What Can Your RPA Do For You?

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 Goals for This Session

- Learn about Regional Planning Agencies and the roles they play in MA
- Introduce you to three RPAs – Metro Boston, Central MA and Western MA
- Understand what services each agency offers and the benefits they provide to MA municipalities
The MAPC Region

- 101 cities & towns
- 8 subregions
- 3.3 million residents
- 2 million jobs
What is a Regional Planning Agency?

- Established in 1963, MAPC is a public agency created under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B Section 24
- One of 13 RPAs in MA
- MAPC is governed by representatives from each city and town in our region, as well as gubernatorial appointees and designees of major public agencies
MAPC’s Mission

- Our mission is to promote smart growth and regional collaboration. Our regional plan, MetroFuture, guides our work as we engage the public in responsible stewardship of our region’s future.

- We work toward sound municipal management, sustainable land use, protection of natural resources, efficient and affordable transportation, a diverse housing stock, public safety, economic development, clean energy, healthy communities, an informed public, and equity and opportunity among people of all backgrounds.
What We Do

• **Expertise**
  • Arts & Culture
  • Clean Energy
  • Climate
  • Community Planning
  • Economic Development
  • Environment
  • Housing
  • Public Health
  • Public Safety
  • Transportation

• **Services for Cities & Towns**
  • Collective Purchasing
  • Community Engagement
  • Data Services
Why is it Important to Have RPAs?

• **Provide municipal capacity, particularly for cities and towns without planning staff**
• **Provide expertise not available at the municipal level**
• **Advocate for funding and programs**
• **Reduce the administrative burden for municipal procurement programs**
How can we help your community?

- Prepare land use plans
- Transportation studies
- Climate studies
- Stormwater management
- Community health assessments
- Enhanced community engagement
- Develop clean energy programs
- Collective purchasing for more cost-effective procurement of apparatus, equipment, and services
- Data services
- Digital toolkits
Technical Assistance Programs

- **Three major sources of funding**
  - District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)
  - Planning for MetroFuture Technical Assistance (PMTA)
  - Foundation funding
- **MAPC issues calls for project concepts twice a year**
  - Once approved, MAPC develops a scope of work and schedule for the project
- **Leverage other funding opportunities such as state grant programs** (Planning Assistance Grants, Planning for Housing Production, etc.)
Land Use Planning Services

• **RPAs act as a consultant to your community, but can be done without going through the RFP process**
• **Master plans, corridor studies, downtown revitalization, neighborhood plans**
• **Zoning bylaw/ordinance development**
• **Open space and recreation plans**
• **Housing needs analysis, housing production plans**
• **Economic development plans, market studies**
Collective Purchasing

- Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts collective apparatus purchasing program
- Public Works and Public Safety Cooperative Purchasing Program
- Bike parking
- Parking payment systems
Clean Energy

- Comprehensive local energy and climate planning, energy-related technical assistance, and collective clean energy services and products procurement
- Green Communities Program technical assistance and support
- Green municipal aggregation program (allows a city or town determine where its electricity comes from)
- Shared energy staffing program (also for public health)
- LED streetlight retrofits
Homeland Security and Community Safety

- Distribute State Homeland Security Program grants from DHS
- MAPC manages grants given to four regional Homeland Security Councils and provides planning, procurement, budgeting, reporting, administrative, project development, and contractor, vendor and project management services
- Youth violence prevention
Transportation

- Parking studies
- Parking meter procurement
- Bike/ped studies
- Regional trail network planning (Landline project)
- Complete Streets
- Bike share programs
Data Services

- Mapping and data analysis
- Digital services – designing and building tools that make complex information understandable and accessible to a wide variety of audiences
- Demographic data research, collection and analysis
Thank you!

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