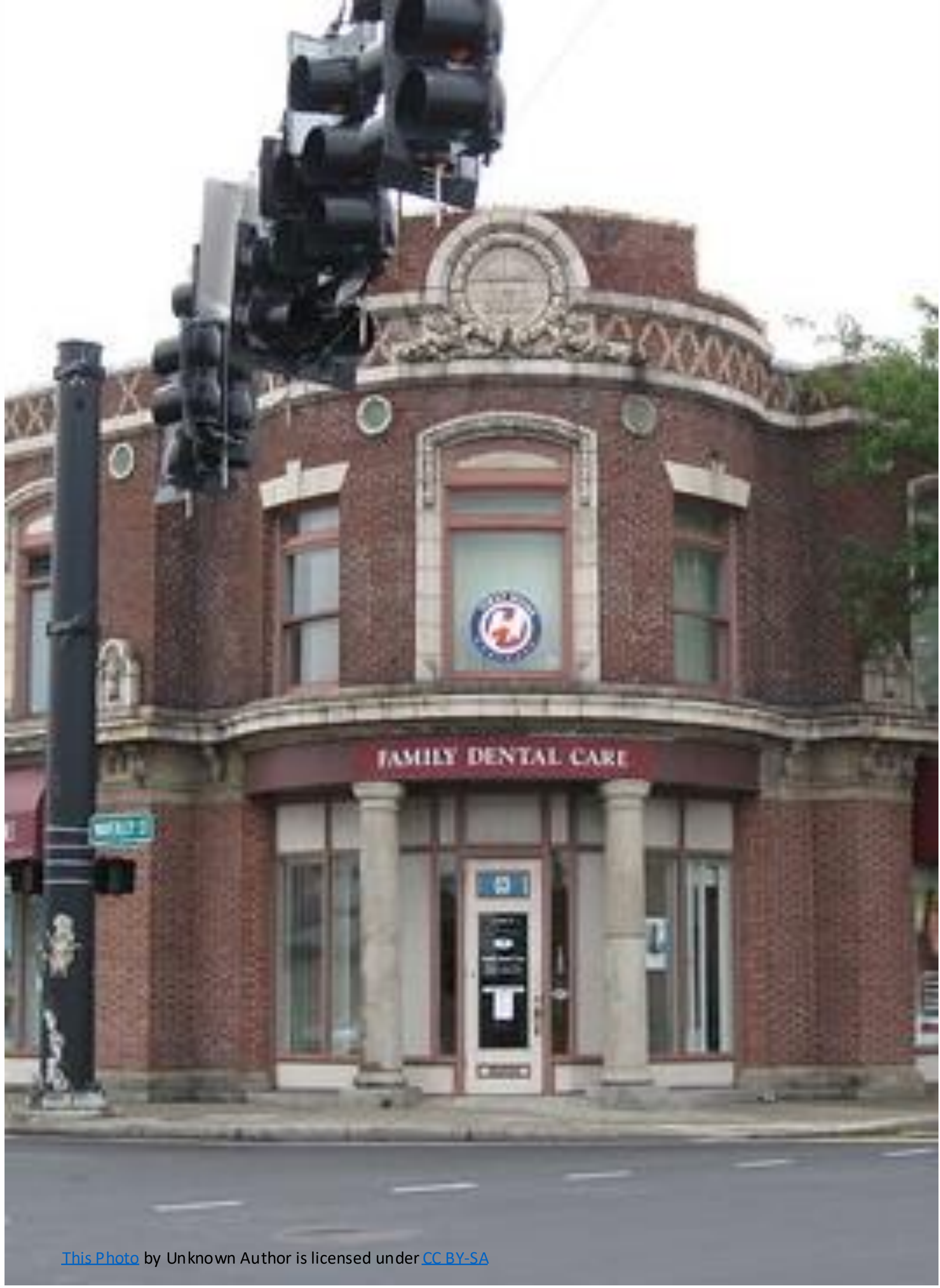
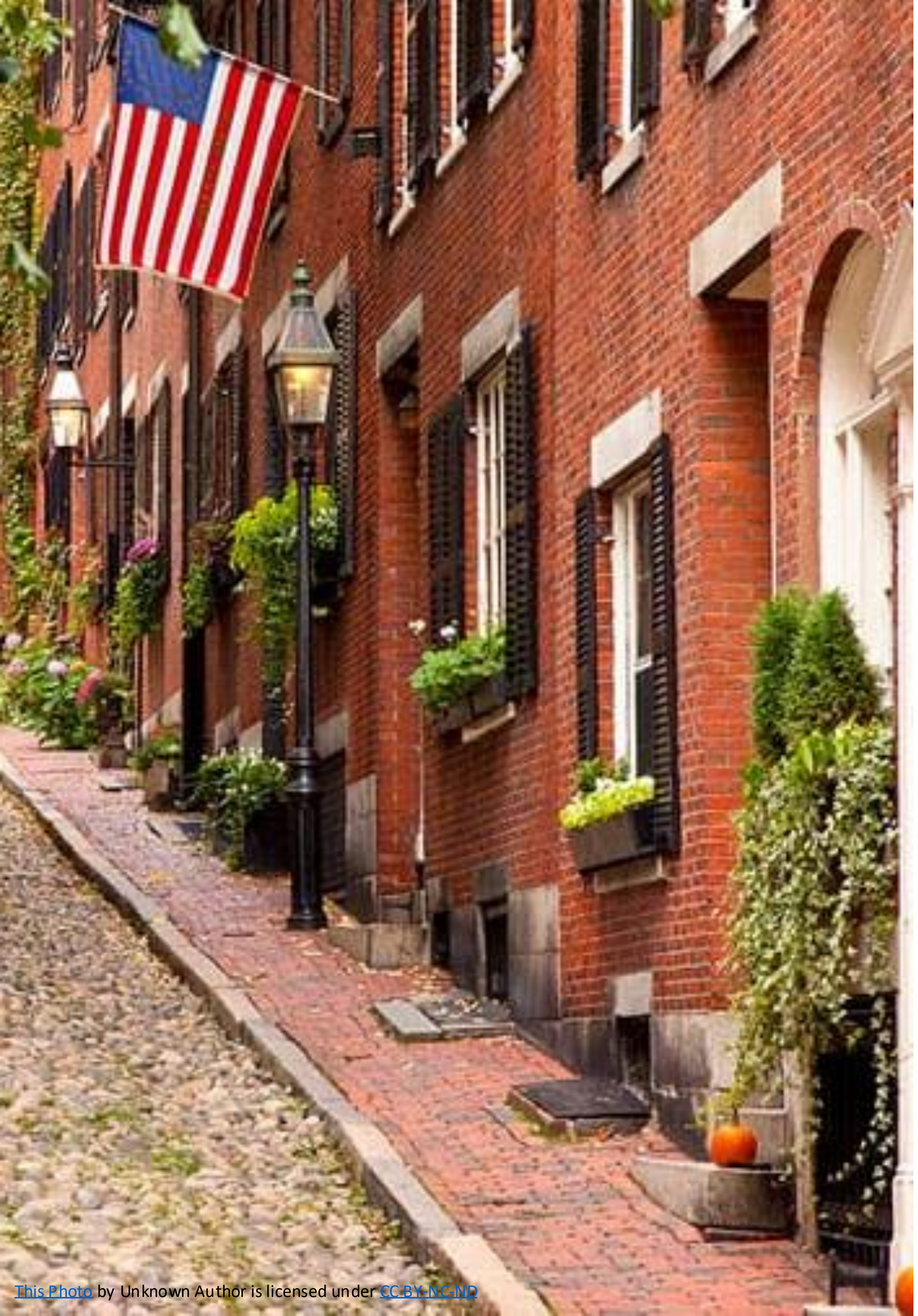
Thriving Together: Greater Boston's Economic Roadmap

Overview for MAPC Subregions

Presented by: MAPC Economic Development Team

This strategy will serve as our roadmap for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth across our 101 cities and towns through 2030.





Regional Context

The MAPC region encompasses **101 cities and towns**, representing nearly half of Massachusetts' population and a diverse economic landscape.

Regional Strengths

- World-class higher education ecosystem
- Robust innovation economy and research hubs
- Demonstrated climate leadership commitment

Key Challenges

- Escalating housing costs and affordability crisis
- Persistent racial wealth and opportunity gaps
- Climate vulnerabilities in coastal infrastructure
- Growing skills mismatch as demographics shift

The Role of the Advisory Committee

Diverse Perspectives

- Ensures that diverse perspectives, including those of constituent-driven groups, TA providers, public sector and business leaders, are included in the process.

Responsibilities

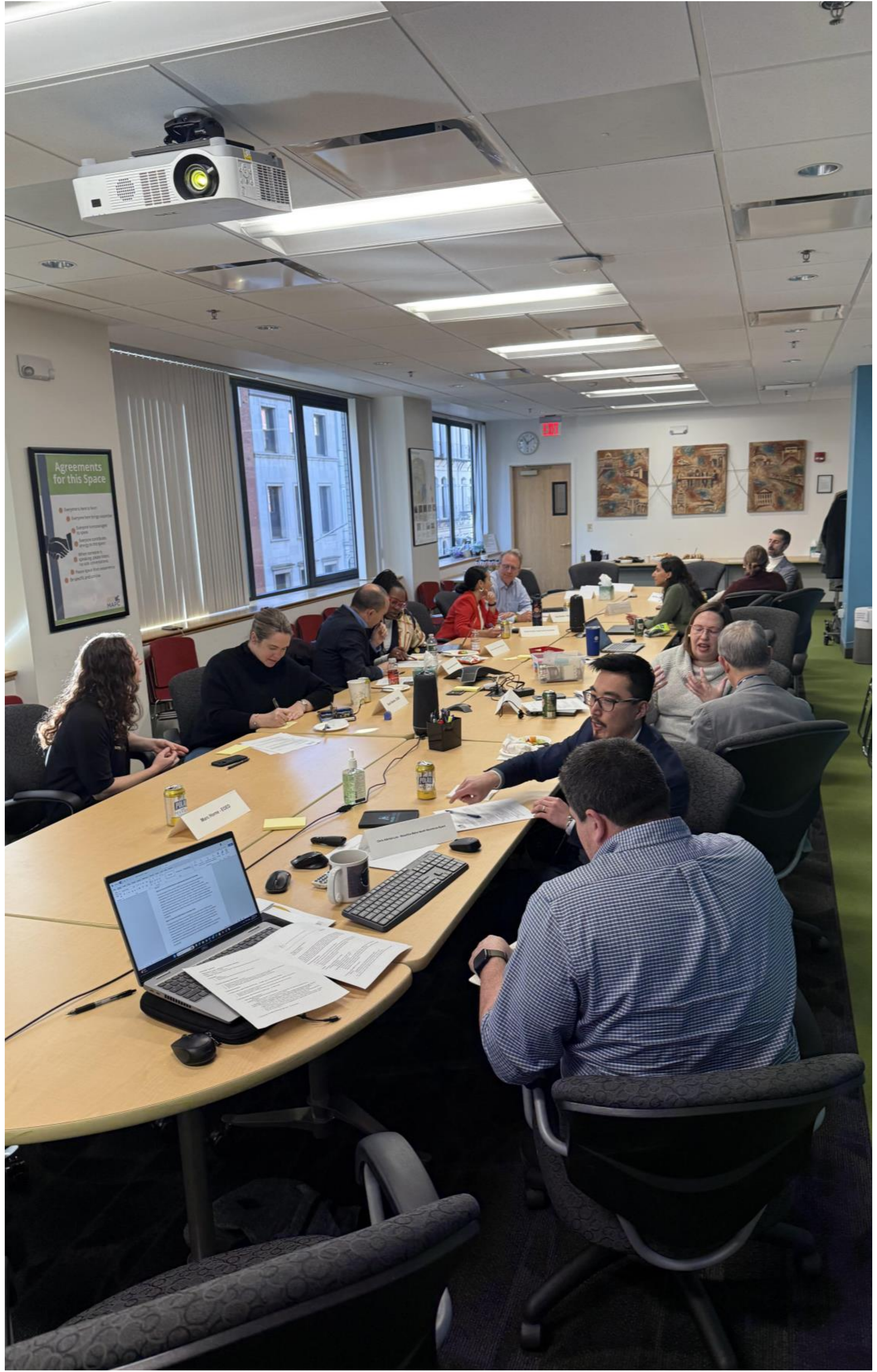
- Oversees the development and implementation of the Roadmap.
- Provides feedback on strategic goals and initiatives.

Collaboration

- Identifies opportunities to collaborate with one another in alignment with the Roadmap's goals.
- Where collaboration opportunities are identified, committee members will engage their own constituencies or communities to support goals.

Advisory Committee Members

Organization	Member
Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED)	Marc Horne Sarah Stanton
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)	Raija Vaisanen
Eastern Bank Foundation	Natalia Urtubey
Massachusetts Business Roundtable	JD Chesloff
Greater Roxbury Arts and Culture Center	Taneshia Nash Laird
Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA)	Nicole Obi
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East	Filaine Deronnette James Willmuth
MassHire Metro North Workforce Board	Chris Albrizio-Lee
Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)	Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal
La Colaborativa	Alex Train
City of Salem (municipal)	Tom Daniel
Town of Weston (municipal)	Imaikalani Aiu



What the Region Needs to Compete

- Permit and fund more homes near transit and major job centers, targeting about 185,000 new homes by 2030 so more residents can reach quality jobs without long or costly commutes.

- Pair new housing with accessible childcare, frequent transit, and workforce development services to lower cost burdens and open pathways into higher wage employment.

- Align infrastructure and site readiness funding with both housing production and opportunities for emerging and legacy industries to grow, especially in places where workers are currently stuck in low wage or unstable jobs.

- Modernize zoning to allow a mix of nonhazardous advanced manufacturing, artisanal production, and other quality job producing uses in more places, while preventing displacement of existing residents and small businesses.

What the Region Needs to Compete

- About 146,000 workers in the Boston-Cambridge MSA (including MetroWest municipalities) earn $15 an hour or less, 2022

- Living wage for one adult is $30.74 an hour, two adults both working with two children is $39.65 per adult

- Job openings have exceeded job seekers, roughly two openings per unemployed person in recent years. Though this is projected to change (due to AI,) in recent years job openings exceeded job seekers, stymying industries' growth, particularly in some key sectors

- Sustained net domestic out-migration among working-age adults since 2019, international immigration is the only growth offset

Age group	Workers at $15/hour or less
18 to 24	**12,000**
25 to 64	**127,000**
65 and over	**7,000**

Vision Statement

By 2030, Greater Boston will be a

Thriving, Inclusive, Climate-Resilient Economy

All residents, regardless of race, income, or geography, will have:

Access to Quality Jobs	Affordable Housing
Served by Resilient Infrastructure	Wealth-Building Opportunities

Our Goals

1

Make the Region Affordable and Accessible

Strategic investments in workforce development programs, education pathways, and expanded childcare and transit access to connect residents with opportunities.

Initiatives to expand affordable housing production and housing choice, particularly in job-rich areas.

2

Support BIPOC- and Women-Owned Businesses

Develop business ownership transition strategies to build community wealth and preserve neighborhood businesses.

Refine policies and practices in procurement and mentorship initiatives to grow the capacity of underrepresented entrepreneurs.

3

Invest in Resilient Infrastructure & Climate-Aligned Growth

Prioritize transit-oriented development and climate-ready infrastructure investments across the region.

Build pathways for clean energy firms and workforce development; support small contractors in bidding on resilient infrastructure projects.

Goal 1. Affordability and access for workers and employers

1. Expand access to higher education for incumbent and underemployed workers through subsidized tuition.
2. Expand certificate and credential programs to meet regional workforce needs in high demand industries, including integrated English for Speakers of Other Languages instruction to support immigrant and multilingual workers.
3. Expand coordination of workforce development at state and municipal levels, with a focus on BIPOC and other hard to serve populations.
4. Increase funding for childcare providers to stabilize providers and provide livable wages to early educators.

- For today's purposes, strategies 5 through 9 are omitted

Goal 2. Resilience and retention of BIPOC- and women-owned and creative economy entrepreneurs. Reduce ownership disparities

Expand	Expand municipal procurement for underrepresented firms.
Enable	Assist BIPOC and women entrepreneurs and worker cooperatives acquiring businesses from retiring owners.
Use	Leverage the Business Front Door to connect entrepreneurs to commercial space.
Build	Build peer mentoring between established and emerging business leaders.

Goal 3. Climate ready infrastructure and new industries

Prioritize a pipeline of shovel ready resilience projects and identify corridors for cleantech retention.

Launch a model TOD planning program. Reduce auto emissions and greenhouse gases through transit-oriented growth.

Prepare BIPOC firms in construction-adjacent industries to enter field. Unbundle large public works projects into smaller contract opportunities.

Provide a municipal toolkit for climate adaptation projects

Municipal Roles in CEDS Implementation

Municipalities lead directly: business procurement, acquisition facilitation, Business Front Door leverage, peer mentorship.

Municipalities partner with state and regional actors: higher education subsidies, ESOL credentialing, childcare funding, workforce coordination, transit-oriented development incentives.

Municipalities spearhead infrastructure and resilience: shovel-ready projects, resilience toolkits, construction industry preparation for BIPOC businesses.

Regional progress depends on action at every level.

Strategy Check in – Poll

Do these strategies resonate with your community?

- Strongly resonate
- Somewhat resonate
- Do not resonate yet
- Unsure

Which two strategies would your community most likely pursue in the next few years?

Thank You!

- Angela Brown – ABrown@MAPC.org
- Raul Gonzalez – RGonzalez@MAPC.org
- Camille Jonlin – CJonlin@MAPC.org
- Austin Knipper – AKnipper@MAPC.org

Learn More at
https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/boston-region-economic-roadmap/