



## Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

### NMCOG Elects Officers and Welcomes New Council Members

At their September meeting, the NMCOG Council voted on the following Officers:

Andrew Deslaurier – Chair  
Stephen Themelis – Vice Chair  
Gerard Frechette – Treasurer  
Jayne Wellman – Assistant Treasurer  
Mary McBride – Clerk  
Christopher Tribou – Assistant Clerk  
Pat Wojtas – Town Representative to the MPO

This fall, the NMCOG Council welcomed the following new appointees:

- Douglas Bruce, Alternate from Chelmsford
- Ron Mikol, Select Board designee from Dunstable
- Jason Silva, Alternate from Dunstable
- Alex Lowder, Alternate from Tewksbury
- Chris Barrett, Select Board designee from Westford

**Welcome, all!**

### Events and Opportunities

#### 10/18: Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative Upcoming Meeting

The Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative is excited to host its next quarterly meeting! The meeting will be held on October 18, 2023 at 12 PM at the Northern Middlesex Emergency Communications Center located at 987 Whipple Road in Tewksbury. The meeting will feature a presentation from the Tewksbury Stormwater Team on their Stormwater Retention Pond Rehabilitation program, and a conversation to guide the collaborative's activities for the coming year. Join us for an afternoon of stormwater and networking! Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing [dgarciamoreno@nmcog.org](mailto:dgarciamoreno@nmcog.org) by Monday, October 16th, 2023. Include dietary restrictions and allergies in your RSVP.

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**10/25: Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnerships Call: Funding for  
Broadband and School Bus Electrification**

Announced at the 2023 Statewide Municipal Partnerships Conference, the Healey-Driscoll administration launched a new Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership for Municipalities and Tribes to assist with their efforts to apply for and win federal funding. The Partnership will convene monthly and is open to elected leaders and staff from all 357 cities, towns and federally recognized tribes in Massachusetts. The first call is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023 from 11:30AM to 12:30PM, and will focus on grant opportunities totaling \$147 million for broadband and \$500 million for school bus electrification. [Register to join this virtual meeting](#)

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## 11/28: MassDOT Community Transit Grant Program Funding Opportunity

Mark your calendars! MassDOT is excited to announce that applications for the FY24 Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) for new vehicles will open on Tuesday, November 28, and are due by Friday, December 22.

The CTGP is an annual competitive program that awards funds to help meet the transportation and mobility needs of seniors and people with disabilities. Application forms will become available [here](#) starting November 28. MassDOT anticipates making award announcements in Spring 2024, with vehicles to be delivered by June 30, 2025.

For more information, [register for one of two MassDOT virtual application training sessions](#) scheduled for Tuesday, November 28 (10am-12pm) and Thursday, November 30 (1pm-3pm), and visit the [FTA Section 5310 & Massachusetts MAP Grant Programs Summary Sheet](#).

## NMCOG News

### NMCOG awarded Regional Energy Planning Assistance Grant

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has awarded NMCOG a grant of \$69,750 through the Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA) grant program. This grant includes \$50,000 to support regional capacity building and project implementation efforts in our region, including continuing our Regional Clean Energy and Sustainability Workshops and supporting the regional Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) planning efforts. In addition to regional funding, the remainder of the grant award was allocated to provide technical assistance to our member communities with Green Communities activities, including annual reporting preparation. For questions related to the DOER REPA grant, or other regional energy and sustainability work, please reach out to Dany Garcia Moreno, [dgarciamoreno@nmcog.org](mailto:dgarciamoreno@nmcog.org).

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### NMCOG awarded MA Land Use and Planning Grant for Regional Housing Strategy

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs awarded the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) with a \$125,000 Land Use Planning Grant Program grant



to support At Home in Greater Lowell: A Regional Housing Strategy. The funding will support NMCOG's planning efforts to respond to the regional housing shortage and will support the nine communities in Greater Lowell in advancing locally specific policies to increase housing choice. Read more at [nmcog.org/announcements](https://nmcog.org/announcements), and [sign up for the At Home in Greater Lowell distribution list](#) to stay informed about this planning process.



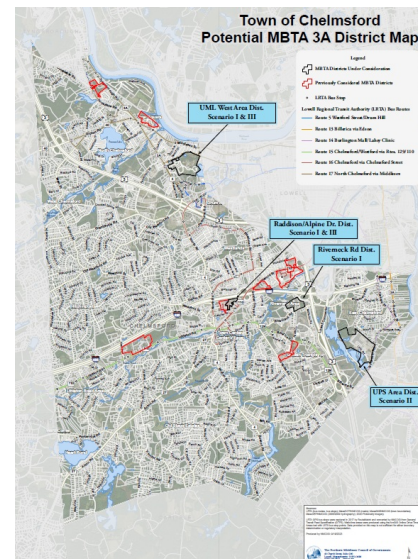
## Dracut Holds Public Forum on Open Space and Recreation Plan

On September 26, 2023, NMCOG and the Town of Dracut hosted the second Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Forum. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the plan update process and survey results, and participate in an activity to identify where open space and recreation opportunities

should be located in Town. NMCOG is working with Town staff to draft the action strategies for the plan, which will guide its implementation in the coming years. To learn more about this process and remain involved, please contact Project Manager, Dany Garcia Moreno at [dgarciamoreno@nmcog.org](mailto:dgarciamoreno@nmcog.org).

## NMCOG and Chelmsford's Work on MBTA Communities Featured in The Sun

On September 19 and 22, the Chelmsford Planning Board held two neighborhood meetings to discuss scenarios for the Town's compliance with MBTA Communities Law (MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3A). NMCOG Staff, Michael Asciola and Kelly Lynema, presented an overview of the law, Chelmsford's path to compliance, and options that had been evaluated by the Planning Board for consideration, and heard feedback from the community on the potential scenarios. Chelmsford is working to bring a compliant zoning proposal to Town Meeting in the spring of 2024. [Read about these meetings in The Sun.](#)



## A New Home for NMCOG

As of December 1, 2023, NMCOG offices will be at a new location: after several decades at Church Street, we are moving to **Wannalancit Mills**, 672 Suffolk Street, in Lowell. Watch for an invitation to our housewarming celebration in early 2024!

## Paul Christner

### Transportation Planning Program Manager

We are excited to announce that Paul Christner joined the NMCOG team as Transportation Planning Program Manager on September 18. Paul comes to NMCOG from the Boston Region MPO, where he served as the Manager of Transit Analysis and Planning. He has nearly two decades of experience in transportation planning, having worked previously at Longwood collective (formerly MASCO), the Massachusetts Port Authority, the City of Boston, and the Volpe Center. Paul has a Master of City Planning and a Bachelor of Arts in French Language and Literature, both from the University of Pennsylvania.



## Employment Opportunities at NMCOG

Come join our talented team!

Full job descriptions for our open positions are available on our website.

[Transportation Planner](#)

Visit our  
Website



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