

Central Massachusetts

Regional Housing and Transportation Study



Project background

- Housing, Economic and Transportation Integration was a new task included as part of FY 25 UPWP.
- MassDOT and Federal guidance to incorporate housing into transportation planning.
- That task included developing a regional housing and transportation integration plan.
- **The purpose of the plan was envisioned to:** Identify projects and strategies that will promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local housing patterns (in addition to planned growth and economic development patterns).
- We have since framed this as a regional study.

Why study housing and transportation in our region?

Transportation and housing are often the two most costly items in a household budget.

- Housing and transportation costs are interwoven
 - Where housing is affects transportation costs
 - Transportation investments/infrastructure impact where and what type of housing people can access

Like the rest of the state, our region has seen rising housing and transportation costs.

We have seen great data from statewide studies that aggregate to the whole region. In order to help our communities, we need to better understand our housing and transportation gaps at a more granular scale.

RFP Schedule

Event	
RFP published and advertised	March 19, 2025, by 4:00 p.m. EST
Pre-submittal Meeting	March 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. EST
Deadline for submission of questions	April 2, 2025, by 2:00 p.m. EST
Responses to submitted questions	April 4, 2025, by 4:00 p.m. EST
Proposals due*	April 18, 2025, by 2:00 p.m. EST
Selection Committee reviews Proposals	April 18, 2025 – April 28, 2025
Interviews	Within two weeks of project submission (<i>only Proposers to be interviewed will be contacted</i>).
Selection	We hope to notify, award, and contract within a month of the interviews.

**Extended from initial due date of April 14*

Budget

Maximum award: \$200,000

- Federally funded under the Unified Planning Work Program
- **Funds available until September 30, 2026**

Scope of Work

Four Tasks

1. Existing Conditions Analysis
2. Stakeholder Engagement
3. Suitability Analysis
4. Final Report & Housing and Transportation Toolkit

Task 1: Existing Conditions Analysis

Subtasks

- **Housing Assessment:** Evaluate housing conditions, affordability, and supply across Central Massachusetts.
- **Transportation System Analysis:** Evaluate the region's transportation network and how it impacts access to housing and opportunities.
- **Housing and Transportation Connection:** Evaluate how housing and transportation costs together impact affordability, mobility, and economic opportunity.
- **Development Constraints:** Identify key infrastructure that act as barriers or opportunities to new housing development.

Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement

Subtasks

- **Stakeholder Identification:** Identify and convene regional stakeholders to provide input into the housing suitability analysis (task 3) and to review findings from task 1.
- **Engagement Methods & Activities:** Develop engagement materials.
- **Key Engagement Outcomes:** Summarize input to refine project priorities, validate findings, and ensure the Housing Suitability Analysis reflects real-world conditions and concerns.

Task 3: Suitability Analysis

Subtasks

- **Suitability Criteria Development:** Establish a clear and defensible framework for evaluating housing suitability.
 - This will be informed by stakeholder input (Task 2) and best practice research.
- **Suitability Analysis:** Identify areas best suited for different types of housing development.
 - Could include scenario testing add-on.
- **Interpretation & Application of Findings:** Ensure that findings are actionable and provide insights that feed directly into task 4.

Task 4: Final Report & Toolkit

Subtasks

- **Regional Housing & Transportation Strategies:** Identify targeted strategies to address regional housing and transportation challenges.
- **Housing & Transportation Toolkit:** A modular, user-friendly resource that municipalities and regional stakeholders can adapt to local contexts.
- **Final Report:** Consolidate findings from all previous tasks into a single, comprehensive document.



Questions?