



Technical Assistance Program

FY23 Call for Project Concepts

The MAPC Technical Assistance Program is funded by the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program, which is appropriated by the State Legislature and Governor in the annual state budget, funds from the annual assessment paid by member cities and towns, and private foundation funds awarded to MAPC for specific planning activities.

Initial Deadline to Apply: January 16, 2023

Applications may be submitted any time throughout the year. However, to have a project be considered when the most funding is available, MAPC recommends submitting application by January 16.

Initial funding decisions are expected to be announced by February 2023. If all funds are not allocated in this initial round, additional awards may be made on a rolling basis later in the calendar year.

Program Requirements

- [The 101 cities and towns in the Metropolitan Boston area served by MAPC](#) are eligible to apply. Multi-municipal collaborations and partnerships with non-profits and community-based organizations are strongly encouraged.
- Municipalities can submit concepts for individual community-specific projects and for multi-community projects. Project concepts must be endorsed by the CEO of the municipality, or by a designated member of the municipality's leadership team (e.g., Planning Director, Assistant Town Manager, etc.).
- The municipality, or the lead municipal applicant in the case of a multi-municipal project, must have an appointed representative to the MAPC Council. Under state law, all 101 municipalities in the MAPC region are entitled to appoint a representative to the Council, our governing body. To determine the status of your appointments or to appoint a new Council member or alternate, please contact Andrea Aponte at AAponte@mapc.org.

Funding Priorities

MAPC funds a diverse range of projects through TAP. Each year, MAPC sets priorities for funding based on [MetroCommon2050](#) goals, the agency's [Strategic Plan](#), the [State of Equity for Metro Boston Policy Agenda](#), and the investment priorities of partner funding sources (e.g., the State's District Local Technical Assistance program). In 2023, projects that include one or more of the following priorities will be prioritized for funding.

- Advancing racial and social equity by breaking down barriers to housing, economic mobility, positive health outcomes, and public safety. Projects that demonstrate strong partnerships between municipalities and community anchors or organizations are preferred.

- Multiple communities working together to better understand and address shared challenges. This also includes projects that can serve as a model for other communities.
- Compliance with the new [Housing Choice](#) law, including Section 3A MBTA Communities. MAPC will prioritize working with communities who are committed to including Affordable Housing provisions in new or updated zoning regulations.

Project proposals that do not consider how to advance equity or include multiple communities may be awarded grants, if funding remains. MAPC staff is available to help applicants identify equity considerations and potential municipal partners as projects are developed to ensure competitiveness in the application process.

Additional information about the types of projects eligible for funding, including Community Compact Best Practices and Housing Choice initiatives, is [available here](#).

How to Apply

Complete the **Project Concept Application Form** (available on the [TAP Webpage](#)). MAPC staff is available to help identify and refine project concepts prior to submitting your application.

Resources

- [MAPC Contact List](#) (*Department Contacts, Subregional Contacts*)
- [Examples of Eligible Projects by Practice Area](#)
- [Incorporating Equity Into Projects](#)
- [TAP Webpage](#)

Informational Session

MAPC will host an informational webinar on **Wednesday, December 7 from 12-1PM** via Zoom. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend. Register here: <https://mapc.ma/TAPInfoSession>.

Questions may be submitted in advance of the webinar to TAPProgram@mapc.org.

Funding Sources

TAP is funded through various sources, including:

- District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), which originates from funds appropriated by the Legislature and Governor;
- Planning for MetroCommon2050 Technical Assistance (PMTA), which originates from municipal assessments that all MAPC municipalities contribute to cover MAPC's regional activities; and
- Grants from private foundations.

MAPC frequently leverages TAP funding to serve as matches for state-administered grant programs, including but not limited to the Community Compact Program, Community One-Stop Grant Program, MassHousing, Mass Housing Partnership, and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). If you are interested in working with MAPC on a project, MAPC is available to assist with preparing grant applications for additional project funds.

Questions? Contact TAPProgram@mapc.org.

Technical Assistance Program Application Form

Applicant Information

Needham
Lead Municipality: _____

Anne Gulati
Project Manager Name: _____

Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Position/Title: _____

781-455-0400 x 11206
Phone Number: _____

anne_gulati@needham.k12.ma.us
Email Address: _____

Note: the Project Manager is the person who will be the day-to-day contact for the project and who will represent the municipality/project team in regular communication with MAPC.

Project Concept

Regional School Fleet Electrification in Metro-West Boston
Project Name: _____

Does this project involve multiple municipalities? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please list the municipalities who will partner with you on this project. *Limit 500 characters.*
The Metrowest school districts of: Acton-Boxborough Regional, Ashland, Concord / Concord-Carlisle, Dedham, Dover and Sherborn, Framingham, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough, Medfield, Millis, Natick, Needham (Lead Municipality), Northborough and Southborough, Wayland, Wellesley, Weston, Westwood.

Does this project involve other organizations (e.g., additional municipal departments or non-municipal partners such as community-based organizations, Chamber of Commerce, state or other public entities, etc.)? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please list the organizations who will partner with you on this project. *Limit 500 characters.*
School departments will lead the project, in collaboration with the following municipal officials/groups: sustainability staff, public works departments, municipal finance departments, elected or appointed officials (e.g. School committees, Town Meeting members, sustainability committee members, etc.)



Briefly describe the project, including the geographic location. *Limit 2000 characters.*

We wish to study pathways to electrification of school transportation in each district, and in the Metrowest Boston region overall, with consideration of opportunities for funding and regional collaboration, including shared infrastructure and public-private partnerships. We aim for a study that results in recommended strategies and considers financial, operational/logistical, political, and equitable access implications.

For context, there is minimal competition for school transportation, and many of our districts use common vendors to provide buses and drivers. State procurement law precludes districts from working with a vendor on future business models, and limits contracts to three year terms. Therefore, rather than focusing on a single vendor, the study may focus more heavily on regional collaboration and shared investment/assets, such as infrastructure and regional charging networks.

Another significant consideration is the high up-front cost for vehicles and related infrastructure. While a wide array of grants are available, each has unique requirements and challenges for use. The study should review and recommend specific funding opportunities available to participating districts.

Potential research questions could include: a) What are the current barriers to electrification on a district and regional basis?; b) How can districts that contract for services, in part or in whole, work collaboratively with service providers to electrify school buses and vans? What would a phased approach look like?; c) What opportunities exist for regional collaboration from a service and infrastructure perspective?; d) What grants or funding sources are available to districts or regions to pay for charging stations or buses?; e) If regional electrification is a viable approach, what district groupings and infrastructure locations make sense?; f) Beyond electrification, what opportunities exist to reduce emissions and expand access to school transportation in the region?



Please list any relevant previous or current planning efforts that the project may advance. *Limit 1000 characters.*

At a broader scale, electrification of municipal vehicles is part of our communities' broader push to electrify as many vehicles as possible (some communities have set a goal of 30% electric vehicles by 2030). Many of our communities' climate action committees and Climate Action Plans specifically cite school bus electrification as a goal. Though municipal vehicles number few relative to privately-owned vehicles, electrification of municipal vehicles allows our communities to lead by example, set a standard, and encourage others.

Districts have had mixed success in advancing school fleet electrification to date. Some communities have included future capital requests for electrification. Other districts have held informal conversations with bus vendors, received initial quotes from "turnkey" service providers, and spoken with contractors for infrastructure construction. However, funding and technical details remain unresolved at this moment, and we require additional support.

Please describe the local capacity and support to advance the project. *Limit 1000 characters.*

Each school district has an administrator to support this project. Some municipalities, though not all, have sustainability directors or climate resiliency coordinators that also can support or provide local information. These individuals are accustomed to cross-community collaboration, and have partnered on a variety of MAPC technical assistance grants. The participating school districts are also all members of the Accept Collaborative, which partners on transportation for special education students.

However, each municipality operates independently; there is no individual or study that views the challenge of electrification at a regional level, despite our shared interests and close proximity.



Projects that promote racial and social equity are prioritized during the project selection process. Responses to the following questions help MAPC assess how your project can advance equity.

1. Describe any [Environmental Justice communities](#) that may be served with this project. Describe the location and characteristics of the community (e.g., linguistically isolated, low-income, BIPOC, etc.). *Limit 1000 characters.*

over 150,000 residents across districts participating in this grant application live in neighborhoods designated as Environmental Justice communities. The EJ population in each community consists of: Acton: 5,621; Ashland: 18,832; Boxborough: 5,506; Concord: 620; Dedham: 8,365; Framingham: 63,128; Harvard: 1,390; Holliston: 1,177; Hopkinton: 2,723; Marlborough: 33,060; Millis: 1,413; Natick: 13,544; and Wellesley: 3,638.

Together they represent 93 census block groups; the Environmental Justice criteria of these groups include Minority, Income and English Isolation. The minority populations primarily consist of those who identify as Hispanic or Latino, Asian, or Black or African American. The languages that are most commonly spoken apart from English are Portuguese or Portuguese Creole, Spanish or Spanish Creole, and Chinese.

2. Briefly describe how the project addresses community needs. If applicable, reference local plans or studies that identified racial or social disparities, which this project works to diminish. *Limit 1000 characters.*

The school bus electrification project aims to address several community needs:
1) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality in the community by replacing diesel school buses with electric buses, which produce zero emissions. This is particularly important for children, who are vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution.

2) Reduce noise pollution in the community. Electric buses are quieter than traditional buses, which can be a significant source of noise pollution in neighborhoods where they operate.

3) Diminish racial and social disparities in the region by providing equal access to clean and safe transportation for all students, regardless of socio-economic status. Local studies have shown that low-income neighborhoods and communities of color are often disproportionately impacted by air pollution and other environmental health hazards. The project helps ensure all can benefit from clean and safe transportation.



3. What community or constituency-based organizations do you anticipate being involved in this project? *Limit 1000 characters.*

Climate action planning committees, and their relevant subgroups, from each community have a significant vested interest in this project. Additionally, we anticipate that multiple high school student groups seek to participate in the study as well - as some have already expressed interest.

4. How will you involve historically underrepresented groups (people of color, people with lower incomes, youth, people with disabilities, tenants, seniors, recent immigrants, linguistic minorities, minority- and women-owned small businesses, etc.) in the project? Please describe how the proposed project will directly benefit these groups. *Limit 1000 characters.*

At the outset, we plan to involve historically underrepresented groups as part of the research and planning process, and we expect that MAPC might choose to include focus groups with these individuals as part of the study as well. Once the report is released, we plan to involve these underrepresented groups as part of the conversation (at Town Meeting or City Council) when making decisions to identify new bus depot locations or new charging station infrastructure.

One additional avenue to consider is the involvement of the METCO program, which enrolls tens of thousands of Boston students of color in Metrowest communities. Though their bus routes are the longest and therefore are the most challenging for electric buses with limited range, their participation will be critical in the planning and implementation processes.

Briefly describe the product deliverables and outcomes expected from the project. *Examples: comprehensive plan, community or corridor plan, draft or adopted bylaw or ordinance, inter-municipal agreement, collective purchasing agreement, etc. Limit 800 characters.*

We expect the project deliverable to be a scoping, research, and strategy development project that culminates in specific recommendations for municipalities - and potentially all of Metrowest Boston - to proceed with school fleet electrification. We anticipate that the report would focus on regional opportunities, and include a separate section with municipality-specific advice (e.g. one community that has an available bus yard and owns some buses may consider a different path than another community that licenses all of its buses). Upon culmination of the project, we would hope each district would have a clear path to fleet electrification, and be able to both make capital requests for fleet electrification and apply for external funding.



What is your anticipated timeline for completion of this project? *Limit 500 characters.*

Ideally, the study would be complete by late Summer or early Fall 2023, in time for districts to adapt the following year's capital requests as needed (the majority of capital plans are established in December of each year, with funding appropriated in the spring). However, we are open to discussion on this timeline.

Does this project implement any local plans, particularly ones developed with TAP or other public funding sources (e.g., state planning grants)? If this is an initial planning project, please describe how you might hope to implement its recommendations. *Limit 1000 characters.*

Yes; electrification of school fleets is part of many of our Climate Action Plans.

For projects related to Housing Choice implementation, including Section 3A Compliance:

Is the proposal a second phase of an ongoing or past MAPC project with the community?
Limit 500 characters.

Does the proposal promote Affordable housing? *Limit 500 characters.*



Which [MetroCommon2050](#) goals are advanced with this project? (select all that apply)

- ☒ Getting Around the Region _____
- ☐ Homes for All _____
- ☒ Climate-Resilient Region _____
- ☒ Net Zero Carbon Region _____
- ☒ Dynamic and Representative Governments _____
- ☒ Healthy Environment _____
- ☐ Economic Security _____
- ☒ Economic Prosperity _____
- ☒ Healthy and Safe Neighborhoods _____
- ☐ Thriving Arts, Culture, and Heritage _____

Did you work with an MAPC staff member to develop this project concept? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what staff member or department? Alison Felix, Julie Curti, Cara Goodman, Marc Fine

Do you have a MAPC Council representative? Yes ☒ No ☐ Not sure ☐

If no, will you be able to appoint a representative prior to starting project work, if TAP funding is awarded? Yes ☐ No ☐

What in-kind contributions, if any, are included in the project? *Limit 500 characters.*

Example: X dollars towards direct costs (e.g., space rental cost, printing, or translation costs, etc.)

The school districts/municipalities will support the project through in-kind participation of multi-departmental staff.

Does your proposed project have additional funding sources, beyond the requested TAP funds?

Note: Cash match is not required but may help both MAPC and the municipality to prepare and execute a more comprehensive scope of work.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what is the source of this additional funding? _____



Has this additional funding been secured, or do you plan to file an application for grants or seek a commitment of municipal resources at the future town meeting/city council meeting? Please explain. *Limit 500 characters.*

As noted above, this submission is for a planning study, which we do not anticipate to require additional funding. The eventual procurement of any electric buses or installation of any charging infrastructure, however, will require additional funding - likely from local sources or from federal/state grants.

How did you hear about MAPC's TAP program?

- ☐ MAPC website
- ☐ MAPC social media
- ☒ MAPC Matters newsletter
- ☐ MAPC staff (please state who, if possible) NA
- ☐ Other (please specify) NA

Attachments

Please attach a letter of support for the project from the lead municipality's CEO. For multi-community projects, preference is given to projects that have letters of support from all (or at least some) participating municipalities and organizations. Priority will be given to letters of support that demonstrate municipal commitment to advancing project outcomes.



Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement (REDIS) Acknowledgement

By signing this application, you are committing to carry out project work in alignment with MAPC's [Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement](#) and commit to inclusive community stakeholder outreach. If your project is awarded, MAPC will work with you to develop a scope of work that considers how equity can be advanced through community engagement and through other aspects of planning and implementation.

Applicant Name: Dan Gutekanst

Applicant Title: Superintendent of Schools

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 1/13/2023





***Daniel E. Gutekanst Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Needham Public Schools***

January 13, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Metropolitan Area Planning Council:

Please accept this letter of support to apply for the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

We are proud to have 20 school districts partnering with us on this application, which we believe demonstrates the widespread support for school fleet electrification in Metro-West Boston. Together, we believe that this initiative has the potential to transform the landscape of student transportation not only in Metro-West Boston communities, but across the Commonwealth.

The Needham Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/ transportation electrification and is eager to lead this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Gutekanst", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel Gutekanst, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

978-264-4700

www.abschools.org

Peter J. Light

Superintendent of Schools

January 6, 2023

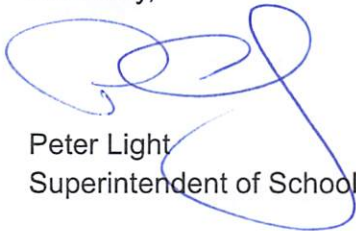
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,



Peter Light
Superintendent of Schools

To develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships.

WELLNESS

•

EQUITY

•

ENGAGEMENT



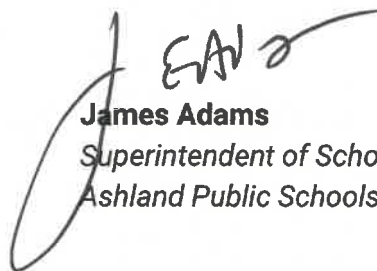
January 5, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

To Whom it may Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Ashland Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus electrification, and is pleased to support this grant application.

Sincerely,



James Adams
Superintendent of Schools
Ashland Public Schools

**CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

120 MERIAM ROAD CONCORD, MA 01742 PHONE: 978.318.1500 FAX: 978.318.1537
www.concordps.org

Dr. Laurie Hunter
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
lhunter@concordps.org

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Concord Public Schools and Concord Carlisle Regional School District look forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Laurie Hunter
Superintendent

Dedham Public Schools
Home of America's First Tax-Supported Free Public School

Ian P. Kelly, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent
Tel. No. (781) 310-1011
Fax No. (781) 320-0193

Matthew G. Wells
*Assistant Superintendent
for Business and Finance*
Tel. No. (781) 310-1023
Fax No. (781) 320-8913



Heather Smith, Ed.D.
Interim Assistant Superintendent
Tel. No. (781) 310-1020
Fax No. (781) 320-8798

Sara Stetson, Ed.D.
*Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services*
Tel. No. (781) 310-1025
Fax No. (781) 320-8798

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

January 6, 2023

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Dedham Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,


Dr. Ian Kelly
Interim Superintendent
Dedham Public Schools

The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn

157 Farm Street
Dover, MA 02030
Phone: 508-785-0036 Fax: 508-785-2239
www.doversherborn.org



Elizabeth M. McCoy, Superintendent
Denton Conklin, Assistant Superintendent

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator
Kate McCarthy, Director of Student Services

January 5, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn look forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and are eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. McCoy
Superintendent

Dawn Fattore
Business Administrator



January 5, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program Grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Framingham Public Schools look forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification as this is an identified School Committee and District goal. We eagerly support this collaborative effort and appreciate your consideration of our application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R.A. Tremblay', is written over the printed name.

Robert A. Tremblay, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

HARVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.psharvard.org



27A Massachusetts Avenue • Harvard, Massachusetts • 01451
(978) 456-4140 • FAX (978) 456-8592

Linda G. Dwight
Superintendent

January 4, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Harvard Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,


Linda G. Dwight, Superintendent



**Holliston Public Schools
Office of the Superintendent
370 Hollis Street
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746**

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston , MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Holliston Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,

Keith Buday
Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations



Hopkinton Public Schools

89 Hayden Rowe Street Hopkinton, MA. 01748

Dr. Carol Cavanaugh, PhD

ccavanaugh@hopkinton.k12.ma.us

January 6, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

RE: Regional School Fleet Electrification in Metro-West Boston

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express Hopkinton's interest in participating in the regional grant to study bus/van electrification opportunities. Hopkinton is excited to examine pathways to electrification of school buses and pupil transportation vans in each community, and potentially the entire Metrowest Boston region, including districts who contract for services with a transportation provider, which is the case for Hopkinton.

We understand that there is no cost to participate and that the Needham Public Schools will serve as the writer of the grant application on behalf of interested districts.

I wish to thank Dan Gutekanst, Superintendent of the Needham Public Schools, for taking this initiative as well as the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for promoting smart growth and regional collaboration.

Very truly yours,

Carol A. Cavanaugh
Superintendent of Schools



Lincoln Public Schools

BALLFIELD ROAD
LINCOLN, MA 01773
781-259-9400 • FAX: 781-259-9246

Rebecca E. McFall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 13, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Metropolitan Area Planning Council;

The Lincoln School Committee at their January 12, 2023 meeting voted to support and participate in a regional study for school transportation electrification with districts that own bus fleets and/or contract for transportation (yellow bus) services being submitted by the Town of Needham/Needham Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca McFall".

Rebecca E. McFall, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Marlborough Public Schools

Mary Murphy • Superintendent
District Education Center
25 Union Street, Marlborough, MA 01752
(508) 460-3509, ext. 13801 • mmurphy@mps-edu.org

January 5, 2023

Dan Gutekanst
Superintendent of Schools
Needham Public Schools
1330 Highland Avenue,
Needham, MA 02492

Dear Superintendent Gutekanst,

The Marlborough Public Schools is supportive of and would like to join the efforts of the Needham Public Schools in applying for a regional school fleet electrification grant for the purpose electrifying school buses in our region. We strongly believe that this is an important initiative and an impactful way for school districts to support positive climate change in our region.

Sincerely,

Mary Murphy
Superintendent of Schools

www.mps-edu.org

It is the policy of the Marlborough Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its education programs, services, activities or employment practices.



MEDFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent
459 Main Street - 3rd Floor
Medfield, Massachusetts 02052

Jeffrey J. Marsden, Ed.D
Superintendent
jmarsden@email.medfield.net
(508) 359-2302

January 5, 2022

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Medfield Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Marsden



Millis Public Schools

245 Plain St. Millis, MA 02054

Phone: (508) 376-7000 FX: (508) 376-7020

Robert Mullaney, Superintendent

rmullaney@millisschools.org

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Technical Assistance Program
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

December 30, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter from Millis Public Schools in support of the **Regional School Fleet Electrification in Metro-West Boston** project proposal submitted by project manager Anne Gulati. Millis Public Schools leases and purchases vehicles and employs its own bus drivers to serve the needs of students both in and out of district. We have been looking to update our fleet with vans and buses that produce zero emissions, but are presented with myriad obstacles including costs and availability of vehicles.

The Regional School Fleet Electrification in Metro-West Boston project seeks MAPC support to study pathways to electrification of school buses and pupil transportation vans in Metrowest Boston communities. It is our hope that the project would produce a research and analysis study resulting in recommendations that would promote

- Improved air quality by replacing traditional diesel school buses and vans with zero emissions vehicles
- Reduced noise pollution as electric vehicles are significantly quieter than traditional student transportation vehicles
- Equitable access to clean and safe transportation to school

We believe that the benefits of the proposed project would have tremendous impact for students in Millis and throughout the Metrowest region. If I can be of any assistance in your review of this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert Mullaney
Superintendent

Small School...Big Family

245 Plain Street Millis, MA 02054 Tel: 508-376-7000 Fax: 508-376-7020

The Millis Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness.



**Natick Public Schools
Central Office**

Dr. Anna Nolin, Superintendent
Timothy Luff, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Peter Gray, Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Sue Balboni, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation

January 5, 2023

Marc Draisen
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Mr. Draisen,

On behalf of Natick Public Schools, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Needham's Technical Assistance Program application, titled, "Regional School Fleet Electrification in Metro-West Boston".

Natick Public Schools is eager to participate in this regional study and to collaborate with MAPC and our neighboring communities to reduce emissions from school-related transportation. As a community that contracts transportation services, we would like to pursue cleaner, healthier modes of transportation for our students, but struggle with existing market conditions and the costs associated with electrification. We know these challenges apply to every district that does not own a school fleet, and we believe the analysis and outcomes of the proposed study will benefit the majority of communities across the Commonwealth.

As a district, we have had success working with peers across the region to solve shared challenges, and are excited to bring this approach to school transportation services. As a study partner, Natick staff, including our School Finance Director and Sustainability Director, will actively participate in and provide input throughout the proposed research process. We are also committed to action on this issue, and will work closely with our peers and School Committee to advance the study's findings to achieve the best outcomes for our students and the region.

Thank you for considering our regional application. We hope to begin working with you soon.

Sincerely,

Anna P. Nolin

Natick Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, gender identity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions, physical and intellectual differences, immigration status, or homeless status.

Natick Schools Central Office:

13 East Central Street
Natick MA 01760

<http://www.natickps.org>

508 • 647 • 6500 (phone)

508 • 647 • 6506 (fax)

www.facebook.com/natickps

The Public Schools of
NORTHBOROUGH and SOUTHBOROUGH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
53 PARKERVILLE ROAD – SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772
TELEPHONE (508) 486-5115 FAX (508) 486-5123 www.nsboro.k12.ma.us

GREGORY L. MARTINEAU
Superintendent of Schools

KEITH T. LAVOIE
Assistant Superintendent of Operations

STEFANIE K. REINHORN, Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

January 6, 2023

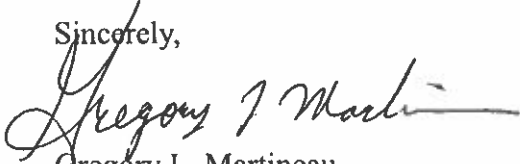
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Metropolitan Area Planning Council:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough look forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and are eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,



Gregory L. Martineau
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Dan Gutekanst, Superintendent of School, Needham Public Schools
Robert Havdala, Assistant Director of Financial Operations, Needham Public Schools
Keith Lavoie, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Rebecca Pellegrino, Director of Finance



Omar X. Easy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools.
508.358-3763

Parry Graham, Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent
508.358.3772

January 5, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston , MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Wayland Public Schools District looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

Omar X. Easy

Omar X. Easy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

WELLESLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
40 Kingsbury Street • Wellesley • Massachusetts 02481
781-446-6200

Dr. DAVID F. LUSSIER
Superintendent of Schools

SANDRA A. TRACH
Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning



CYNTHIA D. MAHR
Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Operations

January 4, 2023

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Wellesley Public Schools, I am pleased to confirm our interest in participating in a regional study to explore possible ways to electrify our district's transportation services. The Town of Wellesley has long been committed to both adopting and modeling sustainable practices across all town departments. As a school district that uses contracted yellow bus services, we have thus far been unable overcome the challenges of transitioning to a more environmentally friendly platform. Our hope is that by exploring regional solutions, we may be able to make further progress than continuing to pursue this interest individually. We greatly value the leadership of our peer communities in organizing this joint effort to apply for a Metropolitan Area Planning Council grant, to explore this common interest among school districts.

Wellesley's participants will be Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations (cmahr@wellesleyma.gov) and Deane McGoldrick, Director of Transportation (rmcgoldrick@wellesleyma.gov).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Lussier", is written over the "Best regards," text.

Dr. David Lussier
Superintendent of Schools



WESTBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

45 West Main Street · Westborough, MA 01581 · 508-836-7700 · www.westboroughk12.org

January 6, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Westborough Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application. In 2019, the Town of Westborough received designation as a Green Community. We have continued our commitment to reducing the town's carbon footprint with several initiatives, including the recent opening of a new energy efficient NetZero+ elementary school. The town has also established the Sustainable Westborough Committee, with the following mission statement:

"We will promote environmental responsibility and energy efficiency within the Town of Westborough while working in consultation with the Select Board, town committees and various town departments. With sensitivity to the most vulnerable residents and businesses in the community, we will recommend actions to reduce the community's carbon emissions consistent with the Commonwealth's climate goals and to minimize other environmental impacts. Proposals will be guided by the environmental and economic cost of actions and inaction."

We look forward to working with MAPC and our surrounding communities to continue this important work.

Sincerely,

Amber Bock
Superintendent
Westborough Public Schools

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02493 • TEL 781-786-5230
FAX 781-786-5279

Sheri L. Matthews
Assistant Superintendent for
Finance and Operations

January 5, 2023

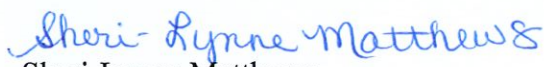
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston , MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Weston Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,


Sheri-Lynne Matthews
Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future

EMILY J. PARKS
Superintendent of Schools

January 5, 2023

Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place
Boston , MA 02111

Dear MAPC:

Please accept this letter of support for participation in the Technical Assistance Program grant application offered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Westwood Public Schools looks forward to the advancement of school bus/transportation electrification and is eager to support this grant application.

Sincerely,

Emily J. Parks
Superintendent

cc: Lemma Jn-baptiste, Director of Finance and Operations