

Member Summaries

Community-Based Organizations

Mystic River Watershed Association

For a decade, the Mystic River Watershed Association has been working to achieve their vision for the Mystic Greenways: twenty-five miles of safe and accessible routes for walking, biking, and rolling that connect people to places, nature, and each other. We are excited to bring to the steering committee our expertise in regional planning, intersectoral partnership, advocacy and project management.

WalkMassachusetts

WalkMassachusetts is thrilled to join the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Active Transportation Steering Committee, bringing our commitment to equity and community-driven advocacy to the table. By prioritizing historically disinvested areas and promoting inclusive, safe, and walkable environments for all, we aim to amplify equity in community planning while fostering vibrant, connected communities through collaboration and evidence-based strategies.

RTAG (Riders Transportation Access Group)

RTAG is a community-based organization that advises the MBTA on transportation matters impacting people with disabilities and older adults. We focus on accessibility to ensure that decisions and policies include the perspectives of individuals with disabilities and the unique challenges they face when navigating shared spaces.

Bike to the Sea

Bike to the Sea "connects communities to the Northern Strand Trail," an 11-mile shared-use path stretching from the Mystic River to the Atlantic Ocean. We envision a culture of care and respect for the trail, the cities and towns and neighborhoods it serves, and for the people of all ages and abilities who wish to use it for transportation, recreation, and joyful outdoor experiences. As a member of the Active Transportation Steering Committee, Bike to the Sea is committed to supporting improved access and safety for people walking, biking, and rolling on the North Shore.

MassBike

MassBike works at the state level on legislation, policies, funding mechanisms, and other structures that advance local bicycle improvement efforts. In order to be effective, it's essential that MassBike coordinates and communicates with the "wheels-on-the-ground" who represent local interests and advise MassBike on where to best allocate resources. MassBike is excited to collaborate with the Boston Region MPO to help create regional biking networks and trails that give everyone the opportunity to walk, roll and navigate around the Boston metro area.

Academia

Rounaq Basu | Georgia Institute of Technology

Rounaq Basu is an Assistant Professor of Transportation Planning in the School of City and Regional Planning at Georgia Tech. He worked at the Boston Region MPO as the Manager of Multimodal Planning and Design prior to his current role, and serves on the Board of Directors for WalkMassachusetts, the first pedestrian advocacy organization in the U.S. Drawing on these work experiences and his lived experience in diverse international contexts, Rounaq is excited to contribute to the efforts of the MPO's Bike-Ped Steering Committee by guiding how research, practice, and advocacy can come together to inform the design of safer and more comfortable environments for people who walk, bike, and roll.

Justin de Benedictis-Kessner | Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University

Justin de Benedictis-Kessner is an Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. His current research focuses on some of the most important policy areas that concern local governments, such as housing, transportation, policing, and economic development. His research also examines how citizens hold elected officials accountable, how representation translates the public's interests into policy via elections, and how people's policy opinions are formed and swayed.

Municipalities

Zeke Mermell | City of Watertown

The City of Watertown is a growing community in the Boston Region's Inner Core. Its economic development and streetscape design are flanked by an inclusive bicycle and pedestrian planning program. Initiatives such as the [Watertown Square Area Plan](#), participation in the [Bluebikes bikeshare system](#), and a [Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee](#) of appointed residents, work to fill gaps in the local bicycle & pedestrian network. The City's Senior Transportation Planner Zeke Mermell, AICP, LEED AP, is excited to bring his active transportation and solutions-focused experience and the City of Watertown's priorities to the Active Transportation Steering Committee.

Tom Skwierawski | City of Revere

Revere is a community with neighborhoods disconnected by the regional roadways that cut through it. Revere is currently working on a Walk/Bike/Roll Master Plan, but this work will only go so far without effective regional collaboration. To that end, Revere is fortunate to participate as a member of the Boston Region MPO's Active Transportation Steering Committee to improve bike and pedestrian safety across the region, and to build networks of connected, safe roadways throughout greater Boston.

Morgan Griffiths | Town of Natick

The Town of Natick is a lively community located in the heart of MetroWest. Guided by Natick 2030+, our master plan, the Town is currently embarking on a municipal bicycle and pedestrian planning process, and is thrilled to work with the Boston Region MPO as we do so. By working on our plan in conjunction with the MPO, we hope to be able to share data and best practices, discuss challenges and opportunities, and contribute to a product that enhances multimodal networks not only in Natick, but across the entirety of Greater Boston.

John Gelcich | Town of Hopkinton

Hopkinton is a growing suburban community located at the headwaters of the Charles River, approximately 30 miles west of Boston. Best known as the starting point of the Boston Marathon, the town combines a strong sense of history with a forward-looking approach to development and mobility. Hopkinton is actively working to expand its network of sidewalks, shared-use paths, and safe crossings to support walking and bicycling as practical, everyday transportation options. Through local planning initiatives and regional collaboration, the town seeks to enhance connectivity between neighborhoods, schools, and nearby communities while promoting sustainability and quality of life for residents of all ages.

Marzie Galazka | Town of Swampscott

Swampscott is a historic seaside community located on the North Shore, just north of Boston. Known for its scenic coastline, compact neighborhoods, and vibrant town center, Swampscott offers a unique blend of coastal charm and suburban accessibility. The town is committed to enhancing walkability, bicycle safety, and multimodal connections that link residents to schools, local businesses, and regional transit. Current initiatives focus on improving sidewalk and bike infrastructure, connecting to regional trails, and fostering a safe, connected environment that encourages active transportation and supports community vitality.

*State/Regional Planning***MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council)**

MAPC is the Boston Region MPO's sister agency, focused on regional planning in the Boston Metro area. We work with our 101 cities and towns both individually and in groups to advance regional goals in transportation planning. MAPC is focused on creating a connected safe regional greenway network that touches every municipality in the region.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)

As the Boston Region's primary transit provider, the MBTA knows that people being able to move around the region by walking, biking, or transit—and often by one or more of those modes in combination—is critical to the success and sustainability of our region. We look forward to working with the Active Transportation Steering Committee to continue strengthening collaboration with other entities and building safe routes to and from transit for all.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

MassDOT includes bicycle and pedestrian accommodation in project design and network implementation whenever possible. MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning manages long-range bicycle and pedestrian planning, along with outreach and education. Pete Sutton is the bicycle and pedestrian program coordinator for MassDOT, where he manages updates to statewide plans as well as the statewide Bicycle Facility Inventory.

Volunteer

WalkMedford

Ellery Klein represents WalkMedford, a citizen-led advocacy group that works to make the streets of Medford, MA safer. WalkMedford advocates for changes through local and state governments and agencies, while also working to make Medford safer by promoting walking, cycling, and transit ridership among people of all ages, especially children. Members of WalkMedford's Walk/Bike to School Task Force lead walking school buses, bike buses, and related events at the elementary and middle schools in Medford, MA.