



FY 2025 Municipal Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application

Application Instructions:

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2025 grant round.
- II. Each Municipality may only submit ONE application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. Forms can be found below as Parts A-E. If there is more than one project in a category, please copy the form. Provide a form and attachments for each project. All attachments should directly follow the relevant project form.
- IV. Be sure to fill in all the information requested on the application. Applications that are left incomplete will not be accepted.
- V. The application must be signed by the municipal administrator or an individual with signatory authority.
- VI. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov or as a response to the COMMBUYS BID BD24-1068-1068C-1068L-95061

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2025 Application Guidelines visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Municipal Grant Manager Information:
Applicant: City of Northampton
Vendor Code: VC6000192124_
Name: Gina-Louise Sciarra
Title: Mayor
Email Address: mayor@northamptonma.gov
Telephone: 413-587-1249
Address: 210 Main St, 2 nd Floor, Northampton MA 01060

For full guidelines please see www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/application-guidelines/

Grant Budget Summary

Your community’s FY 2025 proposed allocation can be found at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>. Use the space below to total all requests by category. Please clarify how many discreet projects your community plans to undertake per category.

Total FY 2025 Allocation:		
Application Totals by Category	# of Projects	Requested Amount
A. Community Planning		
B. Public Safety		
C. Transportation	1	\$220,000
D. Gambling Harm Reduction		
E. Specific Impact		
TOTAL		\$220,000

I. Are you requesting a waiver for any program requirement?

Yes

No

II. If yes, you must fill out a CMF Municipal Waiver Form. The Waiver form can be found as Appendix E to the RFR on COMMBUYS or online at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/>. Applications without a completed waiver form will not be considered for a waiver.

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.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Community Planning			
B. Public Safety			
C. Transportation	ValleyBike Share Operations & Planning	Fund Northampton’s portion of operational cost as part of the regional bike share program led by City of Northampton for 8 Pioneer Valley communities & UMass	\$220,000
D. Gambling Harm Reduction			
E. Specific Impact			

For full guidelines please see www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/application-guidelines/

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.



1/31/2024

Signature:

Date:

Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor

Name and Title of Signatory:

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: Carolyn Misch	Name:
Title: Director	Title:
Department: Office of Planning & Sustainability	Department:
Email Address: cmisch@northamptonma.gov	Email Address:
Telephone: 413-587-1287	Telephone:
Address: 210 Main St 2 nd Flr, Northampton, 01060	Address:
<p>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.)</p>	
<p>As specified in the guidelines</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased traffic associated with gaming causes increased congestion on the major routes leading to /from the gaming establishment 2) Impacts on all modes of transportation including vehicular travel, public transit and pedestrian/bicycle travel. 3) Increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause localized increases in air pollution due to congestion. 4) Increased visitation to the gaming establishment area may place a strain on public transit services. 	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>City of Northampton is the lead community for the regional ValleyBike share program. As defined in our MOUs with all the following communities, we hold the contract for the vendor that provides operational services for the interdependent and unified bike share program across 80 stations in City of Springfield (including at MGM Springfield), City of Holyoke, City of West Springfield, City of Chicopee, City of Northampton, Easthampton, Amherst, South Hadley and UMass. We also hold the contract with MassDOT for purchasing new equipment through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program.</p> <p>Impacts Addressed:</p> <p>Funding bike share operations for the City of Northampton will address not only the increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment and related congestion but also its related localized increases in air pollution due to congestion by providing non-vehicular trip options to employees and patrons. Funding for Northampton’s portion of bike share operations also provides financial support for the regional system that addresses congestion impacts across gaming impacted communities. Just like bus systems, bikeshare systems in our region can only function as a regional unit.</p>	

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Increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment causes increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment. Bike share provides alternative means to access the casino via non-vehicular mode or in tandem with bus transit.

Impacts related to the strain on public transit services and infrastructure and demands that we mitigate for climate impact by providing alternative transportation means for employees and patrons to access establishments. Bike share in the Pioneer Valley can only function as a multi-city, coordinated regional system. Funding operations for bike share will help Northampton deal with the transportation related impacts that a gaming establishment has on all modes of transportation including vehicular travel, public transit and pedestrian/bicycle travel. Bike share is a critical component to the transit system by providing "first and last mile" access to the PVRTA network. It reduces the strain on PVRTA by expanding their reach to communities in need through use of bike share connectivity instead of extending bus lines. This is a critical mode for service employees who might not otherwise have the financial stability nor desire to own a car, but nonetheless needs to be able to reliably arrive at work. Bike share expands the location options for people to live, enabling choice of community and neighborhood while still being able to conveniently access PVRTA transit as part of their means to get to the casino. Similarly, patrons who live in Northampton can use bikeshare to access PVRTA and then embark on a connector bike share bike in Springfield to gain access to the casino where a destination bikeshare station is located.

Funding also provides eligible expenses toward planning for expansion of our bike share network to mitigate further against congestion impacts from increased traffic due to casino draw.

For the past five years, bike share has been critical to providing that first mile and last mile connection (with PVRTA bus service) for employees and patrons going to the casino that either had no other means of getting to work or to the casino or made the choice not to use their car. Bike share has been an important component for Northampton to address congestion and air quality by providing alternatives to vehicular travel trips that have increased due to impacts of the casino draw.

Bike share infrastructure (bikes and station docks) has been funded through MassDOT's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program for the very purpose of addressing these impacts. Future stations also have CMAQ funding allocation as shown in the attached TIP page.

Up until last year, operational costs were born by the vendor and none of these cities needed to pay for the transportation services. Last year, our vendor filed for bankruptcy and could no longer operate our system. The model for free bike share to the communities was not financially sustainable for the vendor. No other bikeshare in the nation operates without paying for the service. Thus, we have been without bike share, while we try to find funding to restart the system with a new vendor.

This year going forward, each municipality will need to pay for its share of the regional cost to run bike share. Northampton issued an RFI during the summer of 2023 to gain a better understanding of how much each community within the ValleyBike program would have to pay to continue to provide this transportation service. Based on the responses received, we determined that Northampton's share of the cost to provide this transportation service would be approximately \$210,000 per year. As a region, our consortium has decided to move forward to find funding for so we can quickly reopen bike share to address the needs of our community. In order to reopen, we need to contract with a new vendor. That process is under way and we believe will be in contract by middle of March and begin monthly payments toward those operational costs by the beginning of May 2024. The funding will run for a year and \$210,000 will be expended by the end of the FY 25 year.

During this time, we will be seeking permanent stable funding for subsequent years through our federal and state representatives and MassDOT. Our program is compatible with the regional transit network and we have been collaborating with Pioneer Valley Transit Authority to understand their needs for

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reaching more riders with bike share.

Scope: Operations costs include the following:

1. Costs for maintaining bikes, fixing flat tires, oiling chains etc.
2. Daily bike balancing and distribution 7 days per week 18-24 hours per day to ensure adequate number of bikes are available for riders as well as making sure the stations are functioning properly and are clean.
3. Inspections and repair
4. Recovery of misplaced bikes
5. Maintenance of storage facility and repair shop including place for winter storage.
6. Data Management and Reporting
7. Maintaining Financial system for receiving payments
8. Customer Service and IT for users: rebooting software, web and mobile app interface.

Operations costs also include rebalancing bikes between stations

Northampton will also plan for bike station expansion to fill in gaps that will encourage more riders. This includes staff time to work with property owners and city departments to evaluate appropriate sites and soft costs associated with designing station pads.

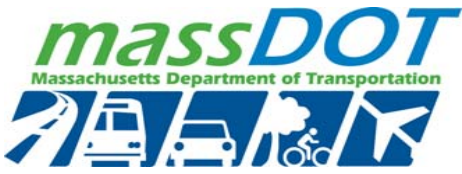
The \$210,000 of Northampton’s share of operations costs will primarily be paid to the vendor monthly upon completion of operations for the prior month. We anticipate a distribution of \$17,000/month over the course of the year to the vendor for providing services. Approximately \$10,000 will be paid for station planning & design as well as managing the much larger vendor contract on behalf of the Springfield region.

Timeline: The contract with the vendor will run from May 2024 to May 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
Operator Selection through Procurement Process	March 2024		City Funded
Operator begins work	Mid April		
Stations open for operations	July 2024-May 2025		\$210,000
Station Expansion Planning/Contract Management	Aug – Jun 2025		\$10,000
	TOTAL:		\$220,000

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Pioneer Valley Region Program

STIP: 2024 - 2028 (D)

Program	MassDOT Project ID	MPO	Municipality	MassDOT Project Description	District	Funding Source	Total Programmed Funds	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Funds
Federal Fiscal Year 2025									
Section 1A / Regionally Prioritized Projects							\$32,205,110	\$25,764,088	\$6,441,022
Roadway Reconstruction	608881	Pioneer Valley	Longmeadow	LONGMEADOW- SPRINGFIELD- RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON LONGMEADOW STREET (ROUTE 5) AND CONVERSE STREET (0.84 MILES)	2	STBG	\$9,560,118	\$7,648,094	\$1,912,024
Roadway Reconstruction	609065	Pioneer Valley	Holyoke	HOLYOKE- RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON CABOT STREET AND RACE STREET (CENTER CITY CONNECTOR)	2	STBG	\$5,713,101	\$4,570,481	\$1,142,620
Roadway Reconstruction	609286	Pioneer Valley	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON- DOWNTOWN COMPLETE STREETS CORRIDOR AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON MAIN STREET (ROUTE 9)	2	STBG	\$15,473,207	\$12,378,566	\$3,094,641
Bicycle and Pedestrian	S12828	Pioneer Valley	Multiple	Valley Bike Share Expansion (Phase 3)	2	CMAQ	\$1,458,684	\$1,166,947	\$291,737
							CMAQ Programmed	\$1,458,684	\$1,166,947
							STBG Programmed	\$30,746,426	\$24,597,141
							Program Target for Pioneer Valley Region Projects	\$32,310,845	\$25,848,676
							Target Funds Available for Pioneer Valley Region Projects	\$105,735	\$84,588
Section 1B / Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects							\$74,186,823	\$60,492,893	\$13,693,930
Bridge Off-system Local NB	608869	Pioneer Valley	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, N-19-068, OLD SPRINGFIELD ROAD OVER THE MILL RIVER	2	BROFF	\$5,717,174	\$5,717,174	\$0
Bridge On-System NHS NB	609409	Pioneer Valley	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, S-24-016, ARMORY STREET OVER CSX MAINLINE & S-24-026, ARMORY STREET OVER ABANDONED CSX	2	HIP-BR	\$38,373,226	\$30,698,581	\$7,674,645
Bridge On-system Non-NHS NB	604136	Pioneer Valley	Multiple	MONSON- PALMER- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, M-27-007=P-01-007, STATE AVENUE OVER THE QUABOAG RIVER	2	HIP-BR	\$11,453,624	\$9,162,899	\$2,290,725
Bridge Off-System State NB	612495	Pioneer Valley	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, S-24-070, TAPLEY STREET OVER I-291 AND CSX	2	BROFFS	\$18,642,799	\$14,914,239	\$3,728,560

**Only includes funds counting against obligation authority
Reported Date:*



MUNICIPAL BLOCK GRANT FY 2025 WAIVER FORM

Applicants may request a waiver of a condition set forth in the Application for the Commission’s consideration. All requests for waivers or variances shall be submitted with the Application. The Commission may in its discretion waive or grant a variance from any provision or requirement contained in the FY 2025 Guidelines.

Applicant: City of Northampton
Program Manager: Gina-Louise Sciarra
Email: mayor@northamptonma.gov
Telephone: 413-587-1249
Address: 210 Main St, 2 nd Flr, Northampton, 01060

I. Financial Variance Request:
If your municipality’s proposed allocation is insufficient to mitigate identified casino related impacts, you may use the space below to request additional funds. Municipal waivers will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and award decisions will be based on available funding.

Please Note: The intent of this waiver is not to fund routine expenses but to fund significant projects that would not otherwise be able to be funded under a municipality’s annual CMF allocation.

CMF Designated FY 2025 Grant Amount: \$75,000
Requested Amount Over Designated: \$145,000

Basis of Waiver Request:

Bike share is a significant transportation resource for the City of Northampton and the region. It is one of the most cost effective means of addressing vehicular traffic congestion and air quality impacts created by the gaming location in Springfield. The request for \$145,000 over our allotment will achieve equitable access to transportation services for more than 70% of our community. Our stations are specifically located near neighborhoods where a large percentage of residents have service jobs and may not have the same access to motor vehicles as other residents in our community. Thus, this low-cost contrasts significantly to other eligible transportation infrastructure improvements for road widening, complete streets infrastructure etc. Such projects run \$5-\$20M dollars, but serve a much smaller population considering these tend to be ½ mile to 1 mile stretches of road. Neither do such projects achieve the reduction in air quality that bike share does. The request for planning and contract management as part of this amount is due to the new needs to manage a significant financial contract for all of the 8 Springfield area participating communities. Our leadership role in this contract management is spelled out in a signed MOU with Springfield, Holyoke, W. Springfield, Chicopee, Easthampton, Amherst, UMass, S. Hadley.

II. Programmatic Requirement Variance Request:
A municipality may request a waiver from any application requirement. Municipal waivers will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and applicants will be notified of the Commission’s decision.

Basis of Waiver Request: