

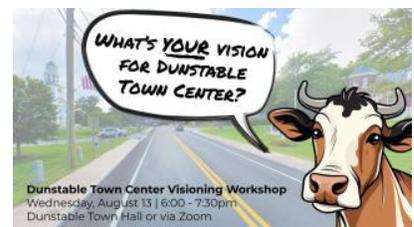
Littleton Climate Action Plan Public Forum

Join the Town of Littleton and NMCOCG on Tuesday, August 12 at 6:00 PM at the Elder and Human Services Center, 33 Shattuck Street in Littleton to learn more about the climate action planning process and share your vision for a sustainable and resilient Littleton.

[Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

Dunstable Route 113 and Town Center Visioning Workshop

Dunstable Town Center - where cows graze just steps from Town Hall and local shops. Help us envision the future of this one-of-a-kind place that blends rural charm with civic life. Join us on Wednesday, August 13 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Dunstable Town Hall to share your ideas for what comes next: from land use and roadway connections to trails and community events. Participate virtually or in person, whatever works for you.

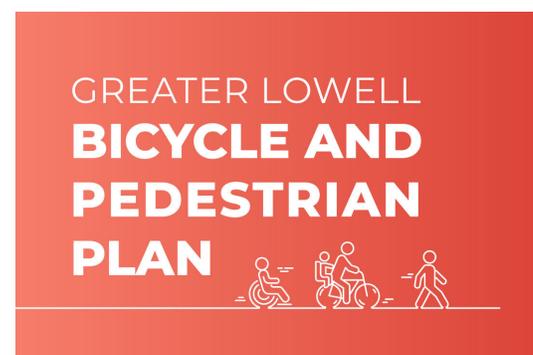


[Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

Contact Kelly Lynema, NMCOCG Deputy Director, at klynema@nmcog.org with questions.

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

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](#)

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

[Roudenbush Summer Community Market](#)

Abbot School Lawn in Westford

Tuesday, August 16

2:30 to 7:00 PM

[Tyngsborough Block Party by the Bridge](#)

Tyngsborough

Tuesday, August 23

11:00 AM to the Fireworks

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 GLBBP contact list](#). [Visit the project website for more details](#).

NMCOG Seeking Volunteers for Outdoor Asset Inventory

Our region is home to many beautiful, interactive landscapes. Whether it be fishing on a glistening pond, or biking as the autumn leaves fall, Massachusetts residents have a close relationship with the outdoors. Unfortunately, the majority of these tucked away paradises aren't marked on our GPS maps, or able to be found with a simple google search. Being able to enjoy the serenities of nature shouldn't be impossible.

It is time to advertise the region's assets in more ways than words of mouth, so we can eliminate the uncertainty before visiting a site. How many times have you visited a state park just for it to be closed, or a trail just for it to only be accessible for one kind of body? Were you unable to visit an outdoor asset altogether, because it was not near public transportation?

Gathering information about the condition of Northern Middlesex's outdoor recreational assets is essential to this project. Without this data, users will have no way to tell if the asset is fit for themselves or for their activity of choice. If

awareness is not increased, our favorite happy places stay in the dark or fade out of conversation.

With the completed inventory, our happy places become destination spots for out-of-state visitors, or lifelong Massachusetts residents. The completion of this inventory can lead to further investments in the preservation of the region's outdoor assets, such as improving accessibility or conducting routine maintenance.

NMCOG is recruiting volunteers to collect outdoor asset data in our nine municipalities. By simply taking a walk, grabbing some measurements, snapping some pictures and assessing the area, you can help improve quality of life for all. To volunteer, [please complete this form](#). Questions about this project may be directed to Amy Bickford, NMCOG Municipal Fellow, at abickford@nmcog.org.

Take the LRTA five-year Regional Comprehensive Transit Plan survey!

The LRTA Survey will help guide the LRTA with planning for service, coverage, frequency, and more access to transit across the region. Help the LRTA determine priorities over the next five years [by taking this short survey here](#).

Regional Resources

Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan Released!

Plan made nine communities eligible for grant funding



Digital Equity, a condition in which everyone has access to the digital tools needed for full participation in society, including telehealth, job applications, remote learning, and more, took a big step forward in the Greater Lowell region with the release of the [Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan](#). The plan has strategies to improve broadband access and affordability, device access, and digital literacy.

The nine NMCOG communities collaborated with NMCOG and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to produce the plan, which in addition to strategies, has appendices full of data related to internet and device access and information from interviews and focus groups with nearly 100 stakeholders and residents. In addition to regional recommendations, the plan includes individualized memos for each community. The plan made the nine communities eligible for up to \$100,000 each from the [**Digital Equity Implementation Program**](#). Over July, NMCOG and MAPC helped the communities apply for digital literacy programming, a regional digital navigator, and new computer equipment and furniture for library and senior center computer labs.

Buttons:

[**Download the Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan Executive Summary \(1,010 KB, PDF\)**](#)

[**Download the Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan Full Plan plus Appendices \(13,680 KB, PDF\)**](#)

[**Visit the Digital Equity Data Dashboard on the NMCOG Website**](#)

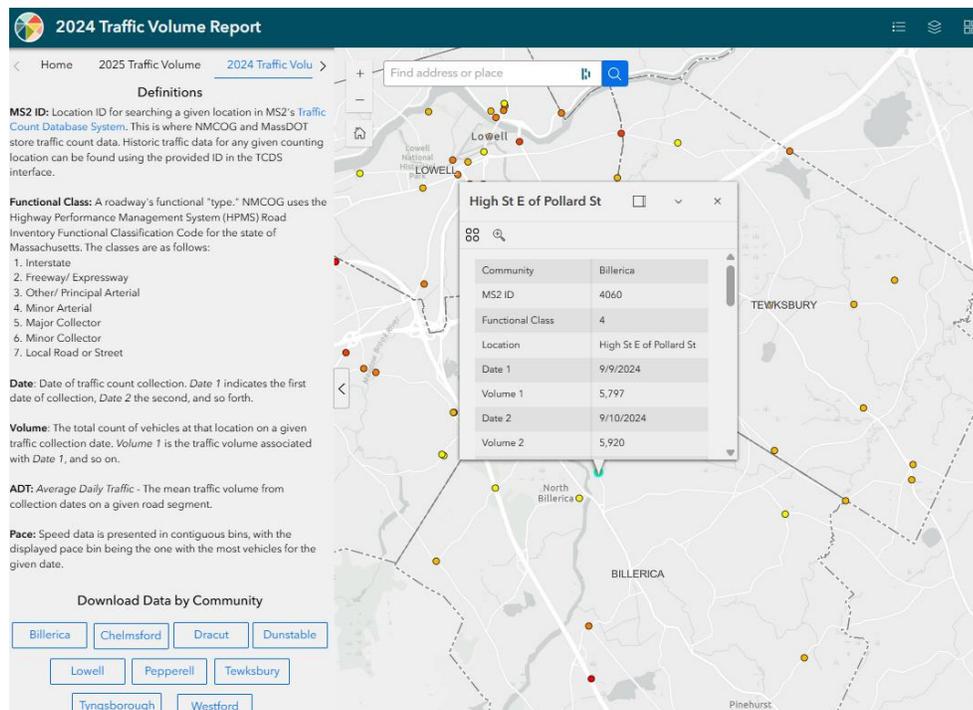
Regional Traffic Volume Dashboard

Why do we count vehicles?

Traffic counts play a vital role in infrastructure planning, traffic management, safety, and broader transportation strategies. By identifying areas with high congestion, traffic data helps planners determine where new roads, bridges, or public transit systems are needed, how many lanes are required, and what design features—like turn lanes or roundabouts—could improve flow and safety. This information is also used to optimize traffic signal timing, identify and address bottlenecks, and develop alternative routes to ease congestion. From a safety standpoint, traffic counts combined with crash data help pinpoint high-risk areas and evaluate the impact of safety improvements. Beyond transportation, traffic data supports long-range planning, informs business site selection by highlighting high-traffic areas, and aids emergency response planning by identifying potential traffic disruptions and optimal routes. As of the end of July, data for 2023 and 2024 is available geospatially and in PDF/Excel

format, all available for download. 2025 traffic volumes have been uploaded through July 11, 2025. Don't miss this treasure trove of data based on our annual traffic counting program!

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



Upcoming Webinar: Understanding Mass Save Reforms in the Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act

In this webinar, learn about the proposed changes to Mass Save in the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act filed in May 2025. Building on the work of the Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse initiative, this provision seeks to create a framework that would simplify and streamline the energy efficiency and decarbonization customer experience. Hear about what this means for Mass Save and achieving equitable building decarbonization now and in the future.

Date: Aug 27, 2025 10:00-11:00 AM

[Click Here to Register!](#)

[=\(https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VLRIsa31Q_qdW_XimPTGTw#/registration\)](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VLRIsa31Q_qdW_XimPTGTw#/registration)

Please reach out to patrick.forde@mass.gov with any questions.

Advancing Regional Stormwater Resilience

NMCOG recently completed Phase 1 of the Northern Middlesex Comprehensive Watershed Study, funded by the Department of Environmental Protection's Small System MS4 grant program. The project developed a GIS-based stormwater asset inventory across the 11 communities in the Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative: Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Littleton, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford, Wilmington, and Pepperell. This regional effort improves MS4 compliance, supports infrastructure planning, and promotes public awareness through a beta webmap and EJ-focused youth education. The second phase, The Merrimack Revive Project, will build on this work with hydrologic modeling and expanded collaboration. [View the stormwater asset map here.](#)

NMCOG in the News

Rourke Bridge update: 'We deserve this'

Publication Date: July 16, 2025 | Source: The Lowell Sun

"...During his remarks, Rourke, who is of no relation to Raymond and Timothy Rourke, for whom the bridge is named, said, "We deserve this," and thanked the project team for the presentation. [A study prepared by the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments and MassDOT in 2013](#) examined the feasibility of replacing the existing Rourke Bridge with a permanent structure.

"The Rourke Bridge design, presentation and schedule are outstanding," Rourke said. "All bases have been covered in regards to mitigation of traffic, local small businesses, and residents. The people of Lowell and surrounding areas have long waited for a new bridge. That time has finally arrived." [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Planning Board reviews 90-unit residential development

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

"...Northern Middlesex Council of Governments Executive Director Jenny Raitt and Assistant Director Kelly Lynema presented an overview of the Tewksbury master plan process. The current master plan, last updated in 2016, is due for its ten-year revision to best reflect the evolving needs and priorities of the community..." [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Attend a NMCORG Council or NMMPO Meeting!

Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting

The NMMPO meets the fourth Wednesday of each month via Zoom and in person at NMCORG's office.

Date: August 27, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: online via Zoom or in person at 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, in Lowell

[View meeting details](#)

NMCORG Council Meeting

The NMCORG Council meets the third Wednesday of each month via Zoom and in person at NMCORG's office.

Date: September 17, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: online via Zoom or in person at 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, in Lowell

[View meeting details](#)

NMCOG.org



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

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