



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Events and Opportunities



At Home in Greater Lowell

a housing strategy for the greater lowell region

At Home in Greater Lowell Strategies Summit on June 4!

Save the date! The *At Home in Greater Lowell* Strategies Summit is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 4 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.**

The second of three summits, this meeting will focus on developing planning strategies and recommendations for housing production across the region. In the first summit, more than 80 participants from all nine of NMCOG's municipalities, regional and state agencies, and other members of the development community and the public came together to workshop a housing vision for the region, benchmark goals, and research questions. At this summit, we will share the answers to some of those research questions, finalize the goals for At Home in Greater Lowell, and begin workshopping strategies to achieve those goals.

More information will be shared soon. To make sure you receive all the updates on At Home in Greater Lowell, [sign up for the At Home in Greater Lowell mailing list!](#)

Register Today to Attend the Creative Advocacy Institute

On Friday, **May 17th from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM**, MASSCreative, a statewide arts and culture advocacy organization, will hold their inaugural **Creative Advocacy Institute** in Lowell between the Merrimack Repertory Theatre and UTEC. The Creative Advocacy Institute will bring together cultural policy thought leaders, artists, creatives, educators, culture bearers, arts administrators, teaching artists, students, public officials, and creative industry representatives from communities across Massachusetts for advocacy learning, organizing leadership development, and networking. Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and keynote speaker Quance G. Floyd, Executive Director of the National Guild for Community Arts Education will speak. MASSCreative members are eligible for discounts. [Reserve your tickets while supplies last](#)



Looking Ahead to Regional Scale Climate Action and Adaptation

Join NMCOG on **Monday, May 20, at 1:00 PM** to learn more about Massachusetts' Green Communities updates, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant's (CPRG) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness, MVP 2.0 process. The webinar is open to all, and will introduce a combined approach to climate action and adaptation. [Register today!](#)

Webinar: Telling a More Complete Story (virtual)

On **May 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM**, the Eastern Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition (EMHCC) is hosting a webinar on how planners, historical commissions, and historians work together to tell richer and more varied stories about our communities, focusing on the importance and methods of capturing diverse historical narratives. [Register today.](#)

Join the Statewide Housing Plan Listening Session on 5/23

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), under the direction of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, is developing the first five-year strategic Statewide Housing Plan in over 40 years. This plan will assess state housing needs, develop strategies to solve housing challenges, inform data-driven decisions, and guide local, regional, and statewide action. It will project future housing needs, define priority areas and strategies implementation funding and responsible parties. NMCOG staff is working with the state to make sure *At Home in Greater Lowell* works hand-in-hand with the Statewide Housing Plan.

Participate in the state's local listening session, planned for the NMCOG region, later this month.

Date: Thursday, 5/23

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Location: UTEC, 35 Warren Street, Lowell

Registration: [Register here](#)

There will also be [12 other listening sessions](#) throughout Massachusetts and through Zoom.

NMCOG staff attended the first session in Lynn and plan to attend the Lowell session as well and are working with EOHLC to coordinate the statewide planning with Northern Middlesex's current housing planning process, [At Home in Greater Lowell](#)



Statewide Listening Session attended by NMCOCG staff in Lynn, MA, courtesy EOHLIC

NMCOG NEWS

Stormwater Collaborative Updates

Staff from across the region attended NMCOCG's April MS4 Stormwater Good Housekeeping training at the Regional Emergency Communications Center in Tewksbury. A big thank you to Tighe & Bond for presenting! Presentation materials are now available for download on our website.

The Collaborative will hold its Q2 meeting on **Tuesday, May 21, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, where we will review the results of a programmatic survey and provide a revised draft of our Memorandum of Understanding. A detailed agenda will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Chelmsford Begins Multiple Planning Processes with NMCOCG

NMCOG begins work on updates to Chelmsford's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and Housing Production Plan (HPP). Project kickoff meetings were held at Town Hall on April 16 for the OSRP with the Chelmsford OSRP Committee, supported by NMCOCG Sustainability Planner II, Meghan Tenhoff, and on April 23 for the HPP with the Housing Advisory Board, supported by NMCOCG Housing and Economic Development Manager, Chris Hayes and Senior Planner of Housing and Land Use, Mike Asciola. Community outreach for both projects will begin in early June at the Market on the Common.



Greater Lowell Vision Zero: Municipal Briefing and VZAC meeting 4

On April 25, 2024, NMCOG hosted the Vision Zero Advisory Committee and municipal liaisons from communities in the Northern Middlesex region for a Municipal Briefing on Greater Lowell Vision Zero. NMCOG and WSP, the project consultant, shared transportation projects identified for the Regional Safety Action Plan, known as Greater Lowell Vision Zero, as well as methodology, findings, and strategies used to create the list of identified projects were shared. The project team also provided examples of the types of grants offered under the Safe Streets and Roads for All Federal grant program and discussed how NMCOG communities can position themselves to receive future funding for planning and demonstration under the program.



A [recording of the meeting](#) and the [presentation slides](#) are available. If you have questions about the plan or are interested in learning more about the projects identified in your community, contact Jessica Boulanger, Mobility Specialist, and Project Manager for Greater Lowell Vision Zero, at jboulanger@nmcog.org.

Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan Survey Now Open!

NMCOG is working on a plan to improve residents' access to the internet, technological devices like smartphones and computers, and education about how to use digital tools. To inform the plan, we want to hear from you and those you know about your experiences. By creating a solid plan for improving digital equity, our municipalities and community organizations will have access to more funding for providing services, technology, and education.

[Take the survey today!](#) The survey is available in nine languages; select

Do you and those you work with have fair access to computers and the Internet?



Take the Digital Equity Survey to help us plan programs & funding for...

Infrastructure and Affordable Broadband

Device Access

Digital Literacy

Take the Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan Survey: <https://nmcog.org/desurvey>

Your input will inform a plan for the City of Lowell and the Towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Peppereil, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, and Westford. Available in nine languages (select from drop-down menu).



This project is funded by MAPC at the Massachusetts Department of Commerce under the Massachusetts Digital Equity Planning Program. Funding is provided by the Massachusetts American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

your preferred language from the dropdown menu on the first page of the survey. It takes less than five minutes to complete, and closes **Friday, May 31, 2024**. Paper copies are available upon request by contacting Isabel Emmet at iemmet@nmcog.org or 978-454-8021 x 117.

Additional Digital Equity News!

Not only is NMCOG promoting the Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan survey, but we are also pursuing additional public outreach through focus groups and charrettes. Over the coming weeks we will be holding eight charrettes throughout the region. Four charrettes have been scheduled throughout the month of May as

follows:

Chelmsford: May 9, 5:00 –7:00 PM

Tewksbury: May 13, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Tyngsborough: May 16, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Dracut: May 21, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Experts and the public alike are invited to come to any charette.

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