



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Resources and Opportunities



Save the Date for 2/13 At Home in Greater Lowell Regional Housing Strategy Kickoff Summit *NMCOG accepting applications for Advisory Committee Members*

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 13 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm** for the *At Home in Greater Lowell* kick-off summit. *At Home in Greater Lowell* is a year-long planning process in which residents of Greater Lowell and experts from the local, state, and federal levels will come together to develop solutions for our region's most pressing housing problems. This discussion will cover all facets of housing, including homelessness, subsidized and market rate housing, fair housing, and more. Additional details about the meeting will be announced shortly and will be [posted to the NMCOG calendar](#).

Interested in becoming more involved? Consider joining the *At Home in Greater Lowell* Steering Committee by submitting a statement of interest to chayes@nmcog.org by January 12, 2024. [Learn more about the Call for Committee Members and apply today](#).

Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General Training on the Zoning Bylaw Amendment Process and Bylaw Filing

Join the Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit for a training on the zoning bylaw amendment process and the bylaw filing process. As part of this training, Municipal Law Unit staff will discuss a variety of topics including requirements under MGL Chapter 40, Section 32, and MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5; the necessary forms and information to be submitted to the Municipal Law Unit as part of the bylaw filing process; and an overview of the MBTA Communities zoning requirements under MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3A. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

The next session is Thursday, January 11, 1:00pm to 3:00pm. [Register today!](#)

Register for 1/23 Information Session on FY25 Inland Dredging Pilot Round of Massachusetts Dredging Program

The Executive Office of Economic Development recently announced the opening of the FY25 Inland Dredging Pilot Round of the Massachusetts Dredging Program. This round offers final design and construction grants to Massachusetts municipalities to support dredging of freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and drinking water reservoirs, as well as dredging required for the removal of municipal dams. Applications are due via online submission no later than March 1, 2024, 11:59 pm.

EOED will host a grant information session for interested applicants via webinar on January 23, 2024, at 12:00 pm. [Register here to receive the webinar link](#)

Additional information on the round is available on [COMMBUYS, bid# BD-24-1100-EED01-EED01-96578](#).

Massachusetts Historical Commission Accepting Applications for MA Preservation Projects Funds Grants

The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) is a state-funded 50% reimbursable matching grant program to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites (cultural resources) listed in the State Register of Historic Places. The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has announced Round 30 of the MPPF grant program; municipalities or nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for funding for planning and predevelopment projects, construction activities for historic preservation, and acquisition projects. Applications are due by March 15, 2024. Virtual workshops describing MPPF grants and eligible projects are scheduled for [January 17 from 10:00am to 12:00pm](#) and [January 24 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm](#) [Learn more and apply](#).

Register for 1/24 Municipal Safe Routes to School Webinar: Accessibility and Mobility in a Digital and Physical World

MassDOT invites municipal staff and anyone interested in learning about the whole community approach to Safe Routes to School (SRTS) to attend their annual webinar for municipalities on accessibility and mobility in a digital and physical world. The webinar, scheduled for Wednesday, January 24 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm will provide an overview on how to make local streets, website content, or other communication platforms more accessible, with additional time provided for Q&A. [Register today](#).

State Ethics Commission Offering Free Conflict of Interest Law Training

The State Ethics Commission regularly offers free, bi-monthly training seminars for state, county, and municipal employees on the restrictions imposed under the conflict-of-interest law, MGL Chapter 268A. These two-hour seminars present an opportunity to receive important training on the law. Seminars are conducted remotely via Zoom on the 4th Thursday of every other month at 10:00am. Register now for one of two upcoming seminars:

Attendance is limited to 100 registrants per seminar.

2024 Massachusetts Housing Partnership Funding for MBTA Communities Zoning Amendments

The Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP) anticipates receiving additional funding from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) that will allow the agency to continue to support communities in advancing zoning amendments that comply with MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3A (MBTA Communities Law).

The purpose of MHP's 3A-TA program is to connect technical assistance providers with planning staff and municipal officials to support activities directly related to the development, documentation, and community engagement in developing multifamily zoning districts that comply with EOHLC's Guidelines.

For more information visit:

www.cognitofirms.com/MassachusettsHousingPartnership/mhpbmtacommunitiestechnicalassistanctanceprogram3ata

NMCOG News



MassBike 2023 Annual Event

On December 5, 2023, Jessica Boulanger, NMCOG Transportation Mobility Specialist presented at the 2023 MassBike Annual Event. The virtual meeting was attended by Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, Senator William

Brownsberger, Representative Tommy Vitolo, and Representative Michelle Ciccolo, and included a legislative panel providing suggestions on how to build more bike-friendly momentum on Beacon Hill.

Jessica shared how participants can get involved with their local Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPO) to support local bicycle infrastructure and discussed the Greater Lowell Vision Zero Plan. She was joined by MassBike Staff Alexis Hosea Abbott who recently developed a statewide [Bike Advocacy Group Directory](#). Thank you to MassBike for the invitation to participate. [Watch the full event on YouTube](#)

MassDOT Announces \$100 Million in Fair Share Funds Distributed for Transportation Improvements

MassDOT recently announced the distribution of \$100 million in Fair Share Funds for Fiscal Year 2024 to municipalities to support local infrastructure. Fair Share Amendment funds are distributed according to two formulas: \$50 million is being distributed using the traditional Chapter 90 formula based on local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%), and employment (20.83%); another \$50 million is being distributed using a formula based on each municipality's share of road mileage.

Communities may use Fair Share revenue for construction, preservation, and improvement projects that create or extend the life of capital facilities. This includes costs for highway projects and pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Projects that are eligible would include installing sidewalks, bicycle lanes, new pavement, sidewalks, retaining walls, crossing signals, and other transportation infrastructure features. [View a full list of funding amounts distributed to each municipality](#)

Upcoming Events

Please join us at an upcoming meeting. For more information see below and visit our [website](#).

NMCOG Council Meeting

January 17th, 2024
7:00pm - 8:00pm

In person at
672 Suffolk St, Suite 100,
Lowell, MA 01854
with optional remote access
[via Zoom](#).

NMMPO Monthly Meeting

January 24, 2024
2:00pm - 3:30pm

In person at
672 Suffolk St, Suite 100,
Lowell, MA 01854
with optional remote access
[via Zoom](#).

Greater Lowell Vision Zero Advisory Committee Meeting

January 25th, 2024
5:00pm - 6:00pm

[via Zoom](#)

Visit our
Website



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments | 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, Lowell, MA 01854

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