ANNUAL CMMPO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION SESSION

Integrating LRTP development & project selection within the constraints of the natural environment



AGENDA

01

Environmental Consultation Review

02

TIP Project Screening & Selection

- Example TIP Project -West Brookfield (Phase 3)
- CMAQ



Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Program Development

> • EV Charging Infrastructure Updates



Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Blackstone Watershed Collab. Grant
- Culvert Assessment Program Updates



Guest Presentation

 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Ian McElwee, CMRPC



Adjourn

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION REVIEW



Early Coordination

 Develop strategies to discuss environmental aspects of LRTP and TIP with stakeholders and public (i.e., Environmental Consultation)



Environmental Resource Analysis

- Review environmental, cultural, and community resources and data
- Create candidate project location maps



Mitigation

- Understand affected environment and assess transportation impacts throughout project development
- Minimize impacts from project by limiting degree/magnitude of the action and its implementation (i.e., rehabilitate affected environment as part of project)



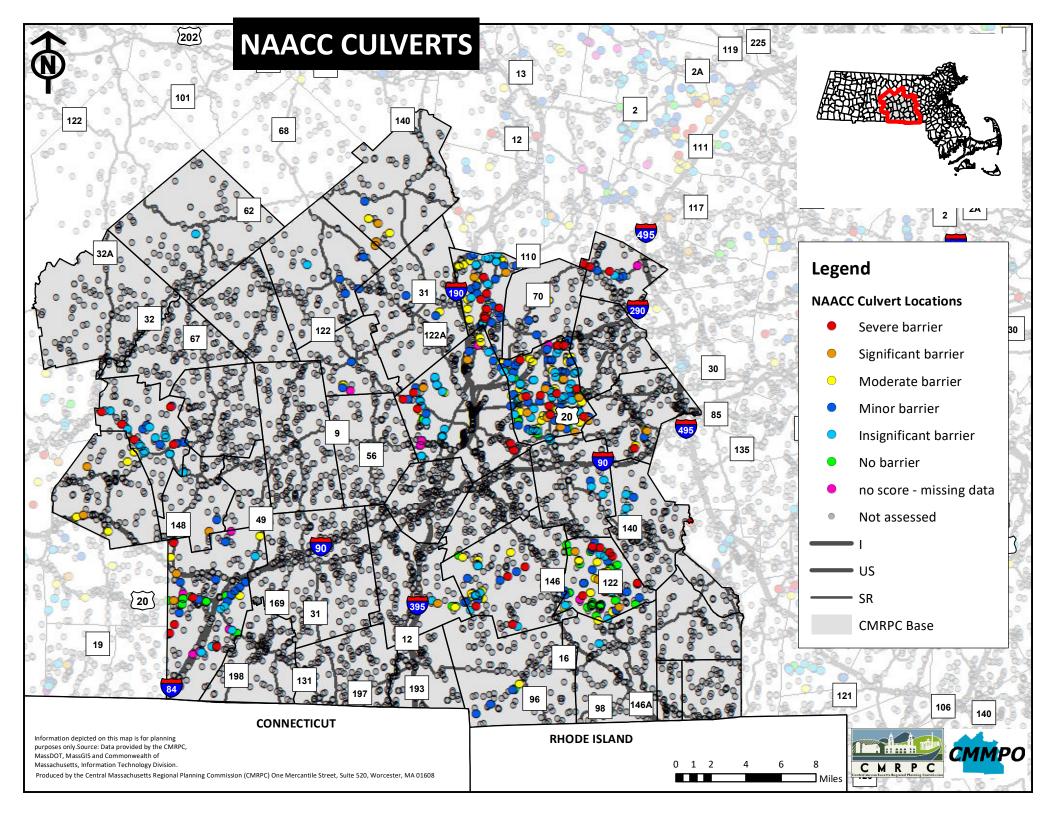
Consultation

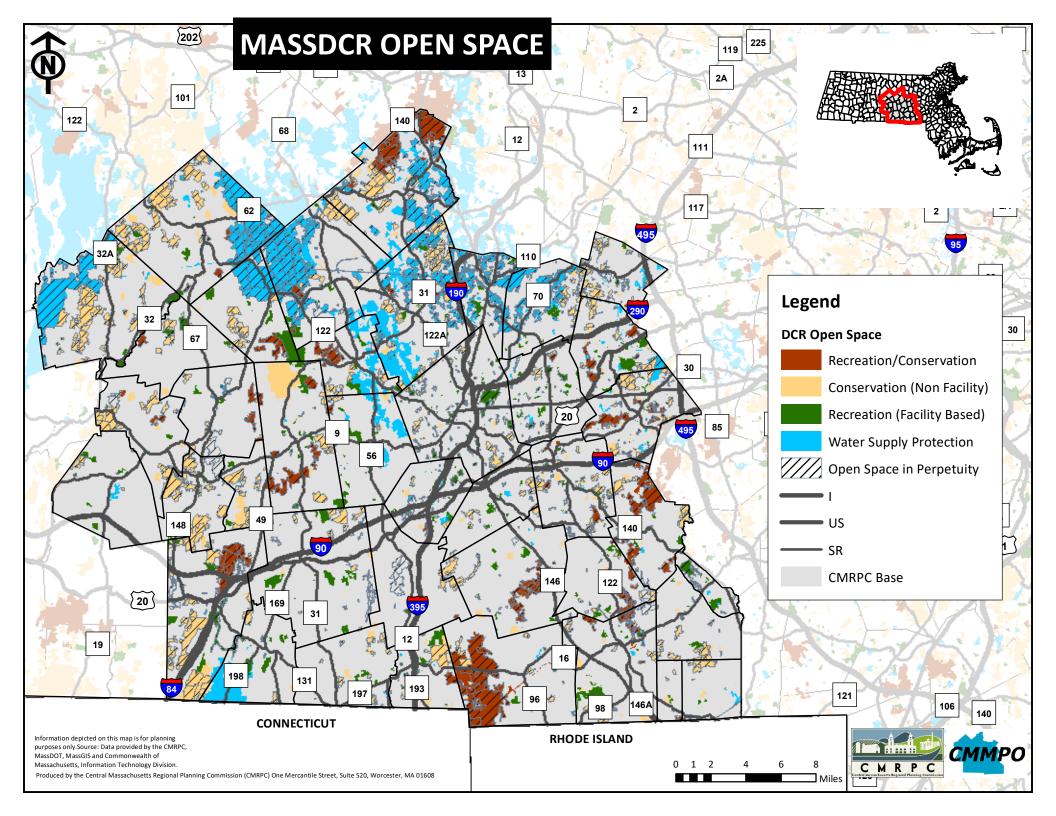
- MPO's consult with regulatory agencies responsible for natural resources, environmental protection, and historic conservation concerning development of transportation plans
- Includes a discussion of potential mitigation activities

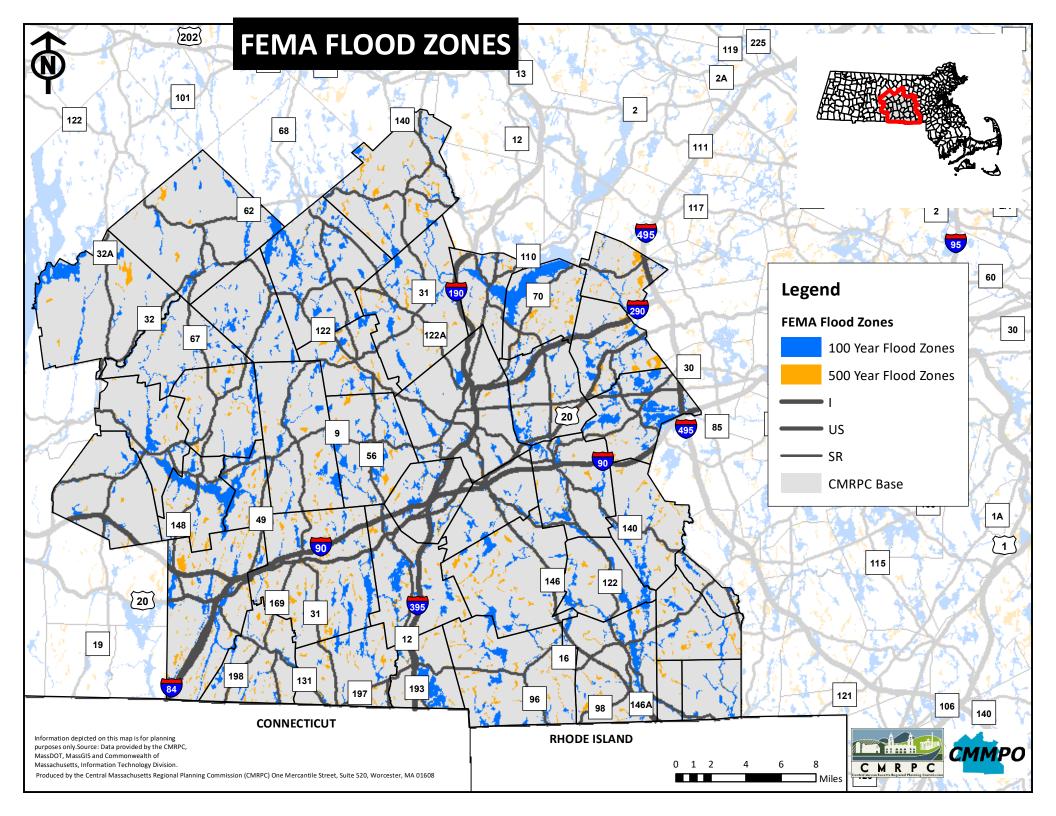


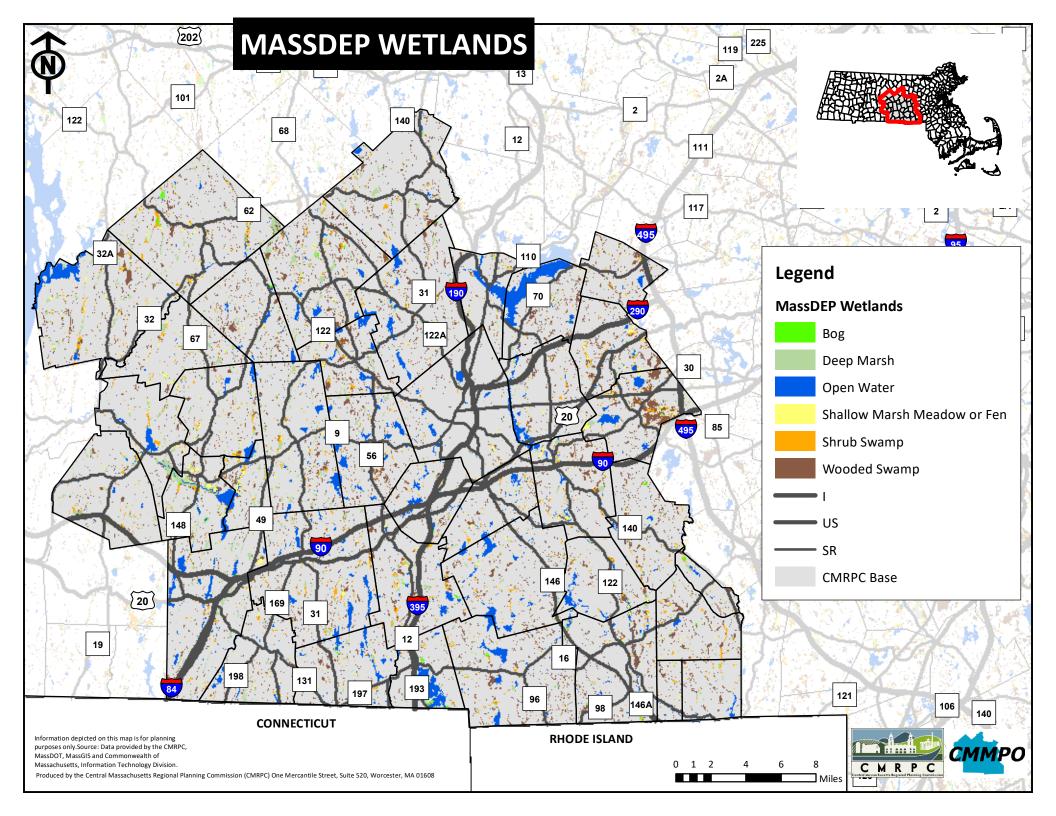
Planning Integration

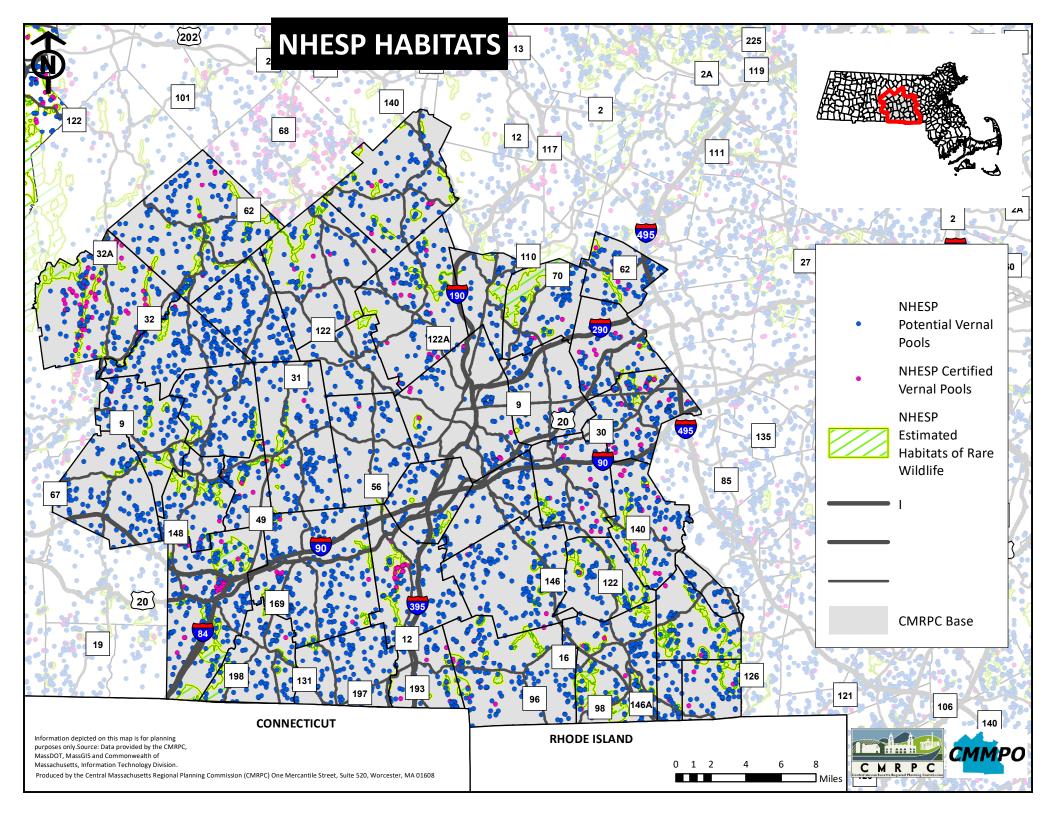
Use feedback from consultations, LRTP, TIP public outreach to select/program transportation projects, policies, and initiatives to minimize environmental impacts









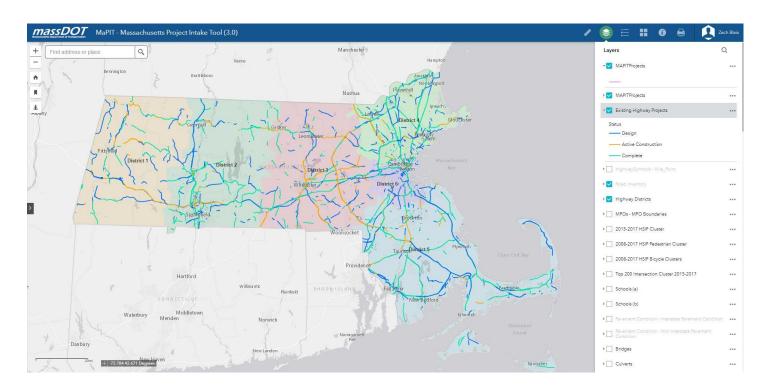


MASSACHUSETTS PROJECT INTAKE TOOL (MAPIT)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) initiates new project proponents through a 3-step process using their online tool, MaPIT:

- 1. Project Need project proponent identifies project needs
- **2. Project Initiation** project proponent works with MassDOT to define scope, costs, timeline, impacts, and responsibilities
- **3. Project Review Committee** MassDOT submits projects to the Project Review Committee for approval

A GeoDOT account is needed to use MaPIT and initiate new project proponents.



Request a GeoDOT Account

PROJECT SCREENING

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

A 25-year regional vision that integrates all transportation modes adhering to and supporting federal, state, and regional legislation goals and performance management goals.

Project Screening

Performance-based planning assessment of candidate projects (i.e., Environmental Consultation GIS analysis).

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

CMMPO Advisory Committee and other committees consider proposed TIP highway/transit project listings and make recommendations to the CMMPO.







CMRPC RESOURCES

Technical Grant Writing Support

CMMPO Air Quality Module: EV Charging Infrastructure

Air Quality Module

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure

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NAACC Culvert Assessments

Data Collection Programs (i.e., traffic counts)



TIP PROJECT SCREENING & SELECTION

(Project ID: 612779) FFY 2029: West Brookfield Resurfacing Work on Route 9 (Phase 3)



Project Details

- Project Limits: Route 9, Pierce Road to Hadley Path (1.6 miles)
- Project Costs: \$11.4 million
- Pre-25% Project Design
- Phase 1 & 2 currently programmed

Existing Conditions/Concerns

- Safety issues
- Pavement issues
- Drainage issues
- Snow and ice
- Steep slopes
- Shoulder width and visibility problems
- Truck traffic
- Speeding (enforcement locations)
- Lack of signage & pavement markings
- Bicycle and pedestrian accessibility

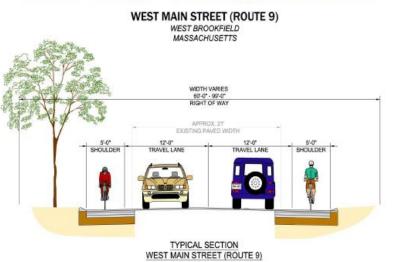


Project Improvements

- Address safety concerns for all roadway users
- Roadway widening improvements
- Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- Lamberton Brook Culvert Extension
- New striping, signage, guard rails, slope stabilization

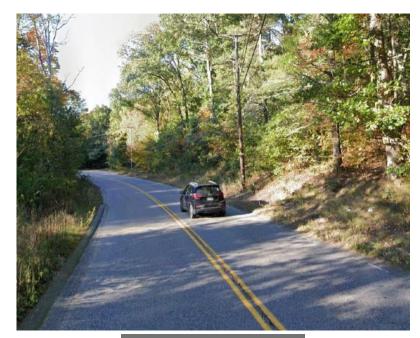


PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION

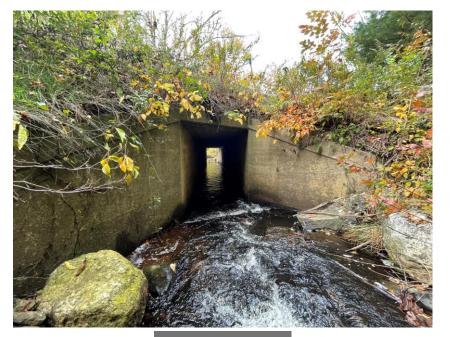


TIP PROJECT SCREENING & SELECTION

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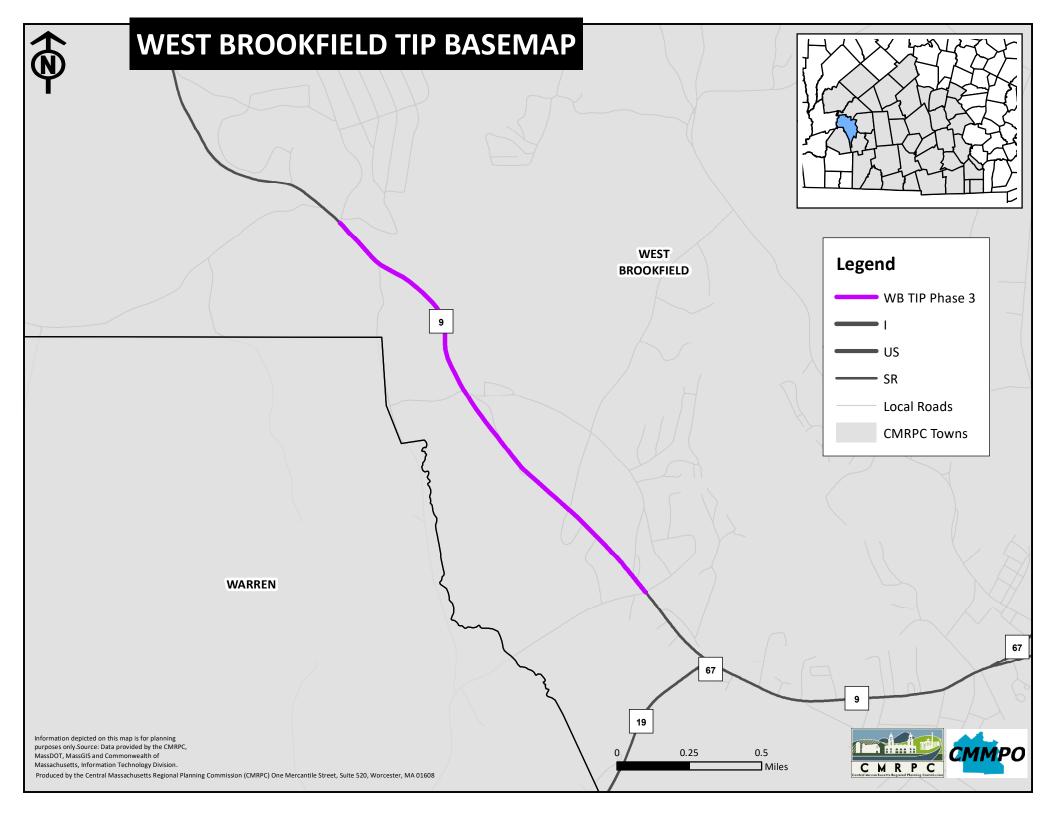
LINES OF SIGHT

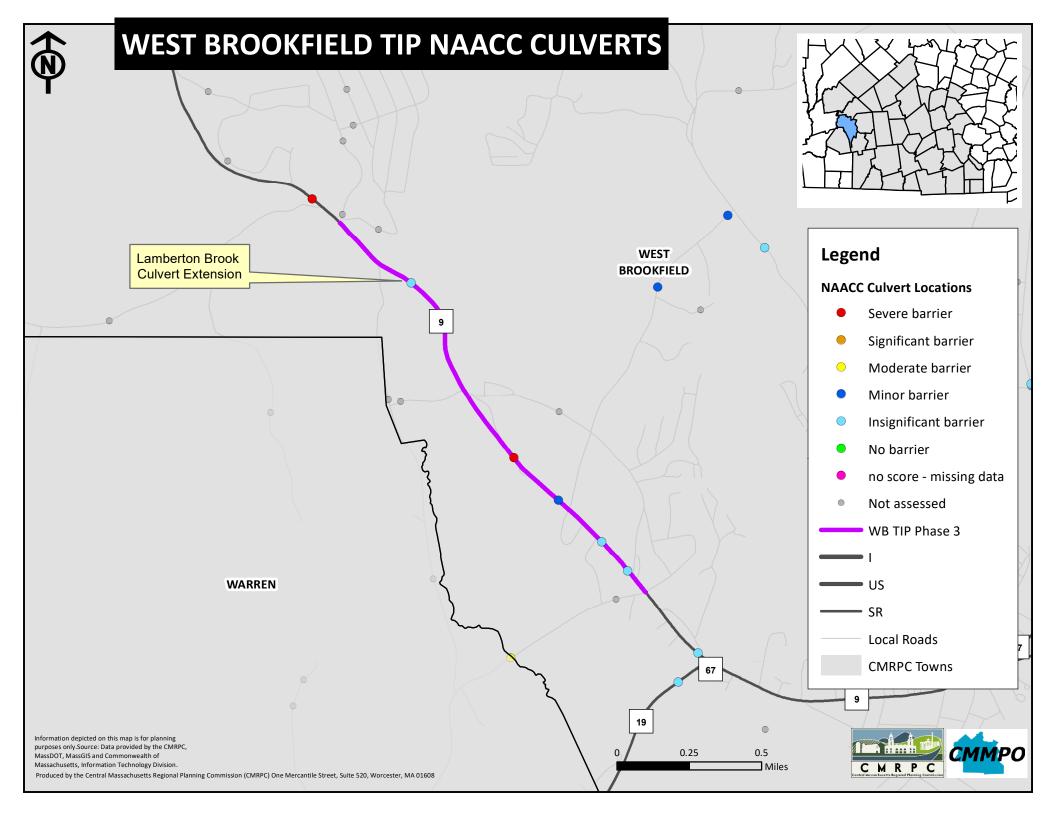


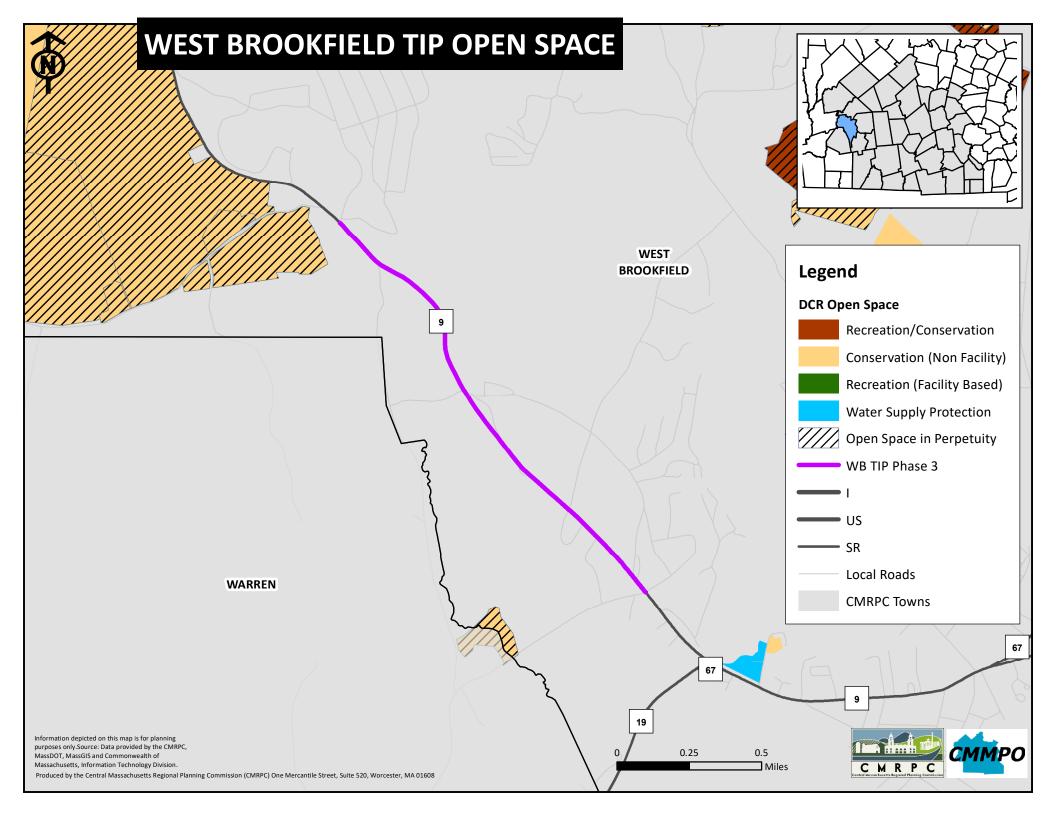


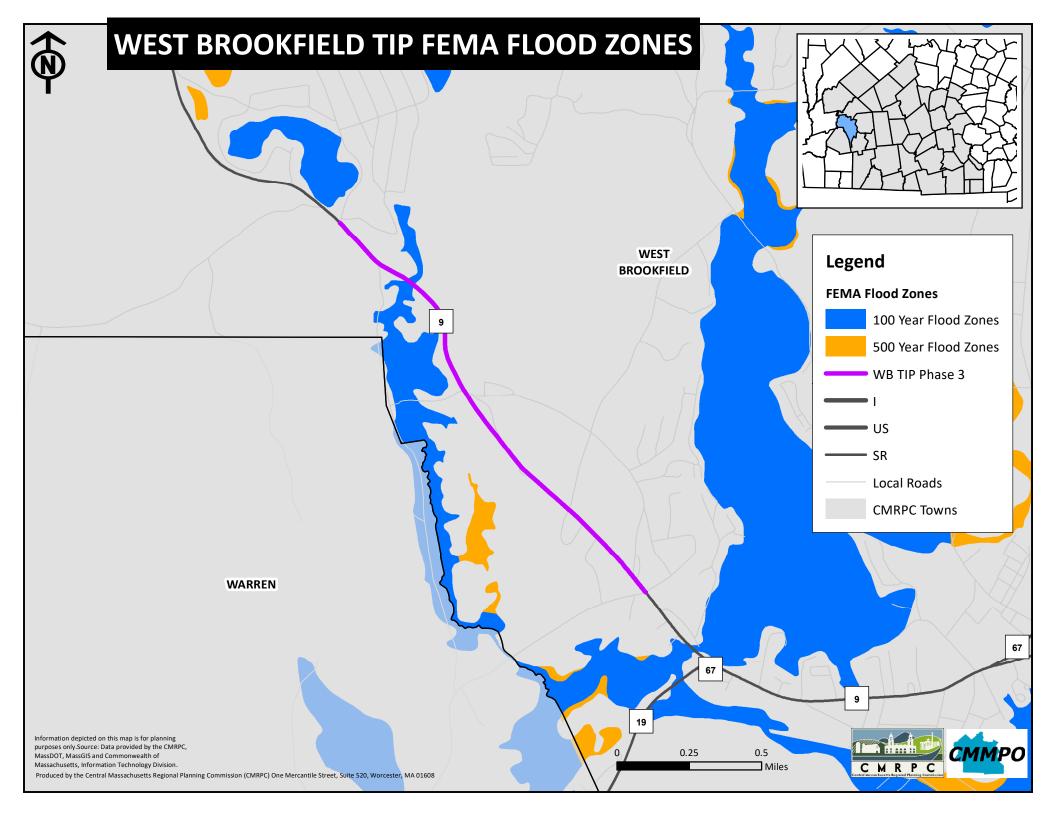
INLET*

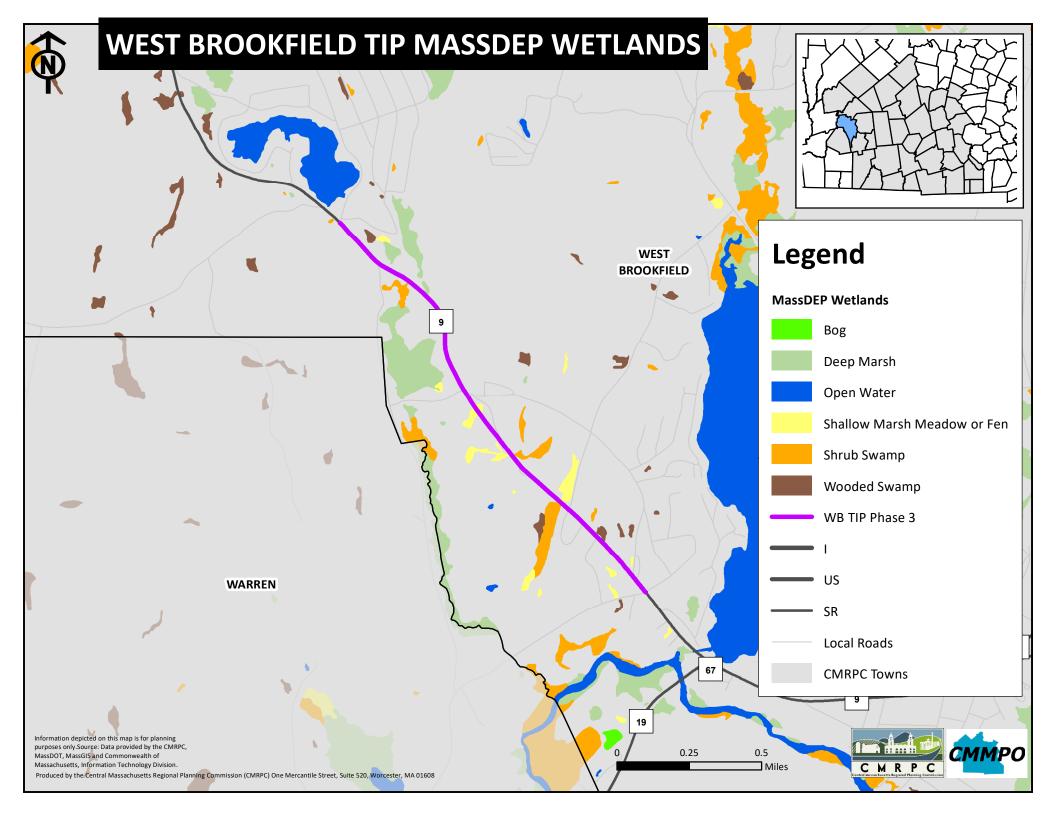
STEEP SLOPES

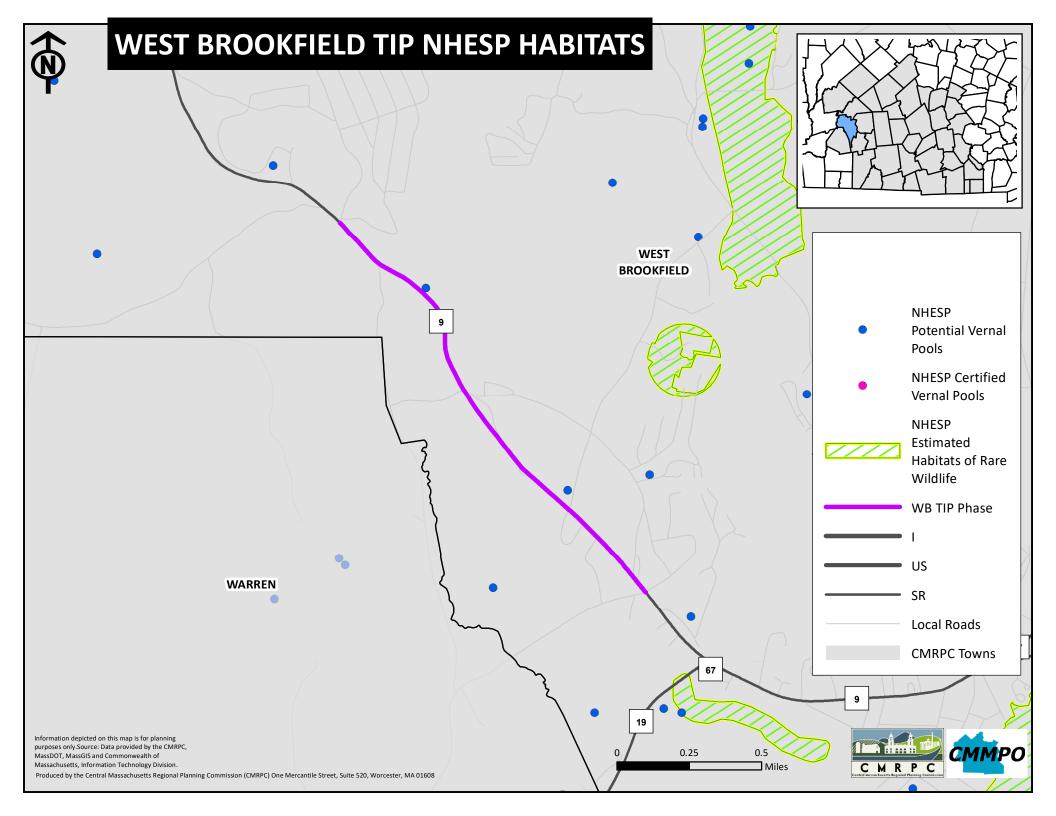












CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ)

CMAQ Project Types/Activities

Recently Approved CMAQ Projects

CMAQ Project Types	FHWA CMAQ Eligible Activities						CMAQ					
Travel Demand Management/Rideshare	Rideshare Programs	PROJECT	Project	Location	Approval Date	TIP Year		Total Funds	Туре	-	NOx Savings (kg/per year)	CO Savings
	Park and Ride	101			Date	- Cai	Funds			(kg/per year)	(kg/per year)	(Kg/per year)
	Employee Transit Benefits	605740	Winthrop/Providence/Vernon/ Granite St Improvements	Worcester	3/29/16	2017	\$1,305,638	\$3,853,939	Traffic Flow	20.6	54.8	242.7
	Carsharing											
	Bikesharing	603251	Holden St/Drummond Ave/Shore Dr Intersection Improvements	Worcester	3/29/16	2017	\$2,705,655	\$2,705,655	Traffic Flow	135.2	360.2	1596.5
	Education and Outreach	602740	Main St Resurfacing	Shrewsbury	11/10/16	2017	\$2,000,000	\$6 278 484	Traffic Flow	158.3	158.9	1963.5
Congestion Reduction and Traffic Flow	Incident Management		Charlton St Reconstruction	Oxford	11/10/16		\$1,000,000	4 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	Traffic Flow	0.1	0.4	5.7
Improvements	Intersection ImprovementsSignal Improvements	606125	High St/Hopkinton Rd	Upton	4/4/18	2019	\$3,411,395		Traffic Flow	23.4	22.6	331.5
			Reconstruction WRTA Demand Resonse									
	Roundabouts		Rideshare Service Pilot	Westborough	3/4/20	2021	\$632,032	\$632,032	New Service	3.3	6.1	107.7
Transit Improvements	Transit Service Expansion		Route 20 Reconstruction	Charlton/Oxford	1/22/21	2022	\$3,586,719			13.6	32.3	643.3
	Park and Ride		Downtown Improvements	Southbridge			\$2,000,000		Bike & Ped	0.4	1.1	27.5
	Employee Transit Benefits	608873	Meadow Road Rehabilitation Shrewsbury St & Doyle Rd	Spencer	4/26/21	2023	\$2,500,000	\$9,164,351	Bike & Ped Bike/Ped &	0.2	0.6	15.5
Freight Intermodal Projects	Intermodal Freight Facilities and Programs	609219	Pavement Rehabilitation	Holden	4/27/22	2023	\$4,000,000	\$10,542,121	Traffic Flow	53.77	127.3	2534.9
	Truck Stop Electrification	608433	I-395 & Route 16 Intersection Improvements	Webster	3/13/23	2024	\$2,000,000	\$14,995,008	Traffic Flow	42.59	24.83	385.91
	Heavy Vehicle Engine Replacements		MicroProject: Quaboag	Ware	3/13/23	2024	\$75,000	\$75,000	New Bus	9.79	71.52	376.95
Pedestrian Bicycle	 Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths (that are not solely for recreation) 		Connector New Hybrid Van		0,20,20		<i></i>	<i><i><i></i></i></i>				
	Bikesharing		MIcroProject: Transit Media & Communications Campaign	Southbridge	3/13/23	2024	\$20,000	\$20,000	Education	-	-	-
Alternate Fuel and Clean Vehicle	Heavy Vehicle Engine Replacements	608961	Intersection Improvements on	Worcester	9/13/23	2025	\$2,000,000	\$6,240,547	Traffic Flow	5.38	5.26	39.5
	Diesel Retrofit Technologies		Chandler St & May St MicroProject: Purchase of New									
	Extreme-Temperature Cold-Start Technologies Dust Mitigation		Bike Racks	Worcester	2/20/24	2025	\$35,000	\$35,000	Bike & Ped	5.84	8.4	167.17
						1	(1			
	Natural Gas Re-Fueling Infrastructure Electric Vehicle Charging Stations					Total Funds	\$27,271,439	\$145,267,533	Total Savings	472.47	874.3	8438.33

LRTP PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

PAST

- EV Survey November 2022
 - Sent to CMRPC community officials
 - Purpose: Identify community's need for EV charging stations, experience with EV charging stations, interest with installing more EV charging stations, and where EV charging stations could be installed in their community.
 - 16 communities responded
- Air Quality Module Spring 2022
 - Part of the CMMPO Regional Environmental Toolbox Series.
 - Explores the topic of EVs, EV charging, EV charging grants and funding opportunities, and future work.
 - Click here for the link
- Grant Opportunities
 - Staff share federal and state grant opportunities with the region.
 - Staff attempted the Federal EV Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program grant Douglas (determined ineligible).



PlugShare Chargers at Auburn Mall

LRTP PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

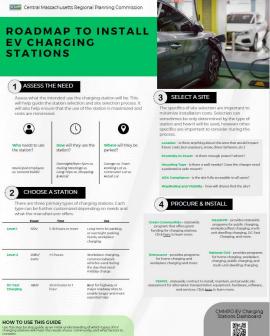
ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

PRESENT

EV Dashboards

- <u>CMMPO EV Charging Stations Dashboard (updated 1/3/24)</u>
 - Uses data from Alternative Fuel Data Center (AFDC) Station Locator.
 - Shows EV charging stations in the CMMPO Region, as well as the station network (i.e., ChargePoint).
 - Also uses data from the Massachusetts Vehicle Census to show EV and Plug-In Hybrid EV totals.
- EV Charging Stations WayFinding App (MapHub)
 - Uses data from AFDC Station Locator to show EV charging station locations.
 - Provides directions and information for each charging stations (i.e., charging level, plugs available, hours of operation).
 - Will be available soon.

- **EV Fact Sheets** <u>click here to explore them</u>
 - Set of fliers that briefly explain important EV vehicle and charging topics:
 - EV Basics
 - Charging Infrastructure
 - Operations and Maintenance
 - Signage
 - Residential Charging
 - Roadmap to Installing EV Charging
- Presentations
 - Transportation Managers Group (TMG)
 - Data Users Group (DUG)
 - Municipal Energy Planning Workshop Series



LRTP PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FUTURE

Clean Cities Coalition

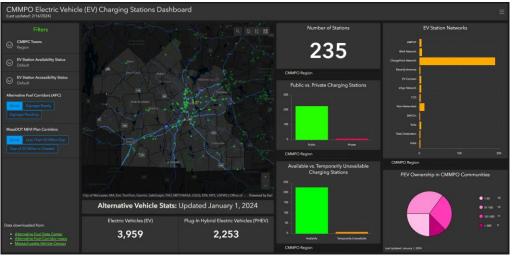
- Staff joined a Board of Advisors (BOA) Group for the Massachusetts Clean Cities Coalition.
- Includes members from State government, other RPA staff, and other technical staff from the electric vehicle/sustainability realm.
- The group meets to discuss EV and other climate change/sustainability topics (i.e., congestion management).
 - Last met on March 25.

• EV Toolkit

- Toolkit to assist communities in deployment of EV charging stations.
- Covers essential topics:
 - Partnership Opportunities
 - Planning and Site Selection,
 - Accessibility
 - Permitting
 - Maintenance and Operation; and more
- Expected to be completed in the coming months.

Massachusetts MPO Resilience Group

- Organized by Boston Region MPO
- A working group of MPO's in the state to discuss climate resiliency topics
- Will include the topic of electrification
- Continue assisting EV grant opportunities
- Continue updating EV Dashboard



UPWP: CULVERT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Blackstone Watershed Collaboration Grant

- In Fall 2023, staff partnered with the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative on a grant to help train individuals to assess culverts.
- Trained individuals to complete North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) Lead Observer certification.
- Trainings and assessments took place in Northbridge and Sutton.
- CMRPC staff assisted with training preparation, took part in a few trainings, and uploaded assessment data to the NAACC Data Center.
- 16 individuals completed Lead Observer certification.
 - 4 individuals from the CMRPC region (Northbridge, Uxbridge, and Sturbridge)
 - 1 Blackstone Watershed Collaborative staff
 - 2 VHB staff
 - 9 individuals from outside CMRPC region (Lexington, Hopkinton, and Kingston)
- About 60 total culverts were assessed as part of the training effort.



Blackstone Watershed Collaborative





UPWP: CULVERT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Regional Data Collection Updates

CMRPC Data Collection Updates

- Completed assessments along federal-aid roadways in Sturbridge during 2023.
 - About 41 culverts assessed
- Continue to make updates to CMMPO Culvert Assessment Program Hub and Dashboard.
- Will begin assessing culverts in Berlin for 2024 season.
- Will continue to identify opportunities for training.
- Will continue to identify vulnerable culverts for replacement and grant opportunities.

Regional Culvert Assessments Updates

- Many culverts have been assessed in the region over the last year.
- More individuals have been NAACC Lead Observer trained.
- Highlight community: Shrewsbury
 - Town Staff is NAACC Lead Observer certified trained by CMRPC.
 - About 2/3 of culverts have been assessed town-wide.

Aquatic Passability Score	Barrier Type	# of Culverts (2024)	# of Culverts (2023)	# of Culverts (2022)
N/A	No Score/Missing Data	26	12	8
1.0	No Barrier	70	10	2
0.80 - 0.99	Insignificant Barrier	113	70	29
0.60 - 0.79	Minor Barrier	154	99	35
0.40 - 0.59	Moderate Barrier	99	56	15
0.20 - 0.39	Significant Barrier	29	19	5
0.00 - 0.19	Severe Barrier	49	29	16
	Total	540	295	102

UPWP: CULVERT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

FY 2025 DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) Grant

- Grant aims to replace undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts located in areas of high ecological value.
- Funded projects must meet Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards.
- Projects can be for field data collection, design & engineering, permitting, and/or construction phases.
- Staff assisting the Town of Warren to complete an application.
 - Two double culverts along New Reed Street (Tufts Brook).
 - Application for field data collection and pre-design work.







GUEST PRESENTATION

CMRPC Climate Pollution Reduction Program (CPRG)

Ian McElwee, Principal Climate Resiliency Planner imcelwee@cmrpc.org

Reducing Climate Pollution in Southern Worcester County

April 4, 2024 2024 Environmental Consultation Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission





CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS Regional Planning Commission

Agenda

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant overview
- Definition of the Worcester, MA-CT Metro Area
- Project Team
- Overview of air pollution emissions by 6 major sectors
- Transportation GHG Emissions
- Transportation Strategies in the Priority Climate Action Plan
- Next Steps



Climate Pollution Reduction Plan Grant Overview

- Funded through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in March 2023
 - No local or agency match required!
- Goal: Develop short & long-term plans to reduce climate pollution across the Worcester, MA - Eastern CT region
- CMRPC is working closely with the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts to develop plans and action items, as well as MAPC and SRPEDD
- Deliverables:
 - Priority Climate Action Plan was due March 1st
 - ▶ Implementation Grant application was due April 1st
 - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan due Summer 2025
 - Status Report due at the end of the grant in Summer 2027

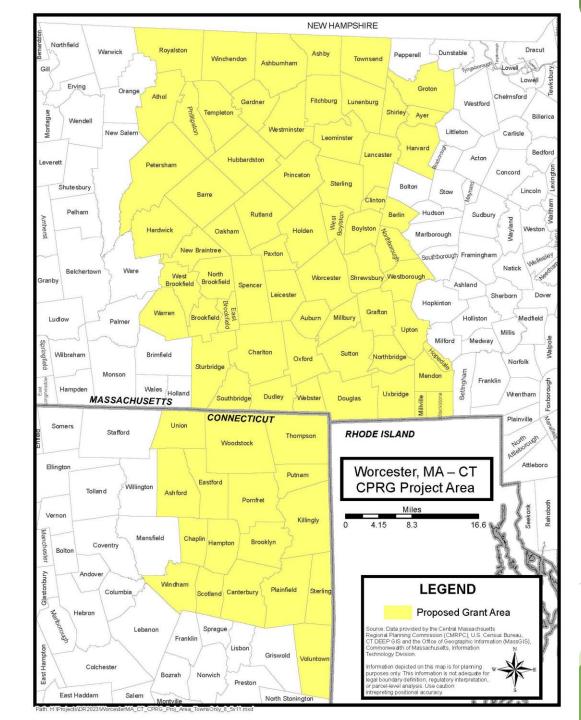


CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS Regional Planning Commission

Definition of Worcester, MA-CT Metro Area

Worcester County, MA

Windham County, CT





Project Team

- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission is leading the planning process
 - RCCP and Transportation staff are involved
- Montachusett Regional Planning Commission & Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments
 - Assisting in community engagement in their respective regions
- Weston & Sampson is leading the data analytics



Six Main Air Polluting Sectors

1) Transportation



4) Commercial and Residential Buildings



2) Electricity



5) Waste Management



3) Industry

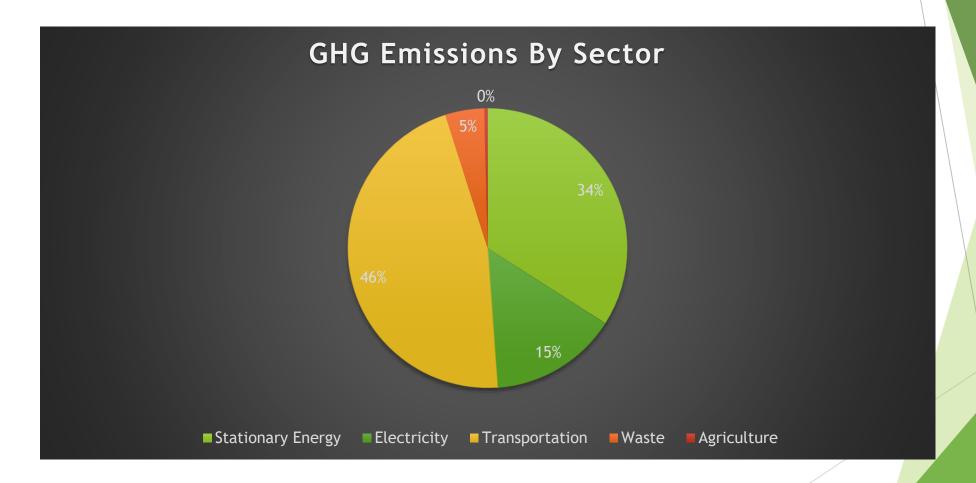


6) Agriculture/Natural and Working Lands





Greater Worcester Region GHG Inventory





Transportation Emissions Data - Greater Worcester Region

Subsector	Source	Scope	Carbon Dioxide Emissions (MT CO2)	Methane Emissions (MT CH4)	Nitrous Oxide Emissions (MT N20)	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions (MT CO2e)	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions (MMT CO2e)	Percent of Total
On Road	Diesel	1	551,790.50	27.26	19.48	557,715.46	0.56	5%
	Electricity	2	1,313.32	0.14	0.02	1,322.11	0.00	0%
	Electricity T&D Loses	3	67.29	0.01	0.00	67.72	0.00	0%
	Gasoline	1	5,004,073.90	247.20	176.64	5,057,806.14	5.06	46%
Rail	Diesel	1	10,753.86	0.53	0.38	10,869.33	0.01	0%

2014 and 2020 MA Vehicle census



Transportation Emissions Data - CMRPC

Subsector	Source	Scope	Carbon Dioxide Emissions (MT CO2)	Methane Emissions (MT CH4)	Nitrous Oxide Emissions (MT N20)	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions (MT CO2e)	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions (MMT CO2e)	Percent of Total
On Road	Diesel	1	100,193.82	4.95	3.54	101,269.68	0.10	0.9%
	Electricity	2	841.88	0.08	0.01	847.19	0.00	0%
	Electricity T&D Loses	3	43.19	0.00	0.00	43.46	0.00	0%
	Gasoline	1	2,096,040.57	103.54	73.99	2,118,547.22	2.12	19.2%
Rail	Diesel	1	10,753.86	0.53	0.38	10,869.33	0.01	0.1%

2014 and 2020 MA Vehicle census

1/5 of all emissions in the Greater Worcester Region comes from gasoline and diesel vehicles in the CMPRC region

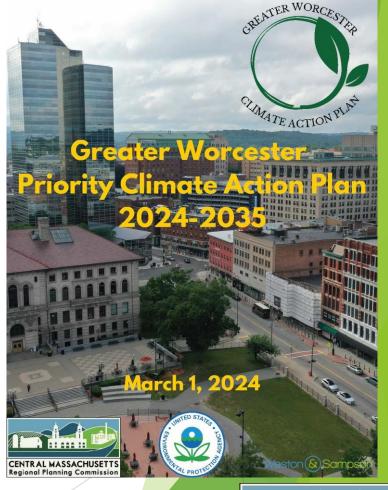


Greater Worcester Priority Climate Action Plan

Available to view at <u>www.cmrpc.org</u>

4 Transportation Goals

- Reduce overall vehicle travel demand and improve mobility for all modes of transportation (i.e. active transportation and transit)
- Improve the operational efficiency of freight and fleet
- Improve fuel efficiency
- Electrify personal transportation networks and scale up fuel switching efforts





Greater Worcester Priority Climate Action Plan

6 Priority Transportation Strategies

- Expand fare-free public transit service
- Electrify regional public transit buses and install associated charging infrastructure
- Implement 30 miles of protected bike lanes and shared-use paths in EJ communities
- Purchase 10 Electric or hybrid vehicles to expand ridesharing/shuttle service with priority given to communities without access to regional transit and EJ communities
- Implement bike-sharing in EJ communities
- Electrify senior vans in EJ communities



Massachusetts Priority Climate Action Plan

> 3 Priority Transportation Strategies

- Adopt Zero Emission Medium- and Heady-Duty Vehicle
 - Medium-duty transit vans, delivery vans/trucks, school buses
 - Heavy-duty vehicles, including large trucks and transit buses
- Adopt Zero Emission Light-Duty Vehicles
 - Low/Zero emission passenger vehicles
- Increase Alternatives to Personal Vehicle Use
 - Increase short-distance transportation alternatives
 - Expand and electrify rail service



Next Steps

- CMRPC will develop the Greater Worcester Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
 - Focusing on 2035-2050 emissions reduction efforts
 - Looks at policies/procedures/regulations/and projects that will continue to reduce emissions long term
 - Will look at all transportation modes
- The Massachusetts Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience and the Department of Transportation will create the Statewide Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
- Significant cross-agency support will take place in the development of these plans.



Next Steps (cont.)

- CMRPC Resiliency staff members will work closely with the CMRPC transportation department to create a strategy to keep the transportation portion of the PCAP active
- Transportation staff and the Long-Range Transportation Plan will be instrumental in the formation of the CCAP's transportation chapter
- Weston & Sampson will update the GHG emissions baseline to a more recent year and will create emissions projections out to 2050
- We intend to meet with the CMMPO at least once during the CCAP outreach for plan input.
- We intend to work closely with the WRTA as well for transit strategies



Thank you!

Questions can be sent to CPRG@cmrpc.org

Ian McElwee, AICP & LEED Green Associate Principal Planner



THANK YOU

