



Funding Opportunities for Mobility Improvements

This document provides a brief overview of funding opportunities for walking improvement infrastructure projects in Massachusetts.

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Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

Complete Streets Funding Program

- **About:** The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities. Eligible municipalities must pass a Complete Streets Policy and develop a Prioritization Plan.
- **Amount:** Up to \$400,000 in construction funding to implement Complete Streets elements in municipal projects and up to \$50,000 in technical assistance funding in order to develop a Prioritization Plan.
- **Limitations:** only locally owned roads can be included in the Prioritization Plan. This is a 3 step process that requires adoption of a town-wide policy and creation of a detailed prioritization plan, though funds for consultant support are available.
- **Link:** <https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program>

Safe Routes to School: Infrastructure Funding Program

- **About:** This component of the SRTS Program facilitates bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements to benefit students who walk, bicycle, or use a wheeled mobility device to get to school. Infrastructure projects seek to improve safety, access, and mobility for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, while also encouraging more students to walk and bicycle to school. The SRTS Program facilitates such improvements by providing funding for infrastructure projects. Applications are generally open in the fall (October) of each year and close in the winter (December).
- **Amount:** up to \$1,500,000
- **Limitations:** To be eligible for SRTS Program's infrastructure funding, schools must build a partnership with the SRTS Program's non-infrastructure program that involves education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation activities. Applicants must be a partner for at least six months prior to applying.
- **Link:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/infrastructure-application-guidance-document/download>

Safe Routes to School: Signs and Lines Grant Program

- **About:** The SRTS Signs and Lines Program will provide design services and construction funding to a selected municipality for a low-cost infrastructure project around a public elementary or middle school. The goal of these projects is to eliminate small barriers that students encounter when walking, bicycling, or using a wheeled mobility device to get to school. Examples of a Signs and Lines Project could include the purchase and installation of new signage or pavement markings. Applications generally open in August and close in September of each year.

- Amount: Up to \$6,000
- Limitations: Must be a SRTS partner school. This is a reimbursement-based funding program; MassDOT reimburses the municipality for eligible spending after the project is complete.
- Link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safe-routes-to-school-engineering#srts-infrastructure-project-funding-program>

MassDOT Shared Streets & Spaces Program Funding

- About: The Shared Streets and Spaces Program is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The program provides funding to municipalities and public transit authorities to quickly implement improvements to plazas, sidewalks, curbs, streets, bus stops, parking areas, and other public spaces in support of public health, safe mobility, and strengthened commerce. Building on the success of the program first launched as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic during the summer of 2020, the program continues to be an integral funding source for communities as they address ongoing challenges and seek to improve their transportation infrastructure. While multiple project types are eligible for Shared Streets and Spaces funding, this funding round will be placing particular emphasis on a specific type of roadway project: the management of vehicular speeds through design interventions. Applications were due by March 1, 2022. The next round of funding has not yet been announced.
- Amount: Depending on project category funding up to \$500,000 is available
- Limitations: Municipalities and transit authorities may submit only two applications per funding round and may be awarded only one grant; Projects must be implemented by June 30, 2023.
- Link: <https://www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program>

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

- About: The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a list of projects prepared yearly by The Office of Transportation Planning. This is a 5-year rolling capital plan. The list includes projects such as: sidewalks, bicycle paths, bridges, roadways, transit investments. Communities can apply for funding through the STIP through their region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- Limitations: Regional MPO's may have different grant programs for communities to receive funding through the STIP, contact the MPO for your region to learn more.
- Partners: Regional Planning Agencies, MassDOT District Office

- Link:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/state-transportation-improvement-program-stip>

Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

- About: State and federal funding program to pay for long-term improvements to the transportation system. The CIP is usually a five-year plan that is updated annually. The 2022 CIP focuses on maintaining the safety and reliability of our transportation network and investments that are currently underway or are planned to start in 2022.
- Limitations: This program is not a direct grant municipalities can apply for, rather municipalities can work with their MassDOT representatives to lobby and advocate for projects to receive funding through the CIP.
- Partners: Regional Planning Agencies, MassDOT District Office
- Link: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/capital-investment-plan-cip>

Mass Gaming Commission

Community Mitigation Fund Transportation Planning and Transportation Construction Grants

- About: The Expanded Gaming Act created the Community Mitigation Fund to help entities offset impact costs related to the construction and operation of a gaming establishment. The Community Mitigation Fund may be used to compensate for impact costs related to both Category 1 full casino facilities (MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor) and the state's Category 2 slots-only facility (Plainridge Park Casino). The Community Mitigation Fund supports communities and governmental entities in offsetting impact costs related to the construction and operation of gaming facilities.
- Amount: Up to \$200,000 for Transportation Planning and up to \$1,500,000 for Transportation Construction
- Limitations: Must be an eligible municipality or government entity affected by the construction or operation of gaming facilities and demonstrate how a gaming facility has impacted the community and created the need for the project or planning effort.
- Link: <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

MassTrails Grants

- About: MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities and non-profit organizations to design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and

visitors. Applications are accepted annually for a variety of well-planned trail projects benefiting communities across the state. Applications open in November of each year.

- Amount: Grant amounts are dependent on the project and its needs, but generally range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with grants of up to \$300,000 awarded to projects demonstrating critical network connections of regional significance.
- Limitations: Eligible grant activities include project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails, shared use pathways, and the amenities that support trails. MassTrails grants are REIMBURSABLE, meaning grantees must first pay for expenditures themselves and then submit for reimbursement using the required documentation. MassTrails grants are MATCHING grants and require that proponents provide a minimum of 20% of the total project cost. Projects with higher match commitments will be given greater consideration.
- Link: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants#-masstrails-grant-program-overview->

Executive Office of Housing and Community Development

Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (MDI)

- About: DHCD's Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (MDI) offers a range of services and assistance to communities seeking help on how to revitalize their downtowns. Communities can express interest and subsequently apply for funding through the Community for One Stop for Growth portal. Expression of interest was open through March 18, 2022 and Full Applications closed on June 3, 2022. Dates for the next round of applications have not been published.
- Amount: Planning and design funding, technical assistance.
- Limitations: This is a technical assistance program, direct capital funding is not provided.
- Link: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-downtown-initiative-mdi>

Other State Managed Local Aid Programs

Chapter 90

- About: Reimburses cities and towns for expenditures on road-related construction projects and pedestrian facilities. Localities have the flexibility to use Chapter 90 funds for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks, curb ramps, shared use paths, street lighting, right-of-way acquisition, landscaping, and design work. Chapter 90 funds may only be used for construction on locally owned, or accepted, roadways.
- Amount: Wide variability
- Limitations: This is a reimbursement program
- Link: <https://www.mass.gov/chapter-90-program>

Community Compact

- About: The Community Compact is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito Administration and individual cities and towns of the Commonwealth. In a Community Compact, a community will agree to implement at least one best practice that they select from across a variety of areas. The community's chosen best practice(s) will be reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practice(s) chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement.
- Amount: Wide variability
- Limitations: Must select from a list of Best Practices. Age-Friendly Communities is a listed strategy, and working on walking is an eligible project goal.
- Link: <https://www.mass.gov/best-practices-program>

Community Preservation Act Funding

- About: The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. Communities have used these funds to develop better walking conditions near senior housing, or to make recreational spaces more age-inclusive.
- Amount: Wide variability; Depending on community's Community Preservation Committee
- Limitations: Must be able to tie walking improvement projects to the goals of the CPA.
- Link: <https://www.communitypreservation.org/about> ; [CPA State Map](#)

MassDevelopment Commonwealth Places

- About: MassDevelopment's "Commonwealth Places" is a competitive opportunity to advance locally driven placemaking in downtown and neighborhood commercial districts in eligible communities throughout Massachusetts. Placemaking is a collaborative process through which people in communities work together to improve public spaces and maximize their shared value. The process facilitates creative patterns of use, and leverages the local physical, cultural, and social assets that define a place and support its ongoing evolution. Communities can express interest and subsequently apply for funding through the Community for One Stop for Growth portal. Expression of interest was open through March 18, 2022 and Full Applications closed on June 3, 2022. Application dates for the next round have not yet been published.
- Amount: \$2,500-\$50,000, depending on grant category

- Limitations: Local match requirements for some grant categories. Rural projects must show direct connection to economic development.
- Link:
<https://www.massdevelopment.com/what-we-offer/real-estate-services/commonwealth-places/>

Private Funding Opportunities

AARP Community Challenge Grant

- About: The AARP Community Challenge grant program is part of the nationwide AARP Livable Communities initiative that helps communities become great places to live for residents of all ages. The program is intended to help communities make immediate improvements and jump-start long-term progress in support of residents of all ages. 2022 Program deadline was March 22, 2022 at 5 pm EST. Application dates for 2023 have not yet been released.
- Amount: Average amount is \$11,500 and 76 percent of grants have been under \$15,000. The largest grant ever awarded under the AARP Community Challenge was \$50,000.
- Limitations: Visit grant website to for more information on eligible project types
- Link: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>

Local Funding Strategies

Municipal Budgeting Strategies

- Include new sidewalk construction in municipal budget (can come from Chapter 90 funding)
- Include sidewalk repair and replacement in municipal budget (can come from Chapter 90 funding)
- Include snow and ice removal in municipal budget
- Include crosswalk re-striping in municipal budget
- Local sponsorship programs to purchase benches through municipality or chamber of commerce
- For participating communities, utilizing TNC fees from Uber & Lyft to fund mobility improvements
- Funds received from fines for handicap parking violations can be spent on accessibility improvements (eg curb ramps, sidewalk repair, etc.): Learn more: [General Law - Part I, Title VII, Chapter 40, Section 22G](#)
- Leveraging and applying for Regional Transit Authority discretionary funds - which can be used for purchasing benches, shelters, and making improvements around bus stops (crosswalks, sidewalks, curb ramps)

