

## **MetroWest Growth Management Committee Wellesley Town Report**

MetroWest Growth Management Committee (MWGMC) was formed in 1985 and includes leaders from Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Marlborough, Natick, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, Wellesley and Weston. MWGMC helps local elected officials and planning staff meet growth management challenges by facilitating inter-local collaborative planning and problem solving to enhance the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the MetroWest region. In addition, MWGMC is the oldest of the eight subregions of the regional planning agency, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

One selectman/mayor or city council member and one planning board member represent each member community. MWGMC is funded by member assessments, grants and contracts. MWGMC maintains an office in Natick and employs a staff of two to deliver core services to member communities. Wellesley's representatives to the Committee are Selectman Harriett Warshaw and Planning Board Members Sue Wright and Frank Demasi.

**Technical Assistance** – In FY06, the Technical Assistance to our member communities expanded.

***Low Impact Development*** - MWGMC developed Low Impact Development, Stormwater & Erosion Control, Earth Removal and Illicit Discharge Bylaws. The bylaws were adopted by the Town of Southborough and are available on our website ([www.metrowestgrowth.org](http://www.metrowestgrowth.org)).

***Housing*** - MWGMC assisted several member communities in drafting Affordable Housing Bylaws and regulations, and in the formation of Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Funds.

***Regional Pre-Disaster Mitigation*** - MAPC and MetroWest staff will work with communities to identify areas within each community that are at risk of damage from natural hazards, evaluate existing protection measures, and develop a multiple-hazard mitigations strategy to reduce future damages. MWGMC is proving an in-kind match rather than asking each community to provide the \$3,000 local match. The grant will make each community eligible to receive federal disaster mitigation.

**Legislative Breakfasts** - Our ties with the MetroWest legislative delegation are strong. The semi-annual Legislative Breakfasts held in April and November are always well attended by legislators and municipal staff and leaders.

**Planners Roundtable** – Monthly Planners' Roundtables for local planners and planning board members provide staff and local officials with technical information and training on planning and growth issues. They also provide planners with the opportunity to share expertise, concerns, experience, and questions with their colleagues. In FY06, MWGMC held its first meeting of a MW **Housing Task Force**, and has arranged for a series of discussions about how to derive the most benefit from the scarce dollars available for affordable housing.

**Regional Impact Review (RIR)** - One of the core services MetroWest Growth Management provides to its members is the Regional Impact Review (RIR). Regional Impact Reviews provide local leaders an opportunity to comment on the impacts of proposed commercial, industrial, and residential development projects, and provides administrative services to citizen advisory boards. This allows for regional development impacts to be considered early in the development project. Regional Impact Reviews were conducted for the Natick Mall expansion, Lowes, EMC, Wayland Town Center, Beacon@495, and Genzyme.

**NYANZA** – In late summer, the MWGMC voted to establish a Nyanza Task Force to develop strategies to further study and mitigate the plume that has affected the Sudbury River in the past and may continue to adversely impact this valuable environmental resource in the future. MWGMC is hoping to obtain a grant to study whether the plume needs to be addressed as a health hazard that may impact the Sudbury River and the many MetroWest communities along the river.

The **MetroWest Transportation Taskforce** focuses on analyzing and advocating for MWGMC communities on transportation matters. Chaired by former state legislator John Stasik, the Transportation Task Force advocates for improved transportation services to the region, and strategies to influence transportation planning and decision-making by the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. The task force held the second annual transportation event, “**Gridlock or Green Light?**”. The goal of this effort is to elevate the transportation discussion (adequacy of transportation infrastructure and adequate funding of transportation) to a higher level and connect it to the Smart Growth/Sustainable Development movement.

### **RTA Efforts**

Over the summer, the “495/MetroWest Alliance for Transit Services” was created to discuss new opportunities that are available to MetroWest communities as a result of recent statutory reforms allowing suburban communities served by the MBTA to join an existing or new Regional Transit Authority. Alliance members include: 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, MetroWest Growth Management Committee, Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce, MetroWest Chamber of Commerce, MetroWest/495 Transportation Management Association, and TransAction Associates. The Alliance will be conducting an outreach campaign to communities to discuss the need for each municipality to prioritize its transportation needs and inform local leaders about the RTA choices available.