



MetroWest Regional Collaborative (MWRC) Work Plan FY2027

Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Adopted by the MWRC on June 25, 2026

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Introduction

The MetroWest Regional Collaborative (“MWRC” or “the Collaborative”) is a subregion group within the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The purpose of MWRC is to:

- provide a forum for communication and knowledge sharing between and among the MWRC municipalities¹ about municipal and planning best practices;
- support regional coordination on policy and planning matters;
- advocate for regional priorities; and
- pursue projects of regional significance.

The purpose of the MWRC Work Plan FY27 is to provide an outline of goals and priorities, establish a meeting schedule, and identify meeting topics and activities to be undertaken by the MWRC and MWRC Coordinators for fiscal year 2027.

¹ MWRC municipalities include Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Marlborough, Natick, Sherborn, Southborough, Wayland, Wellesley, and Weston

MWRC Meetings

During FY2027, MWRC will hold two distinct meeting types: subregional meetings, and special events. MWRC subregional meetings will be held monthly with special events held intermittently. According to the MWRC Bylaws, there shall be a minimum of six meetings of the full Collaborative each year.

- **Subregional Meetings:** Meetings will generally be held from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on the 4th Thursday of the month with presentations at the beginning followed by community exchange. Agendas and topics for exchange will be circulated in advance. No meetings will be held during the months of July, August and December. Meetings will be held via Zoom with occasional in-person meetings where appropriate.
- **Special Events:** MWRC may include workshops, forums, tours, trainings, or planner roundtables for municipal staff, in addition to annual events such as the MWRC Legislative Breakfast. These events can replace subregional meetings.

MWRC Meeting Agenda Items

Meeting agendas will typically include time for:

- **Learning exchange:** Update on subregional or local projects that might be of interest and applicable to members. This may include external presentations.
- **Community exchange:** Opportunity for each member to share notable municipal achievements or updates.
- **Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) updates:** Updates and calls for feedback on regional planning work such as MetroCommon 2050 and topical planning work.
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) coordination:** Discuss priority projects for the region and opportunities to engage with MPO staff regarding the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and related transportation planning efforts. These conversations are coordinated with the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) of the Boston Region MPO.
- **Funding and technical assistance opportunities:** Update on programs, workshops, funding opportunities, initiatives, meetings, etc. sponsored by MAPC and others that MWRC members may be interested in attending.
- All meetings will be held remotely via Zoom with occasional in-person meetings where appropriate. Updates to meeting dates, times, locations, will be posted on the [MAPC MetroWest Regional Collaborative webpage](#).

Proposed FY27 Meeting Topics

The following are proposed topics for FY2027 meetings. All topics, times, and locations are subject to change based on presenter availability and project status, but generally take place on Thursday mornings at 8-9:30am on Zoom. Changes will be communicated well in advance. These topics are based on voiced interest by Collaborative members and topical issues occurring in Massachusetts.

Date	Location	Topic
September 24, 2026 (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom	Tourism: MetroWest Visitor's Bureau presentation and tourism tactics discussion

Date	Location	Topic
October 22, 2026 (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom	Conservation: MetroWest Conservation Alliance presentation and MWRC conservation exchange
December 3, 2026 (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom	Community Engagement Best Practices: project results and ideation discussion
January 21, 2027* (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom	Climate Resilience Playbook or Greater Boston Climate Action Plan presentation and municipal visioning (or other clean energy topic, e.g. solar or EV charging)
February 25, 2027 (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom	Housing and Traffic Impacts Research with MAPC Transportation Department
March TBD, 2027 (Friday 8-10am)	In-Person location TBD	Legislative Breakfast
April 22, 2027** (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom	MWRC Work Planning for FY28 and Municipal Challenges “Creative Crunchtime” brainstorming exchange
May 27, 2027 (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom	Navigating Public Meetings Workshop (MAPC facilitated training for municipal staff and officials)
June 24, 2027 (Thursday 8-9:30am)	Zoom/potential in-person	MAPC Data Common tool and Generative AI Exercise with MAPC Digital Services Department; adopt work plan and elect FY28 Exec Board

*date may shift depending on Mass Municipal Association schedule

**potential in-person

Potential other topics that have been voiced by Collaborative members include grant opportunities, wastewater/stormwater, solar and electric vehicle (EV) charging, municipal finance, and general regional collaboration. These topics may be substituted for the listed topics if presenters are unavailable or there are other unforeseen circumstances.

Potential Future Project Ideas for MWRC Special Assessment-Funded Projects

Here are potential future project ideas that have been voiced by Collaborative members or are other multi-municipal opportunities. These may be considered in future MWRC meetings and/or further scoped before a full proposal is submitted to the Collaborative, using existing MWRC funds.

- Affordable housing trusts regional convenings
- Trails and greenways development
- Capital planning for municipal properties
- Arts and culture planning for tourism
- Water resources mapping and system expansion planning
- Age-friendly regional implementation projects with the MA Healthy Aging Collaborative

89 Representatives, Leadership, and Staff

90 MWRC Representatives

91 According to the MWRC Bylaws, each MWRC municipality may have two voting designees: one
92 Select Board member or an appointed designee, or one Mayor or their appointed designee; and
93 one member of the Planning Board or the Planning Board's appointed designee. A majority of
94 appointed members shall constitute a quorum. Additional staff and leadership from each
95 municipality attend the meetings, but there are only two voting members per municipality.

96 A list of the prior year's MWRC voting members is included at the end of this document.

97 MWRC Community Organizations

98 MWRC is fortunate to also include key partners in work across the region at meetings. In recent
99 years, meetings have regularly included:

- 100 • the 495/MetroWest Partnership
- 101 • Mass Audubon
- 102 • MetroWest Regional Transportation Authority (MWRTA)
- 103 • MetroWest Nonprofit Network
- 104 • Staff from Legislative Offices
- 105 • Municipal officials from neighboring municipalities

106
107 MWRC meetings and events are open to the public and, as such, additional members from
108 municipalities and community-based organizations are encouraged to attend, particularly when
109 the topic of discussion impacts their work. Recommendations for additional attendees are always
110 welcomed.

111 MWRC Executive Board

112 The MWRC Executive Board assists the Coordinators in the MWRC management and is authorized
113 to act in place of the Collaborative on any matters that arise between scheduled meetings.
114 Annual elections are typically scheduled for the same meeting as approval of the workplan.

115 MWRC Staff ("Coordinators" or "Subregional Coordinators")

116 The Coordinator(s) works with the MWRC Executive Board to represent MetroWest's interests at
117 MAPC, communicate MAPC's priorities in MetroWest, draft the annual work plan, schedule
118 meetings and prepare agendas, organize forums and workshops, and provide technical
119 assistance to participating municipalities when needed. Coordinators also help implement MWRC
120 projects at MAPC and provide regular correspondence regarding MAPC or MWRC projects,
121 events, meetings, announcements, or funding opportunities.

122 MWRC Representation at MPO and MAPC Committees

123 The City of Framingham currently represents MWRC at the Boston Region MPO. The Boston
124 Region MPO is composed of 22 voting members and two nonvoting members.

125 We are fortunate as a region to have MWRC members Colette Aufranc, Town of Wellesley,
126 MAPC Executive Committee member, and Imaikalani (Imai) Aiu, Town of Weston as MAPC
127 Secretary and [MAPC Executive Committee](#) member. Imai is also a member of MAPC's Legislative
128 Committee; the legislative committee meets monthly to set the legislative policy agenda for the
129 entire agency and is comprised of members from each subregion and coalition partners.

Funding and Finances

There are four main funding sources for MWRC's project work and facilitation by MAPC.

- Federal transportation funds are allocated from the [Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\)](#) to facilitate public participation in the development of the MPO's annual [Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#), including the [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#).
- MWRC Coordinator time is funded by MAPC's annual assessment collected from its member municipalities via the community's [Cherry Sheet](#).
- MWRC member communities pay into the MWRC Special Assessment Fund, which is used to support larger regional projects and forums for member communities such as understanding regional best practices, implementing emerging practices, and multi-municipal collaboration. Each municipality pays into the Special Assessment annually with a base fee of \$1,500 plus ten cents (\$0.10) per capita. MAPC holds the funds for the Collaborative, but any and all use of funds is dependent on an affirmative vote by the Collaborative members as per the MWRC Bylaws. Some projects are supplemented through other funding streams. When all Collaborative communities pay the fee, approximately \$38,000 is available annually for use by the Collaborative. Recent regional projects are listed in the Appendix.
- Funding for regional projects may also be sought from the [MAPC Technical Assistance Program](#) (DLTA and PMTA) and other state grant or technical assistance programs.

MWRC Bylaws

The MWRC Bylaws, adopted October 1985 and last revised April 2024 include additional details regarding the purpose of the committee, membership, officers, elections, fees, and meetings. [MWRC Bylaws](#) are available on the MWRC website and upon request.

Communications

Meeting Notice: Official MWRC meeting notices are posted on the MWRC webpage of the MAPC website at <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/mwrc-subregion/> at least 48 hours in advance of each meeting.

Meeting agendas and materials will be kept on file at MAPC and made available upon request. The Collaborative communicates its activities through two main avenues, which include:

- **Email:** MWRC Coordinators send out periodic emails on upcoming meeting dates and agendas and provide notice about funding and technical assistance opportunities, as well as events of interest.
- **Website:** The MWRC website, <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/mwrc-subregion/> is a resource for anyone interested in learning more about the MWRC. The MWRC Coordinators, Camille Jonlin and Samikshya Dhami, are the main points of contact for all matters related to the Collaborative. They may be reached at cjonlin@mapc.org and sdhami@mapc.org.

Members

Voting members of MWRC as of June 15, 2026 include:

Ashland	Select Board	Yolanda	Greaves
	Planning Board	Deepa	Venkat
Framingham	Mayoral Designee	Yvonne	Johnson
	Planning Board Designee	Elsiana	Zhaka
Holliston	Select Board	Tina	Hein
	Planning Board	Barbara	Peatie
Marlborough	Mayoral Designee	Katie	Robey
	Planning Board	(Vacant)	
Natick	Select Board Designee	Morgan	Griffiths
	Planning Board Designee	Amanda	Loomis
Sherborn	Select Board	Marian	Neutra
	Planning Board	Robert	Wolff
Southborough	Select Board Designee	Sam	Stivers
	Planning Board	(Vacant)	
Wayland	Select Board Designee	Mary	Antes
	Planning Board Designee	Robert	Hummel
Wellesley	Select Board	Colette	Aufranc
	Planning Board	(Vacant)	
Weston	Select Board	(Vacant)	
	Planning Board Designee	Imaikalani	Aiu

Any membership changes throughout the year will be voted on by the Collaborative.

Appendix – FY26-FY27 Projects

Regional projects are longer-term initiatives that typically involve several or all MWRC communities, engage MAPC staff as facilitators and technical assistance providers, and address a scope of work and objectives over a defined period of time. The Collaborative pursued two regional projects in Fiscal Year 2026, both of which are continuing into FY2027.

1. **Communications and Engagement Best Practices:** The closing of many local newspapers and the rapid changes in digital communication have led MWRC municipalities to look toward new and innovative methods of connecting with their constituents. The MAPC Community Engagement Department is working closely with four MWRC communities to build relationships and identify the best communication channels that municipal staff can thereafter build upon to best engage community members in future planning work and other communications. The four participating communities include Southborough, Framingham, Natick, and Wellesley; findings from these communities will be shared with all MWRC municipalities. The project is ongoing through 2026.
2. **Historic Preservation Training Program:** The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) offers a signature training program, the Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP), to help build strong local preservation programs and leaders. CAMP provides engaging and informative training to preservation-related boards and commissions of all types through presentations, hands-on exercises, group discussions, and more through this virtual training program. MWRC communities will participate in two virtual training sessions in 2026 to grow their technical historic preservation skills, particularly on the topics of design review and infill design in historic areas.

In addition to the above regional projects, the Collaborative hosted its annual MWRC Legislative Breakfast in March 2026. This year's Legislative Breakfast was hosted jointly with the [SouthWest Advisory Planning Committee](#) (SWAP) subregion at the Holliston Town Hall.

