

This panel discussion is an opportunity to:

- ✓ Learn about success stories where strategic advocacy and organizing have delivered major results to effect change
- ✓ Discuss navigating the real, as well as perceived barriers to making policy change
- ✓ Examine advocacy methods such as crafting and communicating talking points, legislative and media outreach, and grass-roots community organizing
- ✓ Expand networks and alliances among individuals and organizations with shared goals
- ✓ Consider how the work and mission of MAPC and the MetroFuture plan can be resources to advance advocacy initiatives on multiple fronts

Participants

Representative Carl Sciortino, Massachusetts House of Representatives

Representative Sciortino represents the 34th Middlesex District, which includes neighborhoods in both Somerville and Medford. He serves as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Transportation and also serves on the Ways & Means Committee and Joint Committee on Health Care Finance.

Charles Glick, Founder and Principal, Charles Group Consulting

As a government affairs consultant, Charles Glick advocates on behalf of institutions and programs through coalition-building, media outreach, policy assessment and other organizing initiatives. He previously worked as the founding Director of Government Affairs for the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Boston. He holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a Masters in Communal Service from Brandeis University.

Eric Bourassa, Transportation Manager, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Eric Bourassa is the former Consumer Advocate for MASSPIRG, where he coordinated advocacy efforts to promote public transportation. He was also the co-chair of the MBTA Riders Oversight Committee, a citizen advisory council to the MBTA. Eric's experience includes extensively testifying before the state legislature on matters in the public interest, as well as community organizing for the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations.

Advocacy and the MetroFuture Vision

MetroFuture is a bold and achievable plan to make a Greater Boston Region. The plan focuses on improved quality of life for the people who live and work in the Metropolitan Boston area as the long-term regional goal. Rethinking priorities to encourage development where it already exists in towns and cities will bring more housing and transportation options, conserve natural resources and expand access to jobs, education and healthcare. MAPC has three action campaigns underway:

– Transportation Finance Reform – Green Energy & Job Creation – Local Smart Growth Planning –