



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

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

GET IN TOUCH

NMCOG Newsletter

November 2025

NMCOG News

**Thank You for an Inspiring 2025 NMCOG
Annual Meeting!**

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for this year's NMCOG Annual Meeting—local, regional, and state leaders, community partners, and friends—to celebrate leadership, collaboration, and the power of planning across the Greater Lowell region. The energy and engagement throughout the evening were inspiring.

Highlights from the evening included:

- Keynote address by Chris Kluchman, FAICP, Director, Livable Communities Division of the Massachusetts Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC)
- The launch of NMCOG's first Distinguished Service Awards, recognizing exceptional leadership, service, and partnership in advancing regional goals:
 - State Representative Jim Arciero, for his exemplary legislative leadership on housing, education, transportation, and regional priorities.
 - The Middlesex 3 Coalition, for driving economic growth and collaboration along the Route 3 corridor.
 - Jerry Frechette, NMCOG Council Member and City of Lowell Planning Board member, honored for his 17 years of service and dedication as NMCOG Treasurer.
 - Carlin Andrus, GISP, NMCOG GIS and Data Program Manager, recognized for his excellence, innovation, and contributions to NMCOG's work.



We are deeply grateful to our NMCOG staff, Council, and event organizers—Mary McBride (Billerica Alternate and NMCOG Clerk), Pat Wotjas (Chelmsford Select Board and NMCOG Representative to the Northern Middlesex MPO), Douglas Bruce (Chelmsford Alternate), and the staff team Kelly Lynema, Sara Schreiber, Donna Vieweg, and Carlin Andrus—for making the evening possible. A special thank you as well to our vendors and partners:

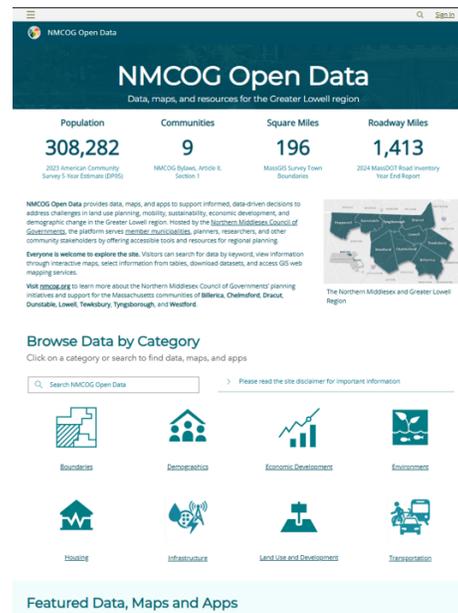
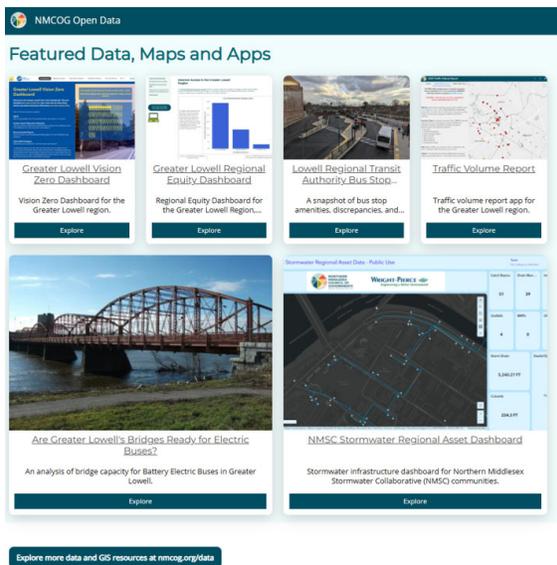
- Joan Roman, photographer
- EdCo, for the awards
- A Floral Moment by Juju Buds (Chelmsford), for the floral arrangements
- Bianco's Catering, for desserts and drinks
- The Town of Chelmsford, the Chelmsford Center for the Arts team, and Chelmsford Telemedia for their hospitality and support.

Together, we reaffirmed NMCOG's mission: bringing people together, supporting collaboration, and addressing shared challenges in housing, transportation, economic development, and long-term resilience. We look forward to the year ahead serving our member communities and the region.

[Visit our website to see additional photos of the event!](#)

Explore NMCOG Open Data: A New Hub for Data, Maps, and Apps

NMCOG has launched [**NMCOG Open Data**](#), a new website designed to provide data, maps, and apps to support informed, data-driven decisions to address challenges in land use planning, mobility, sustainability, economic development, and demographic change in the Greater Lowell region. The platform serves member municipalities, planners, researchers, and other community stakeholders by offering accessible tools and resources for planning. Anyone can search for data by keyword or category, view information through interactive maps, select information for areas of interest, download datasets in multiple formats, and access GIS web mapping services. Start exploring at [**nmcog.org/opendata**](https://nmcog.org/opendata).



LRTA Jobs Accessibility Analysis

In October, NMCOG staff completed a **Jobs-Accessibility Analysis** evaluating the performance of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis focuses on three core dimensions of service: service levels, ridership, and job accessibility. The study compares LRTA's outcomes to those of three peer agencies: Brockton Area Transit (BAT), Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), and Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MeVA). By benchmarking LRTA against these agencies, the analysis provides a clear, data-driven assessment of progress and identifies actionable opportunities for improvement.

NMCOG's approach combines National Transit database statistics with advanced schedule-based travel time simulations, using U.S. Census job flow data and annual GTFS feeds to estimate how well transit currently connects workers to jobs across the region. By tracking performance before, during and after the pandemic, and by comparing LRTA to similar regional agencies, this study delivers insights to support both immediate decision-making and long-term planning. Additionally, this project has been selected to be presented at **MassDOT's GIS Day** on November 19! **[Read the full study here.](#)**

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Commemorating World Day of Remembrance: Advancing Safer Streets Across Greater Lowell

On **Sunday, November 16**, communities around the world will observe the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, a time to honor the lives lost and those impacted by traffic crashes, and to reaffirm a shared commitment to safer streets for all. NMCOG

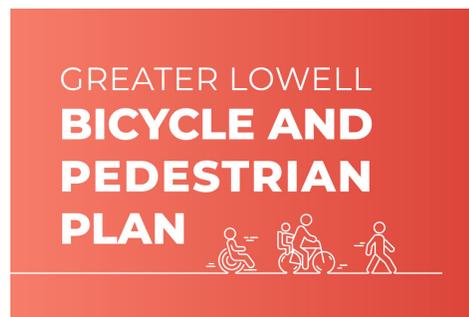


recognizes this day as a reminder that every life lost on our roads is preventable. Through the [Greater Lowell Vision Zero Plan](#) NMCOG and its member communities are working toward a future with zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. As part of this effort, NMCOG is currently developing a Regional Safety Toolkit to equip municipalities with practical tools, policies, and data-driven strategies that support this goal. [Visit the Greater Lowell Regional Safety Toolkit project page](#) to learn more about this project.

Share Your Thoughts on the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network!

RSVP for next week's Greater Lowell Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Virtual Public Workshop

After a summer of outreach and engagement in each of our nine communities, NMCOG and our project consultants from Toole Design Group are ready to share a draft of the region's bicycle and pedestrian network. [Join us for a virtual public workshop](#) on **Monday, November 17** to review the network, provide local insights, and guide future investments in walking and biking infrastructure!



Date: Monday, November 17

Time: 7:00 to 8:30pm

Location: virtual via Zoom

RSVP today: nmcog.org/GLBPPNovemberWorkshop

Learn more about this project on the [Greater Lowell Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan project page](#).

State to Host Public Hearings to Review K-12 School Finance Formula

The Healy-Driscoll administration is holding a virtual public listening session to solicit feedback on the state's Chapter 70 school finance formula. Chapter 70 is the primary funding program that establishes how Massachusetts distributes education aid to cities, towns, and regional school districts.

The listening sessions are part of a Chapter 70 Local Contribution Study included in the fiscal 2026 state budget and conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services (DLS). Information gathered at the sessions will inform the final Chapter 70 Local Contribution Study, which will examine the methods used to determine each municipality's target local contribution and required local contributions toward school funding.

Date: Tuesday, November 18

Time: 4:00 to 7:00pm

Location: virtual, via Zoom

RSVP: [Learn more and register on the DESE website](#)

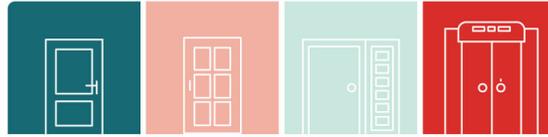
Additionally, DESE and DLS encourage the submission of written comments, which can be emailed to C70PublicComment@mass.gov.

Registration Open for Homelessness to Hopefulness: 2025 Greater Lowell Annual Housing Summit

NMCOG invites you to attend the 2025 Greater Lowell Annual Housing Summit, organized around this year's theme of **Homelessness to Hopefulness**. The event will feature a panel discussion and table talk focused on how we—residents, elected and appointed leaders, nonprofit and business professionals—can work together to increase affordable housing and eliminate housing instability and homelessness.

Homelessness to Hopefulness

2025 Greater Lowell Annual Housing Summit



At Home in Greater Lowell

a housing strategy for the greater lowell region

Date: Wednesday, December 10

Time: Networking: 5:30pm

Program: 6:00 to 8:00pm

Location: UMass Lowell, Coburn Hall (850 Broadway Street, Lowell)

Register: [Register today at nmcog.org/summit](https://nmcog.org/summit)

We're looking forward to a wide variety of elected and appointed officials, municipal and nonprofit staff, businesses along the housing continuum, and community members attending. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Watch for additional details in the coming weeks. Please contact Director of Housing and Economic Development Chris Hayes at chayes@nmcog.org with any questions.

To learn more about *At Home in Greater Lowell*, NMCOG's regional housing planning, visit nmcog.org/ahgl.

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, November 19**

Time: 7:00pm

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. The December meeting will include a public hearing for [Amendment #1 to the FFY2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program](#), an update on the Greater Lowell Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan network vision, consideration of the LRTA's Transit Asset Management (TAM) targets, and more.

Date: **Wednesday, December 3**

Time: 2:00pm

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!