



VIRTUAL

MEETING

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

August 3, 2023



VIRTUAL

MEETING

Notice of Nondiscrimination

You are invited to participate in our transportation planning process, regardless of your race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran's status, or background.

简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)

如果需要使用其它语言了解信息, 请联系波士顿大都会规划组织 (Boston Region MPO) 《民权法案》第六章专员, 电话 857.702.3700.

繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)

如果需要使用其他語言瞭解資訊, 請聯繫波士頓大都會規劃組織 (Boston Region MPO) 《民權法案》第六章專員, 電話 857.702.3700.

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

Si yon moun vle genyen enfòmasyon sa yo nan yon lòt lang, tanpri kontakte Espesyalis Boston Region MPO Title VI la nan nimewo 857.702.3700.

Español (Spanish)

Si necesita esta información en otro idioma, por favor contacte la Boston Region MPO al 857.702.3700.

Português (Portuguese)

Caso estas informações sejam necessárias em outro idioma, por favor, contate o MPO da Região de Boston pelo telefone 857.702.3700.

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

Nếu quý vị cần thông tin này bằng một ngôn ngữ khác, vui lòng liên lạc Boston Region MPO theo số 857.702.3700.

Read the full notice of your rights and protections at www.bostonmpo.org/mpo_non_discrimination.



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Guidelines

1. All participants will join the meeting with muted microphones.
2. Please rename yourself to include your first name, last name and affiliation.
3. After roll call, Board members may mute and unmute themselves. Always remain muted unless actively speaking.
4. To participate in the discussion, please select the “raise hand” function. Find this by clicking either on the “Participants” button at the bottom of the screen, and a window will pop up with a “Raise Hand” button at the bottom, or the “Reactions” button in the toolbar. The Chair will then call on participants.
5. If you are on the phone, you can use *9 to raise your hand.
6. If you have any technical difficulties, please contact Betsy Harvey via the chat box, eharvey@ctps.org or 857.702.3701.



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Accessibility Statement

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Zoom products are compliant, with exceptions, with the following standards: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 Level AA Standards and Revised Section 508 Standards.

If you require any additional accommodations in order to participate fully in this meeting, please contact Betsy Harvey, MPO staff, at eharvey@ctps.org or 857.702.3701.

August 3, 2023

AGENDA

1. **Introductions**
2. Chair's Report
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Public Comments
5. Committee Chairs' Reports
6. Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report
7. Action Item: June 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes
8. Action Item: Work Scope: Flexible Fixed-Route Bus Service
9. Action Item: FFY 2023 UPWP Amendment Two
10. Action Item: FFYs 2023–27 TIP Amendment Twelve
11. Massachusetts Vehicle Census
12. Update on Certification Review Action Plan
13. MPO Election Process
14. Discussion of the Annual Meeting
15. Discussion of Hybrid Meetings
16. Members' Items

Introductions



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Chair's Report



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Executive Director's Report



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Staffing Updates

- Welcome Rounaq Basu, Manager of Multimodal Planning and Design



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Engagement Update

- Community Engagement Peer Exchange
 - Funded by the Federal Highway Administration, hosted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and supported by MPO staff
 - Participants included MPOs, Regional Planning Agencies, Departments of Transportation, and municipalities
 - Takeaways:
 - Compensating community members
 - Document gaps in engagement
 - Relationships should be ongoing, not project based
 - Contact: Stella Jordan, sjordan@ctps.org



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Today's Agenda

- Three action items
 - Work Scope: Flexible Fixed-Route Bus Service
 - Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment Two (deferred)
 - FFYs 2023–27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 12
- Massachusetts Vehicle Census
- Certification Review Action Plan Update
- MPO Election Process
- Annual Meeting
- Hybrid Meetings



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Next Meeting

- Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 10:00 AM
- Transit Transformation funding program workshop for board members
 - Thursday, August 17, 2023, from 1 to 2 PM
 - Contact: Ethan Lapointe, elapointe@ctps.org
- Memorandum of Understanding Committee
 - Thursday, August 24, 2023, from 10 AM to 12 PM
 - Contact: Erin Maguire, emaguire@ctps.org



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Public Comments



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Committee Chairs' Report



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Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report



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Action Item: June 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the June 1, 2023, meeting minutes



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Action Item: Work Scope: Flexible Fixed-Route Bus Service

Steven Andrews, MPO Staff

Presentation, discussion, and vote to approve the work scope to develop a methodology to estimate flexible bus route service demand in areas outside the traditional catchment area of Regional Transit Authority bus routes



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Action Item: FFYs 2023–27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 12

Ethan Lapointe, MPO Staff

Presentation, discussion, and expected vote to waive the public review period and endorse



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FFYs 2023–27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Twelve

August 3, 2023

Ethan Lapointe
TIP Manager, MPO Activities

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

August 3, 2023

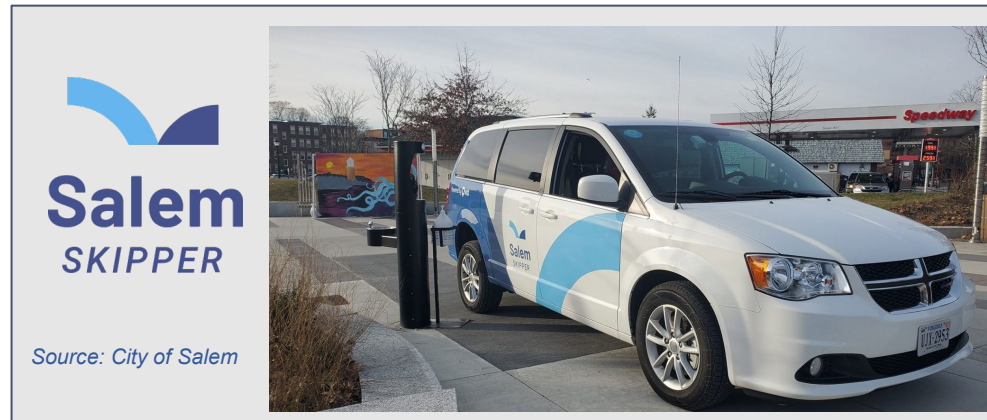
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Amendment Twelve Summary

- For the FFY 2023 Program, Amendment Twelve proposes
 - Programming of FFY 2023 Community Project Funding to expand the Salem Skipper on-demand rideshare service into Beverly and Danvers



FFY = Federal Fiscal Year.



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Amendment Twelve Project Changes— FFY 2023 Earmark Discretionary

Project Name	Change Type	Budget	Description
MBTA011580: Salem–Salem Skipper/North Shore Career Mobility Expansion	New Project	\$2,875,000	This new project programs \$2.3 million in federal Community Project Funding, matched with \$575,000, to expand on-demand rideshare service to Beverly and Danvers.

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Today's Requested Action

- MPO staff request that the board votes to waive the public comment for Amendment Twelve.
- The project funding is administered by the Federal Transit Administration, and the minimum-allowable 15-day comment period cannot be fulfilled before fiscal books close.



Discussion

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Massachusetts Vehicle Census

Liz Williams, Massachusetts Department of Transportation Office of Transportation Planning

Presentation and discussion of the public-facing dashboard containing information about local trends in vehicle ownership by type and use



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Massachusetts Vehicle Census (MVC):

- **First in the nation** dataset that combines datasets reflecting how much vehicles are driven, with information about those vehicles
- Allows deep knowledge and analysis of **local trends in vehicle ownership and use**
- Responds to increasingly important policy questions, including
 - Are electric vehicles driven more or less than gas powered vehicles?
 - How many vehicles were added or subtracted from <my town> over time?
 - What are the key changes in municipal and commercial vehicle fleets?
- Makes frequently requested data from **municipalities, MPOs, other state agencies, and the media** publicly available



Total Daily Vehicle Count	Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled	Average Mileage Per Day	% of Total Count Zero-Emission or Hybrid	% Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled Zero-Emission or Hybrid	Average Mileage Per Day Zero-Emission or Hybrid	3-year Change % Daily VMT by Zero-Emission or Hybrid
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Vehicles Registered in Selected Municipalities

5,259,814
On January 1, 2023

5,204,291
On January 1, 2022

+55,523 (+1.1%)
3-year Change

All Vehicles Registered Statewide

5,259,814
On January 1, 2023

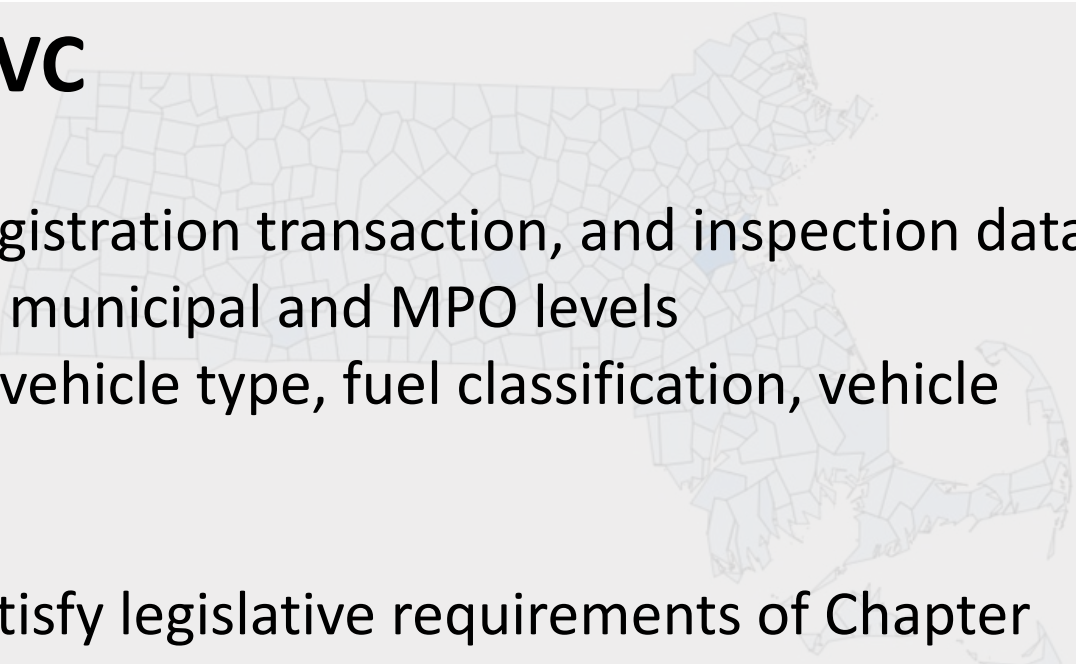
5,204,291
On January 1, 2022

+55,523 (+1.1%)
3-year Change

MPO

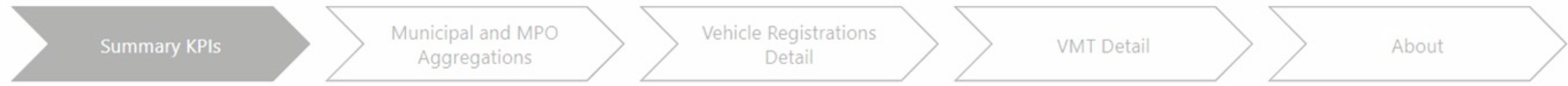
MPO	Total Daily Vehicle Count
Boston	106,533
Boston Region	2,260,396
Central Massachusetts	1,170,271
Franklin	63,304
Martha's Vineyard	26,741
Merrimack Valley	272,245
Montachusett	210,249
Nantucket	20,402
Northern Massachusetts	244,706
Old Colony	5
Pioneer Valley	3
Southeastern Massachusetts	2

MVC



Total Daily Vehicle Count is the sum of all vehicles actively registered in each municipality on January 1, 2023.

- Relies on excise tax, vehicle attribute, registration transaction, and inspection data
- Available for CY 2020, 2021, 2022 at the municipal and MPO levels
- Data can be disaggregated by advanced vehicle type, fuel classification, vehicle use, and vehicle type
- Includes several KPIs
- Along with accompanying report, will satisfy legislative requirements of Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022
- Soft launch on June 5th with select MPO, municipal, and state partners; full public launch on June 30th



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Update on Certification Review Action Plan

Tegin Teich, Executive Director

Presentation and discussion of the action plan to address corrective actions and recommendations from the 2022 federal Planning Certification Review



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Action Plan

- Provides updates on progress made on recommendations and corrective actions from the 2022 federal certification review final report
- Staff propose presenting significant updates to the MPO board (at least once per year)



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Types of Findings

- No Action Needed
 - Determinations of consistency
 - Commendations
- Action Needed
 - Corrective actions
 - Recommendations
- Progress towards corrective actions and recommendations are tracked in the Action Plan, along with who is responsible



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Corrective Action

- Document process for sharing information to develop the annual list of obligated projects in the MOU
 - Deadline: September 30, 2023

Update: *Substantially complete*

- On June 15 Board members voted to include language in an updated MOU. Signatures will be obtained by September 30.

MOU = Memorandum of Understanding.



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Categories of Recommendations

- Organizational Structure
- Public Outreach and Involvement
- Civil Rights
- Nonmotorized Planning
- Environmental Mitigation, Consultation, and Resiliency
- Performance-Based Planning and Programming



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Addressed Recommendations

- **Organizational Structure:** Consider implementing a timeframe by which information is sent to board members for review prior to an action going to a vote
- **Civil Rights:** Update the MPO's Title VI web page to reflect the most recent Title VI report



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On Hold

- **Organizational Structure: Establish a regular schedule (at least once per year) for northern and southern regional coordination meetings**



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16. Members' Items

In Progress

- Further updating the MOU
- Exploring new strategies related to funding and regional projects (two recommendations)
- Continue to strengthen variety of engagement activities
- Update the MPO's Limited English Proficiency approach



Technical difficulties?
Call Betsy Harvey at 857.702.3701 or
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August 3, 2023

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In Progress

- Carry out regional bicycle and pedestrian plan or needs assessments
- Engage federal and state environmental resource agencies and stakeholders
- Update the interactive performance dashboard
- Carry out before-and-after studies for all projects on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



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Recommendations: Organizational Structure

Update the 2011 MOU to

- Cover necessities but allow for detail in Operations Plan
- Establish how to represent the interest of Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) (also under Civil Rights)
- Establish and adhere to review cycle for MOU

Update: Ad hoc committee to develop and recommend a process, anticipated to be presented to MPO board in November 2023

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Recommendations: Organizational Structure

Look for opportunities to identify and advance local and regional projects to fund with target funds

- Review completed MPO studies, conduct regional gaps analyses, utilize Congestion Management Process, and leverage MassDOT information
- **Update: The Operations Plan established a committee focused on TIP processes, engagement, and readiness**
- **Future: Staff will be exploring how to expand technical assistance**



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Recommendations: Organizational Structure

Explore innovative ways to fund projects, ensuring target funds are being used. Examples include

- Provide MPO target funding for oversight of project development activities, including design, environmental, and right-of-way
 - Carry over unprogrammed balances of regional target funds to future years with partnership of the State
-
- **Update:** Board approved a pilot project design program using \$4 million of target funds in FFY 2025
 - **Future:** Work with MPO board and MassDOT to explore the practice of carrying over unprogrammed balances

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Recommendations: Public Outreach and Involvement

Continue to strengthen variety of engagement activities

- Including considering needs of the target audience, including work schedules, childcare, and digital literacy

Update:

- Building relationships with community-based organizations and stakeholders, attended 9 in-person events
- Pilot for compensation for public participation
- Holding hybrid MPO board meetings



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Recommendations: Civil Rights

When new Census data is released, assess the MPO's Limited English Proficiency approach to ensure it is meeting the needs of current populations

- Update: Staff are working on developing a new Language Assistance Plan
- Targeted to be complete in December 2023



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Recommendations: Nonmotorized Planning

Update or develop a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan or needs assessment to complement statewide plans for Boston region needs

Update: Staff are working on a first draft of a regional bicycle facility gap analysis



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Recommendations: Environmental Mitigation, Consultation, and Resiliency

Explore ways to engage federal and state environmental resource agencies and stakeholders for input into the next Long-Range Transportation Plan and regular input into corridor studies and planning documents

Update:

- Assigned funding for a discrete study on environmental engagement
- Coordinated with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission on engagement strategies
- Met/established connections with EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality and Charles River Watershed Association
- Collaborated with MassDOT on resilient project design



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Recommendations: Performance-Based Planning and Programming

Update the interactive performance dashboard and incorporate federal performance measures

- **Update:** Reviewing and updating interactive applications on MPO website, assessing data and personnel needs relative to hosting options
- **Target date:** September 30, 2025



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Recommendations: Performance-Based Planning and Programming

Carry out before-and-after studies for all projects on the TIP, including MassDOT, MBTA, and RTA selected projects along with projects funded with regional target funds

- Update: 2020 TIP Before-and-After study is projected to be complete later in 2023
- Future: Need to explore options for additional funding sources and partnership to assess additional projects



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Near-term Board Engagement

- Updating the MOU (ad hoc committee)
- Participating in the process to increase the regional funding pipeline and discuss options for innovative funding strategies (TIP Process, Readiness, and Engagement Committee)



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Questions / Discussion



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MPO Election Process

**Eric Bourassa, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and
Brian Kane, MBTA Advisory Board**

Presentation and discussion of the upcoming annual
MPO member elections



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Municipal Seats Up for Election in 2023

South West Advisory Planning Committee (SWAP) subregion

North Shore Planning Council (North Shore) subregion

At-Large Town seat

At-Large City seat

Nominations Due Monday October 2nd

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Discussion of the Annual Meeting

Tegin Teich, Executive Director

Discussion about the November Annual Meeting,
including format and content



Technical difficulties?
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Annual Meeting

- Described in Operations Plan
- After elections, within 30 days of new members' term (November 1)
- In 2023, proposed for November 16



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Annual Meeting

- **Activities/elements from Operations Plan:**
 - Secretary of Transportation shall be invited to preside and address the board as the Chair
 - Vice-chair to be elected by majority vote
 - Designees and alternates to be introduced
 - Slate of committee members to be approved
- **Discussion**



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Discussion of Hybrid Meetings

Tegin Teich, Executive Director

Discussion of the previous hybrid meeting experience and potential future hybrid meetings



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Open Discussion

- What worked about the hybrid meeting on June 15?
- What didn't work?
- What could be improved?
- What were the primary benefits of hybrid (versus fully in person or fully virtual)?



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Potential Hybrid Meetings

- Three to four hybrid meetings annually
- November: Annual Meeting
- Late Winter/Spring: TIP related meetings
- June: Review and discussion of UPWP and LRTP when appropriate before releasing drafts for public comment



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Members' Items

Reports and notices by MPO members, including regional concerns and local community issues



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