



## **Funding Open Space, Trails and Active Transportation Across the Commonwealth**

**December 16, 2021  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**

**Matt Genova - Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**Amber Vaillancourt - MA Department of Transportation**

**Melissa Cryan - MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental  
Affairs**

**Amanda Lewis - MA Department of Conservation and Recreation**

**Allison Burson - Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation**

**Moderated by Kristen Sykes - Appalachian Mountain Club**



# Using Federal Funding for Trail Projects in Massachusetts

December 16, 2021

Matt Genova

Transportation Improvement Program Manager

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

December 16, 2021

## AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. MPO basics
3. TIP funding
4. TIP-funded trail projects
5. Project initiation and evaluation
6. TIP resources

# Today's Presentation

- MPO basics
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding
- Federally funded trail projects
- Project initiation and evaluation process
- TIP resources



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# What is an MPO?

A federally required planning entity that engages governments (elected officials and various transportation agencies), residents, and other stakeholders in a **collaborative and transparent public process** to:

### CREATE FRAMEWORK



### Long-Range Transportation Plan

20-year vision and goals for the transportation system and prioritizing projects and programs to meet the vision

### INVEST



### Transportation Improvement Program

Rolling, five-year capital investment plan, including the shorter-term investments that help realize the long-term vision

### STUDY & ANALYZE



### Unified Planning Work Program

Annual work program for how federal planning funds are allocated to studies and technical analyses to benefit the region

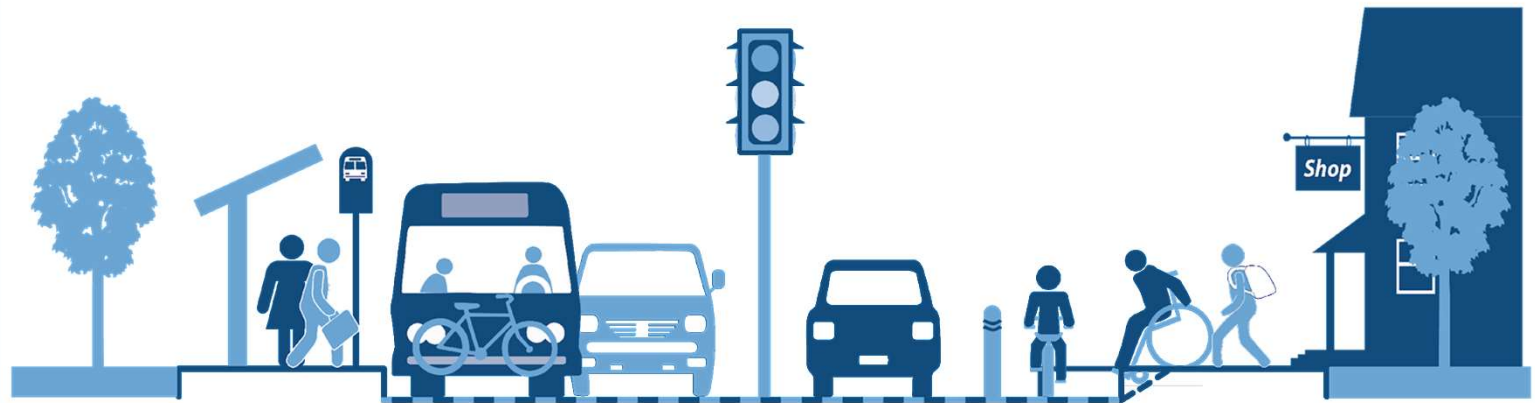


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# Multimodal Planning

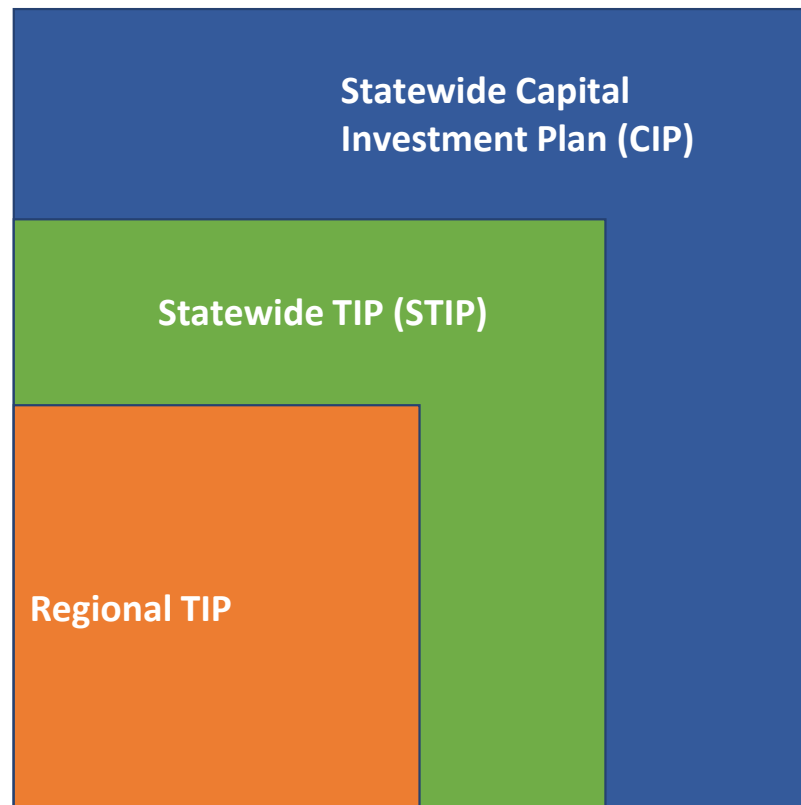


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# Transportation Funding in Massachusetts



- **Regional TIP** = All projects in region funded using federal highway and transit funds
- **Statewide TIP (STIP)** = Compilation of all TIPs from each of 13 Mass. MPOs
- **Statewide CIP** = All projects in Mass. funded using both federal AND state funds

Local funds, public/  
private grants, etc.

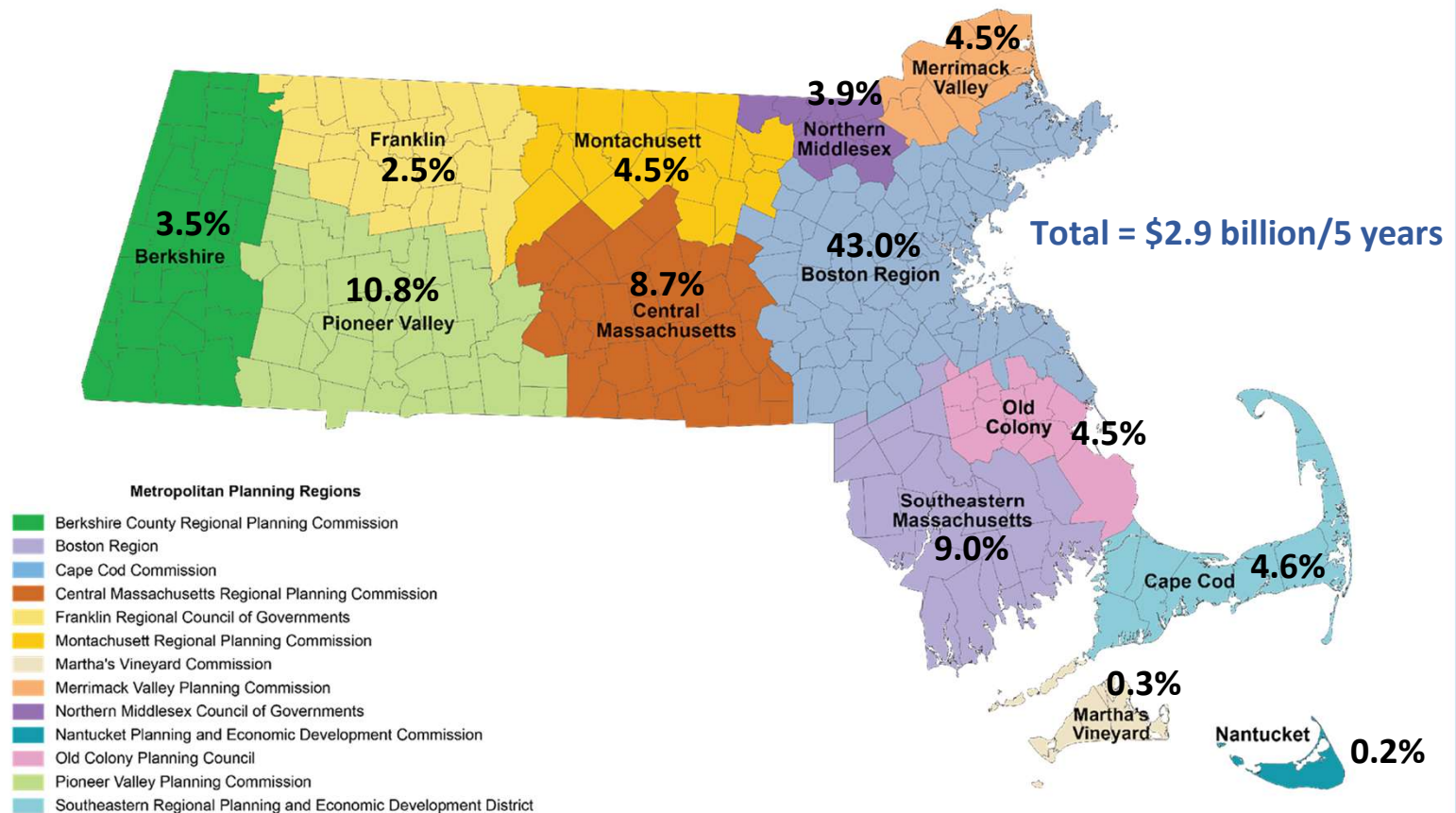


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# Transportation Funding in Massachusetts



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# Boston MPO Investment Programs



## COMPLETE STREETS

- Continuous sidewalks
- Cycle tracks
- Dedicated bus lanes



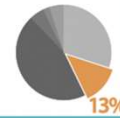
## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- First- and last-mile connections
- Wayfinding



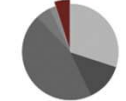
## INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

- Modernized signals
- Shorter crosswalks



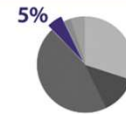
## TRANSIT MODERNIZATION

- Transit station improvements
- Climate resiliency



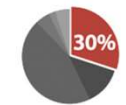
## BICYCLE NETWORK AND PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS

- Shared-use paths
- Bicycle facilities



## MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE

- New transit lines
- Large-scale Complete Streets projects



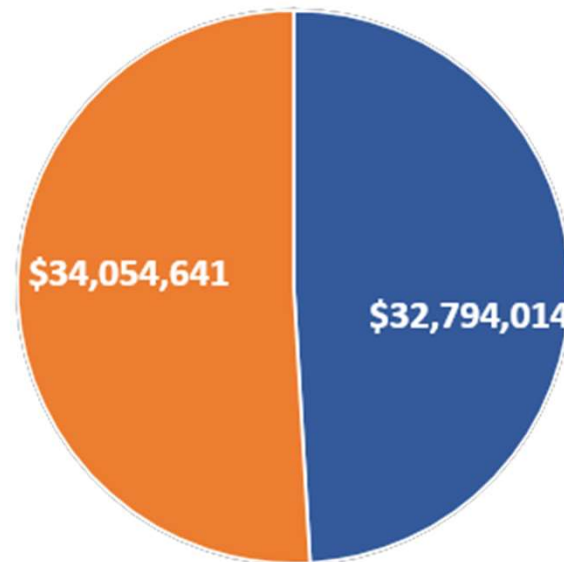
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# Distribution of Trail Funding in Boston Region

Funding Allocated to Regional Trail Projects, by Agency  
(FFYs 2022–26 TIP)



Total = \$67 million in  
current TIP in Boston  
region alone

■ MPO-Funded Trail Projects ■ MassDOT-Funded Trail Projects



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# Recent TIP-Funded Project: Cochituate Rail Trail (Framingham/Natick)

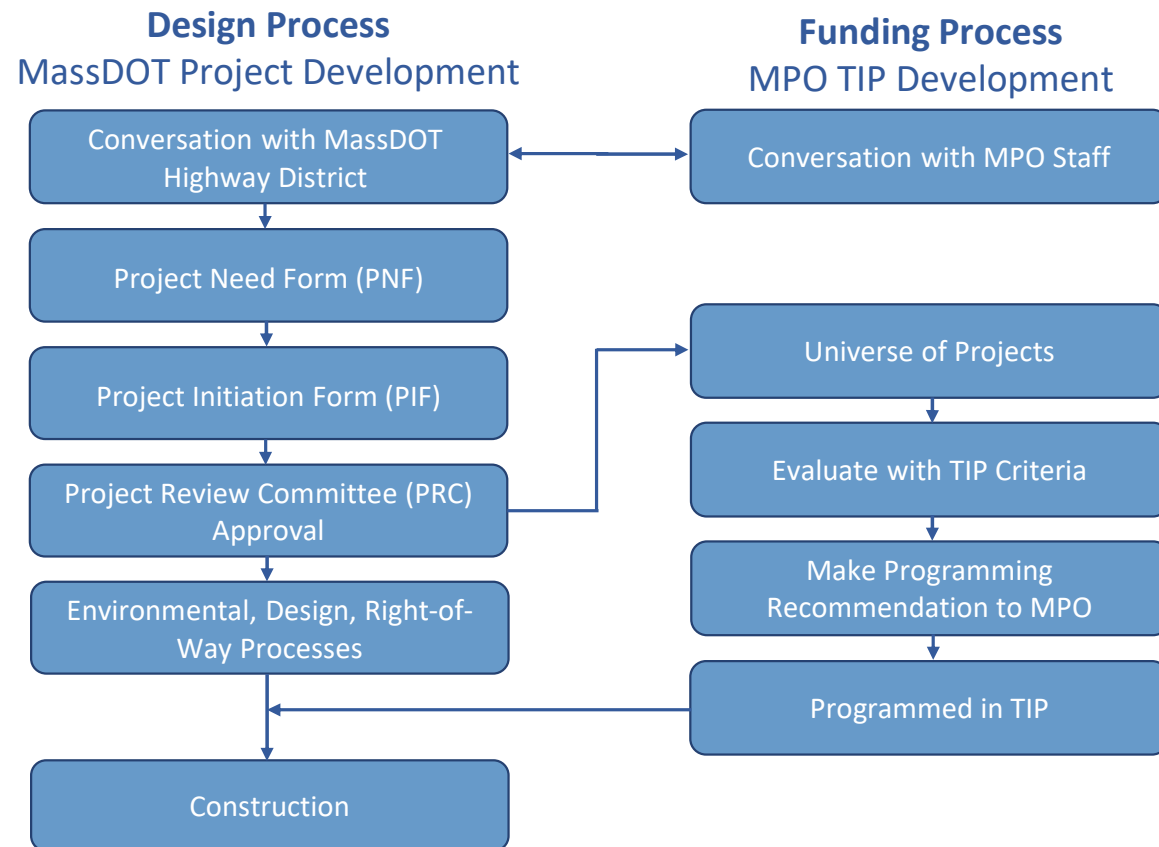


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# Project Funding Process







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# TIP Trail Funding: Key Takeaways

1. MPOs and MassDOT working together to build out statewide trail network
  - TIP funding is significant resource for trail projects
2. To get a project funded, start early
  - Initiation can be time consuming
  - First step is to talk with MPO staff and MassDOT districts
3. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law opens additional opportunities
  - Guidance coming in early 2022 on implications for project funding in MA



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# Helpful Links: TIP Process

- MassDOT Highway District Finder:
  - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/find-your-highway-district-office>
- MassDOT Project Development Page:
  - <https://www.mass.gov/lists/massdot-highway-project-development-tools>
- MassDOT Project Initiation Page:
  - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdot-highway-initiating-a-project>



# Contact for Questions

Matt Genova  
TIP Manager  
[mgenova@ctps.org](mailto:mgenova@ctps.org)  
857.702.3702

# MassDOT Municipal Grant Programs

*Funding opportunities for active transportation infrastructure*

Complete Streets Funding Program

&

Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program



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# Complete Streets Funding Program

- Encourages communities to incorporate Complete Streets principles into regular local planning and design practices
  - Safe and accessible travel for all roadway users regardless of age or ability
- Provides technical assistance and project funds to incentivize permanent change
  - Tier 2 Technical Assistance grants: up to \$38K
  - Tier 3 Construction Project grants: up to \$400K

## Tier 1

Attend Training & Pass Complete Streets Policy or Letter of Intent to Pass a Policy within one year

## Tier 2

Develop a 5-year Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

## Tier 3

Apply for Construction Funding



# Complete Streets Funding Program

- 1 Educate Municipal & Transportation Professionals on Complete Streets**  
Free “Complete Streets 201” and 300-level trainings
- 2 Promote Adoption of Complete Streets Policies**  
Communities decide how they will work to achieve Complete Streets
- 3 Increase Adoption of Strategic & Comprehensive Complete Streets Plans**  
Receive up to \$38,000 in technical assistance to develop a Prioritization Plan
- 4 Implement Complete Streets Policies & Plans**  
Receive up to \$400,000 in construction funding to implement a project

For more information & resources, visit the [Complete Streets Funding Program Website](#)

# Complete Streets Funding Program

Tier 1	Complete Streets Training & Policy
	Municipality representative attends a free MassDOT Complete Streets training and the community develops and passes a Complete Streets policy.
Tier 2	Complete Streets Prioritization Plan
	Municipalities develop a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. MassDOT provides up to \$38,000 for technical assistance to assist in the development if needed.
Tier 3	Complete Streets Project Construction
	Municipalities are eligible to receive up to \$400,000 in construction funding to implement a project identified in their Prioritization Plan.

# Complete Streets Funding Program

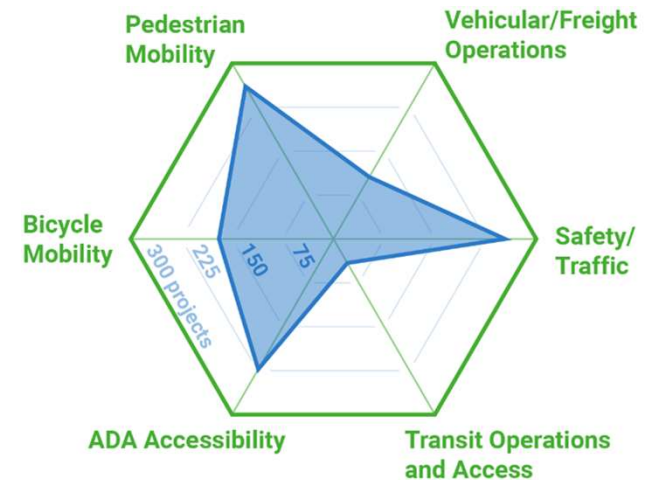
- Municipalities are seeing the significant role that Complete Streets have in a growing and thriving community
- Program will continue to seek new municipal participants and advance partners through tiers
- Ensure all eligible communities receive a Tier 3 grant
  - Implemented new Tier 3 funding eligibility criteria to prioritize new Tier 3 partners
    - \$400,000 four-fiscal-year limit per municipality

Funding Round	Tier 1: Local Policy	Tier 2: Prioritization Plan	Tier 3: Project Funding
FY23 Round 1	Rolling	April 1, 2022	May 1, 2022
FY23 Round 2	Rolling	September 1, 2022	October 1, 2022



# Complete Streets Funding Program

- Since 2016, the program has awarded 394 grants totaling \$68.85M
  - 205 Tier 2 Technical Assistance grants
  - 190 Tier 3 Project grants
- Reauthorized in TBB for \$50M over five years



**55%**

of projects serve an Environmental Justice Community



**94%**

of projects have helped create safer routes to school



**62%**

of projects have helped create safer routes for seniors to senior destinations

# Complete Streets Funding Program

- First five years of the CSFP have created:
  - 17+ miles of new or reconstructed sidewalk
  - Over 70 new or repainted crosswalks
  - 67 + RRFBs
  - 17+ miles of new bikes lanes and shared-use paths
  - Nearly 500 ADA-Compliant curb ramps
  - And much more!

Nearly two-thirds of projects advanced three or more Complete Streets objectives



From left to right: Ped/ Bike Upgrades at Carter St & Everett Ave in Chelsea, Parker St/ Main Street Shared Use Path in Newburyport, and Pedestrian upgrades on Main Street in Maynard

# Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program

- Grant program focused on quick-build projects that support public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce in municipalities
  - Started in June of 2020 as a response to COVID-19
  - Eligible projects include permanent or pilot sidewalks, paths, bicycle facilities, outdoor dining, traffic calming, and transit improvements
    - Grant limits between \$200K and \$500K depending on project type

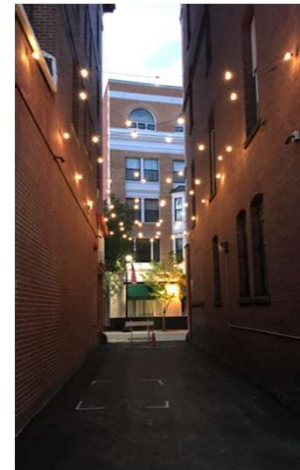


From left to right: Bus/bike lane project in Lynn, Bus shelter project in Tewksbury, and ADA off-road trail in Alford.



# Shared Streets and Spaces

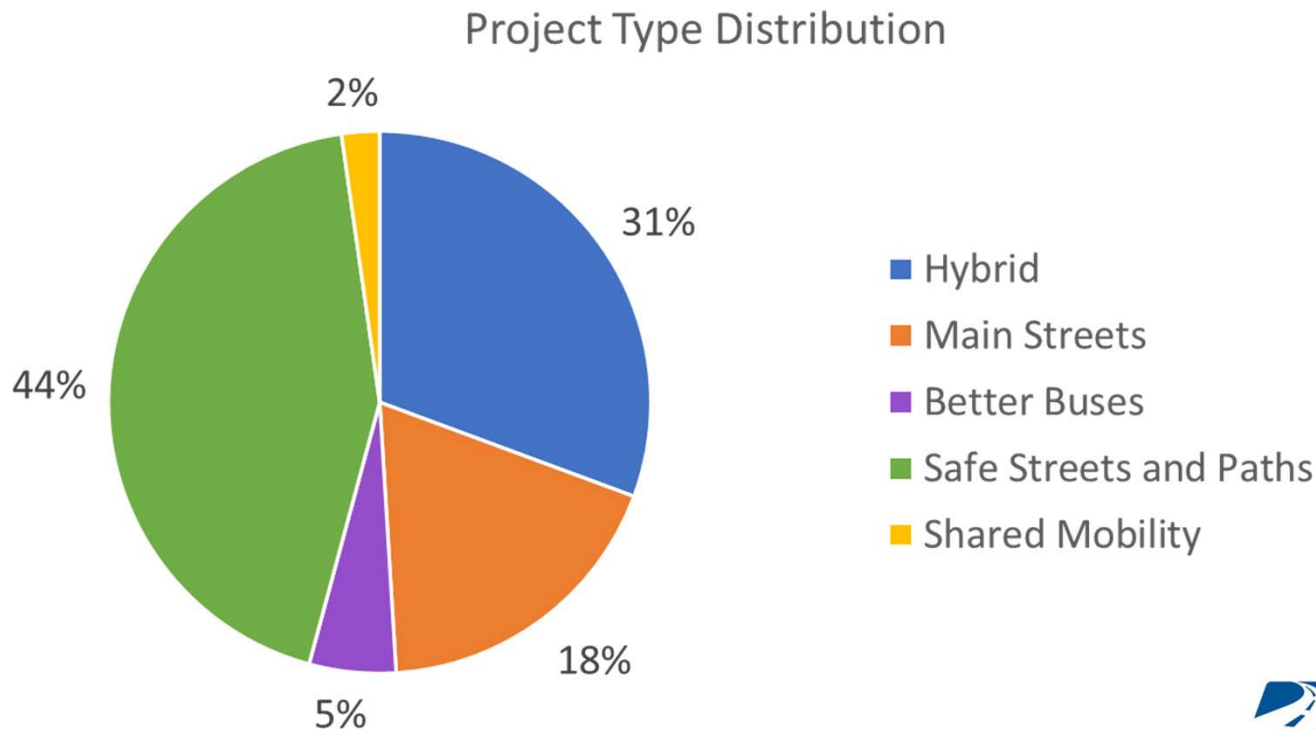
- Eligibility guidelines were intentionally broad to allow communities to address their unique needs
- Different focused project types each round
- Past project examples include:
  - Repurposed and/or expanded portions of streets, curbs, and/or sidewalks to create more safe space for walking/biking, retail activity, dining, and community programming
  - Street reconfigurations and traffic calming
  - Pedestrian crossing modifications
  - Pedestrian and bike network facilities
  - Environment and streetscape investments
  - Dedicated bus or bus/bike lanes
  - Transit service improvements (e.g., transit signal priority)
  - Transit station/stop access improvements
  - New and/or expanded capital costs for bicycle and micromobility share equipment



From top to bottom (clockwise): Outdoor Dining Project in Amherst, Cuddy Court Project Attleboro, and Old Town Hall Park Project in Tyngsborough

# Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program

- 56% of awards were made to an Environmental Justice (EJ) Community
- Average grant award was \$106K



# Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program

- Program framework allowed communities to easily rethink their transportation networks and implement unique improvements
  - Zero barriers to application helped drive participation
- Program has been incredibly successful awarding \$33M through 310 grants
- TBB authorized \$20M for program over five years
- New grant round will open in January 2022, Applications will be accepted between Jan. 10th and March 1st
  - Check website for updates!



From left to right: Traffic calming project in Salem, Pilot traffic circle project in Arlington, and MCRT crossing improvements project in Belchertown

# Thank you

Questions?



Program contacts: [Amber.Vaillancourt@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Amber.Vaillancourt@dot.state.ma.us)

[Cassandra.Gascon@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Cassandra.Gascon@dot.state.ma.us)

Program emails: [CompleteStreetsProgram@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:CompleteStreetsProgram@dot.state.ma.us)

[SharedStreets@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:SharedStreets@dot.state.ma.us)

Learn more about Complete Streets: <https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program>

Learn more about Shared Streets: <https://www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program>

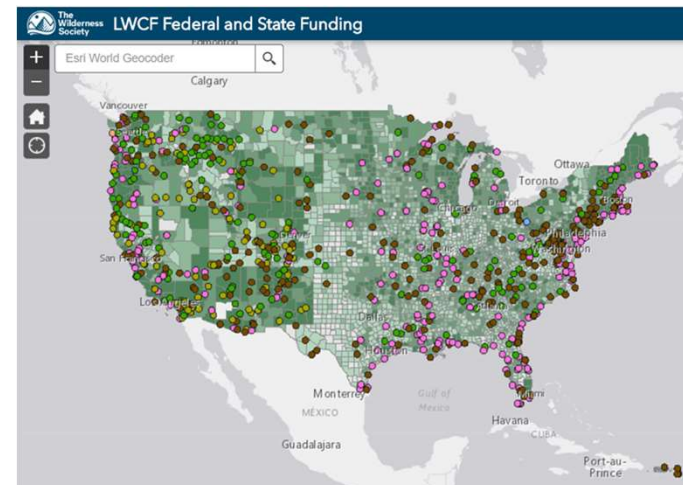
# DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Melissa Cryan, Grant Programs Supervisor



# LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

- Enacted in 1964 to help preserve, develop and ensure access to natural and recreation resources for future generations.
- Funded through offshore oil and gas royalties
- Permanently fully funded at \$900M in 2020
- LWCF funds:
  - Federal Land Conservation
  - Battlefield Protection
  - Working Forests
  - Endangered Species Conservation
  - **State & Local Parks**



# STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

- LWCF Stateside grants are intended to implement states' SCORP goals
- Massachusetts' SCORP goals are:
  1. Access for Underserved Populations
  2. Support the Statewide Trails Initiative
  3. Increase the Availability of Water-based Recreation
  4. Support the Creation and Renovation of Neighborhood Parks

# ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Municipalities with up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plans
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Fish and Game
- Federally-recognized tribes



Hadwen Park, City of Worcester

# ELIGIBLE LWCF PROJECT TYPES

- Conservation projects:
  - Purchase land in fee simple or conservation restriction
- Recreation projects:
  - Purchase recreation land
  - Develop new recreational facilities
  - Renovate existing parks



# ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

- Trails projects:
  - Development of trails on existing municipally- or state-owned conservation or recreation land
  - Projects on state land must be submitted by DCR or DFG, not by the municipality in which they are located
- Federal definition of trail:

A pedestrian route provided primarily to connect elements, spaces, or facilities within a site is **not** a trail.



<https://www.trailink.com/trail/mass-central-rail-trail/>



# ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

- For acquisition projects:
  - Reimbursement is based on purchase price or appraised value, whichever is less
  - Only acquisition cost is eligible for reimbursement
- For renovation/development projects:
  - Engineering
  - Design (grants solely for design are not eligible)
  - Construction
  - Construction supervision



Rocky Hill Greenway, City of Northampton

## ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

- For trail projects:
  - Development and marking of trails
- We cannot reimburse for donations or in-kind services
- Must have 100% appropriated from municipal budget (for municipalities), 100% from state budget (for state agencies), 100% from tribal budget (for tribes)
- 50% reimbursement rate up to \$750,000 (or \$1,000,000 for projects with a climate resilience focus)

# FUNDING SOURCES FOR LOCAL SHARE

- ARPA
- Community Development Block Grants
- Community Preservation Act funds
- In some cases, Mass Trails and MassDOT funds



Ruth Elizabeth Park, City of Springfield



# LWCF GRANT TIMING

- Current grant deadline – January 24, 2022 at 3:00 pm
- Typically, grants announced in fall with early winter deadline
- Site visits and grant ratings/rankings in winter
- Massachusetts approvals in early spring
- National Park Service approval can take up to a year



LoPresti Park, City of Boston

# PARC GRANT PROGRAM

- Funding can be used to acquire recreation land and/or develop public outdoor recreation facilities
- Grant maximum: \$400,000
- Reimbursement rate: 52-70%
- Funding priorities:
  - Environmental Justice neighborhoods
  - Development of new parks
  - Designs that incorporate climate resilience
  - Access to recreation for all residents, especially those that go above and beyond to provide access to people with disabilities

# PARC GRANT PROGRAM

- Eligible applicants are municipalities with up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plans
- Eligible project costs are the same as LWCF for construction
- Eligible project costs for acquisition:
  - Property purchase
  - Title research & certification
  - Recording fees
  - Survey

# PARC GRANT TIMELINE

- Grants announced in March with a mid-July deadline
- Site visits and grant ratings/rankings through summer and early fall
- Announcements in fall
- Construction projects – design in year 1, construction in year 2



Pete's Park, City of Beverly

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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[melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov)





# MassTrails Grants

Amanda Lewis

MassTrails Program Manager, DCR







# MassTrails

Goal: Create One Trails Team, One Vision, and One Action Plan to maintain and continue to build out trail networks across the Commonwealth.

Improve agency coordination, policies, and programs to support a common vision for trails.

Provide funding to municipalities and non-profits to support the development, design, construction, and maintenance of trail networks across the Commonwealth.

Provide technical guidance and expertise, including publications and trainings.







# MassTrails

Create a one-stop shop for all state trails resources.

<https://www.mass.gov/welcome-to-masstrails>

## What would you like to do?

### Top tasks

Learn about MassTrails  
Grants →

Discover the Benefits of  
Shared Use Paths →

Build a Shared Use Path →

### All other tasks

Learn about Bicycle and  
Pedestrian Counts →

View the Mass Central Rail  
Trail Feasibility Study →

Learn about the MassTrails  
Conference →



# MassTrails Grants Program

MassTrails provides grants to plan, design, construct, and maintain recreational trail and shared use pathway projects across the Commonwealth.

- Applications are accepted annually. Deadline for the current round is Tuesday, February 1, 2022.
- Eligible recipients are municipalities, public entities, and non-profit organizations.
- Award maximum depends on project type and needs, and is generally \$50,000 for “local” projects and up to \$300,000 for regional and statewide significant projects.
- Over \$3.5 million in funds available each year, awarded to approximately 50 projects.
- Reimbursement grants, meaning grantee must first pay for expenses and then submit for reimbursement using required documentation.
- Matching grants requiring a minimum of 20% match of the total project value.
- Depending on project scope, 1 or 2 years to complete.





# MassTrails Grants Program

MassTrails seeks projects that:

- Plan, design, or construct off-road shared-use pathway and recreational trail connections between where Massachusetts residents live, learn, work, shop, and recreate (**Connect**)
- Serve the diversity of Massachusetts residents (**Equitable**)
- Allow for efficient use of grant funds (**Efficient**)
- Are ready for the proposed phase (**Ready**)
- Effectively incorporate or address safety (**Safe**)
- Adequately address accessibility (**Accessible**)
- Create diverse, high quality recreational experiences and connect users to the natural and cultural wealth of Massachusetts (**Experiential**)



# MassTrails Grants Program

MassTrails Grants are funded through two different sources:

- **Commonwealth Trails Grants** are supported by the state's annual Capital Investment Plan, authorized through the Environmental Bond Bill, and aim to help communities plan, design, construct, and maintain off-road shared-use pathway connections between where Massachusetts residents live, learn, work, shop, and recreate, especially by building out the longer distance regional networks of shared use pathways across the state and filling in critical gaps in existing networks, or overcoming current barriers to connectivity.
- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** grants are federally funded through the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), administered at the State level, providing funding for the construction and maintenance of recreational trail projects. Both motorized and non-motorized trail projects qualify for assistance.

MassTrails grants are reviewed and recommended by the Governor's Inter-Agency Trails Team and the Massachusetts Recreational Trail Advisory Board.



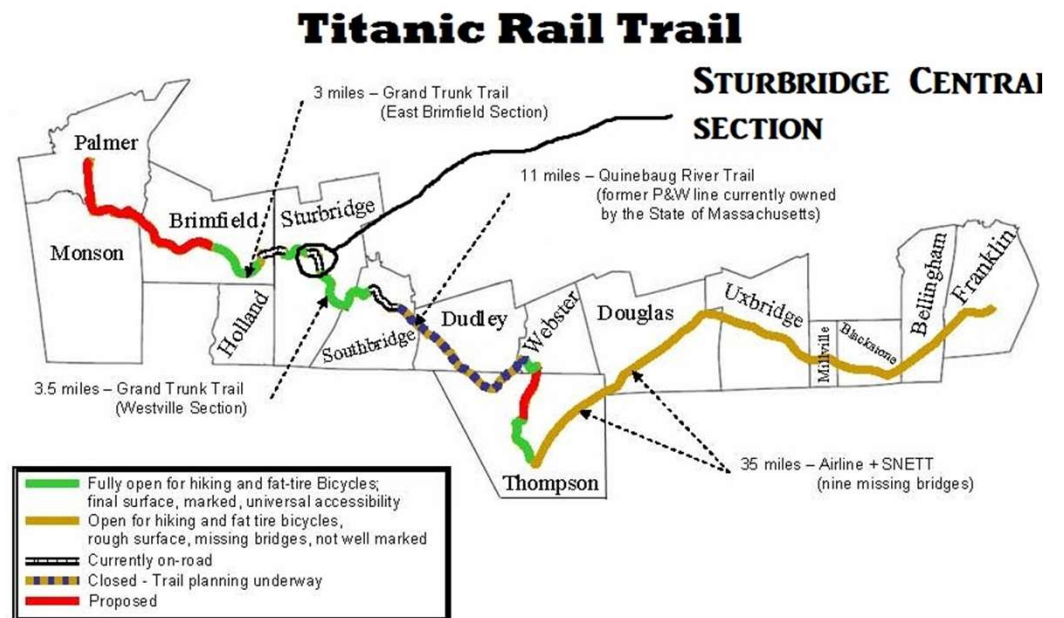
# MassTrails Grants Program

## Project Development/Feasibility Studies

City of New Bedford,  
New Bedford Working  
Waterfront Connector



Town of Sturbridge,  
Grand Trunk Trail - Central Section



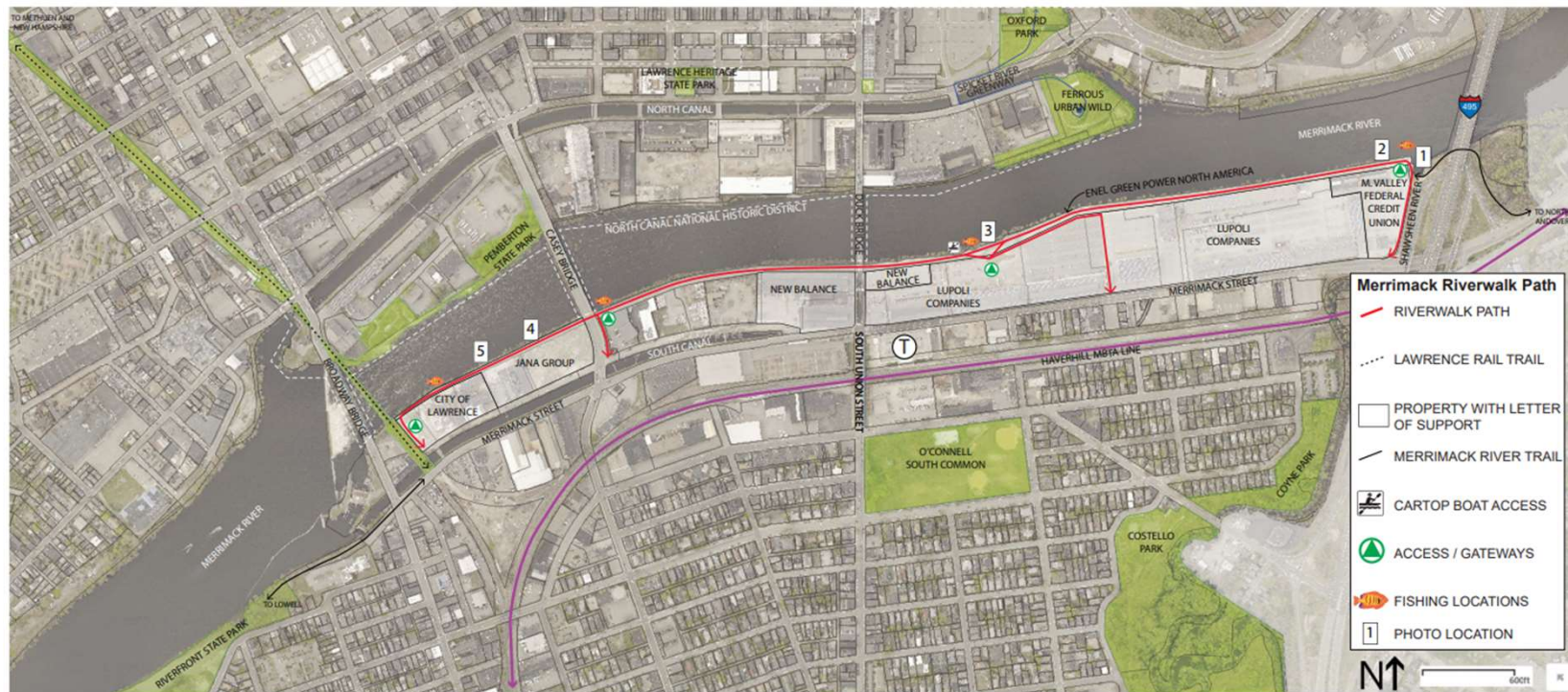




# MassTrails Grants Program

## Design, Engineering, and Permitting

### Groundwork Lawrence, Merrimack Riverwalk Path

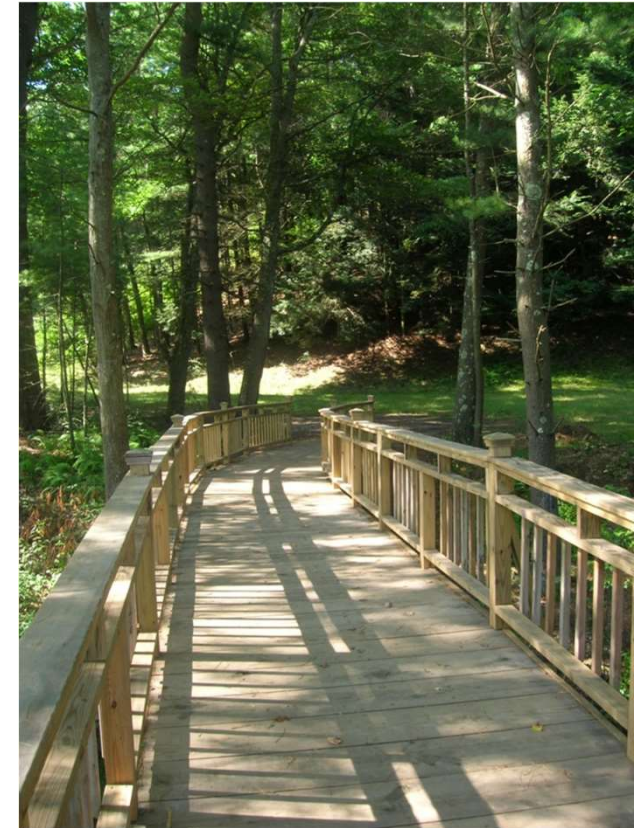






# MassTrails Grants Program

## Construction of New Trails





# MassTrails Grants Program

## Maintenance and Restoration of Trails

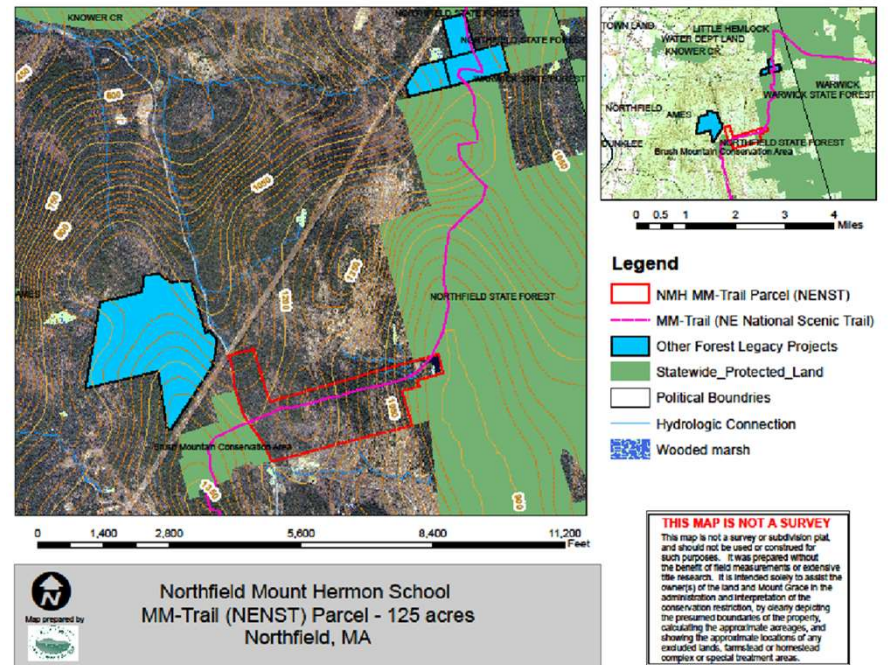






# MassTrails Grants Program

## Acquisition of easements and fee interest in property for trails and trail corridors





# MassTrails Grants Program

## Development and Rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities







# MassTrails Grants Program

## Maps and Brochures

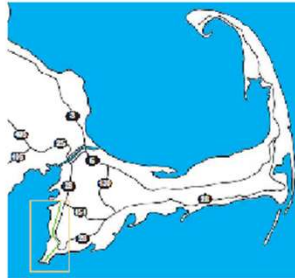


### Safety and Etiquette

- Speed limit for all users is 15 mph (24 km/h).
  - Motorized vehicles are prohibited, with the exception of motorized wheelchairs.
  - Always keep to the right, except to pass.
  - Pass on the left, only when safe, and call out or sound a warning signal before passing someone.
  - Do not block the path. When stopping, move off the path so other users can pass safely.
  - Do not litter.
  - Keep dogs leashed and controlled.
  - Please respect private property along the Bikeway.
- Massachusetts State Laws include:
- Obey all traffic control signs;
  - Helmets are required for bicyclists and skaters aged 16 and under;
  - A headlamp is required when using the path at night.

The full list of Rules and Regulations is posted in the informational kiosks on the Bikeway.

**For Emergencies:**  
**Medical, Police, and Fire:** Call 911  
 To report non-emergencies, contact Falmouth Police:  
 (508) 457-2527



### Directions

**From Bourne Bridge to Bikeway Northern Terminus at County Road:** Exit Rte. 26 at Rte. 151. Go west, through traffic light at Rte. 26A. Cross railroad tracks, and turn right into parking lot. To Depot Ave, Bikeway Parking in Falmouth Village. Continue south on Rte. 26 into Falmouth Village. Turn right onto Depot Ave., and parking lot is on left across from bus station.

### Trail Management

The Shining Sea Bikeway is maintained by the Town of Falmouth Department of Public Works and the Falmouth Bikeways Committee (bikeways@falmouthmass.us). To volunteer as a bikeway steward, contact the Friends of Falmouth Bikeways (ffriends@falmouthbikeways.com).

### Brochure Credits and Sponsors

**Content -**  
 Town of Falmouth Bikeways Committee • Stacey Bosakou, Project Manager • Kathy Sharp Finsbee, Writer • Joanne Girana-Garner, Designer • Bob Shea, Falmouth GIS Coordinator

**Consultants -**  
 Beth Schwarzman, Geologist • Ivan Valdes, Ecologist

**Funded by -**



## Shining Sea BIKEWAY

from sea to shining sea



Exploring the Natural History  
 and Cultural Heritage  
 of Falmouth, Massachusetts

cape cod





# MassTrails Grants Program

## Purchase and Lease of Trail Construction and Maintenance Equipment







# MassTrails Grants Program

## Project Examples: Shared Use Paths





# MassTrails Grants Program

## Project Examples: Woodland Trails

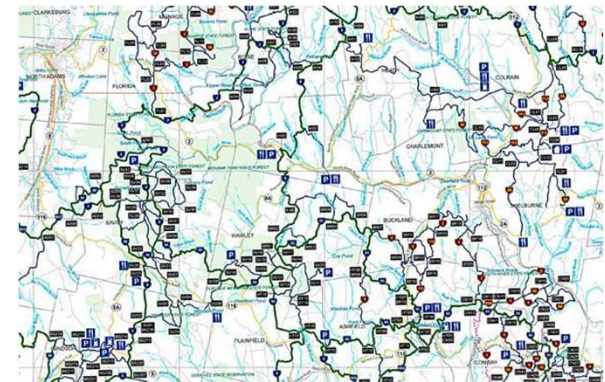
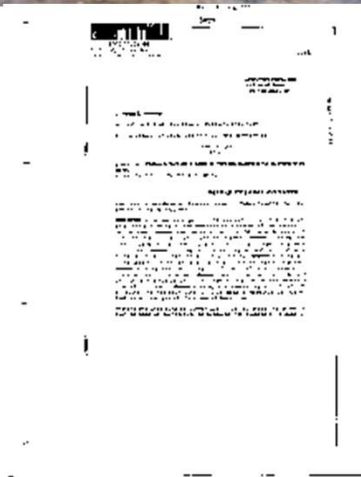






# MassTrails Grants Program

## Project Examples: Motorized Trails





# MassTrails Grants Program

## Project Examples: Water Trails







# MassTrails Grants Program

## **Project Examples: Accessible Trails**

Trail Design and Construction  
Accessible Grades to Scenic Views  
Boardwalks and Bridges  
Accessible Boat Launches





# MassTrails Grants Program

## Project Examples: Youth Corps







# MassTrails Grants Program

## **Regulatory Requirements**

- Landowner Permission (including CR approval)
- Public Access
- Buy America
- Environmental Permitting
- Historic/Archaeological Resources



# MassTrails Grants Program

**The 2022 MassTrails Grant Application Period is NOW OPEN!**

**Applications are due Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

Learn more about MassTrails Grants: [www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants](http://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants)

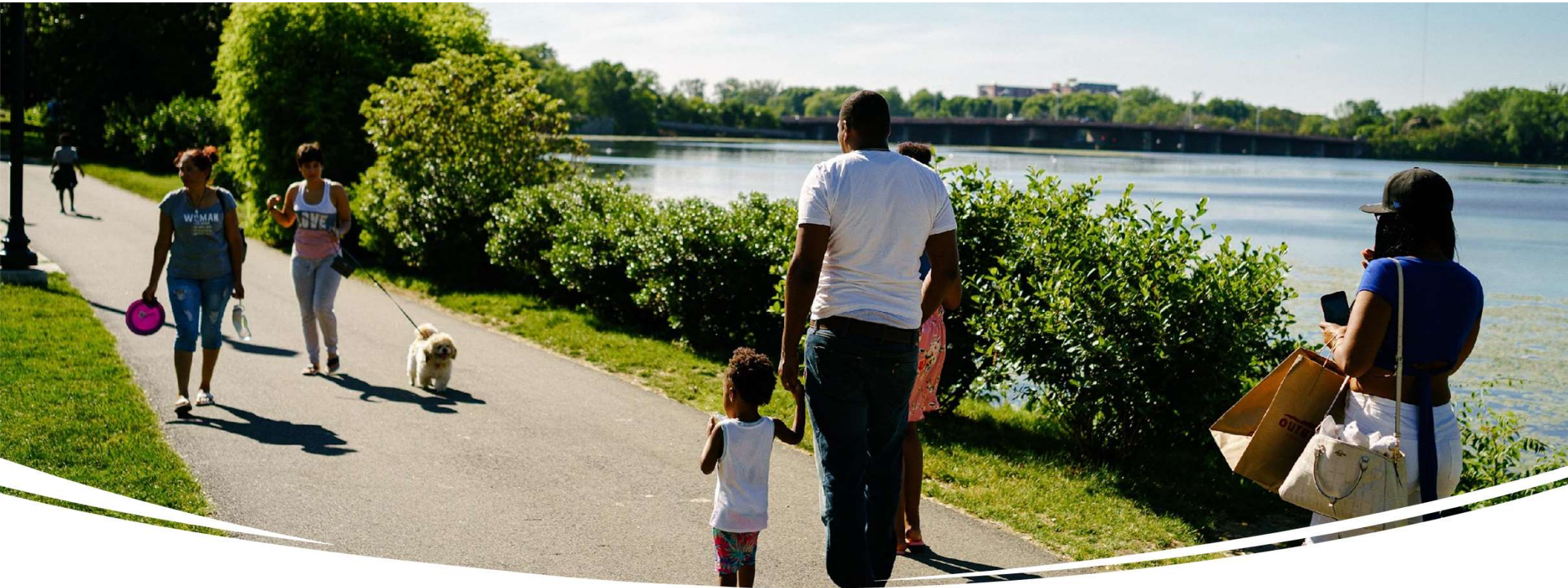
Apply for a MassTrails Grant: [www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-masstrails-grant](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-masstrails-grant)

MassTrails Website: [www.mass.gov/welcome-to-masstrails](http://www.mass.gov/welcome-to-masstrails)

## **Contacts**

Amanda Lewis, MassTrails Program Manager  
[amanda.lewis@mass.gov](mailto:amanda.lewis@mass.gov), 617-645-8314

Libby Knott, MassTrails Grants Coordinator  
[elizabeth.knott@mass.gov](mailto:elizabeth.knott@mass.gov), 617-981-5753

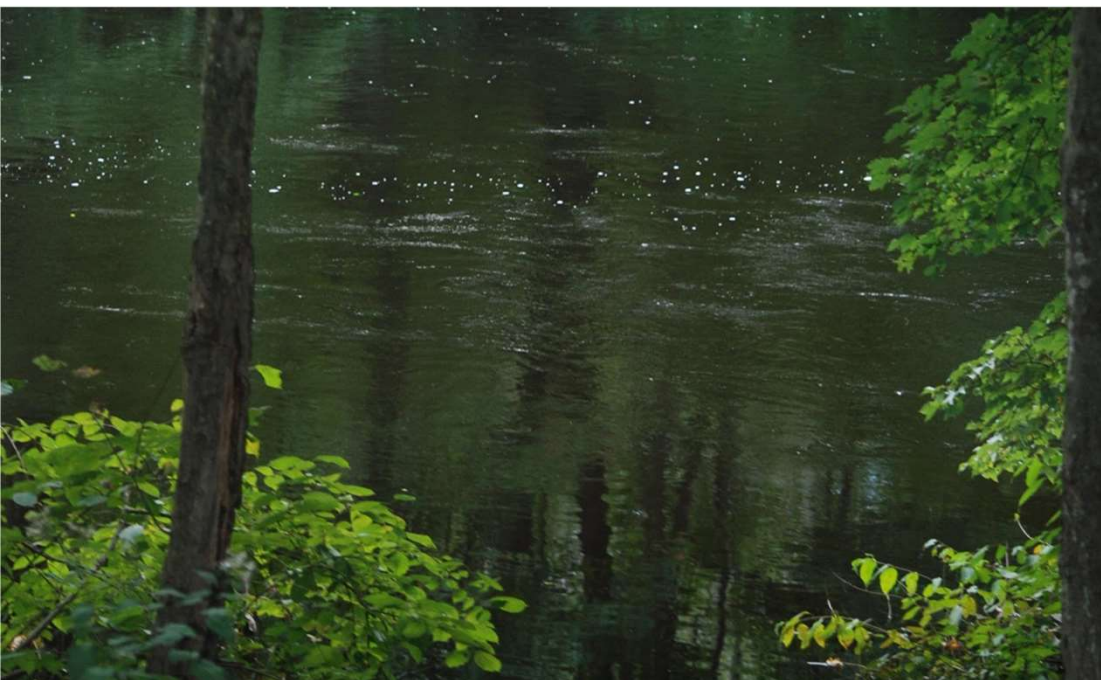


# The Solomon Foundation

Our mission is to support creation of a complete and connected network of beautiful parks and greenways connecting people to open spaces.



Beautiful  
places for  
people to get  
outside, relax,  
and connect





# Doyle Park: Preferred Schematic Design



## Our Role

- Ideation
- Preliminary Planning
- Early Conceptual Planning
- Visioning
- Frame Opportunity
- Technical Assistance
- Convener of Supporters
- Seed Funding
- Capacity Building

### Desired Programs:

1. Gathering Spaces
  - Picnic Areas
2. Event Space
  - Plaza, Open Space, Stage/Shelter
3. Public Art Installation
  - Mural
4. Nature Play Area
5. Walkways
  - River Path
6. Seating
  - Benches
  - Boulders
7. Lighting
8. Signage and Wayfinding
9. Stormwater Treatment
10. Potential Future Boat Launch

### Program Elements:

- + Plaza
- Permeable Paving
- + Lawn and Deck Stage
- + Nature Play
- Grassy Mounds and Boulders
- + Picnic Area
- Woodland/River Views
- + ADA Accessible Paths
- + Woodland River Path
- + River View Overlook
- + Signage/ Education along River
- + Lighting
- + Benches
- + DCR Granite Markers at Entry Points



# Resources Leveraged through Partnerships

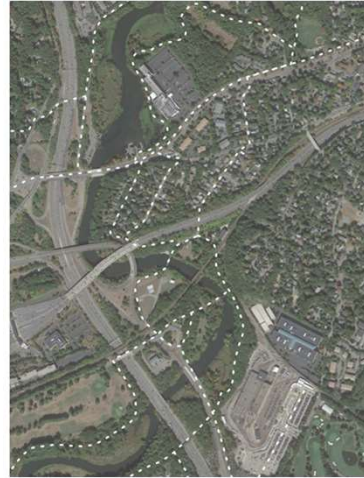
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- MassTrails Funding
- Shared Streets Funding
- Tip Funding
- Other foundations
- Municipal Dollars
- Community fundraising
- Private Developer Investments
- New advocates, trail builders, and greenway enthusiasts



# Riverside Greenway

- Reconnecting a key regional link along the Charles River
- Bridging dual barriers of I-90 and I-95







Construction of the first section of Swampscott's Rail Trail







Salem: Neighborhood connection to main street





# Mystic to Minuteman Connector



# Funding

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- If you've have questions about feasibility of greenway and park projects that you think we might be able to help with let us know.
- We look forward to hearing more about what you are working on and welcome the chance for conversation and site visits so we can learn more.







# Questions?

Contact Us:

- Allison Burson, Program Manager
- [allisonburson@solomonfoundation.org](mailto:allisonburson@solomonfoundation.org)

Thank you!

Questions?

