



COMMUNITY MITIGATION FUND

FY 2026 Municipal Grant Workshop

December 3rd, 2024

Future of The Community Mitigation Fund



The CMF has been historically funded by statute from gaming taxes. The approved FY25 State Budget removed this funding mechanism for the year so additional funds have not been added.

- I. Existing funding is available for FY 2026.
- II. If funding is not restored in FY 2026, major cuts will need to be made to the program.
- III. To provide level funding for FY 2026 approximately \$4.3 million will need to be transferred from Region A to Region B.

FY 2026 Overview

I. Continuation of the Block Grant Style Program

- The Municipal Block Grant
- The Regional Agency Grant

II. Grant Applications for Municipal Block Grants

Municipalities will be required to submit a single application for the entire community. If a municipality does not apply by January 31, they will forfeit their potential funds for that year.

III. Grant Amounts:

Maximum grant amounts remain the same for FY 2026. Notification letters were sent out to each community.

IV. Contract Duration:

Length of contract being reduced from 4 to 2 years.



Lessons Learned from FY 2025 Grant Round

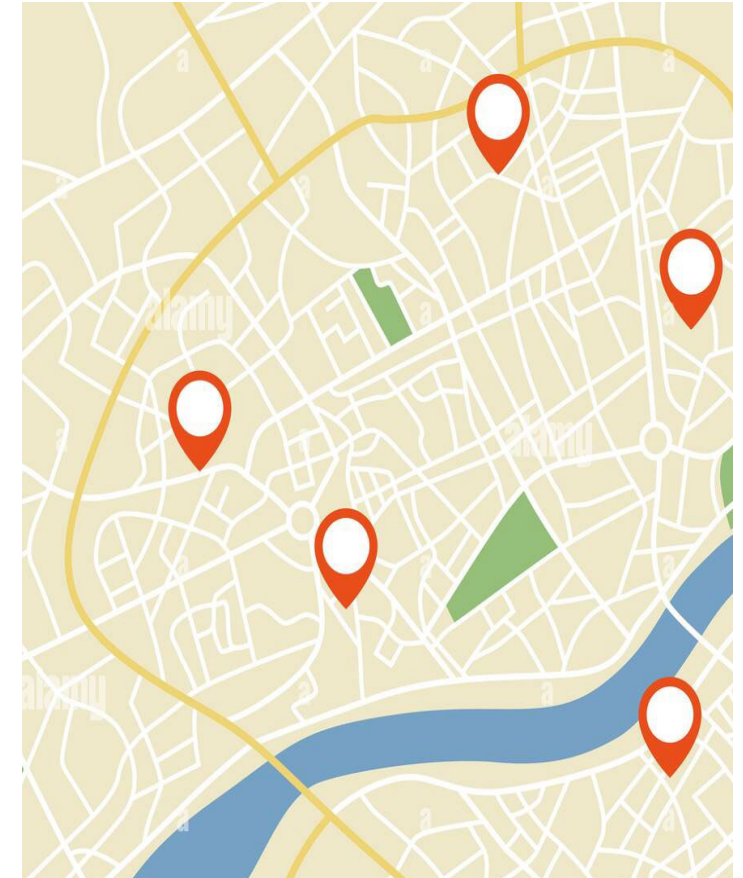


Project Development and Backup Documentation

- I. **Several applications last year did not provide sufficient details on proposed projects or the necessary backup documentation to effectively evaluate them. Additional guidance has been included regarding the required project detail and documentation.**

- II. **As per the FY 2026 Guidelines:**
 - I. Planning projects must have a defined area or issue that will be investigated as well as a clear plan for implementation of the results.

 - II. The application should include sufficient backup information for the Review Team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, catalog cuts of proposed equipment purchases, quotes, training course syllabus, etc.



Program Waivers

I. Given the financial constraints on the program, any waiver requests to exceed the maximum grant amount must be well justified.

II. The funding waiver was put into place to allow a community to exceed their proposed grant amount if it is insufficient to address a specific impact. For example:

If a community's grant allocation is \$500,000 and it has a transportation construction project that is eligible for an \$800,000 grant, that community can file for a funding waiver for the additional expense as the base grant amount is insufficient to complete the project.

III. The funding waiver is not designed to circumvent the proposed grant amount.



Vehicle Purchases

- I. **The CMF has received numerous requests for the purchase of vehicles. For applications requesting vehicle purchases, communities must demonstrate the following:**
 - I. That the vehicle is needed for a new effort being conducted by the community in response to a casino related impact
 - II. The percent of time the vehicle will be used to address the casino impact
 - III. For traffic enforcement vehicles, that the community is significantly impacted by casino related traffic
 - IV. How the proximity of the community to the gaming establishment necessitates the purchase
 - V. That the vehicle purchase will not be for the replacement of an existing vehicle used by the municipality
 - VI. That the request is not for the replacement of existing vehicles in the fleet.



Funding for Non-Public Entities – Anti-Aid Amendment

- I. **CMF can not provide direct funding for non-public entities including private businesses and non-profit entities.**

- II. **According to the State Comptroller’s guidance:**
 - I. *“state appropriated funds **may not** be granted to a non-public entity unless: the grant funds are used by the non-public entity solely to cover the actual costs of fulfilling a public purpose to benefit the general public ..., and may not provide a direct benefit or be used for maintenance of the non-public entity”*

 - II. **If any community is proposing a project that will pass grant funds through to a non-public entity, please contact CMF staff to discuss.**

Applicant Meetings

- I. During the last round of funding Community Affairs staff met with several applicants prior to the application deadline to discuss potential projects.
- II. Any community that wishes to discuss their application ahead of the deadline can feel free to reach out to the Community Affairs staff to discuss project ideas, eligibility, etc.





QUESTIONS?

Application Requirements and Process





All projects **must** identify and mitigate a casino related impact.



How To Help Determine A Casino Related Impact

- I. FY 2026 CMF Guidelines**
- II. GREO Research Studies**
- III. MGC Research**
- IV. Outside Studies**



Application Process

- All municipalities have received a proposed grant amount letter
- Please read the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines **before** filling out your application
- Municipalities may only submit **ONE** application
- Applications must be signed by a municipality employee with signatory authority
- Applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on January 31st



How to fill out The FY 2026 Municipal Application

Please use this box to provide the contact information for the administrator of this block grant. **This is the individual who will be contacted with any questions regarding this application as well the grant's administration.**

Municipal Grant Manager Information:

Applicant: City of Sudburham

Vendor Code: VC60000191111

Name: Paula James

Title: Finance Director

Email Address: P.James@ Sudburham.MA.gov

Telephone: 902-867-5309

Address: 52 Main St Suite A Sudburham MA 01256

Budget Category Summary

Please use this section to outline the number of projects you are proposing across the five categories. Use the right column to provide a total request per category.

Total FY 2025 Allocation: \$400,000		
Application Totals by Category	# of Projects	Requested Amount
A. Community Planning	1	\$100,000
B. Public Safety	2	\$95,000
C. Transportation	2	\$1,157,300
D. Gambling Harm Reduction	1	\$25,000
E. Specific Impact	1	\$100,000
TOTAL		\$1,477,300

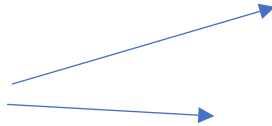
Budget Category Summary

Use the below space to provide an overview of all projects to be covered by this funding. You may add as many items as is pertinent to your application (you can add rows by right clicking on the row and selecting "add row"). Please provide a category, name, brief description, and amount for each item.

Please use this section to outline your proposed projects by category. Each project must have a name, a high-level description of each project, and a dollar amount.

Each description shall not exceed 50 words.

Create individual line items for each project even if they share a category.



Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Community Planning	Wayfinding	Planning to advance wayfinding in multiple languages in line with Sudburham's tourism plan to help launch Sudburham as an attractive option for those visiting the GHT Casino.	\$200,000
B. Public Safety	Fire Blanket	EV vehicle blankets to address the new EV parking spots in the casino's garage.	\$50,000
B. Public Safety	Police Equipment	Police overtime for increased patrols.	\$45,000
C. Transportation	Complete Streets Study	A complete streets study of Main St from Linden St. to Maple St.	\$82,300
C. Transportation	Multi-Use Path Construction	Conversion of an abandoned railroad bed into a multi-use path.	\$1,075,000
D. Gambling Harm Reduction	Youth Gaming Study	Study of impacts on community members ages 16 to 24.	\$25,000
E. Specific Impact	Tree Planting	Costs associated with planting 700 trees across the bus route	\$100,000

Applicant Certification

Applicant Certification

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.



Signature

1/30/24
Date

Lola Singer, Mayor of Sudburham
Name and Title of Certifier

All applications must be signed by a municipality's administrator or an individual who holds signatory authority for the community.

Part D- Gambling Harm Reduction

Project Name:
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name:	Name:
Title: Senior Project Manager	Title:
Department:	Department:
Email Address:	Email Address:
Telephone:	Telephone:
Address:	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category (Page 14-15). If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

Part E- Specific Impact

Project Name:
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Department:	Department:
Email Address:	Email Address:
Telephone:	Telephone:
Address:	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. This category is for projects that do not fit in any other category but may use any impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines that are relevant. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

All Applicants must submit all projects as part of **ONE** application via a Word Document

Part B- Transportation

Project Name:
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant. If there are multiple people involved in the grants management, please add more lines to accommodate their information.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Department:	Department:
Email Address:	Email Address:
Telephone:	Telephone:
Address:	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category (Page 10-11). If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

Part C- Public Safety

Project Name:
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Department:	Department:
Email Address:	Email Address:
Telephone:	Telephone:
Address:	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category (Page 12-13). If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

Part A-Community Planning

Project Name:
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Department:	Department:
Email Address:	Email Address:
Telephone:	Telephone:
Address:	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category (Page 8-9). If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

Example Application: PART A - Community Planning

Part A Community Planning

Project Name: Wayfinding

Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact <i>(if applicable)</i>
Name: Bob Jones	Name:
Title: Senior Project Manager	Title:
Department: Planning	Department:
Email Address: B.Jones@Sudburham.MA.gov	Email Address:
Telephone: 902-867-5309	Telephone:
Address: 52 Main St Suite A Sudburham MA 01256	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category (Page 8-9). If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

As identified in the guidelines, the marketing capabilities of the gaming establishments may put other competing local businesses at a disadvantage.

FY 2025 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines

- Gaming establishments require a significant number of workers, which provide employment opportunities for local residents.

Negative Impacts

- Competition from the gaming establishment may have negative impacts on other businesses competing in the hospitality and entertainment industries.
- The presence of a gaming establishment may result in reallocated spending. Reallocated spending is spending on goods and services which would have occurred had the casinos never opened, but which did not occur because an individual chose to spend their money at the casino instead. The main areas where monies are reallocated are transportation, retail items, hotels and travel, restaurants and bars, recreation, non-live entertainment and live entertainment.
- The marketing capabilities of the gaming establishments may put other competing local businesses at a disadvantage.

Eligible Community Planning and Implementation Projects – The following types of projects may be considered to address casino related impacts:

- Marketing and tourism plans to attract casino patrons and employees to the municipality, highlight local businesses, promote recreational and entertainment opportunities, and help communities compete with the gaming establishments for business.
- Projects to provide economic development opportunities for local businesses.
- Programs to increase business opportunities to provide goods and services to the gaming establishments.
- Other programs to encourage casino employees to live/work/play in the community.

Ineligible Projects – The following types of projects have been deemed ineligible for grant funding:

- Projects that do not address a casino-related impact.

Part A Community Planning

Project Name: Wayfinding

Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Bob Jones	Name:
Title: Senior Project Manager	Title:
Department: Planning	Department:
Email Address: <u>B.Jones@Sudburham.MA.gov</u>	Email Address:
Telephone: 902-867-5309	Telephone:
Address: 52 Main St Suite A <u>Sudburham MA</u> 01256	Address:

- I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category (Page 8-9). If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)**

As identified in the guidelines, the marketing capabilities of the gaming establishments may put other competing local businesses at a disadvantage.

If not using an impact outlined in the FY 2026 Guidelines, the application **MUST** provide a detailed explanation of the impact and provide evidence and relevant research.

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

The town of Sudburham has felt lost opportunity costs due to the presence of a casino on their community. The town feels that if appropriate signage was available casino patrons could choose to patronize their restaurants, hotels, and shops. We are proposing a study of the current signage done by a consultant in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. This will identify opportunities for increased signage to make casino patrons more aware of local amenities. The Town will use the rest of the money to go out to bid for sign fabrication and design.

In Section II, applicants must provide a detailed account of how the municipality plans to utilize the funds (this should be the longest section of the application).

This section of the application should include any relevant materials including maps, scopes of work, diagrams, quotes and any bids. Please make sure to label any attachments.

ATTACHMENT A-2- Design Mockup



Transportation Planning and Construction Application

Project Name: Multi-Use Path Extension

Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Jenny Frome	Name:
Title: Senior Project Manager	Title:
Department: Transportation	Department:
Email Address: J.Frome@Sudburham.MA.gov	Email Address:
Telephone: 902-867-5309	Telephone:
Address: 52 Main St Suite A Sudburham MA 01256	Address:

- I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category (Page 12-13). If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

As identified in the guidelines:

- Increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment.
- Increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above.

In an effort to reduce the volume of traffic on the local streets, provide a protected route for cyclists and pedestrians and improve access to the casino, the Town of Sudburham conducted a planning study for the conversion of an abandoned rail bed into a new shared use path that will connect to the Multi-Community Shared Path that leads to the casino. The study demonstrated that the construction of the shared use path will connect several population centers to the Multi-Community Shared Path which should divert a significant number of trips from single occupancy vehicles to bicycles thereby reducing local traffic congestion. A significant number of casino employees live within the area to be served by the path, which should encourage alternative means of transportation to the casino.

The Town has performed a preliminary design for the project and the estimated construction cost is \$3,000,000. Based on the CMF Guidelines the amount of the grant would be \$1,075,000 (100% of the first \$250,000 and 30% of the amount over \$250,000). This project will cause the Town to exceed the Grant Allocation of \$400,000. Please see the attached Waiver Request for this project.

The Town will complete the project design through the fall of 2024 with the project to be bid before the start of the 2025 construction season. The Town expects to start construction by April 15, 2025.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Task No.1 – Final Design	Fall 2024		Town Funded
Task No.2 – Project Bidding	Winter 2025		Town Funded
Task No. 3 –Project Mobilization	April 2025		
Task No. 4 – Project Construction	April-Nov 2025		\$1,075,000
Task No. 5 –Project Completion	Nov 2025		
	TOTAL:		\$1,075,000

Transportation Construction Subsidies



- I. The Grant will only fund a portion of the construction costs.**
- II. MGC will provide 100% of project costs up to \$250,000 and will fund up to 30% of the costs above that up to \$1.5 Million.**
- III. If a municipality has more than one transportation construction project, the total cost of the combined projects will be used to determine the project subsidy (i.e., only the first \$250,000 of the combined projects receives the 100% subsidy).**

One Transportation Construction Project

A construction project is estimated to cost \$3 million.

The subsidy would be the first \$250,000 of the project at 100% and 30% of the remaining cost or **$(\$2,750,000 \times 0.30)$ \$825,000.**

The total subsidy would then be $\$250,000 + \$825,000 = \$1,075,000$.



Two or More Transportation Projects

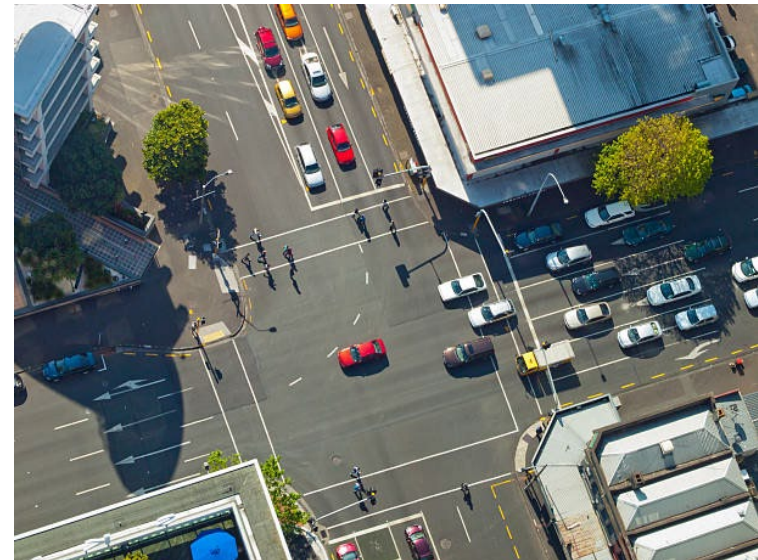
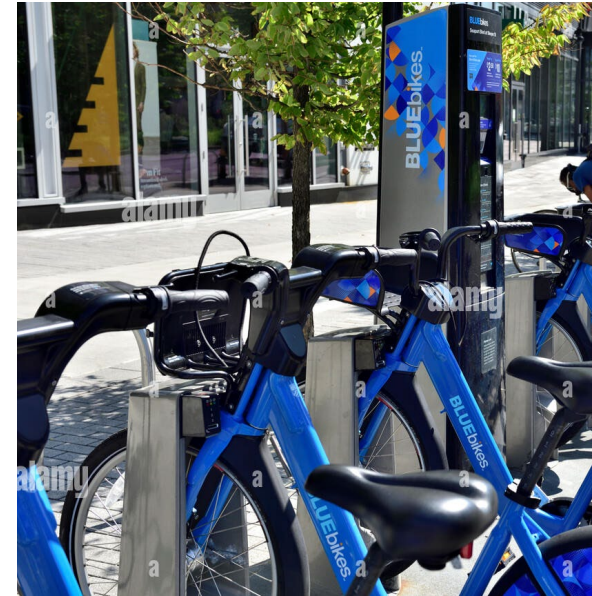
A community has two construction projects – a bike share network for \$125,000 and an intersection project for \$800,000 totaling \$925,000.

The first \$250,000 would be spent across the two projects – \$125,000 on the bike share and the remaining \$125,000 on the intersection project.

This would leave a remainder of \$675,000 on the intersection project.

Of that, CMF covers 30% or **(\$675,000 x 0.30)**
\$202,500.

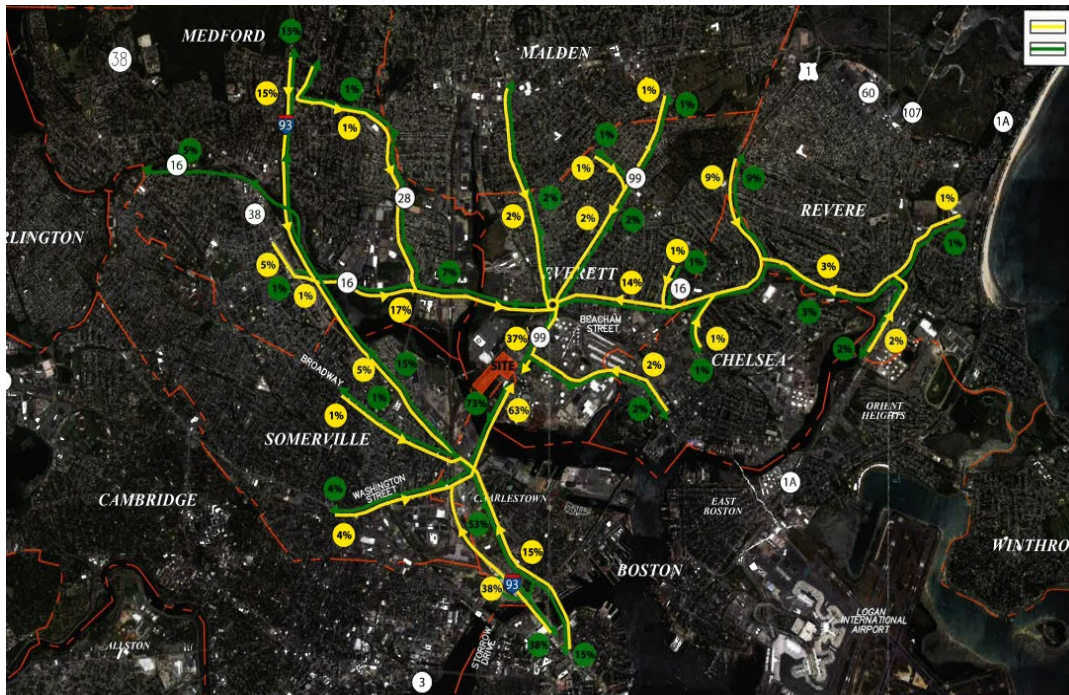
The total award for the two projects would be
\$250,000 + \$202,500 = \$452,500.



Transportation Planning Eligibility

Traffic studies, roadway design, etc. may only be done on major routes to/from the casinos. **These are identified as roads that carry at least 1% of the casino traffic.**

- Maps showing these routes are included in the guidelines.
- If a community has data that shows other roads are significantly impacted, that can be submitted for consideration.



For planning of multi-use paths, the community must demonstrate that it will connect into an existing path network that provides access to the casino.

Waivers

- Applicants may request a waiver from any requirement of the Guidelines.
- If any municipality determines that the proposed grant allotment is insufficient to mitigate identified impacts, it may request a waiver for those specific projects.
- The Waiver Form can be found at: <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/>



Application Submission

- Applications must be submitted via COMMBUYS or emailed to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov by **January 31st at 11:59p.m** to be accepted.
- Applications must be submitted as ONE word document, please integrate and label your relevant attachments as part of your application.
- If you have any questions prior to submission, please contact Mary.Thurlow@Massgaming.gov



Website Walkthrough

<https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>



QUESTIONS?

Community Mitigation Fund Staff Directory

Name	Title	Contact
Joe Delaney	Chief of Community Affairs	Joseph.Delaney@Massgaming.gov
Mary Thurlow	Senior Program Manager	Mary.Thurlow@Massgaming.gov
Lily Wallace	Program Manager	Lily.Wallace@Massgaming.gov