# Contemporary Planning Initiatives

Many municipalities have adopted or opted in to contemporary planning initiatives and other planning activities that promote economic development, smart growth, healthy transportation, and greenhouse gas emission reduction. The table shows the municipalities that are participating in these programs. A brief description of each program is presented below.

## Economic Development

### MassWorks Infrastructure Program

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program provides a one-stop shop for municipalities and other eligible public entities seeking public infrastructure funding to support economic development and job creation and retention; housing development at a density of at least four units per acre (both market and affordable units); and transportation improvements that enhance safety in small, rural communities. The MassWorks Infrastructure Program is administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

[www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/pro/infrastructure/massworks/](http://www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/pro/infrastructure/massworks/)

### Chapter 43D Priority Development Sites

Chapter 43D provides communities with a tool for targeted economic growth. It guarantees that local permitting decisions will be made within 180 days of submittal. A property must be zoned for commercial or industrial development and must be approved by the local governing body to be eligible. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has received permitting approval since the program began in 2007.

www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/pro/about/mpro-annual-reports.html

### Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)

A TMA is a private, nonprofit association of businesses that are joined together in a legal agreement for the purpose reducing traffic congestion and pollution by improving commuting options. A check mark in this category indicates that a community is currently served by a TMA.

www.masscommute.com/tma\_members/

## Smart Growth

### Chapter 40R Smart Growth Zoning Incentive Program

Chapter 40R provides incentives for municipalities to adopt zoning bylaws that encourage smart growth, including development near transit services. While Chapter 40R provides state incentive payments for 40R development, Chapter 40S provides payments to offset unmet education expenses for new students who live in 40R developments. Although several municipalities have adopted 40R districts, there is no current incentive funding for additional districts. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has adopted a 40R district since the program began in 2004.

www.mass.gov/hed/docs/dhcd/cd/ch40r/40ractivity.pdf

### Growth Districts Initiative (GDI) Grants

Through this program, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) partners with municipalities that have identified areas within their community as being appropriate locations for significant growth. EOHED works with the community and property owners to create highly attractive and competitive districts for growth within the municipalities. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has been designated as a Growth District since the program began in 2004.

www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/pro/gdi/gdi-guidelines.html

### District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Program

This program provides funding to regional planning agencies to undertake planning efforts by communities on any issues related to smart growth or shared municipal services. MAPC has used this funding to write bylaws for communities that want to institute mixed-use developments in transit-oriented areas or other community centers. It can also be used for other purposes, such as writing open space residential design bylaws to promote cluster developments in greenfield areas. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has received assistance through the program since it began in 2006.

www.mapc.org/node/1809

## Land Use

### Priority Development Area (PDA)

PDAs in the Boston Region MPO area are communities that participated in the regional priority-area designation projects that involved MAPC directly. These include the South Coast Rail Land Use Corridor Plan, Metro North Land Use Priority Plan, 495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, and North Suburban Planning Council Priority Mapping Project.

### Mixed-Use Zoning Districts

Many communities that lack commuter rail have developed new mixed-use zones within village centers; these areas also lessen dependence on single-occupancy vehicles by enabling people to make more walk and bike trips for local shopping. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has adopted some form of mixed-use zoning.

### Community Preservation Act (CPA)

The Community Preservation Act helps cities and towns address open-space, recreation, historic preservation, and affordable housing concerns by allowing communities to raise funds by establishing a dedicated property tax surcharge. The state matches the amount raised by a community through the CPA Trust Fund. Almost half of the cities and towns within the Boston Region MPO area have utilized CPA funds, but because to a slowdown in real estate sales, the state is unable to match CPA funds at this time. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has adopted the CPA tax surcharge.

www.communitypreservation.org/pprojects?qid=22&dbid=bca5gqwrk

## Public Health

### Mass in Motion

Mass in Motion is a multifaceted approach to promoting wellness and to preventing obesity in Massachusetts—with a particular focus on the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. Mass in Motion awards grants to cities and towns to make wellness initiatives a priority at the community level. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has received a Community Wellness Grant through the program.

www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/mass-in-motion/mim-community-map.pdf

### Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

This state-run, federally funded program encourages safe, healthy trip options for travel to and from schools by promoting collaboration between superintendents, public officials, principals, teachers, school organizations, students, community stakeholders, and neighbors. This program aims to reduce congestion, air pollution, and traffic conflicts near participating schools, while increasing the health and mobility of school-aged children through the five E’s: education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has a school that participates in the SRTS program. (www.commute.com/schools/partners)

### Livable Community Workshops (LCWs) and Walkable Community Workshops (WCWs)

Livable Community Workshops are designed to provide communities with strategies for enhancing livability and to facilitate local discussions on topics such as walking, bicycling, transit, parking, land use, urban design, housing, public health, economic development, energy, and climate change.

Past Walkable Community Workshops helped the region´s communities promote safe, accessible, and aesthetic walking environments through a workshop, facilitated by MPO staff, for members of the community, including elected officials, business owners, involved residents, and local professionals in the fields of planning, engineering, law enforcement, and education.

A check mark in this category indicates that a community has participated in an LCW or WCW.

## Climate Change

### ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI is an international association of local, regional, and national government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. For local governments, ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support the local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level. ICLEI works with its members to help them achieve ICLEI’s Five Milestones for Climate Mitigation process. A check mark in this category indicates that a community is an ICLEI member.

(www.icleiusa.org/action-center/tools/municipal-clean-energy-toolkit/iclei-members-in-massachusetts)

### Green Communities Act

This act makes up to $10 million per year available for qualifying communities for implementing significant energy-efficiency measures, constructing large renewable-energy projects, or pursuing other innovative projects to reduce their fossil fuel energy consumption. A check mark in this category indicates that a community has been designated as a Green Community.

[www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/green-communities/grant-program/map-summary-green-communities.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/green-communities/grant-program/map-summary-green-communities.pdf)