

Draft Memorandum for the Record

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes

2:00 PM–3:30 PM, Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions

Michaela Grenier (Metropolitan Planning Organization [MPO] staff) called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Members and guests attending the meeting introduced themselves. (For attendance list, see page 6.)

2. Chair’s Report—Caitlin Allen-Connelly, TransitMatters

C. Allen-Connelly (TransitMatters) shared that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved at the last MPO Board meeting. C. Allen-Connelly provided an overview of the meeting agenda, which focused on scenario planning for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026, meeting was made by A Better City (Amir Wilson) and seconded by the Mystic River Watershed Association (Karl Alexander). The roll call vote for the minutes was approved by the following attendees:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jason Palitsch (495/MetroWest Partnership) | Scott Mullen (A Better City) | Jesse Kanson-Benav (Abundant Housing MA) |
| Jonah Chiarenza (Bike to the Sea) | Sara Han (City of Chelsea) | Jacynda Epenshade (Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation) |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Maha Aslam (LivableStreets Alliance) | James Fuccione (MA Healthy Aging Collaborative) | Karl Alexander (Mystic River Watershed Association) |
| Sheila Buckland (Mystic Valley Elder Services) | Greg Federspiel (TownGreen) | Morgan Griffiths (Town of Natick) |
| Sophia Galimore (Watertown TMA) | | |

Seth Gadbois (Conservation Law Foundation), Pete Wilson (T4MA), and Caitlin Allen-Connolly (TransitMatters) abstained from voting on the meeting minutes.

The minutes were approved.

5. Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scenario Planning—Erin Maguire, MPO staff

E. Maguire and Marty Milkovits (MPO staff) introduced themselves. E. Maguire provided an overview of the LRTP and scenario planning. E. Maguire stated that approaches to scenario planning vary across regional planning agencies and that the Boston Region MPO will use exploratory scenario planning as a framework to compare alternative futures. E. Maguire described the Travel Demand Model, which is the primary tool the MPO is using to support the exploratory scenario planning process.

E. Maguire invited Advisory Council members to participate in a discussion that focused on forces or uncertainties that may have an impact on the future of the transportation system. E. Maguire stated that staff will take the list of forces and test them using the Travel Demand Model to evaluate potential impacts of different factors. MPO staff will then return to a future Advisory Council meeting to report on implications and results.

Advisory Council members participated in breakout group discussions, which were organized around types of potential future forces. The three different breakout groups were physical infrastructure forces, human health forces, and technology and unforeseen forces.

Discussion

There were six Advisory Council members in the physical infrastructure breakout group discussion. Members discussed the following driving forces:

- prioritizing safety
- housing development
- climate challenges (i.e., Newport/Rockport line flood risks and flood risks of major state roads)
- funding priorities for infrastructure investments
- uncertainties around commuter rail functioning
- market forces and societal forces (i.e., micromobility and electric vehicle use have been framed as individual choices with less societal support for infrastructure)
- autonomous vehicles and their potential impact on roadways

There were six Advisory Council members in the human health breakout group discussion. Members discussed the following driving forces:

- the implications of extreme heat and winter weather (including heat and shade impacts for active transportation, snow clearance, heat impacts on driver behavior and infrastructure performance)
- increases in the proportion of the regional population that is older adults
- psychological impacts of infrastructure
- social isolation and social infrastructure (i.e., cuts to programs through Councils on Aging that help people access transportation)
- housing and transit-oriented development
- immigration policy
- food access
- access to health care amid closure and consolidation of health centers
- funding cuts to municipal and nonprofit budgets
- price volatility and affordability (i.e., cost of fuel and car repairs)

Advisory Council members in this group also expressed that the MPO should ensure that long-range plans have enough flexibility for the MPO and municipalities to adapt to changing conditions over time. Council members also requested that the MPO ensure that resource allocations prioritize communities that are most negatively affected by extreme weather and existing infrastructure gaps.

There were seven Advisory Council members in the technology and unforeseen forces breakout group discussion. Members discussed the following driving forces:

- electric vehicles
- autonomous vehicles and curb management
- first- and last-mile solutions

- increased use of micromobility devices and potential new regulations around use
- congestion pricing
- implications of changing commuting patterns
- housing policies and changes in where people live
- Artificial Intelligence's impact on the job market
- Automated enforcement
- use of waterways (ferry system) or drones for delivery
- generational differences in transportation preferences (i.e., car ownership is becoming more expensive, trend towards spending on micromobility devices instead)
- changes to connectivity of transit system (including connections between transit and micromobility routes)
- increases in traffic and GPS systems routing traffic to alternate routes

6. Equity Metrics and Disparate Impact and Disproportionate Burden (DI/DB) Presentation—Betsy Harvey Herzfeld, MPO staff

B. Harvey Herzfeld provided an overview of the MPO's Disparate Impact and Disproportionate Burden (DI/DB) analysis and equity metrics. The DI/DB analysis is a federally required analysis that explores whether federally funded transportation projects will cause a disparate impact or disproportionate burden for people of color and low-income populations. B. Harvey Herzfeld noted that during each LRTP development cycle, MPO staff update the metrics used to understand how projects in the LRTP might affect these populations.

B. Harvey Herzfeld stated that staff are seeking input from Advisory Council members about which metrics should be prioritized in the 2028 LRTP DI/DB analysis to better understand how different populations might be affected by MPO projects. B. Harvey Herzfeld noted that MPO staff will be sharing a survey with Advisory Council members and MPO board members to collect input.

7. Members' Items

Scott Mullen (A Better City) shared that A Better City continues to host its Guided Ride Series.

Galen Mook (MassBike) invited members to MassBike's 5th Annual Kittie Knox Ride on Friday, June 19.

8. Adjourn

Prior to adjournment, Rhonda Motley (Federal Highway Administration) encouraged MPO staff to be mindful of language used in certification documents.

A motion to adjourn was made by TownGreen (Greg Federspiel) and seconded by A Better City (Scott Mullen). The motion carried.

Attendees

| Member Municipalities | Representatives and Alternates |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chelsea | Sara Han |
| Natick | Morgan Griffiths |

| Community Based Organizations | Attendees |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 495/MetroWest Partnership | Jason Palitsch |
| A Better City | Scott Mullen, Amir Wilson |
| Abundant Housing MA | Jesse Kanson-Benanav |
| Bike to the Sea | Jonah Chiarenza |
| Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corp. | Jacynda Epenshade |
| Conservation Law Foundation | Seth Gadbois |
| LivableStreets Alliance | Maha Aslam |
| MA Healthy Aging Collaborative | James Fuccione |
| MassBike | Galen Mook, Alexis Hosea-Abbott |
| Mystic River Watershed Association | Karl Alexander |
| Mystic Valley Elder Services | Sheila Buckland |
| Transportation for Massachusetts | Pete Wilson |
| TownGreen | Greg Federspiel |
| TransitMatters | Caitlin Allen-Connelly |
| Watertown TMA | Sophia Galimore |

| Other Attendees | Affiliation |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Tony Collins | Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority |
| Mike Dion | BL Companies |
| Maria Foster | Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority |
| Daniel Maurer | Town of Ashland |
| Rhonda Motley | Federal Highway Administration |
| Travis Pollack | Metropolitan Area Planning Council |

MPO Staff

Annette Demchur
Betsy Harvey Herzfeld
Elena Ion
Erin Maguire
Ethan Lapointe
Gina Perille
Ibbu Quraishi
Jia Huang
Lauren Magee
Marty Mikovits
Meghan O'Connor
Michaela Grenier
Sean Rourke
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