

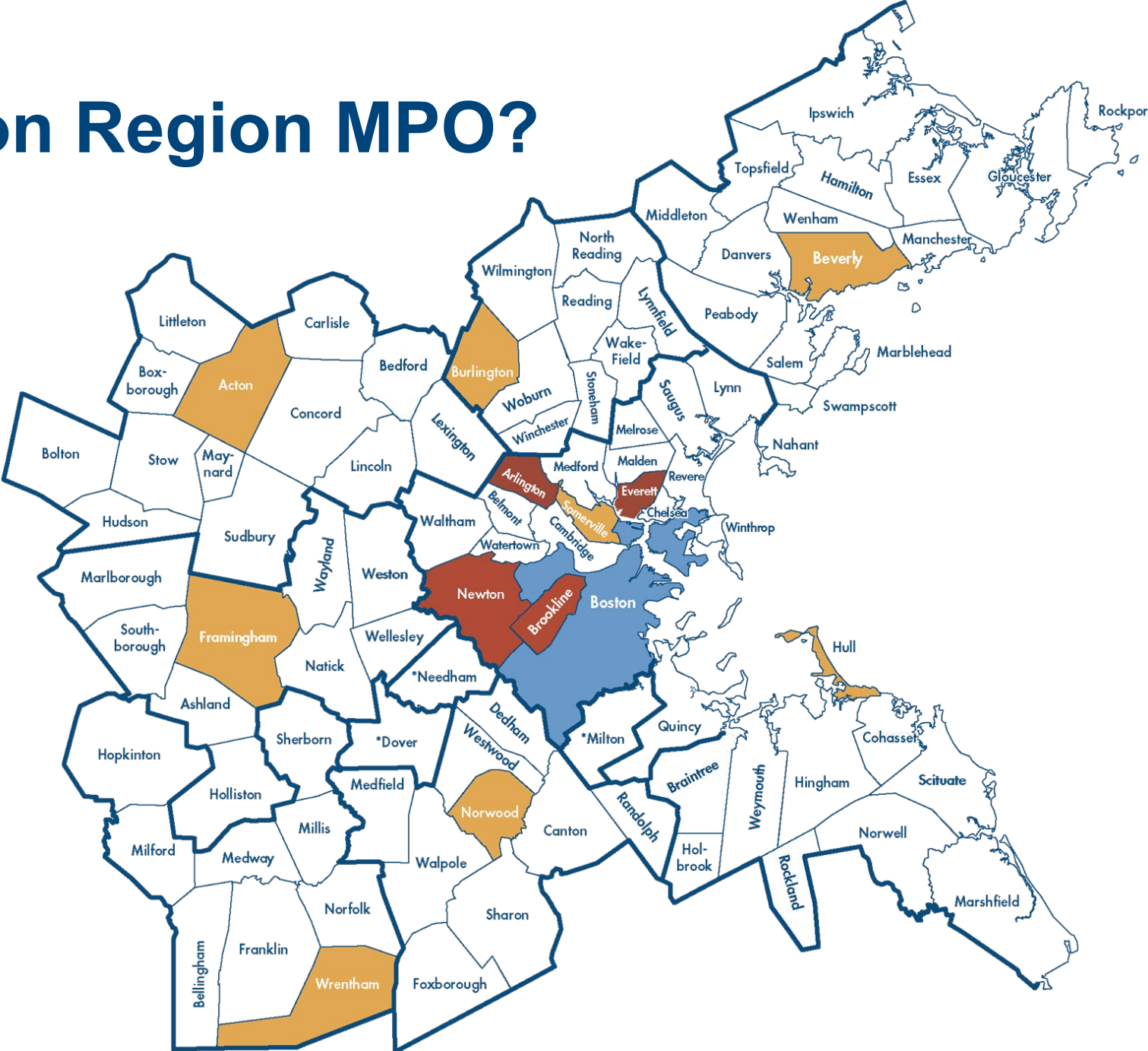


Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

495/MetroWest Partnership Update

March 18, 2025

What is the Boston Region MPO?



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

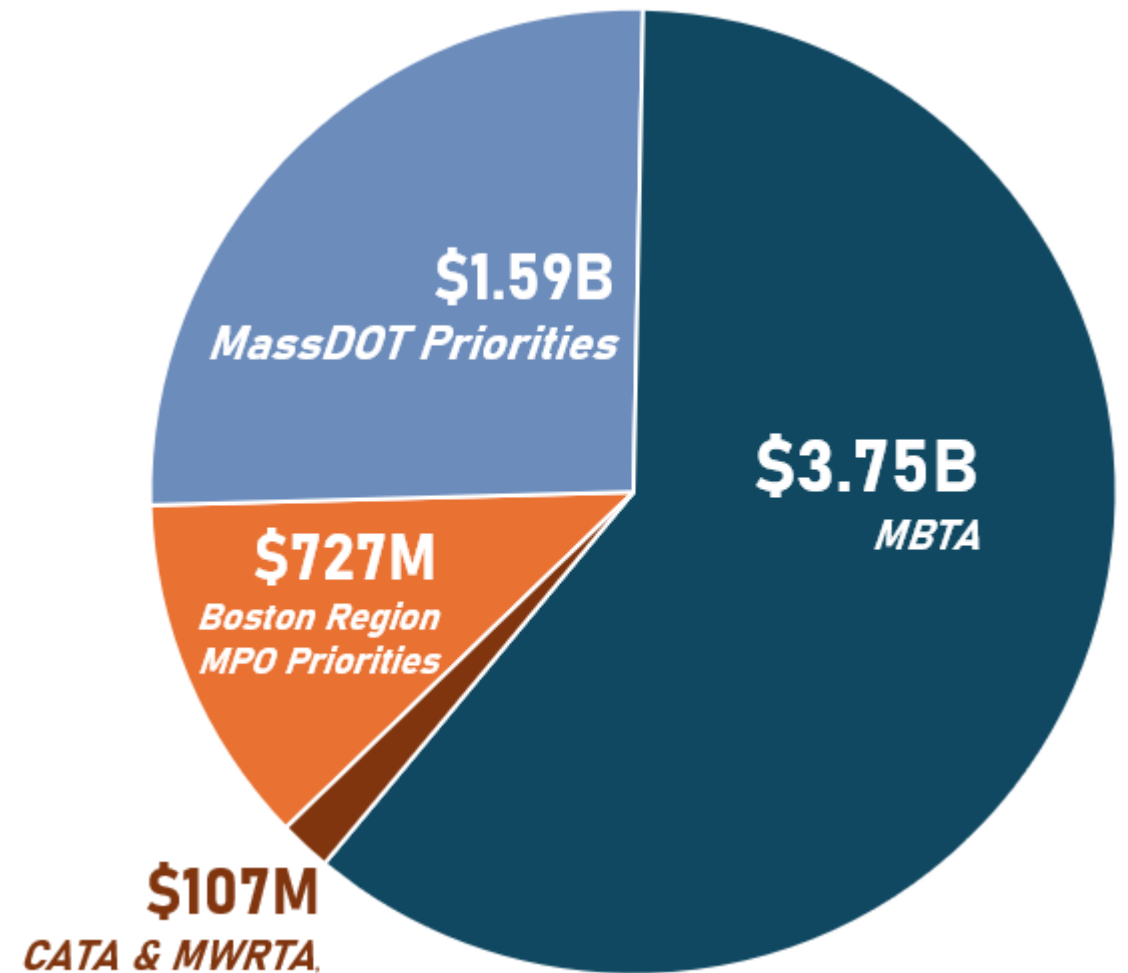
Objectives for today's discussion:

- Introduce the Boston Region TIP
- How does the MPO prioritize funding allocations?
- Where is the TIP doing well?
- Where could we be doing better?
- Upcoming opportunities to engage



What is the TIP?

- **Boston Region TIP =**
All projects in region funded using federal transportation funds
- **State TIP (STIP) =**
Compilation of all TIPs from each of 13 Massachusetts MPOs
- **Capital Investment Plan =**
All projects in Massachusetts funded using both federal AND state funds



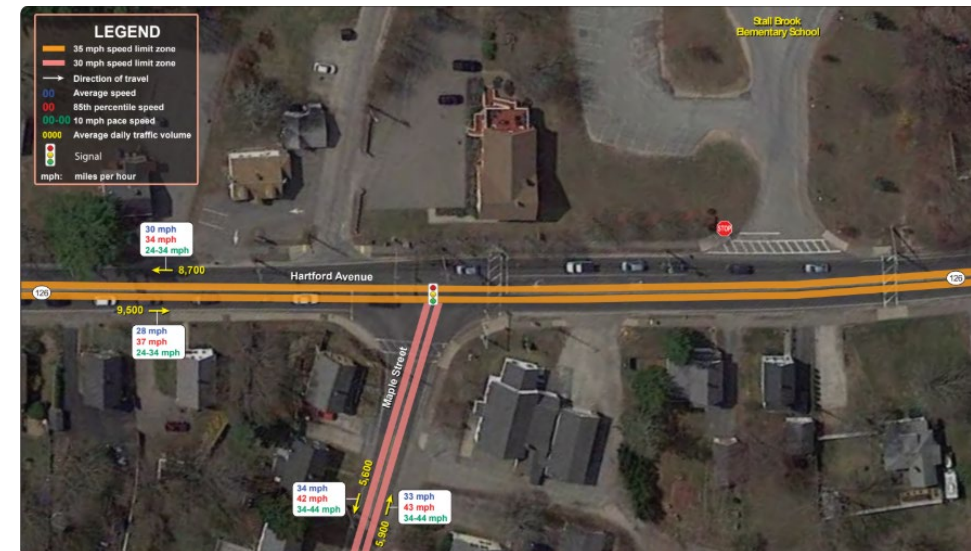
Federal Transportation Funding for the Boston Region (FFYs 2025–29)

Prioritizing Investments that Advance Regional Goals

EQUITY	Facilitate an inclusive and transparent transportation planning process Eliminate transportation-related disparities borne by people in disadvantaged communities
SAFETY	Achieve zero transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries Improve safety for all people who use the transportation system
MOBILITY AND RELIABILITY	Support easy and reliable movement of people and freight across all modes
ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	Increase and improve transportation options Expand access to key destinations to support economic vitality and a high quality of life
RESILIENCY	Provide transportation that supports sustainable environments Enable people to respond and adapt to climate change and other conditions
CLEAN AIR AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	Provide transportation free of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants Support good health, open space, and active transportation

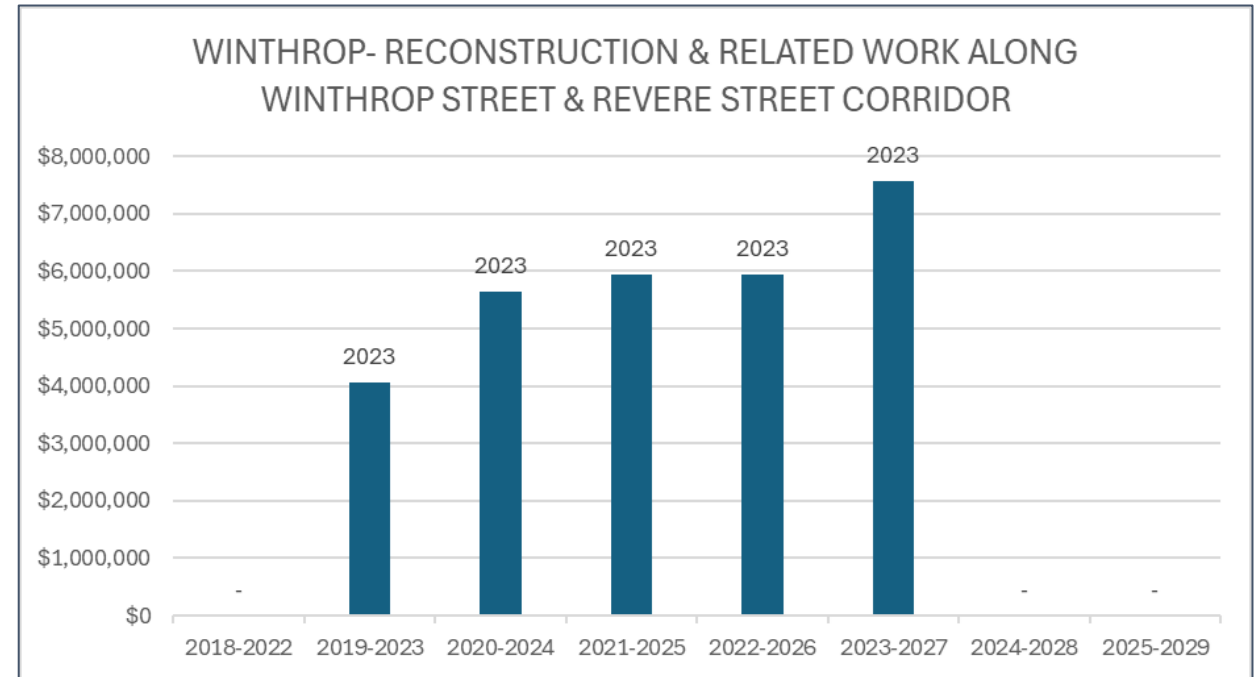
495 Corridor Projects

- The TIP's primary funding function has historically been supporting municipal-priority roadway projects
 - Difference from MassDOT process?
 - "Jumping the line"
- The TIP is a multiplier for local resources
 - Federal-aid requirements are stricter, but the 80/20 match has substantial appeal
- Strict requirements make advancing design difficult, however



Readiness Challenges

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expanded MPO funding resources
 - 20% funding increase from BIL
 - 12% increase from state debt management changes
- However, cost issues are compounding
 - Pandemic-era supply shocks and labor constraints
 - Emerging design needs and permitting requirements



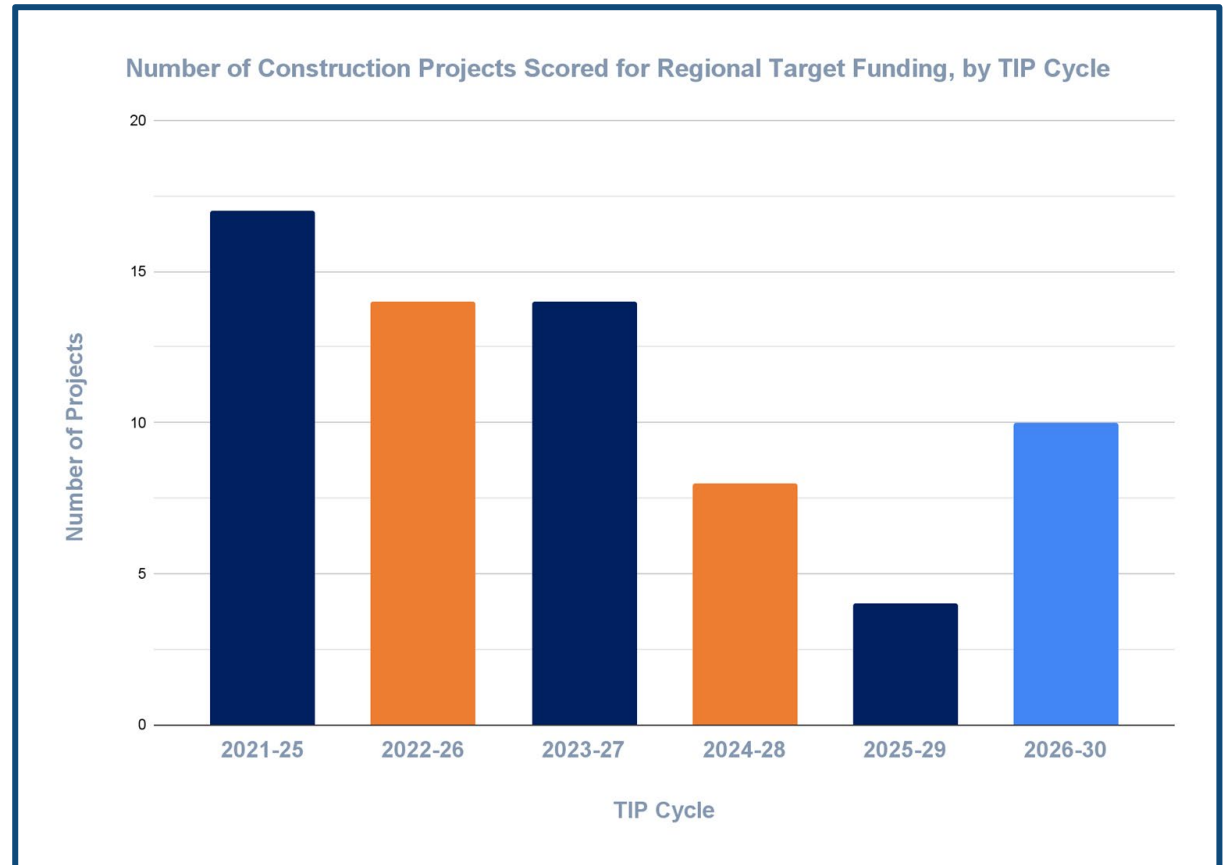
Project cost growth for an MPO-funded project

Readiness Challenges



Application Volumes

- Despite having more funding resources than before, TIP applications plummeted during the pandemic
- Municipalities struggle to fund design costs and advance through early stages of TIP process
- Early signs of a rebound are promising, but now run headlong into readiness issues



Poor Project Readiness + Growing Applications = An Unreliable TIP

Federal Fiscal Year	2025 (New)	2026 (New)	2027 (New)	2028 (New)	2029 (New)	2030 (New)	2026-30 Total
Total Available Regional Highway Target Funds (2026-30 TIP)	\$128,427,689	\$125,285,687	\$152,627,429	\$158,700,879	\$157,518,346	\$160,037,411	\$754,169,752
Draft Total Programmed Regional Highway Target Funds	\$103,829,110	\$60,017,614	\$237,359,291	\$169,726,302	\$152,779,662	\$110,662,800	\$730,545,669
Regional Highway Target Funds Remaining (Unprogrammed)	\$24,598,579	\$65,268,073	-\$84,731,862	-\$11,025,423	\$4,738,684	\$49,374,611	\$23,624,083
Percent Unprogrammed	19.2%	52.1%	-55.5%	-6.9%	3.0%	30.9%	3.1%

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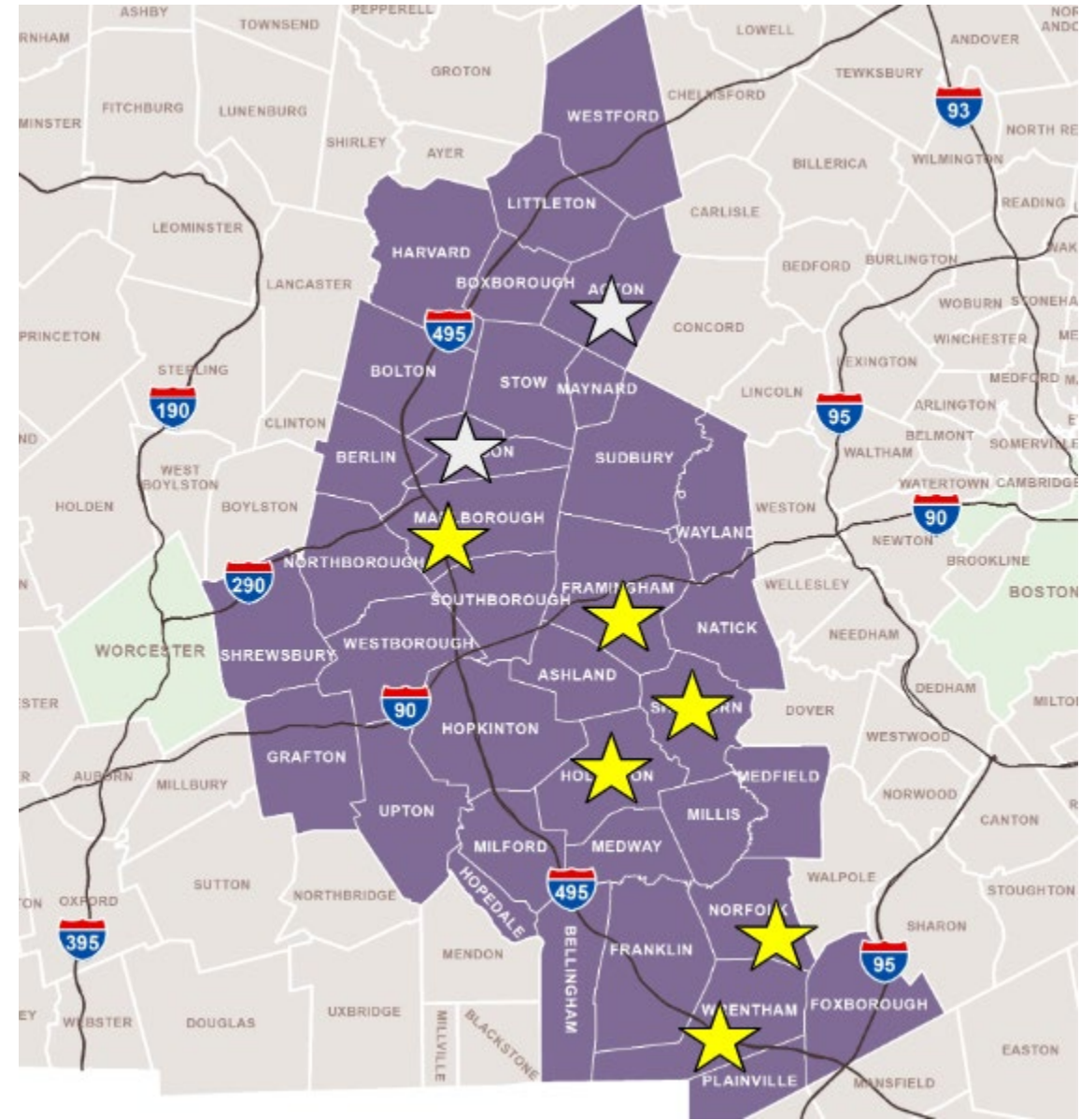
Growth Areas

- Without shovel-ready projects, near-term surpluses required our MPO to get creative
- Transit projects from partners at RTAs and the MBTA became a key component
- Community Connections program used quick-builds for easy access to TIP funding
 - Less subscribed among MetroWest and I-495 communities



Supporting Project Design

- Massachusetts MPOs are exploring design funding for municipal projects
 - More reliable than local town meeting appropriations
 - More robust than Chapter 90
- Six awardees thus far in 495/MetroWest
 - FFY 2026 awards may include Acton and Hudson



495/MetroWest awardees include Framingham, Holliston, Marlborough, Norfolk, Sherborn, and Wrentham

In Summary...

- A TIP is only as good as the projects it delivers
 - Project delivery is how we realize local and regional goals
 - When project delivery is unreliable, the TIP is unreliable
- The Boston Region MPO TIP is well-resourced, but fragile
 - Persistent and pervasive project delays are detrimental to **all** projects
 - To be a valuable resource, TIPs must work for current and future projects
- We strive to be better partners for all of our communities as well

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

How is a project funded on the TIP?

Autumn: Project Solicitation

- MPO staff engage communities to develop and identify potential projects
- Proponents submit applications for funding to the MPO

Winter: Project Evaluation

- MPO staff evaluate projects and identify resources to support them

Spring: Scenario Development

- MPO board considers bundles of projects (“scenarios”) to fund and votes to select one
- MPO board votes on a scenario
- Feedback and other new information is incorporated into a revised, final TIP

FFYs 2026-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Timeline

MARCH

- **March 6 MPO:** Scoring for new and pre-existing projects
- **March 13 TIP Process, Engagement, and Readiness Committee:** Initial programming scenarios; Further discussion on scoring pre-existing projects
- **March 20 MPO:** Initial programming scenarios; MWRTA and CATA CIP presentations
- **March 27 TIP Process, Engagement, and Readiness Committee:** Revised programming scenarios

APRIL

- **April 3 MPO:** Select a final programming scenario
- **April 17 MPO:** Vote to release draft FFYs 2026–30 TIP for public review and comment

MA

- **May 15 MPO:** May Quarterly Readiness Update
- **May 22 TIP Process, Engagement, and Readiness Committee:** Changes to the Draft FFYs 2026–30 TIP and public comments

JUNE

- **June 5 MPO:** Review public comments and vote to endorse FFYs 2026-30 TIP

In Summary

- Annual TIP updates provide ongoing opportunities to be involved in the TIP process
- MPOs support a broad and growing array of projects and needs
- Challenges and uncertainties require better coordination to address



Q&A

