

March 2025

# MAPC Matters



## Need to Know Now

### Release of MAPC's 2024 Annual Report

We were thrilled to release our 2024 Annual Report on Tuesday, February 25!



2024 was a year of regional success and collaboration, and included accomplishments such as MAPC staff members either presenting or moderating at more than 20 conferences, and also being interviewed more than 35 times for news stories. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to take a look at the 2024 Annual Report!

[Access MAPC's 2024 Annual Report](#)

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### Take MAPC's Survey for the Greater Boston Climate Action Plan

MAPC is developing the [Greater Boston Climate Action Plan](#), which will be a roadmap for our region to equitably and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next ten years. We want to hear from you through this survey to learn from you about what is most important to you!

The survey deadline is: March 21, 2025. [Access the survey now.](#)

*The survey findings will shape actions that our municipalities and region can take to reduce emissions and improve quality of life.*

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### Lower Mystic Project Call for Artists - Deadline April 4, 2025

MAPC and the [Mystic River Watershed Association \(MyRWA\)](#) are seeking artists to develop creative projects as part of a Summer 2025 Cool Communications extreme heat communications campaign serving Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Revere, and Winthrop. The project aims to develop creative engagement methods to supplement traditional messaging on heat risk through art and creative storytelling. The goal is to reach residents disproportionately impacted by extreme heat.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

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### State's Unlocking Housing Production Commission Releases Report

Established in January 2024, the Unlocking Housing Production Commission (UHPC) was tasked with creating recommendations for how to increase housing

supply and lower housing costs across the Commonwealth. On February 21, 2025, the Commission released their report, "[Building for Tomorrow](#)", which includes more than fifty recommendations.

[Read the Announcement Press Release](#)

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### **Snow Removal and Accessibility in Massachusetts**

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) recently released new guidance focused on snow removal and accessibility. It includes information such as disability rights laws regarding snow removal, what to do if you are not able to remove snow due to a disability, and more.

[Visit the Snow Removal and Accessibility Webpage](#)

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### **MAPC Newsletters - Stay in the Know in 2025**

Did you know that in addition to this monthly newsletter, MAPC has three other monthly newsletters? A Climate Newsletter, Arts and Culture Bulletin, and an Events Email. You can learn more about each on our newsletters webpage, including how to subscribe to each one.

[Go to MAPC's Newsletters Webpage](#)

## **Legislative Updates**

### **Remote, Hybrid, In-person Public Meetings - Action Request**

Since the height of COVID-19, government entities have had the flexibility to host remote, hybrid, and in-person public meetings. However, the extension of that flexibility will end March 31, 2025.

**We are requesting that you please contact your legislators and ask them to support making these provisions permanent** as proposed in HD.2863/SD.1850 filed by Representative Gregoire and Senator Oliveira, and Governor Healey's Municipal Empowerment Act (MEA). MAPC has created a template letter to help you in doing so ([access the template letter](#)).

The flexibility for public bodies to be able to hold hybrid, remote, and in-person meetings is an essential tool for democratic government participation. MAPC would like to see a permanent, flexible solution that allows municipalities to host meetings in the format that works best for them.

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MAPC's Government Affairs Team:

- **Leah Robins**, Government Affairs Director ([lrobins@mapc.org](mailto:lrobins@mapc.org))
- **Norman Abbott**, Senior Government Affairs Specialist ([nabbott@mapc.org](mailto:nabbott@mapc.org))
- **Georgia Barlow**, Government Affairs Specialist II ([gbarlow@mapc.org](mailto:gbarlow@mapc.org))

# State and Federal Grant Opportunities



## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

**April 7 2025**

[Diesel Emissions Reduction Act \(DERA\) Electric Solicitation Grant](#)

**April 11, 2025**

[FY26 Massachusetts 250 Grant Program](#)

**May 15, 2025**

[MassDEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant](#)

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## Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Electric Solicitation Grant

### Application Deadline

April 7, 2025

### Grant Authority

MA Department of  
Environmental Protection

[Learn More and  
Apply](#)

### Description

This grant opportunity from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is focused on providing entities (public and private) with funding to support diesel emissions reduction projects. This includes funding opportunities for school buses, transit buses, and medium-duty or heavy-duty trucks.

To learn more about this grant opportunity, to determine if you are eligible to apply for it, and to access the application, please visit the [grant webpage](#).

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## FY26 Massachusetts 250 Grant Program

**Application Deadline**  
April 11, 2025 (3:00 p.m.)

**Grant Authority**  
MA Office of Travel and  
Tourism (MOTT)

[Learn More and  
Apply](#)

### **Description**

The Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) through the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT), is currently accepting online only applications for the FY26 Massachusetts 250 Grant Program.

The purpose of this grant is to award funding to support marketing and programs focused on American Revolution storytelling, with a goal of increasing travel and tourism to Massachusetts.

Learn more about this grant program, including eligibility, and how to apply on the [grant's webpage](#).

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## **MassDEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant**

**Application Deadline**  
May 15, 2025 (5:00 p.m.)

**Grant Authority**  
MA Department of  
Environmental Protection  
(MassDEP)

[Learn More and  
Apply](#)

Note: **The grant application will be posted on April 15, 2025** on the [grant's webpage](#).

### **Description**

This grant will award eligible projects between \$3,000 to \$10,000 for projects focused on short-term (equal or less than one year) waste reduction. Eligible entities include: businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, regional authorities, and schools/colleges. Visit the grant's [webpage](#) for full information and details.

MassDEP will be hosting a virtual **grant information session on April 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** [Register to join this session](#).

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### **Technical Assistance**

If your municipality is interested in applying for grant funding but lacks staff capacity, MAPC may be able to help. Grant Assistance Program (GAP) funding could allow you to seek assistance from knowledgeable Regional Planning Agency (RPA) staff, which can also lead to more competitive regional and multi-municipal applications, increasing the likelihood of receiving funding. For inquiries or questions, contact Gloria Huangpu ([ghuangpu@mapc.org](mailto:ghuangpu@mapc.org)).

## **\*New\* MAPC Tools, Resources, and Opportunities to Participate**

### **E-cargo Bikes: Strategies for Municipal Delivery Transition**

Electric cargo bikes – e-cargo bikes – can provide an alternative form of delivery that is cleaner, safer, and faster. E-cargo bikes are electric bikes that have compartments or attachments made to carry people or goods.



This new resource identifies strategies that municipalities can employ to support the transition from traditional delivery vehicles to e-cargo bikes.

[Go to the E-Cargo Bikes Resource](#)

*Written by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in conjunction with the City of Boston's Transportation Department. Funding was provided through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) Accelerating Clean Transportation for All (ACT4All) Grant. MAPC collaborated with municipal staff, e-commerce companies, transportation advocates, and other stakeholders to develop this resource.*

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### **Model Zoning for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) Webinar**

On March 11, 2025, MAPC, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP), hosted a webinar to provide guidance on regulating Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in accordance with Section 3 of the Zoning Act.

The webinar discussed different approaches to tailor zoning language to an individual community's needs and local conditions.

[Watch the Webinar Recording](#)

[Access the Model Zoning for Accessory Dwelling Units Document](#)

[Visit MAPC's ADUs Webpage](#)

[Visit EOHLC's ADUs Webpage](#)

## **We're Hiring!**

### **Finance and Contracts Specialist II**

*Full-time | \$75-85k/annual | Benefits*

### **Principal Land Use Planner**

Full-time | \$92-102k/annual | Benefits



We encourage you to continuously check out the employment page on our [website](#) for any upcoming positions.

## MAPC in the News

Also be sure to visit our MAPC in the News [media coverage webpage](#).

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### Lynn's Cuevas: A leader in regional DEI

Publication Date: March 7, 2025 | Source: Lynn Daily Item

*"Cuevas was recently honored with the prestigious Mayor Theodore Mann Regional Leadership Award by the **Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)**. Cuevas, a Lynn native, received the award during **MAPC's Winter Council** meeting on Wednesday."*

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### State commission on housing production targets single-family zoning, other sweeping reforms

Publication Date: February 21, 2025 | Source: The Boston Globe

*"What's more, many parking minimums require developers to build more spaces than residents use. A 2023 study by the **Metropolitan Area Planning Council** found that some 40 percent of parking spaces in six communities surrounding Boston were empty during peak hours. Instead of building excess parking, the report said, that land could be used for housing."*

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### Lawmakers urged to keep remote meetings

Publication Date: February 20, 2025 | Source: Boston.com

*"In a letter to legislative leaders, a coalition of groups including the Massachusetts Municipal Association and **Metropolitan Area Planning Council** urged them to act on Gov. Maura Healey's proposal that would require cities and towns to provide the option for officials and members of the public to attend meetings in person or remotely."*

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## **7 myths about the MBTA Communities Act, debunked by experts**

Publication Date: February 14, 2025 | Source: Boston.com

*“The **Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)** tracks housing production throughout the Greater Boston area, **[Emma] Battaglia** added, and the city itself does a lot to add new units to the region. Between 2015 and 2023, Boston was responsible for permitting 48% of all the new units throughout the municipalities tracked by the **MAPC**...”*

*“However, an influx of multi-family housing in the coming years also won’t necessarily hurt a community, particularly in regards to school populations and traffic, **Battaglia** said.”*



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## **Upcoming Events**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events, and we encourage you to check our [online events calendar](#) often for new and updated event postings.

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### **Community Engagement Conversations | March Session: Building/Engaging Community Groups**

March 20, 2025 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

In this session of the Community Engagement Conversations series, learn about the best ways to involve key stakeholders in decision-making processes and how to manage expectations from residents while leading impactful public participation work.

#### **The Series:**

The MAPC Community Engagement Team invites you to attend a series of Community Engagement Conversations between September 2024 through May 2025.

The once-a-month conversations will focus on different community engagement topics to support this work within your own community and introduce you to the services MAPC offers when you work with the MAPC Community Engagement Team.

You can learn more about each session of the series, and watch recordings of previous sessions by visiting the [Community Engagement Conversations webpage](#).

[Register](#)

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## Webinar | Integrating ADUs in Historic Communities: Policy, History, and Practice (virtual)

March 25, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join the [Eastern Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition \(EMHCC\)](#) for a discussion on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in historic landscapes.

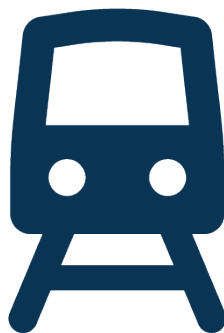
This session will explore the role of ADUs in historic communities, covering planning considerations, their historic presence, and examples of communities successfully integrating ADUs while maintaining historic character.

[Register](#)



### MPO Corner: News from our partner in transportation planning

The [Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\)](#) is Boston's regional transportation planning agency. MAPC is one of 22 voting MPO board members. [Subscribe for updates](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X](#) at [@BostonRegionMPO](#).



### 2025–29 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 10 Out for Public Comment

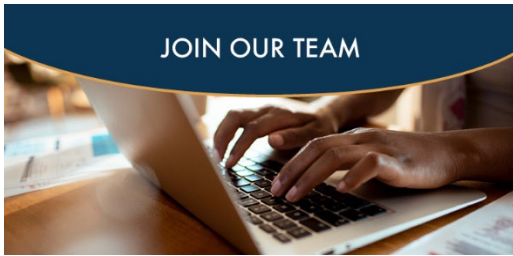
Review and submit feedback on Amendment 10 to the 2025–29 [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) by **March 28**.

Amendment Ten allocates more than \$24 million in new transit funding across nine projects in FFY 2025 for the Cape Ann Transportation

Authority, MBTA, and MetroWest Regional Transit Authority. This funding was identified due to project readiness evaluations conducted through our ongoing development process for the next TIP for FFYs 2026–30. The MPO aims to release the draft FFYs 2026–30 TIP for public comment this April.

Review Amendment 10: [bit.ly/25-29-TIP-10](https://bit.ly/25-29-TIP-10)

Submit a comment: [bostonmpo.org/contact/tip](https://bostonmpo.org/contact/tip)



Data Manager  
Transportation/Environmental Planner  
Transportation Planner

[Learn More and Apply](#)

### Upcoming MPO Meetings and Events:

[Thursday, March 20](#) - Hybrid MPO Meeting

[Thursday, April 3](#) - MPO Meeting

Public attendance and comments are welcome at all MPO meetings and events. Visit the [MPO's website](#) for more information. Meeting dates and materials are available on the [MPO meeting calendar](#). Submit questions and comments via the [MPO's feedback forms](#).

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Your monthly MAPC newsletter.



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