



Metropolitan Area Pl:

60 Temple Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Serving 101 cities and towns in

FYI to Planning Board -

I already responded that we'd like to stay in "MAGIC", if any problem with that, let me know,

- Lauren Rosenzweig

November 8, 2005

To: Chief Elected Officials of MAPC region communities
MAPC municipal representatives
From: Marc D. Draisen, Executive Director
Subject: MAPC Strategic Plan Implementation:
Subregional Boundaries and Participation

As many of you are aware, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has recently completed a Strategic Plan on how it can better serve the region and its 101 municipalities. This Strategic Plan can be examined on the MAPC web site at www.mapc.org. I am now in the process of developing an Implementation Plan to carry out the goals and directives of the Strategic Plan. Part of that implementation plan will involve changes to the way in which MAPC operates through its subregions.

Most of you are aware that MAPC operates a series of eight subregional groups, in addition to our ad hoc committees (e.g., the MAPC discussion forums on planning issues related to parish closings), our standing committees (e.g., the MAPC Legislative Committee), and our other municipal groups (e.g., the Metro Mayors Coalition).

The enclosed map indicates the existing subregional boundaries. Each of these subregions meet on a regular (usually monthly) basis to discuss planning issues of inter-municipal interest, including transportation planning and funding, legislation, water resources, housing, and other such topics. MAPC uses the subregions to gather input for development of MAPC policy on legislation, state agency proposals, planning issues of regional significance, etc. We also use the subregions as a conduit to distribute information regarding MAPC policies and actions, state grant opportunities, and new state or federal programs and initiatives. Subregions also serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of information among municipalities on many issues.

The subregions were established more than 20 years ago, with relatively few changes to the subregional boundaries since that time. During that time, economic and demographic patterns have shifted considerably, rendering some of the current boundaries out-of-date. As part of the Implementation Plan, I will be proposing changes to these boundaries to better serve the MAPC region.

I am therefore writing to each of you to ask you to identify the subregional group, or a list of municipalities, with which you feel the most affinity. While I am awaiting your reply,

which I hope that you could send to me by the end of November, I will be asking the staff of MAPC's Metro Data Center to provide me with demographic and economic data, so that I can look at common traits and differences among communities. I will also be asking subregional staff coordinators and chairs to compile a list of "critical subregional assets" that knit the subregion together. These might include key environmental resources (e.g., a watershed or park), institutions (e.g., university or hospital), employers, or key parcels of land that are likely to be developed in the near future.

When all of this input is received, I will be asking the subregional chairs to join me in reviewing the results and advise me about reasonable adjustments to the boundaries of the subregions. I will consider all of this information, and expect to be recommending changes to subregional boundaries to the MAPC Executive Committee sometime around the New Year.

On the related topic of participation and membership in subregional activities, I am asking subregional coordinators and chairs to work within their subregions to make appropriate changes to expand participation and membership in the subregional councils. Each of the subregions may come up with different ways of expanding membership and participation, but I am asking that each subregion identify and take action to expand participation. These actions could include:

- * expanding the active participation of local elected officials, planners, and other staff;
- * reaching out to MAPC members who represent municipalities; and/or
- * inviting institutional, business, and community-based organizations to become active members of the subregional council, either in a voting or ex officio capacity.

We do not wish to prescribe specific tactics – but each subregional council will be responsible for coming up with a specific written plan to increase participation.

These changes can be difficult. But we feel strongly that subregional councils offer a unique and valuable way to enhance two-way communication between MAPC and individual communities throughout our region. The Strategic Plan embraced the subregions as key strategic partners to advance smart growth development and inter-local cooperation. In order to succeed, subregional councils must have modern boundaries and active memberships.

If you have any questions related to the activities of a particular subregion, such as topics covered during meetings over the past year, please contact directly the subregional coordinator indicated on the accompanying list.

I have asked Mark Racicot, MAPC's Manager of Government Services, to collect the responses to this letter. Please send your comments to Mark at mracicot@mapc.org by November 30, 2005.

I look forward to working with you in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc D. Draisen", is written over a rectangular area with a light gray grid pattern.

Marc. D. Draisen
Executive Director

MAPC Subregional Staff**October 2005**

<u>Subregion</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Inner Core	Heidi Samokar	617-451-2770 ext 2050 hsamokar@mapc.org
North Shore Task Force	Sam Cleaves	617-451-2770 ext 2013 scleaves@mapc.org
North Suburban Planning Council	Joan Blaustein	617-451-2770 ext 2023 jblaustein@mapc.org
Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination	Judith Alland	617-451-2770 ext 2022 jalland@mapc.org
MetroWest Growth Management Committee	Donna Jacobs	508-907-6740 djacobs@mapc.org
South West Advisory Planning Committee	Mark Racicot	617-451-2770 ext 2063 mracicot@mapc.org
Three Rivers Interlocal Council	William Clark	617-451-2770 ext 2052 wclark@mapc.org
South Shore Coalition	William Clark	617-451-2770 ext 2052 wclark@mapc.org