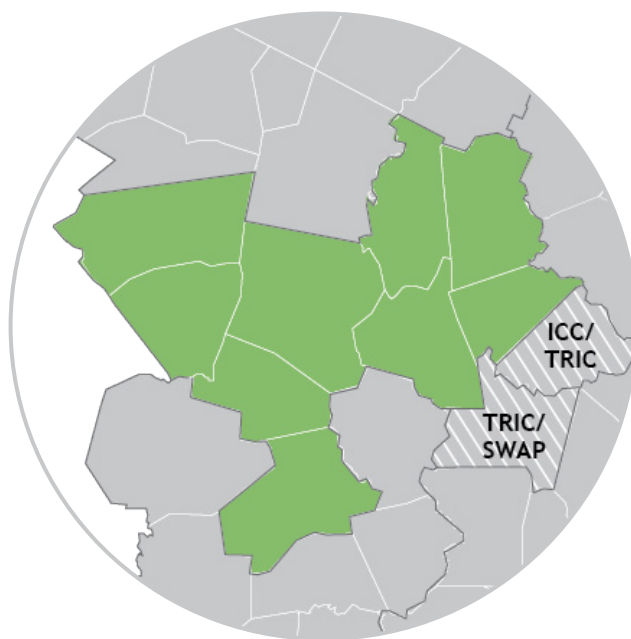


# MetroWest Regional Collaborative (MWRC)

Identifying Transportation Needs, Construction Projects,  
and Studies in Your Subregion



Fall 2017–Winter 2018



Ashtand • Framingham • Holliston • Marlborough • Natick • Southborough • Wayland • Wellesley • Weston

## WHAT NEEDS DID THE MPO IDENTIFY IN MWRC COMMUNITIES?

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) conducted an assessment of transportation needs in the Boston region to inform the MPO's current Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), *Charting Progress to 2040*. The MPO staff identified existing transportation conditions and made projections of future conditions and demand on the system. We also asked you about your transportation needs and the opportunities to improve transportation in your communities. The resulting Needs Assessment serves as a tool for planning the region's future transportation network and prioritizing the MPO's limited funding for transportation projects and studies.

Below are some of the needs that we identified in your subregion during our assessment and past visits to MWRC communities. For more information, please refer to the *Charting Progress to 2040* Needs Assessment report and applications on our website: [bostonmpo.org/lrtp\\_needs](http://bostonmpo.org/lrtp_needs).

### Needs Identified During *Charting Progress to 2040* Development

Location of identified need	Municipalities	Top 25 Highway Crash Locations	Top 200 Intersection Crash Clusters	HSIP Crash Cluster	Truck Crash Cluster	Pedestrian Crash Cluster	Bicycle Crash Cluster	Priority Congested Location	Activity undertaken to address need
Rte. 20	Weston							●	The proposed Boston Post Road (Route 20) at Wellesley Street intersection improvement project addresses part of this corridor (see page 6).
Rte. 30 between Interstate 90 and Rte. 9	Framingham							●	The <i>Route 30 Arterial Segment Study in Framingham and Natick</i> focuses on a portion of this corridor (see page 8).
Rte. 135	Wellesley and Natick							●	
Rte. 9 corridor - Southborough to Newton and at I-95	Southborough, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton	●		●	●			●	The proposed I-495/Rte.9 interchange project (see page 6) addresses this corridor.
Downtown Framingham	Framingham		●	●	●	●	●		The recommended LRTP project at Rte. 126/Rte. 135 would address needs in downtown Framingham (see page 6).

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Rte. 20 (East Main St.)	Marlborough		●	●	●				The <i>Route 20 East Corridor Study in Marlborough</i> addresses needs in this corridor (see page 8). The infrastructure improvement project on Rte. 20 at Curtis Ave. (see page 5) and the proposed project on Rte. 20 at Concord Rd. (see page 6) address this corridor.
Rte. 9	Framingham, Natick		●	●	●				The proposed pedestrian hybrid beacon project on Route 9 in Framingham addresses this corridor (see page 6).
Downtown Natick	Natick			●		●	●		
Rte. 16	Holliston, Sherborn, Natick, Wellesley, Newton							●	

### ***Transit park-and-ride lots and bicycle parking areas at more than 85 percent capacity***

- Weston — Kendal Green Station, Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line (park-and-ride lot)
- Natick — West Natick Station, Worcester Commuter Rail Line (park-and-ride lot and bicycle parking area)
- Wellesley — Wellesley Square and Wellesley Hills Stations, Worcester Commuter Rail Line (park-and-ride lot)

### ***Bike/Pedestrian Priorities***

- Framingham — Sudbury Aqueduct trail  
*Note: The Bicycle Network Gap feasibility evaluation study in Framingham addresses connections to the Sudbury Aqueduct trail (see page 8).*
- Framingham and Ashland — Upper Charles Trail
- Wayland and Weston — Mass Central corridor, Wayside Trail (Bay State Greenway priority corridor)

## Needs and Opportunities the MPO Has Heard from You

### *Safety*

- Improve safety at interstate interchanges (e.g. I-290/I-495 and I-90/I-495)
- Address safety issues related to truck traffic at the I-290/I-495 interchange

### *System Preservation*

- Support more and better transit service within the existing system
- Provide more support to the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA)
- Address drainage issues around the Boulder Brook culvert under Route 9 in Wellesley

### *Capacity Management/Mobility*

- Address congestion on highways (e.g. I-90, I-95, and I-495)  
*Note: The Low-Cost Improvements to Express Highway Bottleneck Locations study included an analysis of I-95 southbound at the I-90 interchange (see page 8).*
- Implement dedicated lanes for bus rapid transit and freight vehicles on I-495
- Address the at-grade rail crossing at Routes 126 and 135 in Framingham  
*Note: This location may be addressed by the proposed intersection improvement project at Route 126 and Route 135, and MBTA and CSX Railroad, which is recommended in the LRTP (see page 6).*
- Implement Complete Streets improvements on Edgell Road leading to Union Avenue in Framingham
- Implement additional Complete Streets improvements on Route 126 in Framingham and Holliston
- Implement recommendations of the MPO's Route 126 Corridor Study in Holliston
- Improve sidewalks on Route 135 and Cedar Street in Ashland
- Address multimodal connections between Weston and Waltham across Route 128
- Support connections from Ashland to the Upper Charles Rail Trail
- Support rail trail connections from Wayland through Weston to Waltham
- Create a north/south rail link between Clinton and Mansfield to establish commuter rail connections in the I-495 corridor
- Improve rail service for Marlborough

- Provide more commuter rail service for reverse commuting, specifically in Framingham and Natick
- Publicize MBTA schedule changes better
- Focus on the suburban transit needs of youth; CrossTown Connect provides a good example of how to successfully address the transit needs of youth
- Develop suburban transit beyond Boston and the towns served by the MWRTA
- Increase parking capacity at transit stations
- Develop a program to address first- and last-mile access to transit

### ***Economic Vitality***

- Anticipate that truck traffic may shift to Routes 126 and 135 if these routes are upgraded
- Develop a holistic vision for transportation that addresses the movement of both trucks and people
- Study how a mixed-use development, or a “village concept” development, will affect traffic conditions throughout Framingham and in areas to the south
- Consider that Framingham could be a diesel multiple unit (DMU) hub for the western MBTA service area
- Open several north-south low density freight rail routes to passenger service

The MPO also seeks information on your needs pertaining to the MPO’s Clean Air/Clean Communities and Transportation Equity goal areas.

## **WHAT PROJECTS HAVE BEEN FUNDED IN MWRC COMMUNITIES?**

On May 25, 2017, the MPO endorsed the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which documents all transportation construction projects that will receive federal funding over the next five years, during federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2018–22.

Below is a selection of recent federally funded projects in MWRC communities that are supported by the MPO and MassDOT. Other proposed TIP projects and recommended LRTP projects are also listed.

### **Recently Programmed TIP Projects:**

- Ashland — Reconstruction on Route 126 (Pond Street), from the Framingham town line to the Holliston town line  
*Status: MPO-funded and programmed in FFY 2020*

- Framingham — Reconstruction of Union Avenue, from Proctor Street to Main Street  
*Status: MPO-funded and programmed in FFY 2021*
- Framingham and Natick — Cochituate Rail Trail Construction, Phase II  
*Status: MassDOT-funded and programmed in FFY 2018*
- Marlborough — Reconstruction of Route 85 (Maple Street)  
*Status: MPO- funded and programmed in FFY 2017; advertised for construction*
- Marlborough — Improvements at Route 20 (East Main Street) at Curtis Avenue  
*Status: MassDOT-funded and programmed in FFY 2021*  
*Note: This project addresses needs on the Route 20 corridor in Marlborough (see page 2).*
- Natick — Reconstruction of Route 27 (North Main Street), from North Avenue to the Wayland town line  
*Status: MPO-funded and programmed in FFY 2019*
- Natick — Bridge replacement, Route 27 (North Main Street) over Route 9 (Worcester Street) and interchange improvements  
*Status: Included in proposed FFYs 2018–22 TIP Amendment One as a MassDOT-funded project programmed in FFYs 2021–22*
- Southborough — Reconstruction of Main Street (Route 30), from Sears Road to Park Street  
*Status: MPO-funded and programmed in FFY 2018*
- Southborough — Resurfacing and related Work on Route 9, from the Framingham town line to White Bagley Road  
*Status: MassDOT-funded and programmed in FFY 2017; advertised for construction*
- Wayland — Signal and intersection improvements at Route 27 (Main Street) and Route 30 (Commonwealth Road)  
*Status: MassDOT-funded and programmed in FFY 2016; under construction*
- Wellesley and Needham — Rehabilitation/replacement of six bridges on I-95/ Route 128 (Add-a-Lane Contract V)  
*Status: MPO- and-MassDOT-funded and programmed in FFYs 2013–18; under construction*
- Wellesley — Resurfacing on Route 9, from the limit of the Route 128 Add-a-Lane project to east of Overbrook intersection  
*Status: MassDOT-funded and programmed in FFY 2016; under construction*

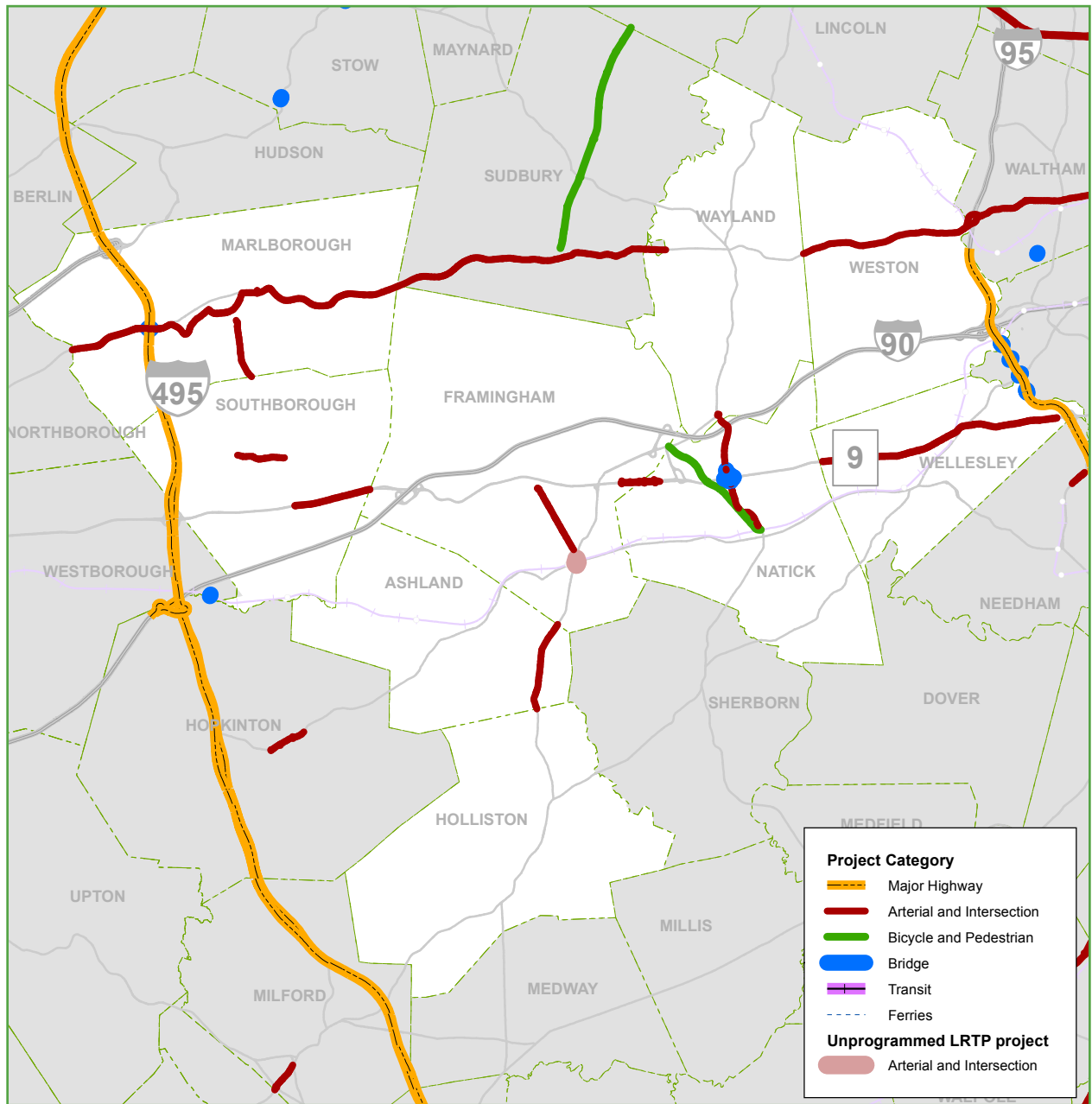
## Proposed TIP Projects:

- Ashland — Rehabilitation and rail crossing improvements on Cherry Street  
*Status: Approved by MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) in 2017*
- Framingham — Traffic signal installation at Edgell Road at Central Street  
*Status: Approved by MassDOT PRC in 2017*
- Framingham — Pedestrian hybrid beacon installation at Route 9 and Maynard Road  
*Status: 25 percent design submitted in 2015; project will be on the MPO's FFYs 2019–23 First Tier List*  
*Note: This proposed project could address needs on the Route 9 corridor in Framingham (see page 2)*
- Marlborough — Intersection and signal improvements on Route 20 (East Main Street/Boston Post Road) at Concord Road  
*Status: 25 percent design submitted in 2009; project will be on the MPO's FFYs 2019–23 First Tier List*  
*Note: This proposed project could address needs on the Route 20 corridor in Marlborough (see page 2).*
- Southborough and Westborough — Improvements on Route 9 at the I-495 interchange, from Computer Drive/Research Drive to the Route 9/Crystal Pond Road intersection  
*Status: Approved by MassDOT PRC in 2013*  
*Note: This proposed project could address needs on the Route 9 corridor in Southborough (see page 1) and traffic on I-495 (see page 3).*
- Weston — Boston Post Road (Route 20) at Wellesley Street intersection improvement project  
*Status: Project is in the preliminary design phase*  
*Note: This proposed project could address needs on the Route 20 corridor in Weston (see page 1).*

## Recommended LRTP Projects:

- Framingham — Intersection improvements at Routes 126 and 135, and MBTA and CSX Railroad  
*Status: MPO-funded and included in the 2026–30 time band of the LRTP; approved by MassDOT PRC in 2010*  
*Note: This project could address needs in downtown Framingham, specifically those pertaining to the area near the intersection of Route 126 and 135 (see pages 1 and 3).*

## MPO and MassDOT Projects Funded from FFYs 2016 through 2022 and LRTP Projects not yet Programmed in the TIP





## WHAT TRANSPORTATION PLANNING STUDIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN MWRC COMMUNITIES?

The MPO conducts studies through its Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that advance our understanding of the transportation system, new technologies, regulations, and travel preferences. The MPO also offers technical assistance to address transit, bicycle and pedestrian, and roadway issues—at no cost to municipalities. Below is a list of studies and technical assistance projects undertaken in your subregion over the past several years.

- Framingham — Bicycle Network Gaps feasibility evaluation of Sudbury Aqueduct trail  
*Status: Underway*  
*Note: This study addresses bicycle/pedestrian needs listed on page 2.*
- Framingham, Natick, Southborough, and Wellesley — *Route 9 MetroWest Smart Growth Plan*  
*Status: Completed by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council in 2013*
- Framingham and Natick — *Route 30 Arterial Segment Study*  
*Status: Completed in 2013*  
*Note: This study addresses needs on Route 30 between I-90 and Route 9 (see page 1).*
- Marlborough — *Route 20 East Corridor Study*  
*Status: Completed in 2017*  
*Note: This study addresses needs on Route 20 (East Main Street) in Marlborough (see page 2).*
- MWRTA — Technical assistance memoranda to MWRTA staff to support transit operations improvements  
*Status: MPO-funded technical memos completed in 2013 and 2015*
- Weston — *Low-Cost Improvements to Express Highway Bottleneck Locations* study, (included an assessment of I-95 southbound at the I-90 interchange)  
*Status: Completed in 2015*  
*Note: This study addressed congestion needs on I-90 and I-95 (see page 3).*

## NOW WHAT?

This fall, help us get started on our next LRTP, *Destination 2040*. As we embark on a new cycle of determining how to spend the federal transportation dollars that come into the Boston region, we want to hear about the transportation needs and opportunities to improve transportation in your community:

- What's working well with the transportation system in your community?
- Are there transportation barriers or mobility issues that prevent people from getting where they need to go?
- Are there transportation needs that you've heard from people of color, people with low incomes, older adults, youths, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency?
- What changes or trends are occurring that might affect the transportation system and how you use it?
- What opportunities for improving the transportation system do you see now or in the near future?

We also welcome ideas for studies and technical assistance projects. Share your views with us during our meeting with MWRC community representatives, or through any of the channels listed at [bostonmpo.org/public\\_involvement](https://bostonmpo.org/public_involvement).



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