

Article 24

MBTA Communities – Request for \$25,000

Q&A

1. Q: What is the intent of this request?

A: The intent of this request is to supplement grant funds with local funds that the Planning Board can use to hire a consultant to help investigate certain aspects of different approaches for compliance with the MBTA Communities housing law.

2. Q: How is the Planning Board intending to use the funds?

A: That's a great question. Currently, they have not settled on a particular use for the funds, but they are mulling over a few ideas, which include: commissioning a fiscal impact analysis, hiring a civil engineer or Title 5 subject matter expert, hiring a traffic consultant to study traffic impacts of higher-density approaches, or hiring an MBTA Communities compliance consultant.

3. Q: What funds have been acquired to date?

A: The State has several different resources that we've been taking advantage of. The Town was awarded \$40,000 for technical assistance from Bohler Engineering – they help with compliance modeling, drafting zoning, and preparing high level concept plans to illustrate the different approaches. The Town was also awarded \$90,000 to study subsurface groundwater conditions. And I attend office hours, info sessions, and peer-to-peer technical assistance meetings on an ongoing basis.

4. Q: What does a YES vote mean?

A: A YES vote for Article 24 means the following:

1. The Planning Board will have funds to use to investigate aspects of MBTA Communities compliance that are beyond the scope covered by available grant funding.
2. A Yes vote DOES NOT MEAN an endorsement of one compliance approach over another. Currently, at their twice-monthly meetings, the Planning Board is considering multiple different approaches for compliance.

5. Q: Where can I find more information on the proposal?

A: There is a link to MBTA Communities in the banner at the top of the Town website at www.carlislema.gov! I update it regularly!