



Notice of Funding Opportunity
FY2027 Transitional Crossing Site Selections
This is an announcement only

Overview

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is seeking applications from Massachusetts municipalities for waterway crossing sites for future preliminary design studies related to replacement of Transitional Crossings. Transitional Crossings are those waterway crossings, such as culverts, over streams, creeks or other watercourses which are landward of the intertidal zone and are anticipated to experience impacts of climate change and sea-level rise (SLR) between present day and 2100. Sites selected to receive design studies, contracted and managed by DER, will provide the Division with critical information for future ecological restoration planning, including the potential for facilitating marsh migration pathways and climate adaptation. These sites will also serve as case studies to improve related draft guidance for Transitional Crossing replacements. Likewise, the design studies help landowners and partners assess risks and opportunities during early planning phases of potential aquatic habitat restoration projects. DER is interested in Transitional Crossing replacement projects that are at an early stage of development and/or decision-making. Selected projects will be eligible to receive technical assistance from DER staff and from qualified contractors, resulting in a brief report and a preliminary level design for crossing replacement.

There is no obligation for the municipality to move forward with the crossing replacement project after the preliminary design work is complete. Nor is there any guarantee of further assistance from DER after this effort concludes.

Eligible Sites

DER is interested in Transitional Crossing sites with demonstrable ecological value and community benefits.

Eligible sites must be potential crossing replacement projects within the Transition Zone. For the purposes of this RFR, the Transition Zone is defined as near-coastal environments that are presently outside (i.e., upstream or landward of) the intertidal zone but will experience the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise (SLR) between present day and 2100 (see Appendix A: Maps of Projected Transitional Zone by County). Eligible sites must address crossings. For the purposes of this RFR, crossings are defined as waterway crossings, such as culverts, over streams, creeks or other watercourses. The existing structure may be a closed-bottom structure (e.g. corrugated metal, concrete or PVC pipe; 4-sided box culvert) or an open-bottom structure (e.g. 3-side box culvert, corrugated metal arch, precast concrete arch, or deck set on footings or pilings).

Eligible sites must be located within the boundaries of the Commonwealth and within the municipalities identified as having mapped Projected Transitions Zones (see Appendix A: Maps of Projected Transitional Zone by County, and table of eligible municipalities below). The landowner must be a municipality. If a crossing is jointly owned by one or more municipalities, all landowner(s) must provide a signed access agreement with the municipality's application.

Applicants may apply for more than one site but must submit an individual application for each. However, if a single site contains multiple associated crossings they can be submitted as a single project application. For example, multiple culverts under a road with a rock wall immediately upstream and an earthen berm immediately downstream may be considered part of one site as it is reasonable to assume that all features would need to be evaluated together

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include Massachusetts municipalities, i.e. towns, cities, districts, and commissions. A municipality may apply for a crossing that it owns or is owned jointly with another municipality. See Table 1. below for a list of eligible municipalities within the Transitional zone region.

Request for Response (RFR)

The Request for Response (RFR) for this opportunity is expected to be released in November 2026, with a minimum of two weeks to apply. A formal written question and answer period will be held prior to the submission deadline. Status designation awards for selected sites will result in a one-year agreement with the municipality, with a potential opportunity for a one-year renewal. A complete timeline will be included in the COMMBUYS RFR posting and on DER's [website](#). DER reserves the right to designate additional sites for preliminary studies among applicants for the Request for Response if additional funding becomes available.

Applicants are solely responsible for monitoring COMMBUYS for amendments to this announcement, if any, and for the complete RFR posting. Applicants may monitor the site through publicly accessible search and browse tools in addition to visiting DER's [website](#)

Table 1. List of Eligible Municipalities within the Transitional Zone Region.

ELIGIBLE MUNICIPALITIES	COUNTY
ACUSHNET	BRISTOL
AMESBURY	ESSEX
AQUINNAH	DUKES
ARLINGTON	MIDDLESEX
BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE
BELMONT	MIDDLESEX
BERKLEY	BRISTOL
BEVERLY	ESSEX
BOSTON	SUFFOLK
BOURNE	BARNSTABLE
BOXFORD	ESSEX
BRAINTREE	NORFOLK
BREWSTER	BARNSTABLE
BROOKLINE	NORFOLK
CAMBRIDGE	MIDDLESEX
CARVER	PLYMOUTH
CHATHAM	BARNSTABLE
CHELSEA	MIDDLESEX
CHILMARK	DUKES
COHASSET	NORFOLK
DANVERS	ESSEX
DARTMOUTH	BRISTOL
DENNIS	BARNSTABLE
DIGHTON	BRISTOL
DUXBURY	PLYMOUTH

EASTHAM	BARNSTABLE
EDGARTOWN	DUKES
ESSEX	ESSEX
EVERETT	MIDDLESEX
FAIRHAVEN	BRISTOL
FALL RIVER	BRISTOL
FALMOUTH	BARNSTABLE
FREETOWN	BRISTOL
GEORGETOWN	ESSEX
GLOUCESTER	ESSEX
GROVELAND	ESSEX
HAMILTON	ESSEX
HANOVER	PLYMOUTH
HANSON	PLYMOUTH
HARWICH	BARNSTABLE
HAVERHILL	ESSEX
HINGHAM	PLYMOUTH
HULL	PLYMOUTH
IPSWICH	ESSEX
KINGSTON	PLYMOUTH
LAWRENCE	ESSEX
LYNN	ESSEX
MALDEN	MIDDLESEX
MANCHESTER	ESSEX
MARBLEHEAD	ESSEX
MARION	PLYMOUTH
MARSHFIELD	PLYMOUTH
MASHPEE	BARNSTABLE
MATTAPOISETT	PLYMOUTH

MEDFORD	MIDDLESEX
MERRIMAC	ESSEX
METHUEN	MIDDLESEX
MIDDLETON	ESSEX
MILTON	NORFOLK
NANTUCKET	NANTUCKET
NAHANT	ESSEX
NEW BEDFORD	BRISTOL
NEWBURY	ESSEX
NEWBURYPORT	ESSEX
NEWTON	MIDDLESEX
NORTH ANDOVER	ESSEX
NORWELL	PLYMOUTH
OAK BLUFFS	DUKES
ORLEANS	BARNSTABLE
PEABODY	ESSEX
PEMBROKE	PLYMOUTH
PLYMOUTH	PLYMOUTH
PROVINCETOWN	BARNSTABLE
PLYMPTON	PLYMOUTH
QUINCY	NORFOLK
RAYNHAM	BRISTOL
REHOBOTH	BRISTOL
REVERE	SUFFOLK
ROCHESTER	PLYMOUTH
ROCKPORT	ESSEX
ROWLEY	ESSEX
SALEM	ESSEX
SALISBURY	ESSEX

SANDWICH	BARNSTABLE
SAUGUS	ESSEX
SCITUATE	PLYMOUTH
SOMERSET	BRISTOL
SOMERVILLE	MIDDLESEX
SWAMPSCOTT	ESSEX
SWANSEA	BRISTOL
TAUNTON	BRISTOL
TISBURY	DUKES
TOPSFIELD	ESSEX
TRURO	BARNSTABLE
WAREHAM	PLYMOUTH
WATERTOWN	MIDDLESEX
WELLFLEET	BARNSTABLE
WENHAM	ESSEX
WEST NEWBURY	ESSEX
WEST TISBURY	DUKES
WESTPORT	BRISTOL
WEYMOUTH	NORFOLK
WINCHESTER	MIDDLESEX
WINTHROP	SUFFOLK
YARMOUTH	BARNSTABLE