



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Events and Opportunities

8/1 Workshop Priority Grants and Grant Writing for Municipal Sustainability Staff

The Building Electrification Accelerator is hosting a Municipal Sustainability Staff Grant Writing Workshop in Natick on August 1, featuring a presentation from MA Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office's Policy Manager, Micaela Leonarte Paredes. The workshop will seek to identify recurring, priority municipal grant funding opportunities and share information on creating winning grant proposals.

Date: Thursday, August 1
Time: 10:30am – 1:30pm
Location: In-person in Natick, MA

Registration: [Register here](#).
Space is limited, early registration is recommended.

Grant Opportunities & Resources

EOEEA Extends Deadline for Planning Assistance Grant Applications

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has extended the deadline for applications for Planning Assistance Grants to Monday, July 22. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to municipalities for efforts to plan, regulate or zone, and act to conserve and develop plans consistent with the state's Sustainable Development Principles. Funding priorities include zoning for housing production, including zoning for compliance with Chapter 40A, Section 3A (MBTA Communities), mitigation of climate change through zoning and other regulations that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and zoning that results in permanent land conservation. Applications must include a minimum non-state match of 25% in local funds or in-kind services. Learn more and download the application materials on [CommBuys \(BD-25-1042-ENV-ENV01-103809\)](#).

MassDOT Accepting Applications for Local Bottleneck Reduction Program

The Local Bottleneck Reduction Program is accepting applications through August 23, 2024 for innovative solutions to improve traffic flow by modernizing traffic signals and addressing congestion bottlenecks on local roadways.

Eligible projects for this program are typically smaller in scale than those that qualify for the State or regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and can be accomplished in an expedited timeline. Examples of eligible projects include signal equipment improvements (coordination of

traffic signals, pedestrian or bicyclist signal improvements, traffic signal improvements or retiming, Transit Signal priority equipment, etc.) and infrastructure/reconstruction projects (auxiliary lanes or acceleration lanes, changing or adding signage, curb modifications, dedicated bus- or bus/bike-only lanes, pedestrian crossing improvements, etc.).

Maximum funding is \$500,000 per municipality per fiscal year; selected awardees are matched with MassDOT-led consultants who assist in project design, funded through the program. Learn more and apply at [MassDOT Grant Central](#).

NMCOG News



NMCOG Tours Atlanta! NMCOG Staff Attend National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Annual Conference

From June 23 through June 25, NMCOG staff met with staff to regional planning councils from across the nation to discuss critical issues such as flexibility in transportation funding; the role of regional planning agencies such as NMCOG in housing and infrastructure development; ways to navigate the rural/urban divide; critical climate mitigation and adaptation strategies; how to engage diverse communities through compliance with the new Justice40 federal requirements; and many other topics. A highlight of the conference was a tour of Atlanta's urban and suburban Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), which highlighted the zoning, funding, and transportation strategies involved in making their regional TOD program a success. Learn more about the National Association of Regional Councils at www.narc.org.



Consortium of Massachusetts Regional Planning Agencies Awarded 2024 MassTrails Grant Funding for Statewide Trails Database Project

On June 21, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$250,000 in MassTrails grant funding for the third and final phase of the Statewide Trails Database project. NMCOG and other regional planning agencies will receive

funding to guide and support the development of a public-facing trails data portal providing public agencies, advocates, application developers, and others access to statewide trail maps and data. The work completed by NMCOG will benefit local municipalities, state agencies, and trail

advocates by providing information to better plan future trails, trail improvements, and interconnections.

NMCOG completed phase two of this MassTrails grant-funded work in June. Staff created an internal web map to enable multiple NMCOG staff and data stewards to review trails data and provide additions and updates. Using trail information from multiple sources, staff reviewed 100 open space properties for missing trail information, added and corrected trail routes, and identified areas where additional fieldwork and updates will be required. [Learn more about the Statewide Trails Database and other MassTrails-funded projects.](#)

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