

South Shore Coalition (SSC)

FY2027 Work Plan

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

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1. Purpose of the Work Plan

The SSC FY2027 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

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 of South Shore Communities.
- Prioritize Regional collaboration.
- Create a pipeline for communication with state legislators.
- Develop sustainable solutions for shared environmental challenges.
- Conduct supporting analyses in South Shore Communities to support SSC goals.

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 2 opportunities including one in collaboration with OCPC and one for just SSC membership.
- 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.
- Create an onboarding packet for a new SSC member to join the coalition.

C. Special Projects (proposed, or in development)

- **Transportation Planning Advocacy and Regional Coordination:** SSC will continue to engage with the Boston Region MPO, MassDOT, MBTA, and legislative partners on transportation priorities affecting South Shore communities, including transit reliability, ferry operations, roadway safety, resilience, and access to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding. Particular attention will be given to advancing transportation investments that support climate resilience, greenhouse gas reduction, multimodal connectivity, and regional mobility goals (SSC mobility study implementation). SSC will also continue to provide space for updates and coordination from the subregion's MPO representative from Town of Hull, currently Chris Dilorio, to help ensure member communities remain informed and engaged in ongoing regional transportation planning and policy discussions.
- **Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Regulation Implementation:** Assist communities in navigating and implementing new state clean energy siting and permitting requirements anticipated to take effect in October 2026. SSC will support municipalities through peer exchange, regional coordination, and technical assistance focused on local zoning updates, permitting pathways, resilience considerations, and public communication strategies related to clean energy infrastructure. SSC will also convene conversations with DOER and relevant state agencies to help communities better understand regulatory expectations, identify implementation challenges, and access funding and technical assistance opportunities.
- **Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure Planning:** Support municipal understanding of the planning, zoning, infrastructure, and environmental considerations associated with data centers and related digital infrastructure. SSC may convene discussions with state agencies, utilities, planners, and industry experts to explore best practices around siting, energy demand management, water usage, resiliency, and community impacts.
- **Continued Shared Housing Services Office (SHSO) Discussion:** SSC will continue exploring the feasibility of a shared or regionalized housing services model to support South Shore communities in administering affordable housing and related programs. Building on prior SSC conversations and regional interest in shared services approaches, this effort may include discussion of shared staffing structures, regional administrative support models, Local Action Unit (LAU) administration, affordable housing trust support, monitoring and compliance assistance, housing navigation services, and coordination

around state housing requirements. SSC may convene interested municipalities, MAPC staff, housing practitioners, and relevant state partners to better understand municipal capacity gaps, identify potential governance and funding models, and explore opportunities for future pilot programs or regional collaboration. Particular attention may also be given to how a shared services framework could support smaller communities that may not have dedicated housing staff while improving consistency, efficiency, and resident access to housing-related resources across the South Shore region.

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 agenda item at quarterly meetings to review progress, surface new requests, and ensure data continues to meet municipal needs.

5. Topics of Interest

Topics prioritized in FY2026 and reaffirmed for FY2027 include:

- Transportation related topics: priorities, advocacy, TIP pipelines, trails.
- Housing related topics of interest: ADUs, Affordable Housing Trusts, Shared Housing Services Office.
- Shared Services for Planning and Development
- Coastal Management and Climate Resiliency
- Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation
- Public Health Infrastructure and Food Systems Planning

Additional topics proposed for FY2027

- Clean Energy Siting and Permitting
- Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure Planning

6. Governance and Membership Development

In the new fiscal year, the coalition will 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-26	N/A	1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement - Recruit speaker on data centers for August meeting (potentially on Gov. Healey's data center framework)
AUG-26	SSC Member Meeting on Thursday 8/20 at 2pm (Virtual) - MPO updates - World Cup updates – what went well and what could have worked better? - Data center presentation and discussion - Identify ongoing “data bucket” needs	1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement
SEP-26	N/A	1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement - Respond to ongoing “data bucket” needs - Confirm venue and logistics for October meeting (In-Person)
OCT-26	SSC Member Meeting on Thursday 10/15 at 2pm (In-Person) - MPO updates - Trails presentation and discussion from MAPC staff - Discussion on local roadway safety initiatives (tentative) - Identify ongoing “data bucket” needs	1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement
NOV-26	N/A	1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement - Respond to ongoing “data bucket” needs - Recruit speaker on clean energy siting/permitting for December meeting - Develop SSC Chair position and circulate
DEC-26	SSC Member Meeting on Thursday 12/17 at 2pm (Virtual) - MPO updates - Clean energy siting/permitting presentation and discussion - Discussion of next steps for Chair elections - Identify ongoing “data bucket” needs	1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement - Follow up with potential SSC Chair candidates

JAN-27	N/A	• 1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement • Respond to ongoing “data bucket” needs • Conduct SSC Chair elections (virtually?)
FEB-27	SSC Member Meeting – Thursday 2/18 at 2pm (Virtual) • MPO updates • Report on SSC Chair election results and welcome new SSC Chair • Conduct Community Peer Exchange • Identify ongoing “data bucket” needs	• 1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement
MAR-27	N/A	• 1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement • Respond to ongoing “data bucket” needs • Confirm venue and logistics for April Legislative Breakfast (In-Person), in coordination with MAPC Govt Affairs team
APR-27	SSC Member Meeting – Legislative Breakfast on Friday 4/16 at 9am (In-Person; date/time is tentative adjustment from usual third Thursday schedule)	• 1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement
MAY-27	N/A	• 1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement • Respond to ongoing “data bucket” needs • Develop and circulate draft FY28 work plan
JUN-27	SSC Member Meeting on Thursday 6/17 at 2pm (Virtual) • Review FY27 activities • Review and discuss proposed FY28 workplan • Identify ongoing “data bucket” needs	• 1:1 meetings with members as needed; general outreach and engagement • Finalize FY28 workplan after June meeting discussion