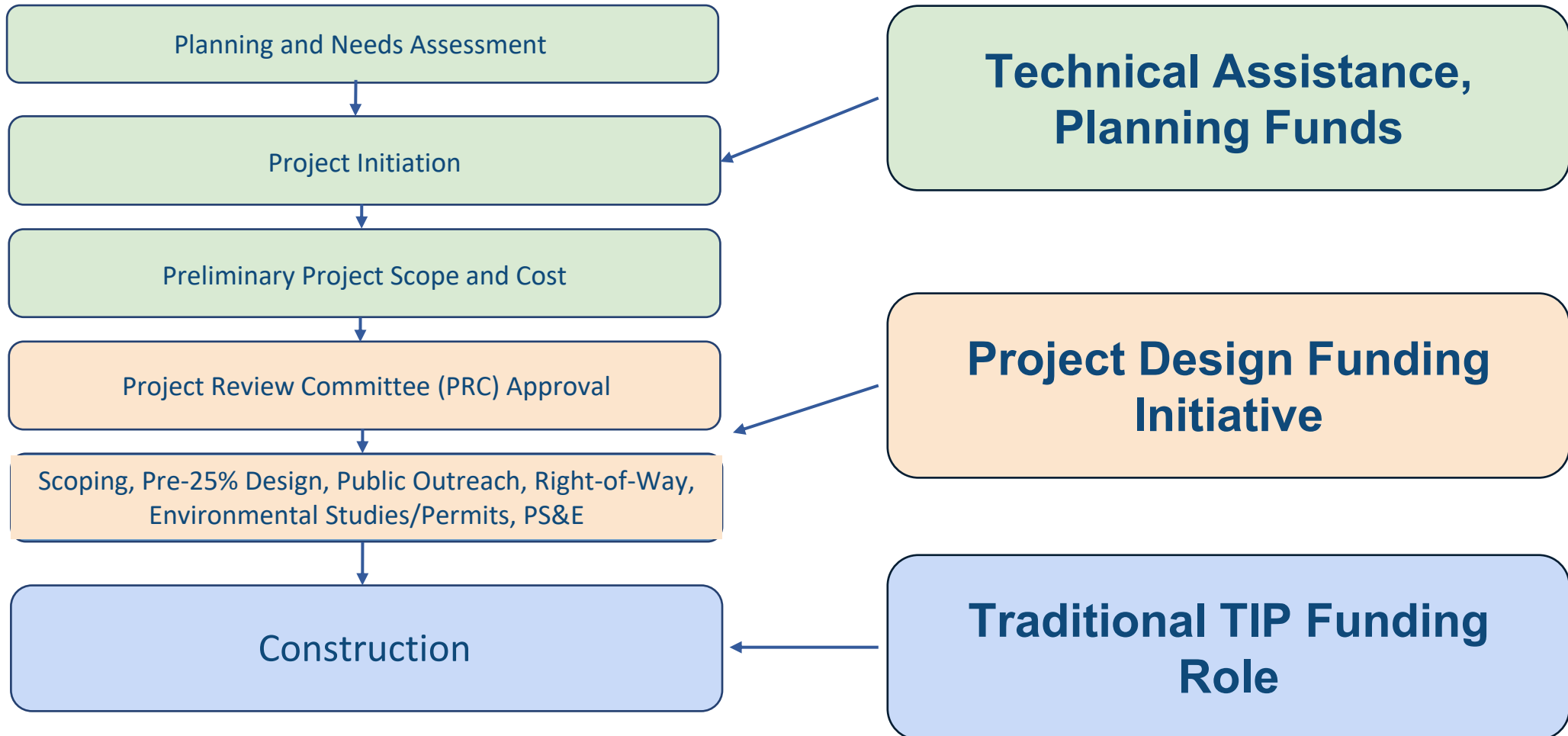
*Technical difficulties?*

Call xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
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.

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## *Municipal Planning & Support (MP&S) Team*

# LEAP

Local Early Actionable Planning



### *Introduction and Available Services*



# Background

- 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.

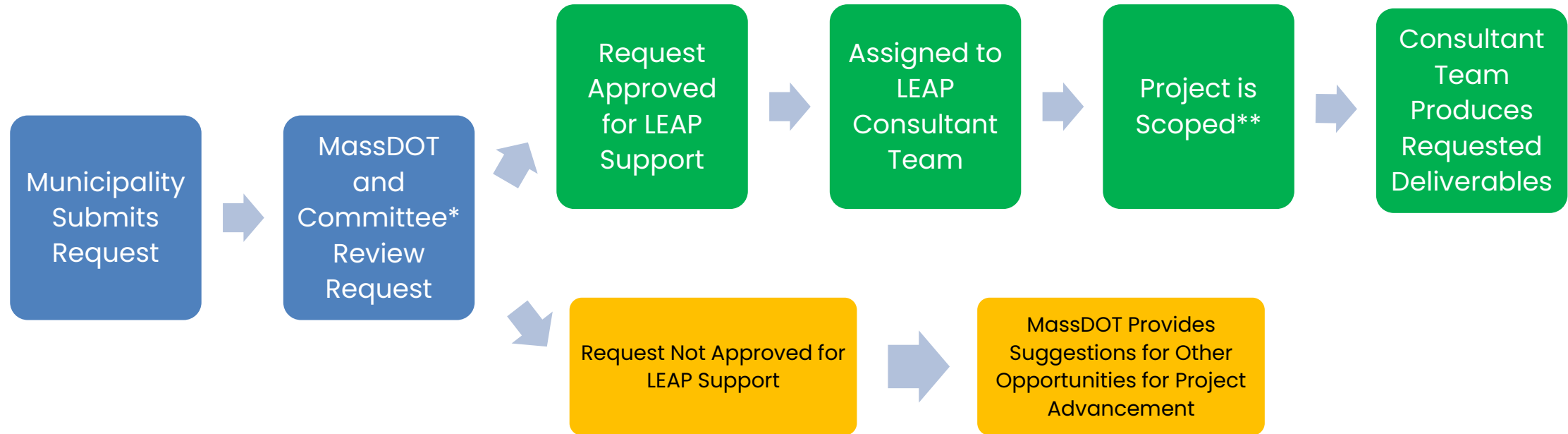


# LEAP Program Overview

- **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](mailto:Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us)



# LEAP Program Process Flow



\*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

## **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.)

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## **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

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:

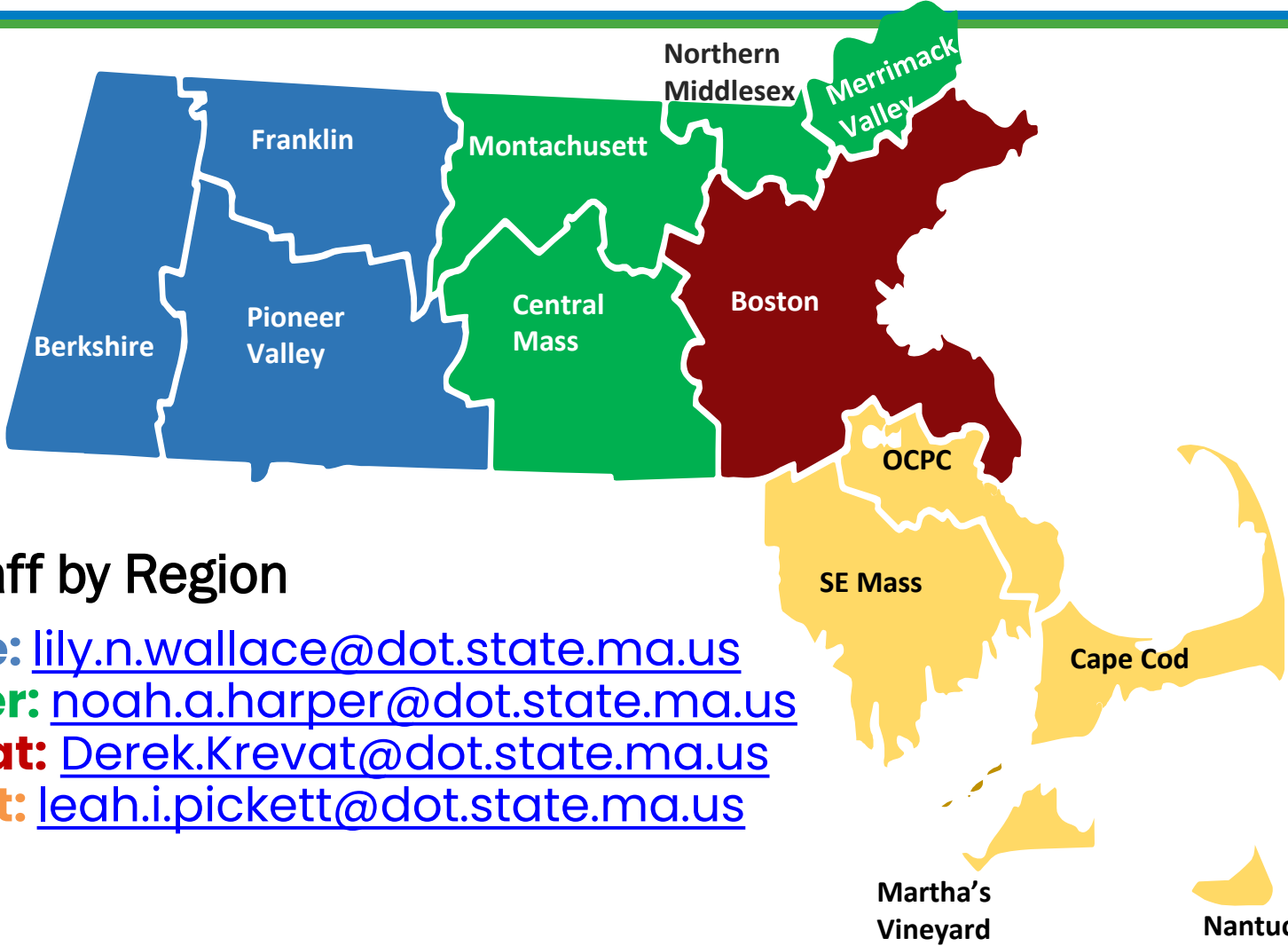
- **Community Designation (30%)**  
Prioritizes **Rural and Gateway Cities**; also considers similar high-need communities.
- **Community Needs (30%)**  
Assesses **municipal capacity** based on request form responses.
- **Project Momentum (20%)**  
Favors projects with a **clear, realistic path to implementation**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

## Past and Planned Outreach

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- 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](mailto:lily.n.wallace@dot.state.ma.us)

**Noah Harper:** [noah.a.harper@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:noah.a.harper@dot.state.ma.us)

**Derek Krevat:** [Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us)

**Leah Pickett:** [leah.i.pickett@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:leah.i.pickett@dot.state.ma.us)



**Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority**

# Planning at the MBTA

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Sandy Johnston, Deputy Director of Regional Transit Planning

MetroWest Regional Collaborative

October 23, 2025

# Meeting Commonwealth Goals

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



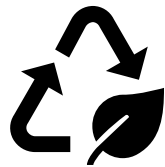
## **Housing**

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.



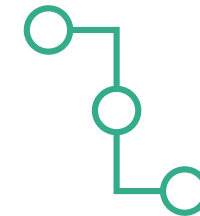
Timely and appropriate  
maintenance with less  
rider impact.



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.

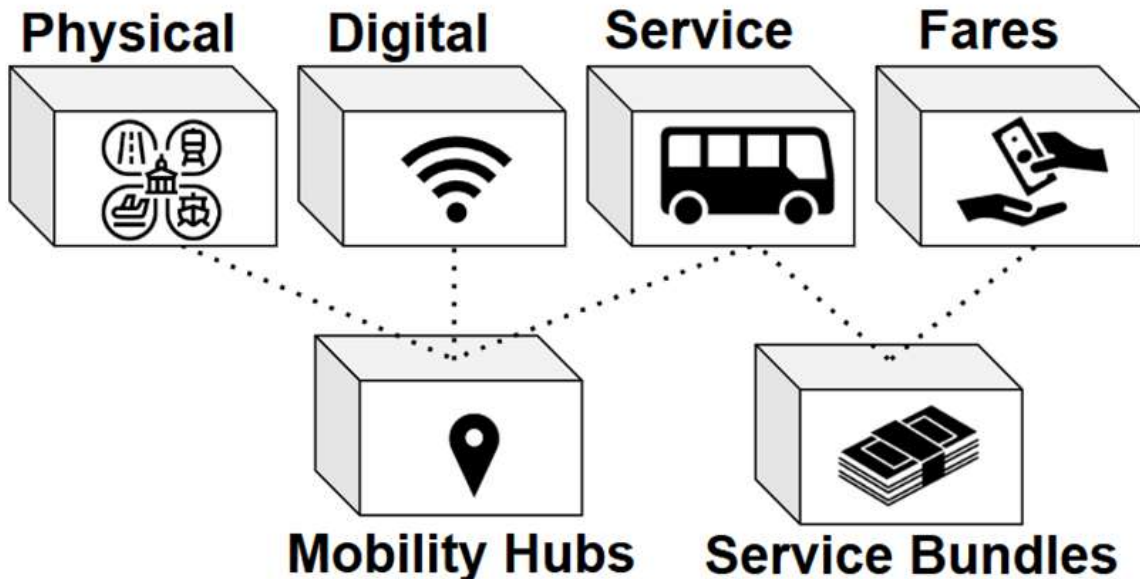


# MBTA Mobility Integration Plan

*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

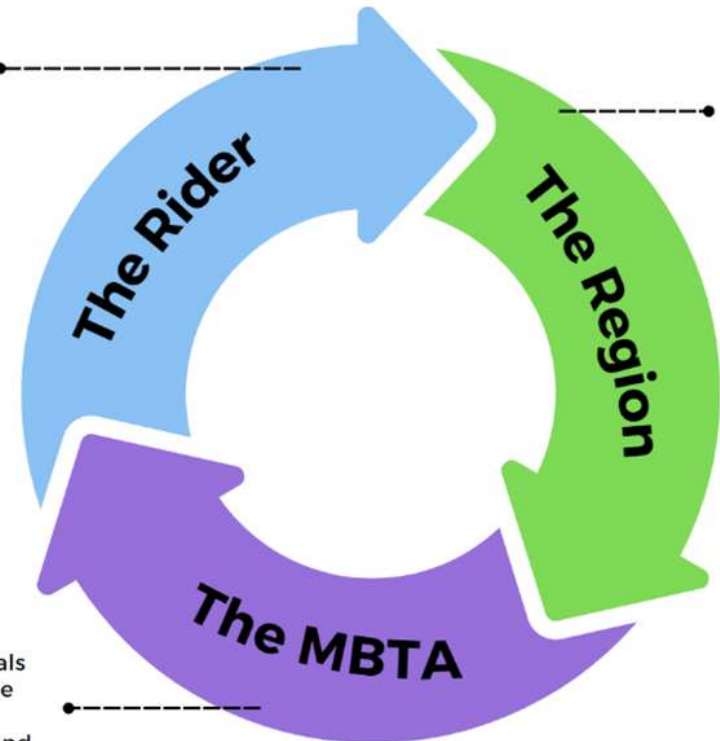
- To improve customer experience
- Reduce wait and travel times
- Increase equity and accessibility

### 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*

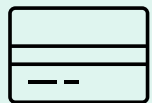
MBTA has already taken steps to build integrations between our modes and to other service providers:



Partnered with MassDOT to develop a comprehensive service map of providers



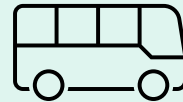
Coordinated Regional Rail Schedules with RTAs so they receive schedules several weeks earlier



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”

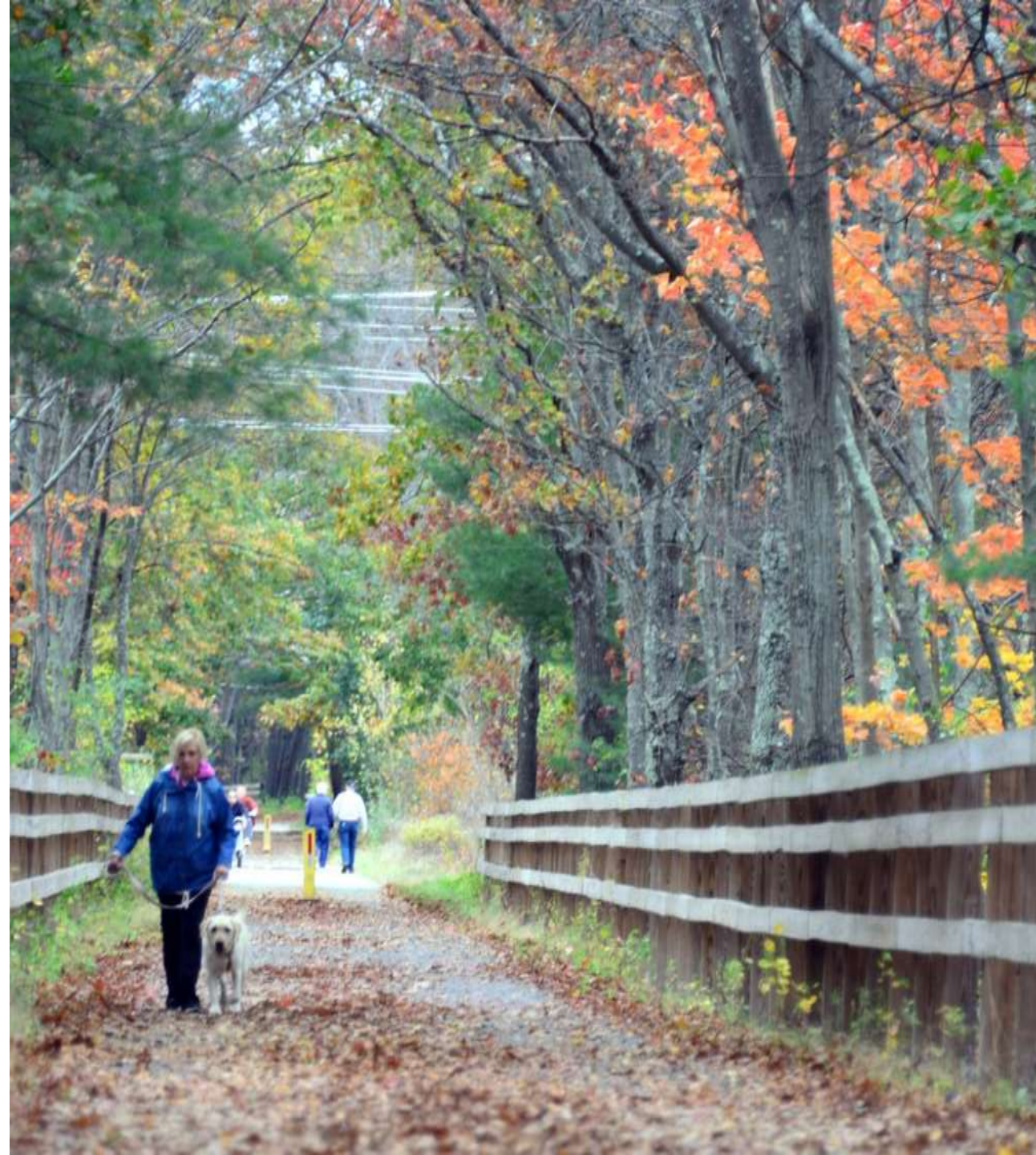


# MBTA and Rail Trails

- 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?*

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



# Thank you!

## Useful MBTA contacts for coordination

### For general regional planning coordination:

Sandy Johnston, Deputy Director of Regional Planning

[sjohnston2@mbta.com](mailto:sjohnston2@mbta.com)

Sanja Stegich, Senior Project Coordinator

[sstegich@mbta.com](mailto:ssstegich@mbta.com)

### For Rail Trails:

Jay Maddox, Deputy Director of Regional Projects

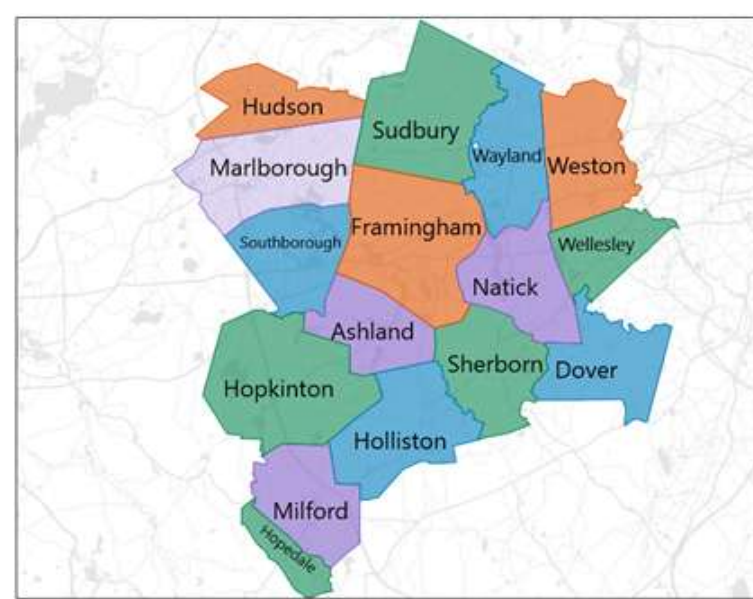
[jmaddox2@mbta.com](mailto:jmaddox2@mbta.com)

### For accessibility:

Laura Brelsford, AGM for Systemwide Accessibility

[lbrelsford@mbta.com](mailto: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**



**495C MetroWest Regional Transit Authority 495 Connector**



*This Commuter Shuttle provides connections to the South Acton, Southborough, and Forge Park/495 Commuter Rail Stations, five MWRTA Fixed Routes, two MWRTA Catch Connect zones, and eight MetroWest Communities.*

During the midday, the 495 Connector also incorporates the Route 15, servicing additional stops in Hudson. For full details, see the Route 15 schedule at [www.mwrta.com](http://www.mwrta.com).

*This route does not hold for late trains. Flag down stops will only be permitted in the towns on the map with town boundaries shown. Schedule times are approximate - please be at the bus stop 5 - 10 minutes prior to ensure not missing the bus. No Commuter Shuttle service is provided on holidays. For full details, please visit the MWRTA Holiday Policy at [www.mwrta.com/holidays](http://www.mwrta.com/holidays).*

**MWRTA Customer Service:**  
(508) 935-2222  
[www.mwrta.com](http://www.mwrta.com)  
Blandin Hub: 15 Blandin Ave.  
Framingham, MA 01702

[Facebook](#) @MetroWestEIA [Twitter](#) @MWRTA [Instagram](#) @MetroWestEIA

Download the MWRTA CATCH App for real-time info, bus tracking, fare that works across all modes!



# 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**

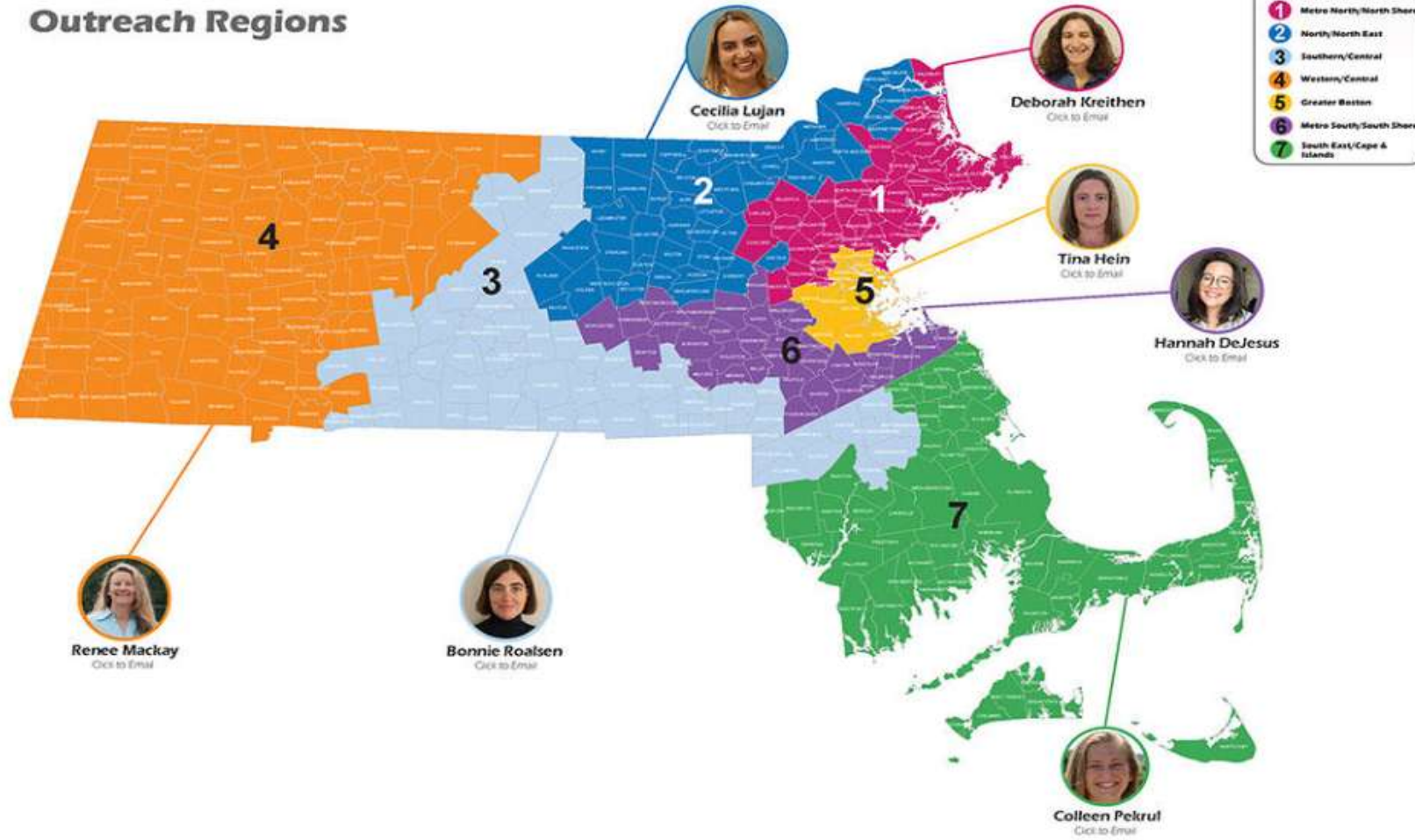
**Judith Crocker, MA Statewide Coordinator**





# SRTS Outreach Coordinators

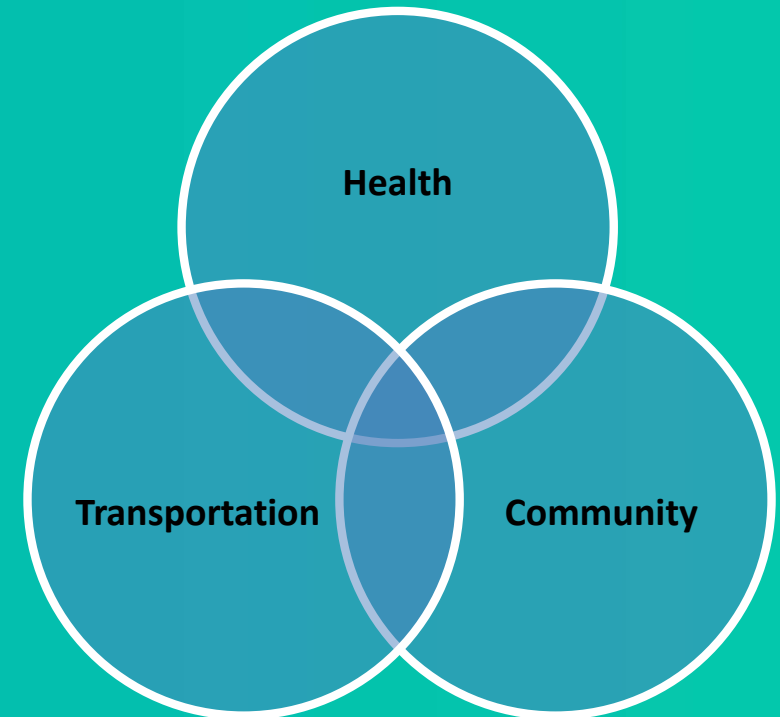
## Outreach Regions



# 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

Equity

Encouragement

Engagement

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

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

Evaluation

Education

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

Engineering

# 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

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[www.facebook.com/SafeRoutes.MA](http://www.facebook.com/SafeRoutes.MA)



[www.twitter.com/SafeRoutes\\_MA](http://www.twitter.com/SafeRoutes_MA)



[www.instagram.com/srts\\_ma/](http://www.instagram.com/srts_ma/)



[www.linkedin.com/company/ma-safe-routes-to-school](http://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



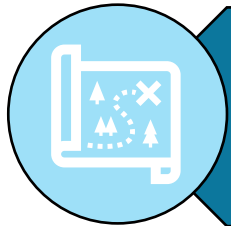
## Other

Carshare  
Human services



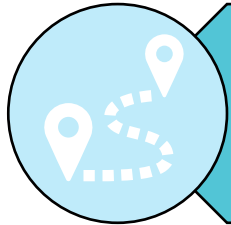
# Recommendations to build a more integrated MBTA

*Examples of the Mobility Integration Plan's recommendations*



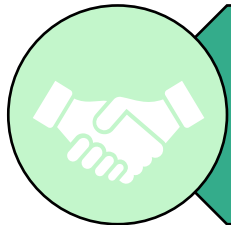
## Internal Alignment and Capacity

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



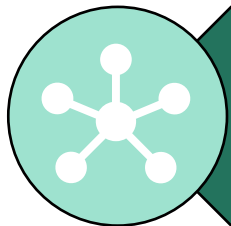
## Opportunities Led by MBTA

- 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

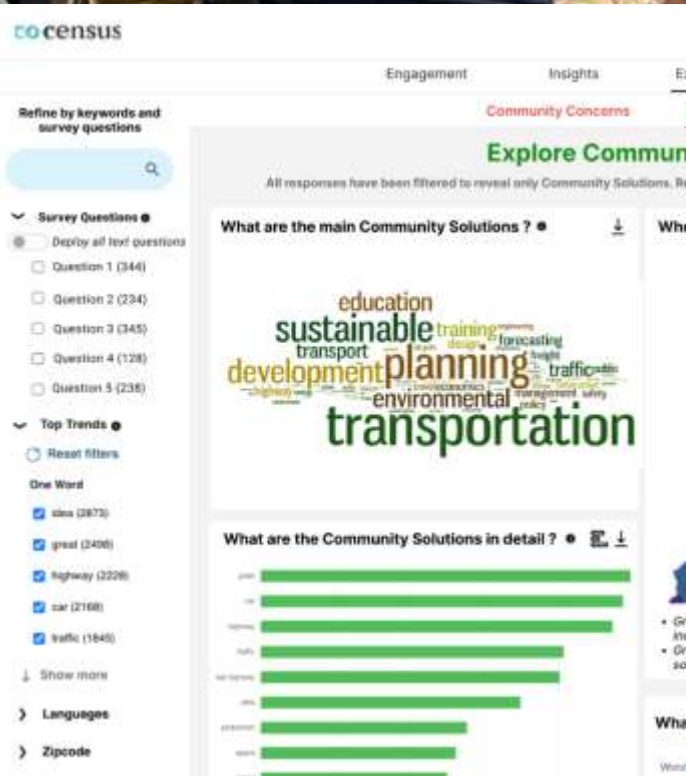


# MBTA Objectives for the PMT

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- ***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 1-½ minutes in the core; every 6 minutes on each branch, and increases in accessibility.

## Bus

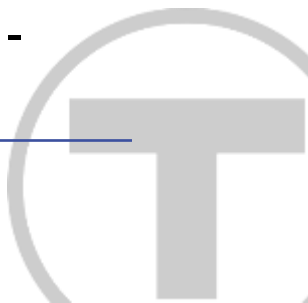
Increase service 40%, including prioritizing those who depend on transit.

## 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

