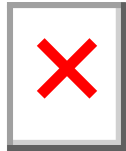


From: Mass Municipal Association <wbtm@mma.org>
Sent: Feb 28, 2025 15:00:43.000000000 UTC
Subject: MMA Weekly Review
To: dcardillo@cityofmelrose.org <dcardillo@cityofmelrose.org>

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MMA Weekly Review

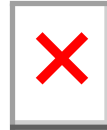
Happy Friday!

In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

Here's a digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#). Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe](#)!

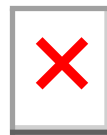
MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act

The MMA and local leaders are continuing their advocacy for the governor's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, a multifaceted package to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. ...



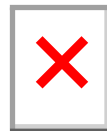
Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



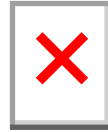
Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



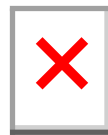
**MassDOT finalizes truck safety
device regulations**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



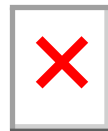
**Special housing production
commission releases report**

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



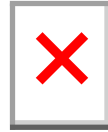
**MSA hosts workshop with
Moderators Association**

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



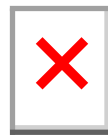
**Mass. Housing Partnership
hosting affordable housing
training**

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



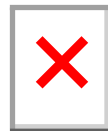
**BEAD application deadline
extended to March 10**

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



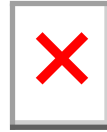
**Environmental Justice Grant
available to municipalities**

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



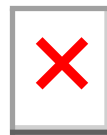
Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



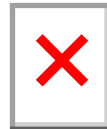
Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

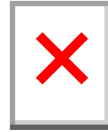


5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues



Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...

New in Advocacy

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

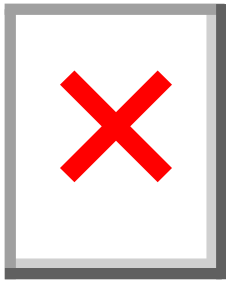
[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting_\(Reading\)](#) - March 27

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting_\(Hadley\)](#) - March 27

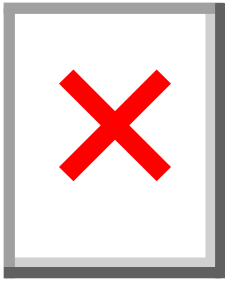
[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14](#)
 - [U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
 - [Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth](#)
 - [Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

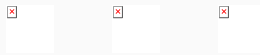
- [MMA Senior Executive and Director of Membership](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator](#)

[Instructor](#)

- [MMA & MIIA Executive Assistant](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Technical Records Specialist, Library Branch Manager, Systems Engineer, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Treasurer/Collector, DPW Laborer and Accounting Assistant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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