



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

**WHO WE ARE**

**WHAT WE DO**

**GET IN TOUCH**

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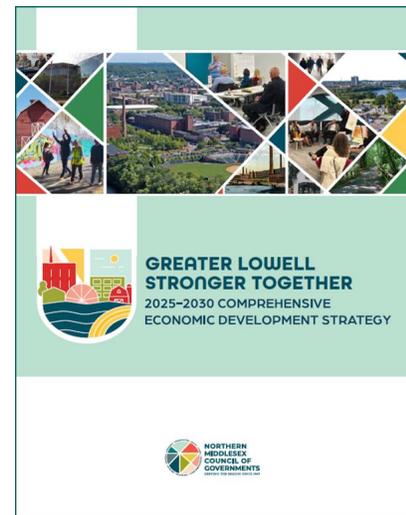
NMCOG Newsletter

September, 2025

## **NMCOG News**

**Greater Lowell Launches New Comprehensive  
Economic Development Strategy**

NMCOG, working with municipalities, economic leaders, and community organizations, has released Greater Lowell Stronger Together, a bold five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to guide regional growth. The CEDS not only qualifies municipalities in the region for certain grants but also provides a workplan to increase municipal capacity to take full advantage of developments such as the Lowell Innovation Network Corridor (LINC) and Lowell's recent Frontrunner City Status.



[Learn more and read the plan.](#)

## Represent Your Community on the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization Board



**NORTHERN  
MIDDLESEX  
METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION**  
MOVING THE REGION SINCE 1976

The Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) is seeking expressions of interest for three new ex-officio (non-voting) seats on the NMMPO board. These seats will ensure broader representation of voices in regional transportation decision-making. We are inviting individuals to represent:

- one of our smaller communities (Pepperell, Dunstable, or Tyngsborough);
- an Environmental Justice community; and
- the needs of those who walk, bike, or roll throughout the region.

If you are interested in weighing in on key transportation, mobility, and infrastructure decisions for the region and represent any of these above constituencies, submit your expression of interest by **Friday, September 19** by emailing Kelly Lynema, Deputy Director, at [klynema@nmcog.org](mailto:klynema@nmcog.org).

[See more details about this opportunity.](#)

## New Plan and Funding Aims to Close the Digital Divide in Greater Lowell

Following a year-long effort, NMCOG, with partners from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and stakeholders from across all nine NMCOG communities have completed the Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan. The project avails all NMCOG communities of more than \$650,000 in implementation funds, which will be used to fund soundproof privacy booths for telehealth and other sensitive uses at libraries and senior centers, hotspots for library lending programs, and technology for computer labs, and regionwide capacity building and digital literacy training led by UMass Lowell.



[Learn more and read the plan.](#)

## NMCOG Unveils New Website

Following our recent rebranding initiative, NMCOG's website has a whole new look! The reorganized site features agency news and meetings prominently on the front page, provides greater clarity about our work, and offers improved accessibility features for visitors using screen readers and translation software.



Visitors can sign up for [notifications](#), view upcoming [meetings and events](#), learn about our current projects, and access our [board and committee](#) pages (including looking up recent [minutes and agendas](#)).

## NMCOG Members Tour Katie Durand Park in Billerica

The Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative (NMSC) held their August quarterly meeting at Katie Durand Memorial Park in Billerica, with a site visit led by Christina Papadopoulos, Stormwater Engineer for the Town of Billerica.

The park is named in honor of Katie Durand, a beloved Conservation Department Land Use Assistant whose life was celebrated through her love of nature. In addition to a memorial area and pollinator garden dedicated in her memory, the park provides canoe and kayak access to the Concord River and incorporates green infrastructure to manage stormwater and improve water quality.

Discussion included project budgeting, long-term maintenance, and how the project evolved over time with multiple funding sources. The visit highlighted how stormwater improvements can be paired with recreation and community amenities to create lasting regional benefits.



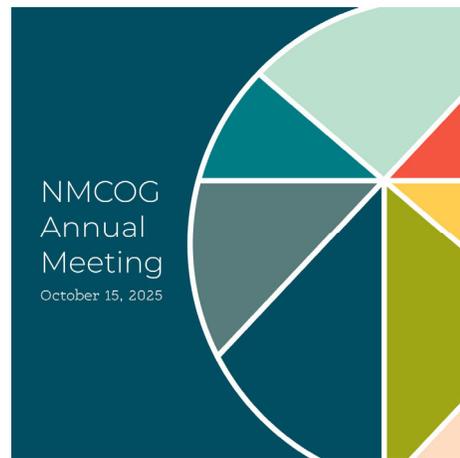
Photo credit: Isabel Tourkantonis

[Learn more about the NMSC.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

## RSVP Today for the NMCOG Annual Meeting

The NMCOG Annual Meeting is taking place in just over a month. This year, the event will be held at the Chelmsford Center for the Arts, featuring a keynote address by Secretary Ed Augustus of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, with additional remarks by Representative James Arciero. Watch for updates on special service awardees in the coming weeks.



Date: **Wednesday, October 15**

Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: Chelmsford Center for the Arts

[Learn more about the event.](#) To RSVP, email [NMCOGAdmin@nmcog.org](mailto:NMCOGAdmin@nmcog.org).

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## Take the LRTA Five-Year Regional Comprehensive Transit Plan Survey!

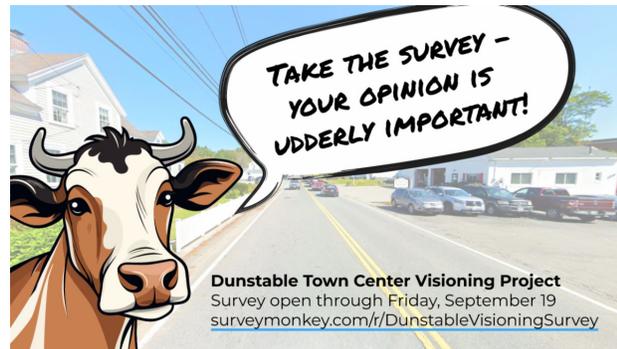
The LRTA Survey will help guide the LRTA with planning for service, coverage, frequency, and more access to transit across the region. Help the LRTA determine priorities over the next five years:

[take the Transit Plan Survey](#): survey closes **September 15**.

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## Calling All Dunstable Community Members: What Is Your Vision for Dunstable Town Center?



The Town of Dunstable is working with NMCOG to conduct a community outreach and engagement process to articulate a vision for Dunstable Town Center. As part of this process, all Dunstable community members are invited to share their ideas, goals, and lists of amenities or resources they'd like to see in a future Town Center area via a town-wide survey. The survey is designed to understand the community's long-range land use and transportation vision for Route 113 and Town Center preservation and improvement.

**[Take the survey by Friday, September 19.](#)**

## Westford Launches Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey

The Town of Westford, with support from NMCOG, is updating its Open Space & Recreation Plan (2026–2036). As part of this process, residents and park users are invited to share their input through a community survey. The survey will help identify priorities for parks, trails, and open spaces, and guide future investments in recreation and conservation.



**[Take the survey by October 10.](#)**

## Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies and Division of Local Services – Annual Conference

Join the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) and the Division of Local Services (DLS) at the 2025 MARPA and DLS Conference on **Tuesday, October 7** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll will provide the keynote address, with sessions led by local, state, and regional thought leaders on a range of topics like housing, transportation, climate, funding, and more.

Date: **Tuesday, October 7**

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (doors open at 8:30 AM)

Location: College of the Holy Cross, Worcester

Registration: [Register for the 2025 MARPA and DLS Conference.](#)

## Regional Resources

### Preparing for the 2030 Census

The 2030 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (2030 Census LUCA) Operation is an opportunity for tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the Census Bureau's residential address list. The 2030 Census LUCA is planned to start in 2027; NMCOG will be assisting our member communities in engaging residents and completing the 2030 Census, however local governments can prepare now by reviewing critical information as a first step in the process. Learn more about how to plan for the 2030 Census LUCA at the [Census Bureau's 2030 Census LUCA webpage.](#)

## Attend a NMCOG Council or NMMPO Meeting!

### NMCOG Council Meeting

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

Date: **Wednesday, September 17**

Time: 7:00 PM

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

[View meeting details](#)

## Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting

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

Date: **Wednesday, September 24**

Time: 2:00 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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