

Mass. Regional Planning Agencies' Mission Statement or Descriptions

Cape Cod Commission

The Cape Cod Commission's mission is to...

KEEP A SPECIAL PLACE SPECIAL

...to protect the unique values and quality of life on Cape Cod by coordinating a balanced relationship between environmental protection and economic progress.

The Cape Cod Commission carries out this mission by leading, supporting, and enforcing the development of regional plans, policies, regulations, and infrastructure to guide and manage growth, and by supporting the 15 Cape Cod towns with professional and cost-effective planning and technical support services.

Since 1990, the Cape Cod Commission has...

- provided the public with opportunities to voice concerns and ideas on land use policies and issues
- brought diverse decision makers together to share a regional viewpoint about significant resources
- pursued a multidisciplinary, comprehensive approach to planning, environmental protection, and economic development
- identified regional opportunities to improve infrastructure and make progress on economic challenges
- built awareness of the community impacts of development of all kinds
- provided the community with a wealth of data and research
- established strong partnerships with state and federal agencies and local communities

Through its efforts, the Commission strives to foster a viable year-round economy with thriving economic centers and well-preserved natural habitats and open spaces, a sustainable region with strong intermunicipal coordination and regional infrastructure.

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), formed in 1963, is the designated regional planning entity for the Central Massachusetts region, which includes the City of Worcester and the surrounding 39 communities. This region encompasses the southern two-thirds of Worcester County. CMRPC provides municipal and regional planning for Land Use and Transportation, as well as a variety of Community Development services, Transit Planning for the region's transit authority, Geographic Information Services (GIS), staffing for MORE (Municipalities Organized for Regional Effectiveness), and other programs. CMRPC collaborates with local, regional, state and federal officials, as well as with legislators, in order to bring a regional perspective and a coordinated approach to the planning and development that occurs in this region. The ultimate goal of this agency is to improve the quality of life for those who work and live in the Central Massachusetts region.

Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Our Core Values

Service

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments serves the communities of Franklin County individually and collectively. We are committed to serving town governments, municipal boards and committees, businesses, and our citizens. We work collaboratively with other regions and other organizations. Our goal is to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of municipal governmental functions and improve quality of life in our region.

Advocacy

We advocate on behalf of our communities and the county at the federal, state and regional levels. We work together to advocate for legislative action, social policy, and governmental programming that recognize the unique character and conditions of our rural area.

Community

We believe leadership in education, collaboration and capacity building to be important parts of strengthening the individual, the community, and the region and take care to inspire community involvement and democracy. We recognize that a healthy community requires balancing diverse needs such as those of economic development and natural resource protection, or the needs of one community with the needs of the region.

Quality and Professionalism

We provide high quality services through well-trained, technically proficient staff; to offer informed and professional technical assistance; and to be accountable to towns, the public, and granting authorities.

Martha's Vineyard Commission

In 1974, Dukes County voters and the Massachusetts General Court made the bold decision to create the Martha's Vineyard Commission and give it special powers to manage Island development. According to the Commission's enabling legislation (Chapter 831 of the Acts of 1977 as amended):

Martha's Vineyard possesses unique natural, historical, ecological, scientific, cultural and other values . . . These values are being threatened and may be irreversibly damaged by uncoordinated or inappropriate uses of the land.

ROLES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission has two primary responsibilities.

- It is responsible for regional land use planning for all seven towns of Dukes County.
- *It has special regulatory roles with respect to development in the six towns of Martha's Vineyard.*

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Our Mission

Foster a cooperative effort among its communities in resolving common, regional problems, to allow its communities to plan jointly, and to promote with the greatest efficiency and economy the coordinated and orderly development of the region and the general welfare of its residents.

Our Members

We are deeply committed to the 15 communities we serve, and offer support, problem solving, trusted resources and assistance so our communities enjoy regional support at their local level:

Our Approach

We're here to help. As a public, nonprofit organization, we're committed to assisting the Valley's communities in the planning areas of transportation, the environment, land use, economic development, and GIS mapping. The purpose for creating our organization over 50 years ago governs our actions today—to help communities plan growth and resources, develop economically and regionally, and promote community collaboration for the overall welfare and prosperity of our Valley's citizens.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

OUR MISSION

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is a regional planning agency serving the people who live and work in the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. Our mission is promoting smart growth principles and regional collaboration.

We work toward sound municipal management, sustainable land use, protection of natural resources, efficient and affordable transportation, a diverse housing stock, public safety, economic development, an informed public, and equity and opportunity among people of all backgrounds.

A critical component of MAPC's mission is to advance equity and cultural competency both internally and in our work throughout the region.

Montachusets Regional Planning Commission

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, commonly known as the MRPC, was established in 1968 under the "Regional Planning Law" MA General Law Chapter 40B, Section 1 through 8 to carry out comprehensive regional planning. MRPC is a regional planning district created by and responsible to its member municipalities.

MRPC makes careful studies of the resources, possibilities and needs of its region, and on the basis of those studies makes recommendations for the physical, social and economic improvement of its district.

Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Our purpose is to provide comprehensive regional planning services to our member communities in such areas as transportation, economic development, land use, housing, geographic information system services, open space plans, and much more. Our goal is to study the Northern Middlesex region and make recommendations that will improve all aspects of life for our nine member communities.

Old Colony Planning Council

The Council was formed in response to a growing need of local communities to be able to address the multitude of problems that cross over local boundaries such as air and water pollution, transportation deficiencies and economic distress. Such problems require cooperative action by affected local governments and the Old Colony Planning Council is the governmental mechanism available at the local level to effect municipal cooperation and coordination. Old Colony Planning Council is one of thirteen regional planning agencies in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The plans and recommendations of the Old Colony Planning Council are advisory only and non-binding upon the fifteen member communities that form the planning district. The effectiveness of the Council is therefore largely dependent upon its ability to engage a qualified professional staff that conducts in-depth research, compiles relevant factual data, and prepares plans for addressing specific problems that have the general acceptance and support of its member municipalities.

The Old Colony Planning Council does not have the authority to regulate or mandate actions on the part of its member communities nor does it have the power to levy taxes. It is not another layer of government, but it is a formal entity by which local governments can work together to address problems. The Council provides a forum for local officials to identify area-wide problems, develop alternative solutions and make recommendations to local communities on a regional strategy to deal with regional problems.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Their website was not functioning.

Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District

PURPOSE: The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District is a public body politic and corporate whose purpose shall be to foster economic growth and alleviate distress within the geographic boundaries of the District, and in general to perform and execute the powers and duties set forth in General Laws, Chapter 40B, Section 14. The further purpose of this Commission shall be to prepare studies and plans designed to promote, with the greatest efficiency and economy, the coordinated and orderly development and economic growth of the Region and the general welfare and prosperity of its citizens.