



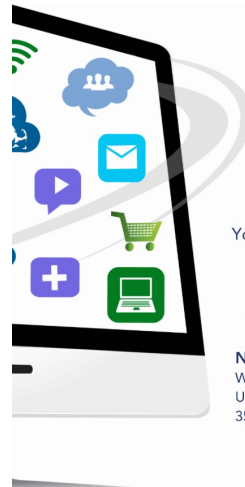
Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Events and Opportunities

9/20: Internet for All Listening Session

How is internet access in your community? The **Massachusetts Broadband Institute** (MBI) wants to hear from you and others in your community. MBI is hosting an **Internet for All** Listening Session at the United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) on September 20 from 6:00-8:00pm, where participants can learn more about the two

Massachusetts Internet for All programs and share their input to inform the development of the statewide Broadband and Digital Equity plans. [Learn more and register for the September 20 meeting.](#)



Join Us

We want to hear from you!

Share your experiences accessing the internet. Your input will help Massachusetts ensure that everyone can have access to high-quality and affordable internet service and the resources to enjoy it.

Together we can achieve INTERNET FOR ALL!

Northeast Listening Session
Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
United Teen Equality Center (UTEC)
35 Warren Street, Lowell, MA 01852



broadband.masstech.org/internetforall

9/20: Virtual Design Public Hearing: Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110

MassDOT is holding a virtual design public hearing on September 20 at 6:00pm to share details and invite public feedback on the proposed improvements to Route 110 in Lowell, Dracut and Methuen. The project consists of improving 6.3 miles of Route 110 by adding compliant bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, along with roadway resurfacing. [Learn more and register.](#)



9/23: One City, Many Cultures

Join the grand opening celebration of "One City, Many Cultures," the new exhibit at Lowell National Historical Park on, on Saturday, September 23 at 11:00am! "One City, Many Cultures" explores the stories and cultures of Lowell, past and present, and is an immersive and interactive introduction to Lowell as a

vibrant, multi-cultural city. All activities are free and open to the public. [Learn more on the Lowell National Historic Park website.](#)

9/26: Dracut Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Forum

Join us on September 26th at 7:00pm in Harmony Hall, 1660 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA: Be a part of the Dracut Open Space and Recreation Public Forum where your ideas will shape the future of the Town's green spaces and recreational activities. Spread the word, mark your calendar, and let's work together for a more vibrant and active Dracut! For more details, reach out at dgarciamoreno@nmcog.org.

9/28 and 11/30: State Conflict of Interest Training

The State Ethics Commission hosts free, bi-monthly training seminars for state, county and municipal employees on the restrictions imposed under the conflict of interest law, G.L. c. 268A. These two-hour seminars present an opportunity for cities and towns to have new hires receive important training on the law. Two upcoming virtual seminars are scheduled for September 28 and November 30 at 10:00am. To register, visit the links for each meeting below.

- [Register for the September 28, 2023 seminar](#)
 - [Register for the November 30, 2023 seminar](#)
-

10/5: Attend NMCOG-Sponsored CHAPA Regional Housing Meeting

Are you an advocate, neighbor, municipality, organization, or legislator working on affordable housing in your community? Join CHAPA's Annual Regional Housing Meeting on Thursday, October 5th from 10:00am to 12:00pm, when the organization will bring together groups and guests from across the Commonwealth to explore shared opportunities across regions and seek input on CHAPA's policy goals and priorities. [Register for the 10/5 virtual meeting today!](#)

10/5: Register for the Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit

MassCyber Center is hosting their Annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Friday, October 5 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. The free day-long event will feature cybersecurity experts from state and federal agencies and the private sector, who will give municipal officials and employees a better understanding of pressing cybersecurity issues, the current threat landscape, and state and federal initiatives. It will also provide practical ideas, information and resources for improving cybersecurity. [Learn more and register.](#)

NMCOG News

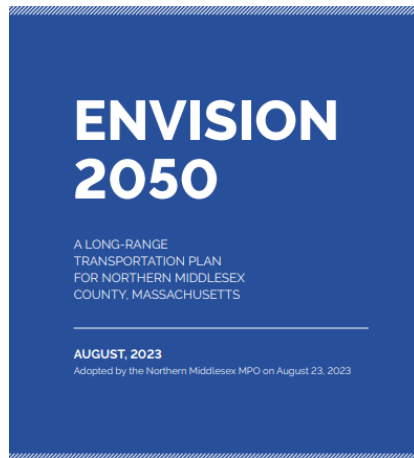


Request for Proposals for the SS4A Greater Lowell Vision Zero Plan

NMCOG is now accepting proposals from qualified transportation consultants to provide technical work supporting the Greater Lowell Vision Zero Plan, the region's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The plan will identify the most significant roadway safety concerns in the region and specify projects and strategies to implement to address roadway safety issues. Proposals are due Thursday, September 21 by 12:00pm. The RFP is available on the [NMCOG website under announcements](#) and on [COMMBUYS](#). For questions, please contact Jessica Boulanger, Transportation Mobility Specialist and project manager for the Greater Lowell Vision Zero Plan, at jboulanger@nmcog.org.



Northern Middlesex MPO Endorses Envision 2050: The Long Range Transportation Plan



On August 23, 2023 the NMMPO voted to endorse the Envision 2050, the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan. Envision 2050 is the comprehensive and equitable vision for the future of transportation in the Northern Middlesex region; it identifies and analyzes transportation infrastructure and service improvement needs for the region's transportation system, serves as the policy framework for future investment in our roadway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian network, and serves to position the region for future housing, economic development, and mobility-related projects. The plan will go into effect on October 1, 2023. [Read Envision 2050 here.](#)



Senator Markey and EPA Administrator Michael Regan's special event launching the National Clean Financing Network

On Wednesday, August 23rd, Sustainability Planner Dany Garcia Moreno attended a special press conference hosted by Senator Markey and EPA Administrator Michael Regan kicking off the National Clean Financing Network. The National Clean Financing Network will receive \$14 billion and provide two to three grants to National, clean financing institutions. These institutions will partner with the private sector to provide direct support to individuals, families, businesses and governments to implement widespread clean technology projects. At least 40% of the funds will be allocated to low-income and disadvantaged communities. For more information about the Clean Financing Network, visit [National Clean Investment Fund | US EPA](#).

Resources

[Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\) Grants Program NOFO Open through October 10](#)

Created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the SMART Grants Program funds purpose-driven innovation to build data and technology capacity and expertise for State, local, and Tribal governments. Approximately \$50 million will be allocated to communities that target their real-world challenges where the use of new technologies and approaches can create benefits. Eligible transportation projects should demonstrate at least one of the following technology areas: coordinated automation, connected vehicles, sensors, systems integration, delivery/logistics, innovative aviation, smart grid, or traffic signals. Applications are being accepted through October 10. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Safe Routes to School Signs and Lines Infrastructure Grants Application Period Open

MassDOT is inviting grant applications for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Signs and Lines Projects through Friday, September 22, 2023. The SRTS Signs and Lines Program will provide design services and up to \$10,000 in construction funding to a selected municipality for a low-cost infrastructure project around a public elementary, middle, or high school. The goal of these projects is to eliminate small barriers that students encounter when walking, bicycling, or using a wheeled mobility device to get to school. [More information, including a recording of an information session, is available here.](#)

Governor Healey Kicks off FY24 Community Compact Program: Apply for Best Practices and Community Compact IT Programs This Month!

The Healey-Driscoll administration recently announced the commencement of the FY24 Community Compact program. The application window for the Best Practices program is now open, and the Community Compact IT Grant Program will begin accepting applications on September 11.

Best Practices Program

The Community Compact Best Practices Program is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Healey-Driscoll Administration and individual cities and towns. In a Community Compact, a community will agree to implement at least one [best practice that they select from across a variety of areas](#). The community's chosen best practice(s) will be reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practice(s) chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed within one month of submission. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Community Compact IT Grant Program

This is a competitive grant program focused on driving innovation and transformation at the local level via investments in technology. Using the transformative powers of IT, communities can drive innovation, make government more efficient, save taxpayer money, and make it easier for residents to interact and transact with their local government. The application period will run from September 11, 2023 to noon on October 13, 2023. Cities and towns that were awarded an IT Grant Program grant in FY23 are not be eligible in FY24. [Learn more and apply.](#)



Blake Acton, Regional Transit Planner II

Blake joined NMCOG in August 2023; his primary responsibility is to support the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA). This includes maintaining transit system data, ensuring compliance with federal and state requirements such as Title VI, Federal Transit Administration, Americans with Disabilities Act, and National Transit Database reporting. He also conducts analyses of ridership trends and operations and serves as a liaison with municipalities, regional partners, and advocacy organizations.

Before joining NMCOG, Blake was a transit analyst at the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization where he led projects on curb management and assisted the MBTA with updating their Title VI policy and conducting equity analyses. Blake holds a B.A. in geography from the University of Missouri and an M.A. in transportation geography in 2020 from The Ohio State University.



Austen Torres Davis, Transportation Planner II

Austen joined NMCOG in August 2023; he serves as staff support to the Northern Middlesex MPO to advance goals and performance measure requirements of US DOT and MassDOT. His work includes monitoring and assessing pavement conditions, safety and security, as well as system performance of the regional transportation network. This work guides infrastructure project prioritization, safety improvement strategies and emergency management, as well as congestion mitigation.

Prior to joining NMCOG, Austen was a Planner for the City of Portland, Maine, where he reviewed development and re-zoning proposals for compliance with Portland's Land Use Code, created data visualizations and outreach to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects, and managed the City's program for temporary public art. Austen received a B.A. in Geography and Urban Studies from Temple University and a Master's in Regional Planning from Cornell University.

are available on our website.

[Transportation Planner](#)

Visit our
Website



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