ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR ZONING & BYLAW CHANGES

More than a dozen communities have partnered with MAPC to develop zoning bylaws and ordinances to address their land use needs over the past three years, with a high rate of local adoption. MAPC has written mixed-use zoning for Bedford, Bolton, Braintree/Weymouth Landing and Littleton, and updated downtown zoning in Foxborough, Marlborough, Rockport, Winthrop and Winchester. Route 1 in Saugus was successfully rezoned in 2015 after MAPC helped the town digitize maps for the entire study area. Saugus also adopted inclusionary housing, historic mills protection, and solar energy bylaws with the assistance of MAPC staff proficient in energy, housing and historic preservation.

Robust community engagement is a key to success in garnering voter buy-in and eventual adoption of local zoning changes. A growing focus area for MAPC, civic engagement enables full participation in the local planning process for everyone in a community, including typically under-represented groups — from lower-income residents to recent immigrants and non-English speakers, to youth, the elderly and those with disabilities. MAPC offers a growing slate of engagement strategies to enhance our planning work, from interactive websites to keypad polling, touch-table projectors, open houses, "story tours" in business districts and good old-fashioned shoe leather outreach. Visit **mapc.org/communityengagement** to learn more.