



NORTHERN MIDDLESEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SERVING THE REGION SINCE 1963

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NMCOG Newsletter

July, 2025

Upcoming Events

Save the Date: NMCOG Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for the NMCOG Annual Meeting! The NMCOG Council is hosting its Annual Meeting, open to all, on **Wednesday, October 15** from **5:30 - 8:30 PM** at the **Chelmsford Center for the Arts**. The event will include a celebration of NMCOG's work over the past year, speakers, and an inaugural distinguished service awards program.

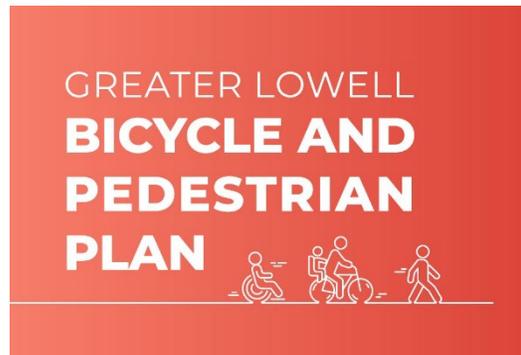


Visit nmcog.org/calendar for more information. RSVPs welcome via email to NMCOGAdmin@nmcog.org.

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

Let us know by taking our regionwide bicycle and pedestrian survey!

Help NMCOG create a safer, more accessible, and active transportation network across the region by sharing experiences, priorities, and ideas through the Greater Lowell Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (GLBPP) region-wide 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](#)

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:

Chelmsford Market on the Common

Chelmsford Town Common
Saturday, July 12
11 AM – 2 PM

Roudenbush Summer Community Market

Abbot School Lawn in Westford
Tuesday, July 15
2:30 to 7:00 PM

Berna's Great Legs 5K for Women

Cawley Memorial Stadium
Thursday, July 17
5:00 to 7:00 PM

Community Team Work Lowell Farmers' Market

Hamilton Canal Garage (350A Dutton St, Lowell)
Friday, July 18
1:00 - 5:00 PM

Pepperell Business Association Summer Concert Series

Pepperell Town Field
Tuesday, July 22
6:30 - 7:30 PM

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.

RSVP for the July 31 Townsend Climate Action Plan Workshop

Residents of Townsend! Join the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) on Thursday, July 31 to learn more about the climate action planning process and share your vision for a sustainable and resilient Townsend.

Date: **Thursday, July 31**

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Townsend Public Library (12 Dudley Road)

[Click here to RSVP today!](#)

Comments and questions about this planning process may be directed to Michelle Zelenka, Regional Energy Manager, at mzelenka@nmcog.org.

NMCOG News

Volunteers Needed for Northern Middlesex Outdoor Asset Inventory

Are you a fan of the outdoors? Are you curious about the conditions of your favorite trails, bike paths, campsites, and more? Join NMCOG as a volunteer to collect data for the

Northern Middlesex Regional Outdoor Asset Inventory. When completed, the Asset Inventory will be available for residents and visitors to the region to find information on amenities, accessibility, and context for outdoor recreation sites. Gather data on your nature walks, camping trips, or trail runs to advocate for your favorite destinations in the Northern Middlesex Region!



**Northern Middlesex
Outdoor Asset Inventory
Volunteer Sign-Up Form**

To volunteer, [please complete this form](#). Questions about this project may be directed to Amy Bickford, NMCOG Municipal Fellow, at abickford@nmcog.org.

Tewksbury Select Board Hears from NMCOG on Housing Plan

Publication Date: June 26, 2025 | Source: Tewksbury Town Crier

"The "At Home in Greater Lowell" project will result in a new regional housing plan based on data analysis and community input, creating measurable benchmarks for addressing the housing affordability crisis in the region. The median sales price of a home in the area has increased by more than 60%, while median income has only increased by about 10%, and 30% of Greater Lowell households are housing cost burdened, meaning they pay more than 30% of income on housing." [Click here to read the full article](#).

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4 for Yankee Doodle Bike Path

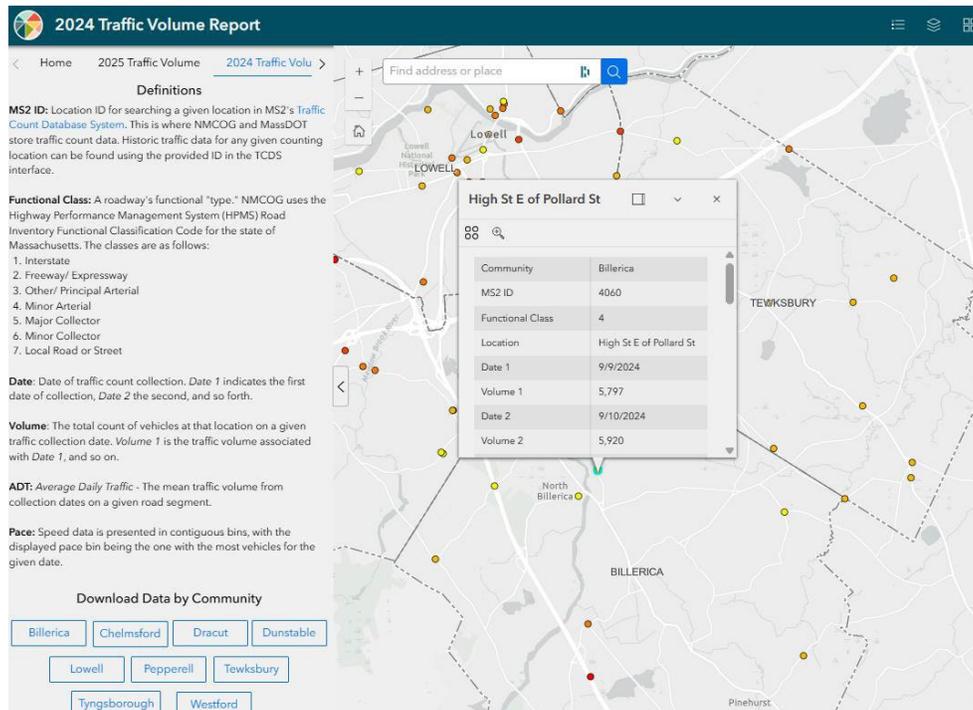
At their June meeting, the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) voted to release TIP Amendment #4 for the Yankee Doodle Bike Path for a 21-day public comment period. This amendment proposes a \$7.3 million increase in funding for the Yankee Doodle Bike Path project in Billerica, which MassDOT intends to pay for using CMAQ funding, a statewide budget resource. The added costs are due to more complex construction needs, including permanent work zones and restoration work along Route 3, major design changes to a bridge structure at Eliot Street/Orchard Road, and general price increases across materials and services. Comments will be accepted via email or mail through **Wednesday, July 16**.

[Read details about the amendment and learn how to provide your comments.](#)

2023 and 2024 Regional Traffic Volume Reports Now Available

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 the data informs 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; this season's data will be posted as it becomes available.

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



Executive Director and Regional Partners Testify

Jennifer Raitt, NMCOCG Executive Director, provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on behalf of NMCOCG in support of H.1053, which would establish a Merrimack River Collaborative. The bill was filed by Senator Tarr and Representative Shand and represents three years of work with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and the Merrimack River Watershed Collaborative to establish a formal entity to protect and restore a vital regional resource facing serious



Photo clockwise from left: Jennifer Raitt delivering testimony virtually from her office. Jerrard Whitten, Executive Director, MVPC, delivers testimony virtually. Curt Rogers, Executive Director, MRWC, delivers testimony in person.

environmental threats. Through these partnerships and regional coordination, NMCOG and others have already made meaningful progress, but a formal legislative framework is needed to sustain and expand these efforts. This bill will ensure long-term coordination, funding, and results for the communities that depend on the Merrimack River.

[**Read the testimony here.**](#)

Regional News & Events

Rourke Bridge Replacement Project: Public Meeting Scheduled for July 15

MassDOT will host an in-person public information meeting on Tuesday, July 15 at the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell to provide an update on the Rourke Bridge Replacement Project. The meeting will cover the project's background, current design, construction schedule and phasing, and opportunities for public involvement.

Date: **Tuesday, July 15**

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: Collegiate Charter School of Lowell Gymnasium, 1857 Middlesex St, Lowell, MA 01851

[Click here to RSVP](#)



MassDOT rendering of the future Rourke Bridge. Source: MassDOT Rourke Bridge project page.

Commonwealth Releases FY26–30 Capital Plan with Historic Investments in Housing

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has released the FY26–FY30 Capital Investment Plan (CIP), a \$16.6 billion five-year strategy focused on housing, economic development, and climate resilience. The plan dedicates \$2.34 billion—14% of the total—to housing, a 71% increase since the Administration took office. Highlights include major investments in public housing repairs and

sustainability, flexible infrastructure funding through the HousingWorks program, and expanded support for homeownership and middle-income housing. These investments advance the goals of the Affordable Homes Act and A Home for Everyone: Massachusetts' Statewide Housing Plan, and reflect a continued focus on increasing housing supply and affordability across the Commonwealth.

Read the budget brief, [***Bolstering our Housing Blueprint: Production, Preservation, and Community Support***](#) for a summary of the CIP, or visit the [**CIP website**](#) for full details.

New Bus Routes Offer Direct Travel from Lowell to Boston and Springfield

In June, Greyhound introduced two new direct bus routes from Lowell, Massachusetts, to Springfield and Boston. Both routes operate once per day on Thursdays through Mondays, departing from the Kennedy Bus Transfer Center at Gallagher Terminal (no service available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays). [**Tickets can be purchased online**](#) with approximate one-way fares of \$18 to Springfield and \$11 to Boston. The Springfield route connects passengers from Lowell to Ayer, Fitchburgh, Athol, Greenfield, and Springfield. For additional details and ticketing, [**visit Greyhound's website.**](#)



Pepperell Lanches Tourism Website

The Town of Pepperell recently launched a new tourism website to highlight the historical, cultural and recreational treasures in Pepperell and surrounding communities.

Discoverpepperell.com is designed to showcase the area and invite visitors to learn more about experiences such as rail trail biking, fishing, hiking, exploring the vast walking trails including many historical sites, and unique specialty shopping and dining options.

Visit www.DiscoverPepperell.com to learn more.



Learn More about NMCOG

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.

Next meeting date: **Wednesday, July 16**

Time: 7:00 PM

[View meeting details.](#)

Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO)

The Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) meets the fourth Wednesday of each month via Zoom and in person at NMCOG's office. The NMMPO is taking a summer break in July and will reconvene in August.

Next meeting date: **Wednesday, August 27**

Time: 2:00 PM

[View meeting details.](#)

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



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

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