



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Events and Opportunities



At Home in Greater Lowell

a housing strategy for the greater lowell region

Join Us for the *At Home in Greater Lowell* Strategies Summit

RSVP for the June 4 Strategies Summit, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Lowell Senior Center

Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) is proud to announce the next *At Home in Greater Lowell* Summit. At this summit, we will present updates on research we have conducted; share the goals we have created with the input from all nine of our communities; and then break into small groups to brainstorm and discuss strategies to achieve our goals.

Date: Tuesday, June 4

Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Location: Lowell Senior Center (276 Broadway Street, Lowell)

RSVP: [Click here to RSVP](#); please respond by Friday, May 31 at 5:00 pm.

Light refreshments will be served—don't miss it!

Learn more about *At Home in Greater Lowell* at nmcog.org/ahgl.

Please contact Deputy Director Kelly Lynema at klynema@nmcog.org with any questions!

Register Today to Attend the Creative Advocacy Institute

On Friday, **May 17th from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM**, MASSCreative, a statewide arts and culture advocacy organization, will hold their inaugural **Creative Advocacy Institute** in Lowell between the Merrimack Repertory Theatre and UTEC. The Creative Advocacy Institute will bring together cultural policy thought leaders, artists, creatives, educators, culture bearers, arts administrators, teaching artists, students, public officials, and creative industry representatives from communities across Massachusetts for advocacy learning, organizing leadership development, and networking. Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and keynote speaker

**CREATIVE
ADVOCACY
INSTITUTE**

**Learning, Organizing, and Realizing a Creative
Massachusetts for All.**

Quanice G. Floyd, Executive Director of the National Guild for Community Arts Education will speak. MASSCreative members are eligible for discounts. [Reserve your tickets while supplies last](#)

Looking Ahead to Regional Scale Climate Action and Adaptation

Join NMCOG on **Monday, May 20, at 1:00 PM** to learn more about Massachusetts' Green Communities updates, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant's (CPRG) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness, MVP 2.0 process. The webinar is open to all, and will introduce a combined approach to climate action and adaptation. [Register today!](#)

Webinar: Telling a More Complete Story (virtual)

On **May 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM**, the Eastern Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition (EMHCC) is hosting a webinar on how planners, historical commissions, and historians work together to tell richer and more varied stories about our communities, focusing on the importance and methods of capturing diverse historical narratives. [Register today.](#)

Join the Statewide Housing Plan Listening Session on 5/23

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), under the direction of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, is developing the first five-year strategic Statewide Housing Plan in over 40 years. This plan will assess state housing needs, develop strategies to solve housing challenges, inform data-driven decisions, and guide local, regional, and statewide action. It will project future housing needs, define priority areas and strategies implementation funding and responsible parties. NMCOG staff is working with the state to make sure *At Home in Greater Lowell* works hand-in-hand with the Statewide Housing Plan.

Participate in the state's local listening session, planned for the NMCOG region, later this month.

Date: Thursday, 5/23

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Location: UTEC, 35 Warren Street, Lowell

Registration: [Register here](#)

There will also be [12 other listening sessions](#) throughout Massachusetts and through Zoom.

NMCOG staff attended the first session in Lynn and plan to attend the Lowell session as well and are working with EOHLC to coordinate the statewide planning with Northern Middlesex's current housing planning process, [At Home in Greater Lowell](#)



Statewide Listening Session attended by NMCOC staff in Lynn, MA, courtesy EOHLIC

NMCOG NEWS

Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative Update

Staff from across the region attended NMCOC's April Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Good Housekeeping Training at the Regional Emergency Communications Center in Tewksbury. Tighe & Bond presented the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination and Good Housekeeping Training (IDDE). Presentation materials are now [available](#) for download on our website.

The Collaborative will hold its Q2 meeting on **May 21, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, to review the results of a programmatic survey and provide a revised draft of our Memorandum of Understanding. A detailed agenda will be sent out in the coming weeks. To learn more about NMSC contact Meghan Tenhoff Sustainability Planner II, at mtenhoff@nmcog.org.

Housing, Open Space and Recreation Plan Begins

NMCOG began work to update Chelmsford's Open Space and Recreation Plan and Housing Production Plan. Project kickoff meetings were held at Town Hall on April 16 for the OSRP with the Chelmsford OSRP Committee, supported by Sustainability Planner II, Meghan Tenhoff on April 23 for the HPP with the Housing Advisory Board, supported by Chris Hayes Housing and Economic Development Manager, Mike Asciola, Senior Planner of Housing and Land Use. Community outreach for both projects will begin in early June at the Market on the Common. To learn more about these projects contact [Chris Hayes at chayes@nmcog.org](mailto:chayes@nmcog.org).



Greater Lowell Vision Zero: Municipal Briefing and VZAC meeting 4

On April 25, 2024, NMCOG hosted the Vision Zero Advisory Committee and municipal liaisons from communities in the Northern Middlesex region for a Municipal Briefing on Greater Lowell Vision Zero. NMCOG and WSP, the project consultant, shared transportation projects identified for the Regional Safety Action Plan, known as Greater Lowell Vision Zero, as well as the methodology, findings, and strategies used to create the list of identified projects. The project team also provided examples of the types of grants offered through Safe Streets and Roads for All program and discussed how NMCOG communities can position themselves to receive future planning and demonstration grants under the program.



A [recording of the meeting](#) and the [presentation slides](#) are available. If you have questions about the plan or are interested in learning more about the projects identified in your community, contact Jessica Boulanger, Transportation Mobility Specialist and Project Manager for the Greater Lowell Vision Zero planning process, at jboulanger@nmcog.org.

Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan Survey Now Open!

NMCOG is working on a plan to improve residents' access to the internet, technological devices like smartphones and computers, and education about how to use digital tools. To inform the plan, we want to hear from you and those you know about your experiences. By creating a solid plan for improving digital equity, our municipalities and community organizations will have access to more funding for providing services, technology, and education.

[Take the survey today!](#) The survey is available in nine languages; select

Do you and those you work with have fair access to computers and the Internet?



Take the Digital Equity Survey to help us plan programs & funding for...

Infrastructure and Affordable Broadband

Device Access

Digital Literacy

Take the Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan Survey: <https://nmcog.org/desurvey>

Your input will inform a plan for the City of Lowell and the Towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Peppereil, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, and Westford. Available in nine languages (select from drop-down menu).



This project is funded by MAPC and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation under the Massachusetts Digital Equity Planning Program. Funding is provided by the Massachusetts American Broadband Plan Act (2019), State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

your preferred language from the dropdown menu on the first page of the survey. It takes less than five minutes to complete and closes **Friday, May 31st**. Paper copies are available upon request by contacting Isabel Emmet, Regional Land Use Planner II at iemmet@nmcog.org or 978-454-8021 x 117.

Additional Digital Equity News!

Not only is NMCOG promoting the Greater Lowell Digital Equity Plan survey, but we are also pursuing additional public outreach through focus groups and charrette-style meetings. Over the coming weeks we will be holding eight charrettes throughout the region. Four charrettes have been scheduled

throughout the month of May as follows:

- Chelmsford: May 9, 5:00 – 7:00 PM** - Chelmsford Senior Center, 75 Groton Road, Chelmsford
- Tewksbury: May 13, 1:00 – 3:00 PM** - Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury
- Tyngsborough: May 16, 6:00 – 8:00 PM** - Old Town Hall, 10 Kendall Road, Tyngsborough
- Dracut: May 21, 1:00 – 3:00 PM** - Location To Be Announced

All members of the public are invited to attend any charrette.

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