



**NORTHERN  
MIDDLESEX  
COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS**  
SERVING THE REGION SINCE 1963

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NMCOG Newsletter

June, 2025

## New NMCOG Staff

### Welcoming Amy Bickford!

Amy (she/her) is a Municipal Fellow through the University of Massachusetts Lowell and will be working with NMCOG through November. In her work, she will be supporting the state's Clean Energy and Legacy Transition (CELT) initiative to identify ways to advance the Commonwealth's plan for energy transition and net zero emissions by 2050. In her role at NMCOG, Amy hopes to give back to her hometown of Billerica and surrounding communities, focusing on projects such as the Northern Middlesex Outdoor Asset Inventory and studying energy needs and clean energy capacity as it relates to At Home in Greater Lowell, the region's housing strategy. Amy is a rising senior at Framingham State University, earning her Bachelor's in Environmental Science and Policy with a double minor in Biology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). During the academic year, Amy is a Resident Assistant ensuring the overall wellness of other students



[Meet the  
NMCOG Team](#)

within the dorms. She also volunteers with local land trusts, and assists the department of Environment, Society & Sustainability with open houses on campus.

## Public Comment Periods

### Regional Economic Plan Released for Public Comment



NMCOG has released Greater Lowell Stronger Together, the 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, for public review and comment through **5:00 PM on June 30**. A public comment form and a link to download the plan is available at [nmcog.org/strongertogether](https://nmcog.org/strongertogether).

Greater Lowell Stronger Together provides a blueprint for NMCOG, its member communities, and public and private sector partners to work together to target investments to enhance the region's economy. The plan features four strategic pillars with related recommendations and actions;

1. Creating Economic Development Capacity
2. Developing Strong Places and Towns
3. Leveraging Signature Opportunities
4. Building Infrastructure to Support Workers and Residents

Learn more about Greater Lowell Stronger Together and the planning process at [nmcog.org/ceds](https://nmcog.org/ceds).

*The Greater Lowell 2025-2030 CEDS was facilitated by NMCOG and funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and other local and state sources. We are being assisted by Fourth Economy Consulting.*

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## Unified Planning Work Program Out for Public Comment

Plan outlines many NMCOG staff activities for the next Federal Fiscal Year

On May 28, the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) released the draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for a 21-day public comment period. The UPWP outlines projects, goals, data collection, and other activities that NMCOG staff will perform to advance work at the intersection of transportation, economic development, housing, and the environment starting in October of this year. All members of the NMCOG community—those who work, live, or visit the region—are invited to review the draft and comment on our proposed activities.

The draft FFY 2026 UPWP, as well as proposed amendments to the current UPWP, is posted for review at [nmcog.org/opportunities-for-public-comment](https://nmcog.org/opportunities-for-public-comment).

The public comment period will be open through **June 18**. Comments may be provided via email to [publiccomments@nmcog.org](mailto:publiccomments@nmcog.org) or by mail to NMCOG at 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, Lowell, MA 01854. **At the June 25 meeting of the NMMPO**, staff will share all comments received and indicate how they have been addressed before the NMMPO votes to endorse the final document.

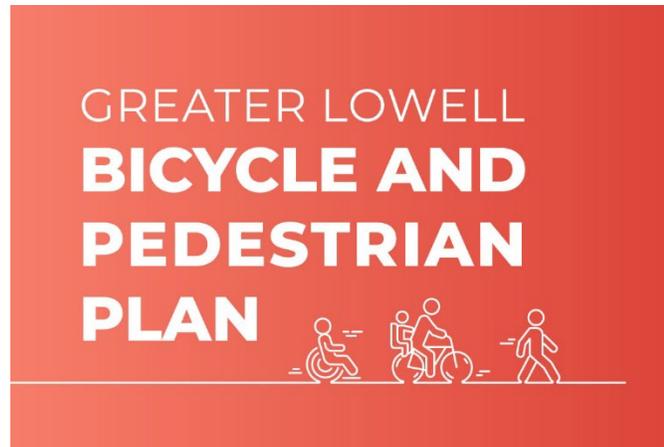


## NMCOG News

### Where Do You Want to Walk, Roll, or Bike? How Can We Get You There Safely?

Let us know by taking [Bicycle and Pedestrian Survey!](#)

The Greater Lowell Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (GLBPP) region-wide survey is now available! Help us create a safer, more accessible, and active transportation network across the region by sharing experiences, priorities, and ideas in our regionwide survey. Your response will help us understand how people get around our region, what prevents them from walking and biking more, and the types of improvements that would encourage our communities to access their destinations comfortably.



[Click here to take the survey.](#)

To stay in the loop on upcoming opportunities to participate in the development of a regional walking, biking, and rolling network, [sign up for the GLBPP contact list](#). [Visit the project website](#) for more details.

Our team will be at events across the region this summer to promote the GLBPP planning process. Visit us at one of these events and share your thoughts on walking and biking in our region:

- **June 12, 4:00 – 7:00 PM:** Tewksbury Farmers' Market
- **June 25, 5:30 – 8:30 PM:** Dunstable Summer Concert Series
- **June 28, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM:** Chelmsford Market on the Common

Mark your calendar for a regional public workshop in early July where you can learn about existing conditions and contribute ideas for a regional network for walking, biking, rolling, and connecting to public transportation.

Date: Tuesday, July 8

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Lowell Senior Center

**[Details will be posted to the calendar event for this workshop shortly.](#)**

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## Regional Traffic Volume Reports Now Online

Traffic volumes for data collected in 2023 and 2024 are now available for download at NMCOG's **[Traffic Volume Report Dashboard](#)**. The dashboard describes how and why NMCOG collects traffic volume data, how it impacts our approach to performance-based planning, displays traffic volume data by year, and provides links to data downloads for each of NMCOG's nine communities. Additionally, count locations for the 2025 traffic counting season are provided, and data will be posted as it becomes available.

**[View the Traffic Volume Report Dashboard](#)**

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## Leaders From Across the Region Convene at Northeastern Massachusetts Brownfield Roundtable

On Tuesday, May 20, community leaders, planners, and environmental professionals gathered at Billerica Town Hall for the Northeastern Massachusetts Brownfields Roundtable. The event offered an in-depth look at brownfields redevelopment, featuring funding strategies, technical assistance, and successful case studies from across the region. Speakers included representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, MassDevelopment, the University of Connecticut's Technical Assistance to Brownfields program, and the City of Lowell. Attendees connected with experts to explore how underused properties can be transformed into community assets.



**[Learn more about the MassDEP Brownfield program.](#)**

*Presenters at Northeastern Massachusetts Brownfield Roundtable; photo credit: Katherine Malgieri.*

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## NMCOG Attends Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit

NMCOG staff attended the 2025 Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit at the DCU Center in Worcester, joining municipal leaders, IT professionals, and cybersecurity experts to discuss emerging threats and best practices in cybersecurity. The summit provided valuable insights into strengthening local cybersecurity efforts, ensuring communities stay resilient against evolving risks. NMCOG communities interested in collaborating on cybersecurity enhancements, sharing best practices, and participating in joint procurement initiatives can reach out to Carlin Andrus at [candrus@nmcog.org](mailto:candrus@nmcog.org)



[Learn more about municipal cybersecurity.](#)

*Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit, Photo credit: MassTech Collaborative*

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## Chelmsford-Lowell Bridge Bundle Replacement Project Phase I Bridge Closures Begin June 2025

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will fully replace two bridges in the Town of Chelmsford. These include Westford Street over I-495 in Chelmsford and Route 3A (Gorham Street) over I-495 on the Chelmsford/Lowell line.

The contractor began early action work in April 2025, including signage and temporary traffic signal installation in preparation for the Phase I bridge detours. Following the completion of this work, the contractor anticipates implementing the Phase I bridge detours as follows:

- Gorham Street Bridge: Full Phase I closure to be implemented **Tuesday, June 24**.
- Westford Street Bridge: Bridge closure to be implemented 24-hours a day from **Thursday, June 26** through **Thursday, July 3**. The bridge will reopen on **Friday, July 4** through **Sunday, July 6**. Following this reopening, the Full Phase I closure will be implemented on **Monday, July 7**.

Each bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic 24-hours a day for 12 to 18 months. A local detour route will be implemented at each bridge for all vehicles. Pedestrian access will be maintained across each bridge during these closures. Bicycle access will be maintained for Westford Street during the closure and will follow the vehicular detour route for the Gorham Street Bridge. When Phase I is completed, the bridges will reopen to all traffic.

[Visit the MassDOT project website](#) for more information on the project and to sign up for advisories and notices. Questions or issues related to construction can be reported to [ChelmsfordLowellBridges@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:ChelmsfordLowellBridges@dot.state.ma.us).

## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

### Attend the June 25 Dunstable Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Forum

What should the future of open space and recreation look like in Dunstable? Residents are invited to share their thoughts and ideas at a virtual public forum for the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) on **Wednesday, June 25, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM** via Zoom.

[Register for the forum.](#)

This forum is an important opportunity for community members to learn more about the OSRP process, review draft goals, and offer input on the Town's priorities for parks, trails, conservation land, and recreational facilities. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to town, or live in a neighboring town, your feedback will help guide Dunstable's efforts to preserve its natural resources and improve access to outdoor spaces for all.

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### Planning and Zoning Board Training Available through Citizen Planner Training Collaborative

On Wednesday, June 18, the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) is hosting a training by Bob Mitchell, FAICP and planning consultant, on the Roles and Responsibilities of Planning and Zoning Boards. Open to new and experienced Planning and Zoning Board members alike, as well as local Building Inspectors and Commissioners, the course provides an overview of the role of local officials, the functions of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards/Boards of Appeal, and describes the main tools of planning and zoning. The session also includes an introductory discussion of the Open Meeting, Public Records, and the Conflict-of-Interest Laws.

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 5:30 PM

Cost: \$35

Registration: [Click here to register today!](#)

*The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative is a nonprofit organization providing training to citizen planners in Massachusetts.*

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## Learn More About Us! Attend a Board or Council Meeting

### *NMCOG Council Meeting*

The NMCOG Council meets the third Wednesday of each month via Zoom and in person at NMCOG's office at 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, in Lowell.

**Date:** June 18, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM

[\*\*View meeting details.\*\*](#)

### *Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO)*

The NMMPO meets the fourth Wednesday of each month via Zoom and in person at NMCOG's office at 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, in Lowell. The April meeting will include a review of the FFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program and plans for tasks and a discussion of projects and tasks that NMMPO staff may include in their workplan for FFY 2026.

**Date:** June 15, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 PM

[\*\*View meeting details.\*\*](#)

[NMCOG.org](https://www.nmco.org)

