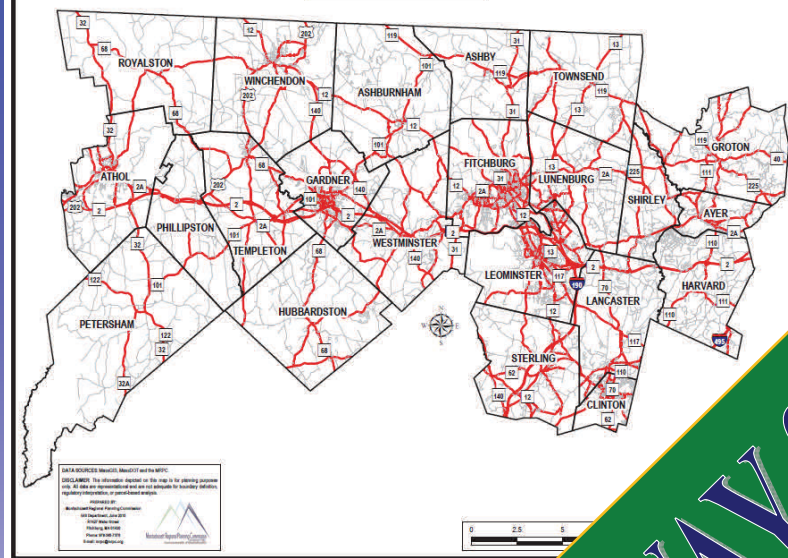


MRPC: RTP 2016
Federal Aid Eligible Roadways



Chapter 6 - HIGHWAY SYSTEMS



Chapter 6 – Highway Systems

Existing Network

The Montachusett Region is served by several state numbered routes that provide accessible links to all of the region's communities.

Of greatest importance to the area is Route 2, running east-west throughout the entire region. This limited access roadway provides the area with a direct link to Boston to the east and to the western half of the state and New York to the west. Consequently, this highway is a major thoroughfare for the state as well as for the region. The region's major urban communities, Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner, all border Route 2. The section of Route 2 from Phillipston to Athol in the MRPC Region has, in the last decade, undergone improvements. Significant improvements to date include construction of climbing lane, intersection improvements, a truck weigh station in Athol and installation of an innovative centerline treatment called "Qwick Kurb" along 13 miles of highway in Phillipston and Athol. Throughout the region traffic on Route 2 has fluctuated in the last 15 years. High volumes in the mid-2000's have since declined but have rebounded in recent years.

The completion of I-190 in the early 1980's added a second major limited access highway to the region. This roadway provides direct access to Worcester, I-290 and the Massachusetts Turnpike South of the region. Since its opening, traffic on I-190 has increased steadily throughout the region. This highway has helped to reduce through traffic volumes on Route 12 by providing easier access to the Worcester area.

Functional Classification

The process by which highways and roads are grouped into classes or systems is known as functional classification. Roads are grouped according to the type of service they are intended to provide. Most travel involves movement through a network of roads; functional classification helps to define the part a roadway plays in serving the flow of trips. Classification is divided into principal arterials, minor arterials, major collector roads, minor collector roads, local roads and streets. The three general categories of functional classification are:

Arterials: Arterials provide the highest level of mobility at the greatest vehicular speed for the longest uninterrupted distances and are not intended to provide access to specific locations. Arterials are further subdivided into Principal Arterials and Minor Arterials. Interstates are considered to be arterials but are given their own category in these maps.



Collectors: Collectors provide some level of both mobility and access. They collect traffic from local roads and funnel it to arterials. In rural areas, collectors are further subdivided into Major Collectors and Minor Collectors.

Local roads: Local roads provide access to abutting land with little or no emphasis on mobility. The term “local road” should not be confused with local jurisdiction. Most, though not all, functionally classified local roads are under city or town jurisdiction.

This classification is further divided into urban and rural areas. In the past, the urban areas were defined as having a population of 1,000 persons per square mile within a given census block. After the 2010 Census the Urban Boundaries in the Montachusett region have expanded, and additional areas have been classified as Urban by MassDOT and MRPC depending on the nature of the roadway, increasing the total number of roadways classified as urban since the 2012 RTP.

Within the Montachusett Region, fully urban areas include Fitchburg, Leominster, Gardner, Ayer, Winchendon and Clinton as well as portions of Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Templeton, Westminster, Sterling, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Townsend, Shirley, Groton and Harvard. The remaining areas of the Region are designated Rural. (For further details, see the “MRPC Urban Areas and Road Functional Classification” map following this chapter)

The following tables are derived from the latest MassDOT Road Inventory File (2014) and indicate approximate roadway miles for each Functional Class including Rural and Urban Classifications in the region.

CENTERLINE MILES															
	URBAN					RURAL					Total				
	Interstate	Arterial	Collector	Local	Total	Interstate	Arterial	Collector	Local	Total	Interstate	Arterial	Collector	Local	Total
Ashburnham	0.00	11.02	2.01	17.55	30.58	0.00	3.27	15.91	47.36	66.54	0.00	14.29	17.92	64.91	97.12
Ashby	0.00	4.42	2.59	3.83	10.84	0.00	5.10	11.79	37.21	54.10	0.00	9.52	14.38	41.04	64.94
Athol	0.00	18.14	8.58	48.13	74.85	0.00	1.63	9.89	24.77	36.29	0.00	19.77	18.47	72.90	111.14
Ayer	0.00	10.69	5.62	34.65	50.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.69	5.62	34.65	50.96
Clinton	0.00	13.36	4.18	33.63	51.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.36	4.18	33.63	51.17
Fitchburg	0.00	43.70	21.88	135.93	201.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.70	21.88	135.93	201.51
Gardner	0.00	28.54	13.13	74.76	116.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.54	13.13	74.76	116.43
Groton	0.00	25.55	7.42	70.57	103.54	0.00	0.00	0.93	5.08	6.01	0.00	25.55	8.35	75.65	109.55
Harvard	1.47	4.94	2.78	11.75	20.94	0.00	7.64	8.54	41.52	57.70	1.47	12.58	11.32	53.27	78.64
Hubbardston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.31	19.95	57.73	85.99	0.00	8.31	19.95	57.73	85.99
Lancaster	2.03	22.79	6.80	35.77	67.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.72	3.72	2.03	22.79	6.80	39.49	71.11
Leominster	1.70	41.57	18.28	115.17	176.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	41.57	18.28	115.17	176.72
Lunenburg	0.00	26.24	7.67	56.86	90.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96	2.96	0.00	26.24	7.67	59.82	93.73
Petersham	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.46	14.13	52.35	78.94	0.00	12.46	14.13	52.35	78.94
Phillipston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.91	21.11	28.80	52.82	0.00	2.91	21.11	28.80	52.82
Royalston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.73	46.67	71.40	0.00	0.00	24.73	46.67	71.40
Shirley	0.00	17.72	1.80	32.05	51.57	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.20	0.61	0.00	17.72	2.21	32.25	52.18
Sterling	5.76	15.13	15.86	33.58	70.33	0.84	2.26	11.69	21.46	36.25	6.60	17.39	27.55	55.04	106.58
Templeton	0.00	16.97	8.71	42.42	68.10	0.00	2.59	12.22	17.60	32.41	0.00	19.56	20.93	60.02	100.51
Townsend	0.00	17.18	5.49	47.77	70.44	0.00	2.65	0.34	21.47	24.46	0.00	19.83	5.83	69.24	94.90
Westminster	0.00	32.11	11.23	64.54	107.88	0.00	0.00	1.06	1.03	2.09	0.00	32.11	12.29	65.57	109.97
Winchendon	0.00	21.57	10.16	83.56	115.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.57	10.16	83.56	115.29
TOTAL	10.96	371.64	154.19	942.52	1,479.31	0.84	48.82	152.70	409.93	612.29	11.80	420.46	306.89	1,352.45	2,091.60

Source: MassDOT Road Inventory File

There are approximately 666 miles of federal aid eligible roads in the Montachusett region, of which 159 miles are National Highway System (NHS) roads, and 507 miles are Surface



Transportation Program (STP) roads. NHS roadways represent all Interstate roadways such as I-190, and I-495 along with a systematic network of principal arterials such as Route 2 and parts of Routes 12, 140 and 2A. STP roadways include all other numbered routes as well as all urban arterials, urban collectors and rural arterials. The following is a breakdown of federal aid eligible miles in each community.

CENTERLINE MILES

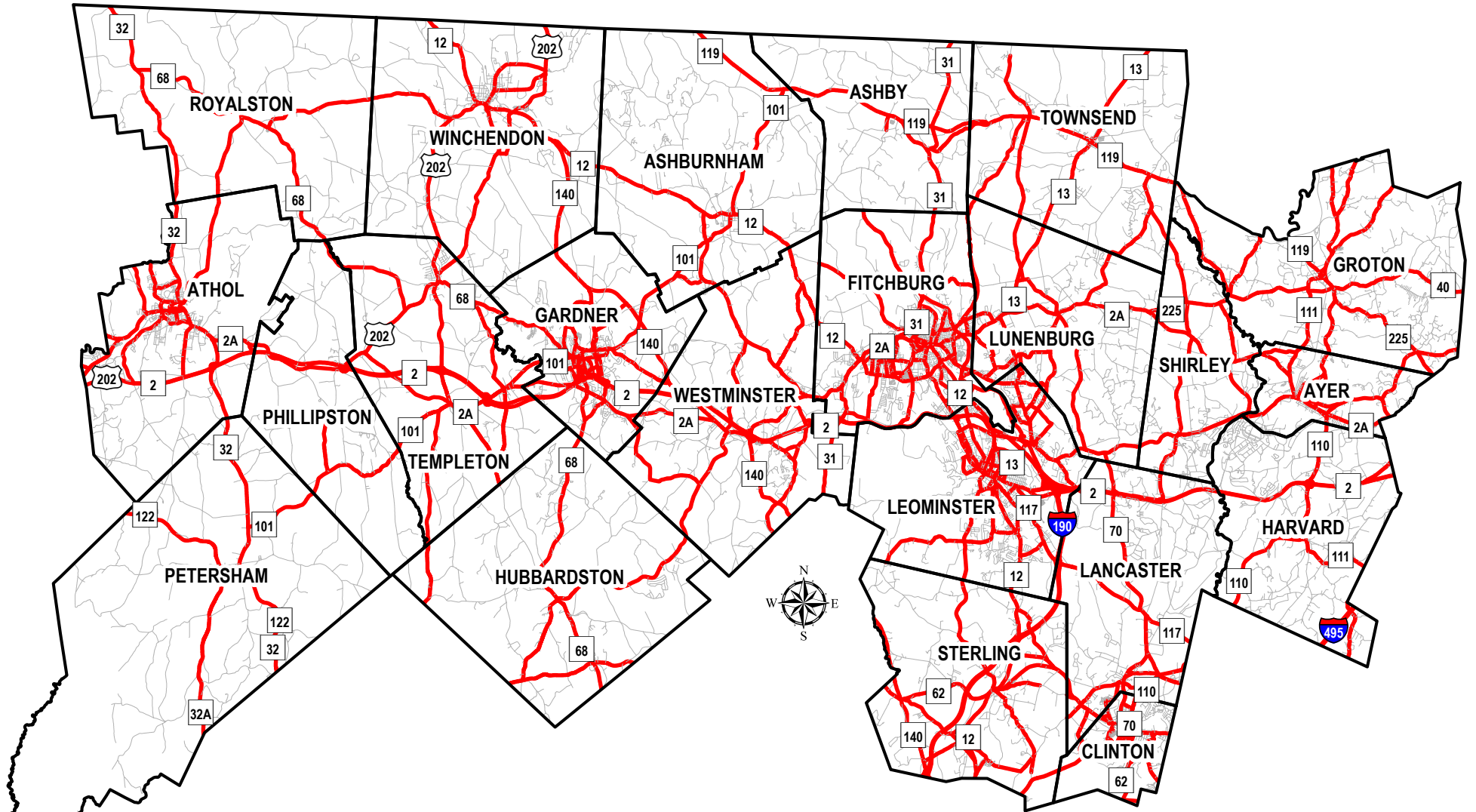
	NHS	STP	TOTAL FED-AID	Local	Total
Ashburnham	0.00	20.16	20.16	76.97	97.13
Ashby	0.00	14.22	14.22	50.54	64.76
Athol	11.49	20.88	32.37	78.78	111.15
Ayer	6.90	9.73	16.63	34.33	50.96
Clinton	4.99	12.56	17.55	33.63	51.18
Fitchburg	18.46	47.12	65.58	135.93	201.51
Gardner	11.00	30.68	41.68	74.76	116.44
Groton	13.04	20.86	33.90	75.56	109.46
Harvard	8.82	10.13	18.95	59.69	78.64
Hubbardston	0.00	21.54	21.54	64.46	86.00
Lancaster	12.22	19.40	31.62	39.49	71.11
Leominster	19.01	42.54	61.55	115.17	176.72
Lunenburg	8.73	25.18	33.91	59.82	93.73
Petersham	0.00	19.48	19.48	59.46	78.94
Phillipston	2.91	8.42	11.33	41.49	52.82
Royalston	0.00	20.90	20.90	50.50	71.40
Shirley	1.05	18.89	19.94	32.25	52.19
Sterling	12.19	31.63	43.82	62.75	106.57
Templeton	5.66	34.83	40.49	60.01	100.50
Townsend	4.07	21.25	25.32	69.58	94.90
Westminster	9.30	34.04	43.34	66.63	109.97
Winchendon	9.15	22.58	31.73	83.56	115.29
TOTAL	158.99	507.02	666.01	1,425.36	2,091.37



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MRPC: RTP 2016

Federal Aid Eligible Roadways



DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT and the MRPC.

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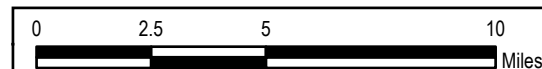
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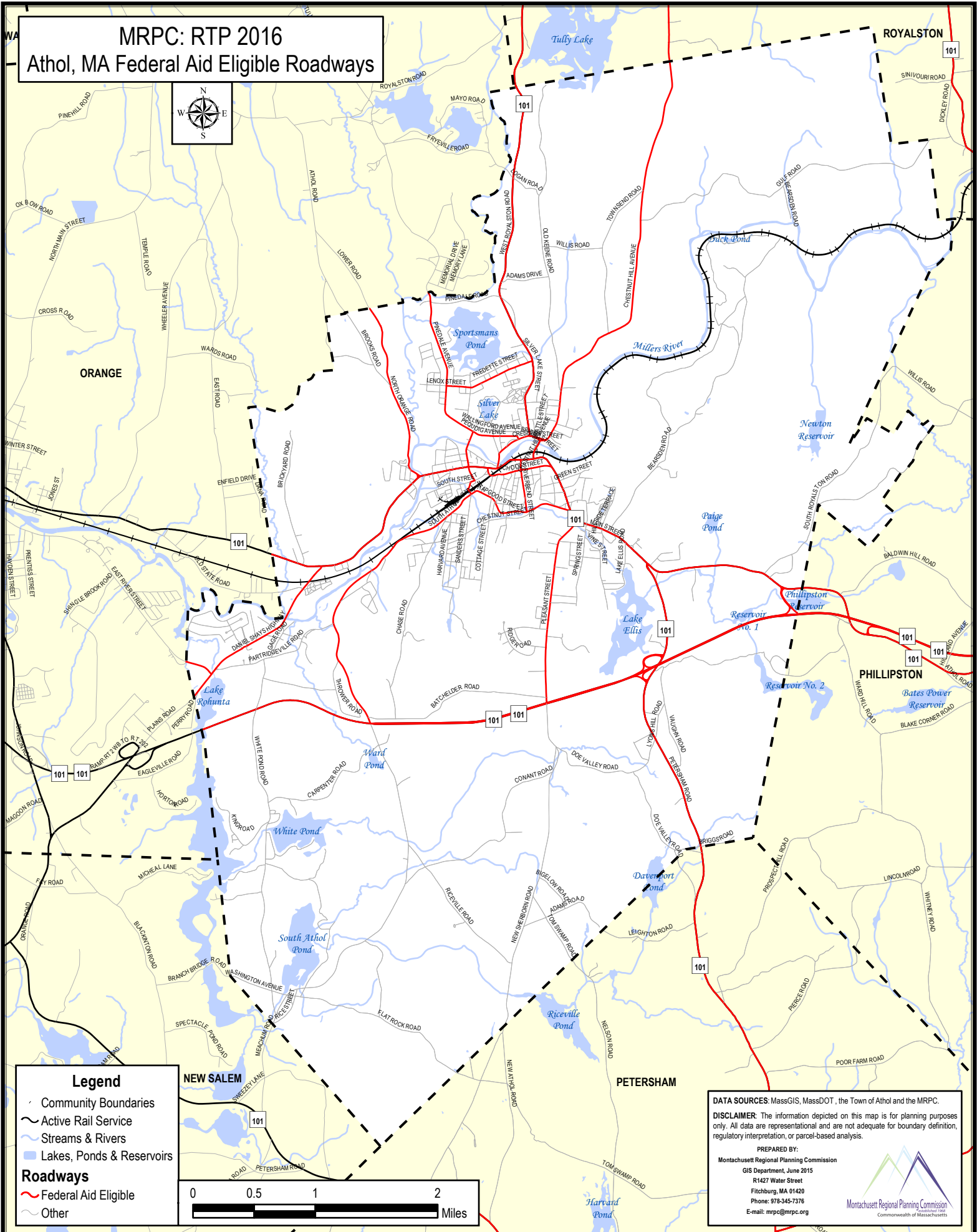
Legend

- Community Boundaries
- Roadways**
 - Federal Aid Eligible
 - Other



MRPC: RTP 2016

Athol, MA Federal Aid Eligible Roadways

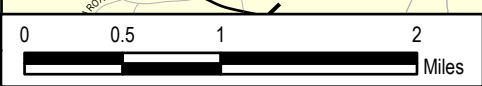


Legend

- Community Boundaries
- Active Rail Service
- Streams & Rivers
- Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs

Roadways

- Federal Aid Eligible
- Other

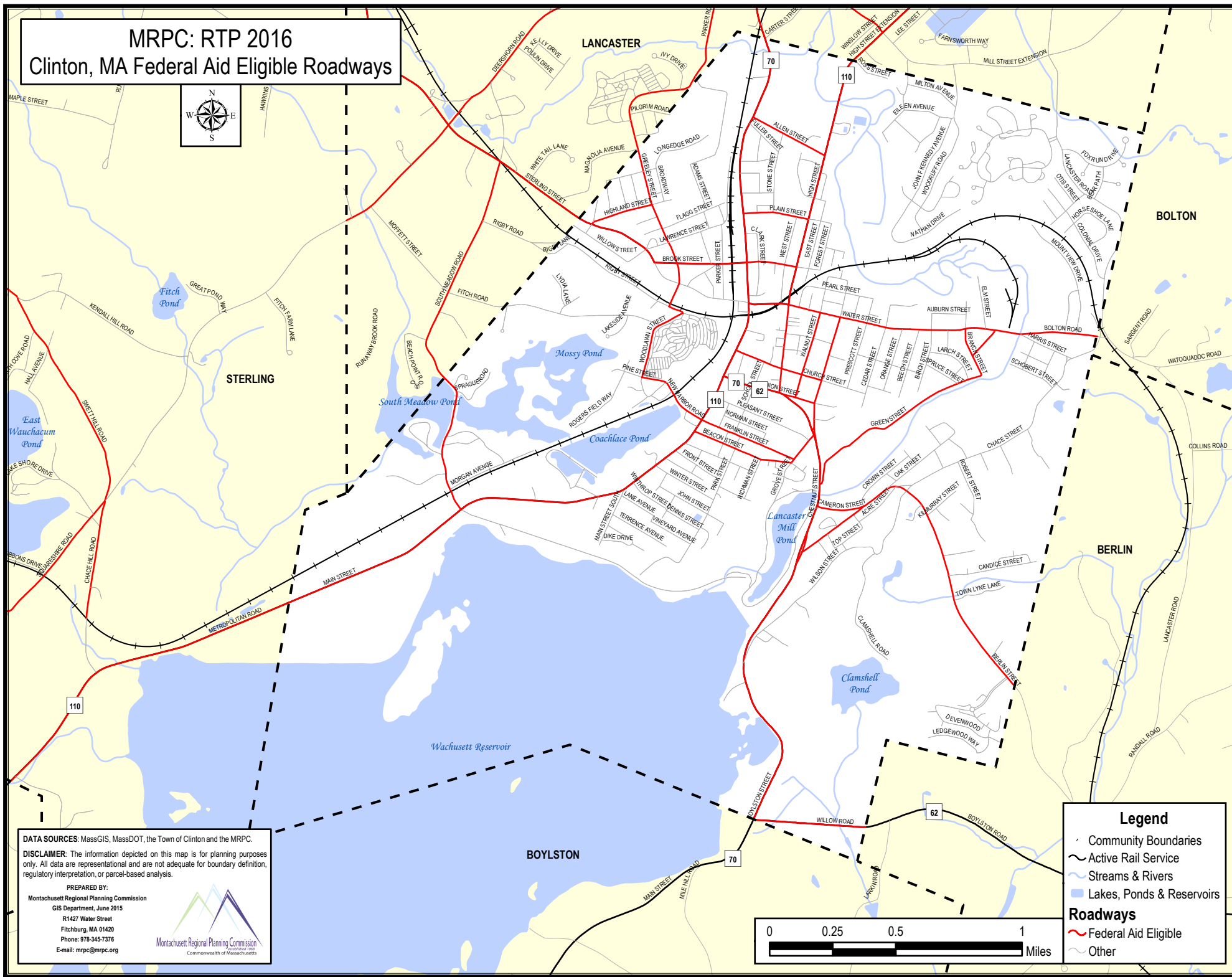


DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the Town of Athol and the MRPC.

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MRPC: RTP 2016 Clinton, MA Federal Aid Eligible Roadways



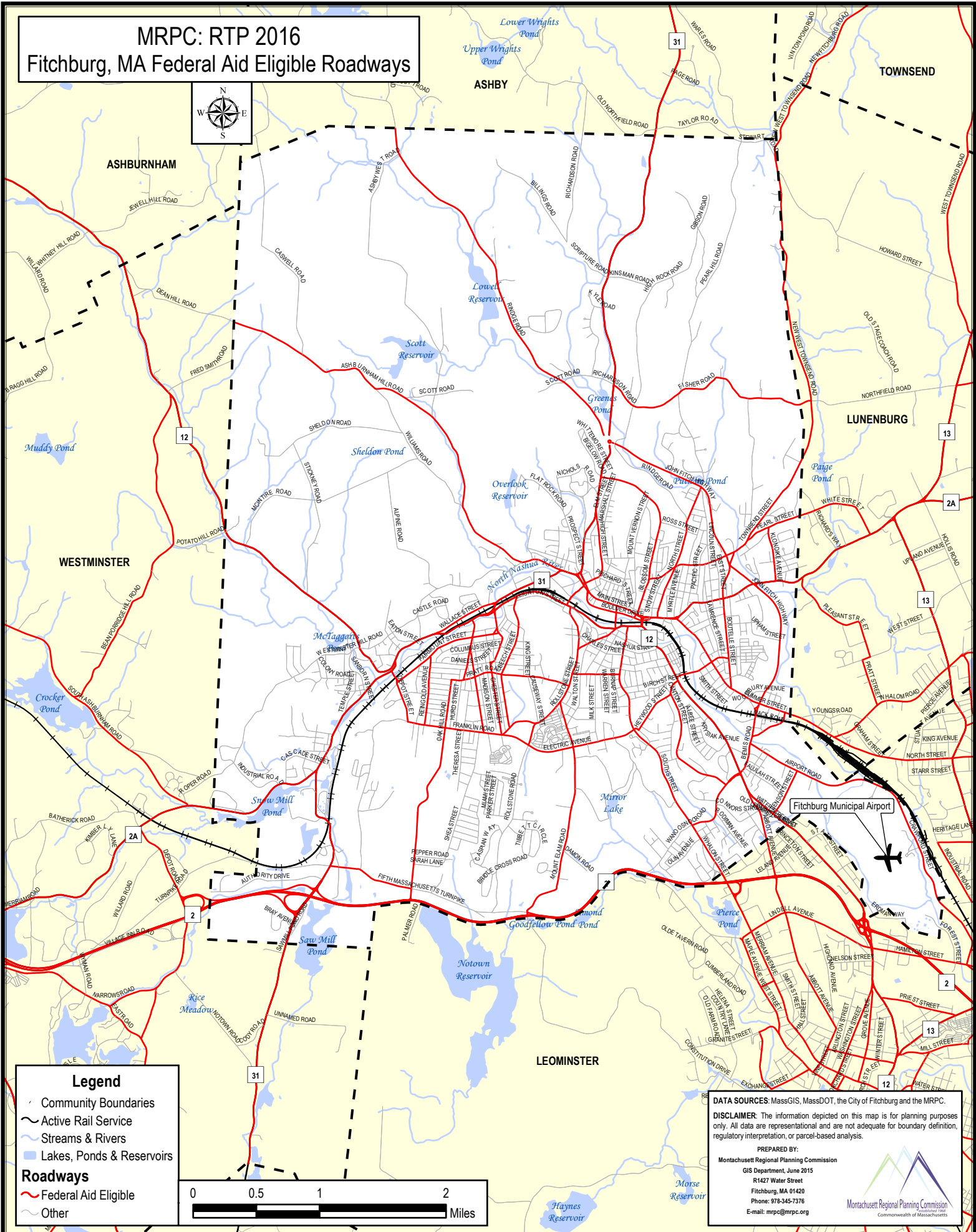
DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the Town of Clinton and the MRPC.

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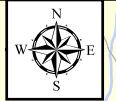


MRPC: RTP 2016 Fitchburg, MA Federal Aid Eligible Roadways



MRPC: RTP 2016

Gardner, MA Federal Aid Eligible Roadways



WINCHENDON

ASHBURNHAM

TEMPLETON

HUBBARDSTON

WESTMINSTER

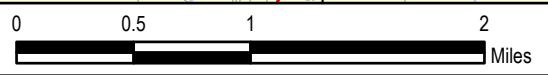
Gardner
Municipal Airport

Legend

- Community Boundaries
- Active Rail Service
- Streams & Rivers
- Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs

Roadways

- Federal Aid Eligible
- Other

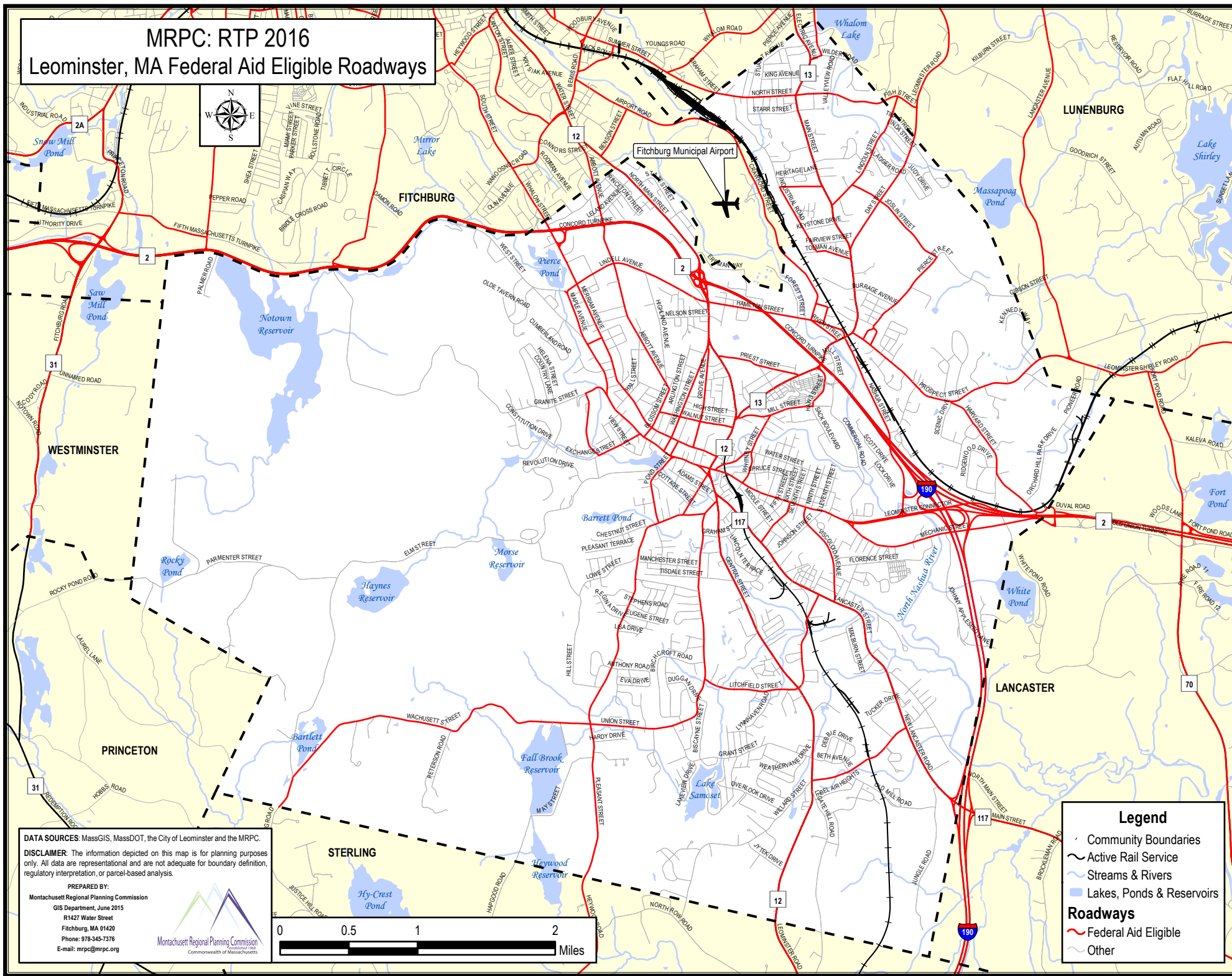


DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the City of Gardner and the MRPC.

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MRPC: RTP 2016 Leominster, MA Federal Aid Eligible Roadways



DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the City of Leominster and the MRPC.

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Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Legend

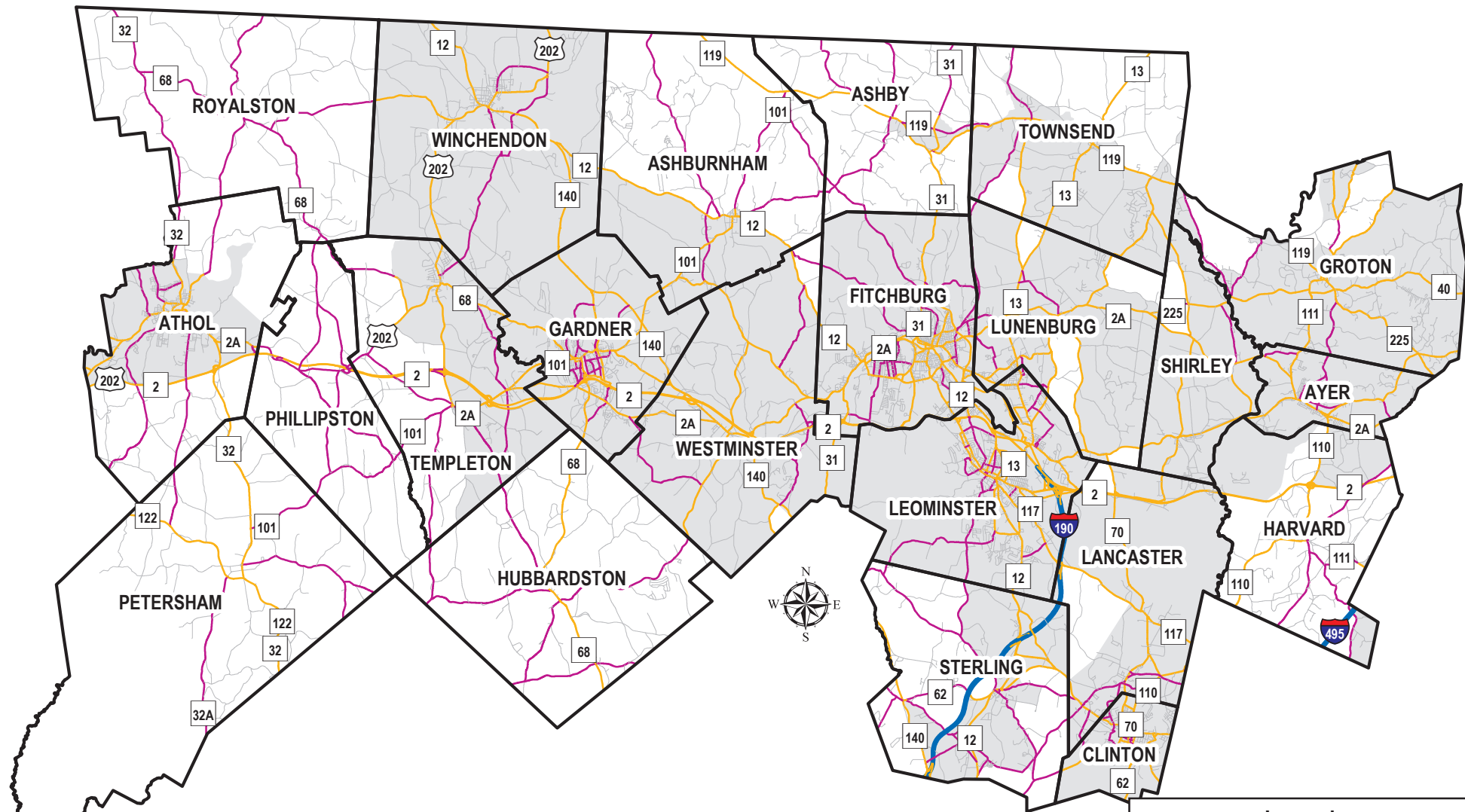
- Community Boundaries
- Active Rail Service
- Streams & Rivers
- Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs

Roadways

- Federal Aid Eligible
- Other

MRPC: RTP 2016

MassDOT Urban Boundaries and Roadway Functional Classifications



Legend

- Community Boundaries
- MassDOT Urban Boundaries

Roadway Functional Classification

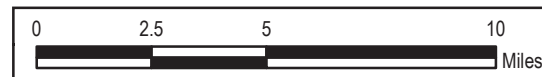
- Interstate
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local

DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT and the MRPC.

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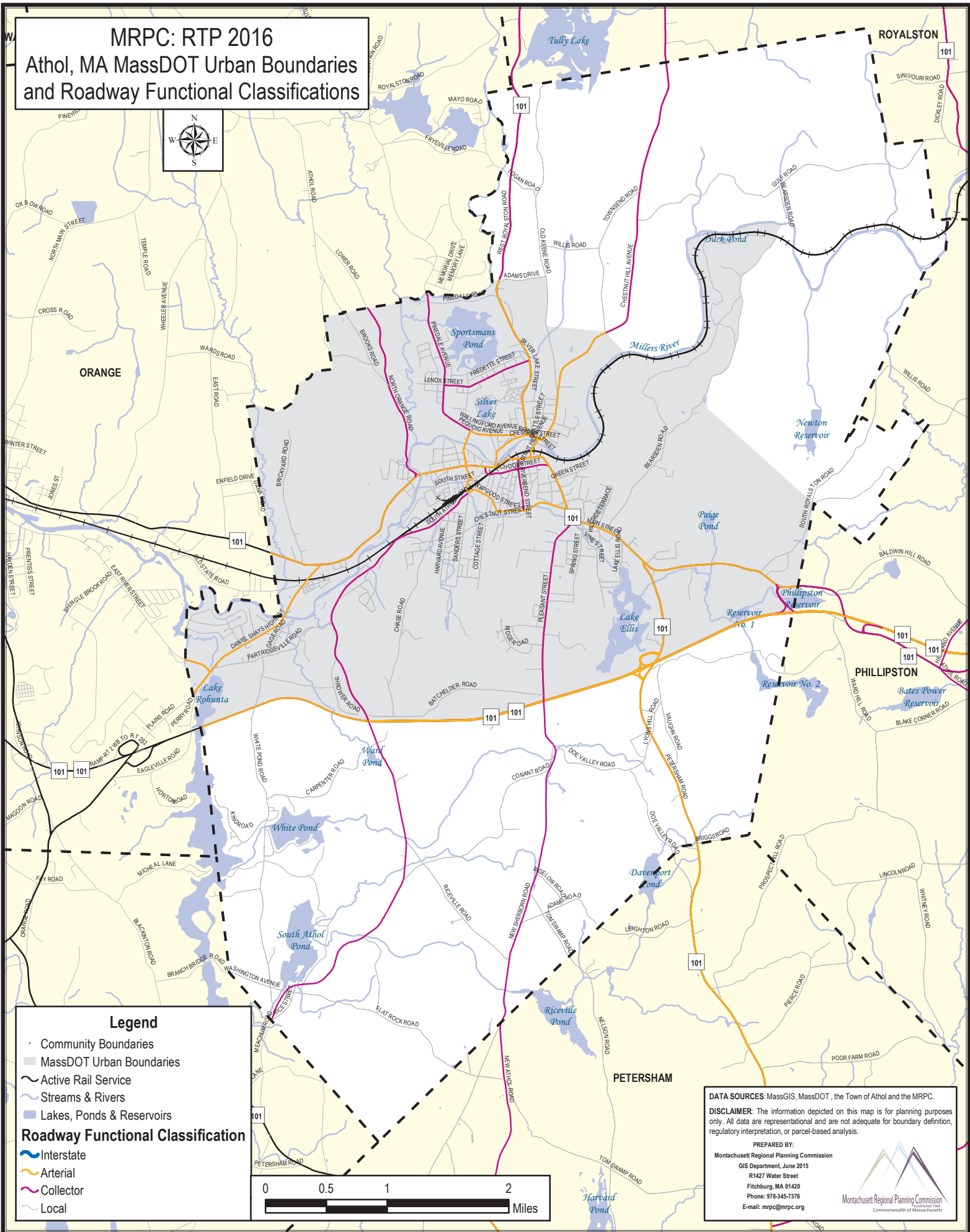
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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts



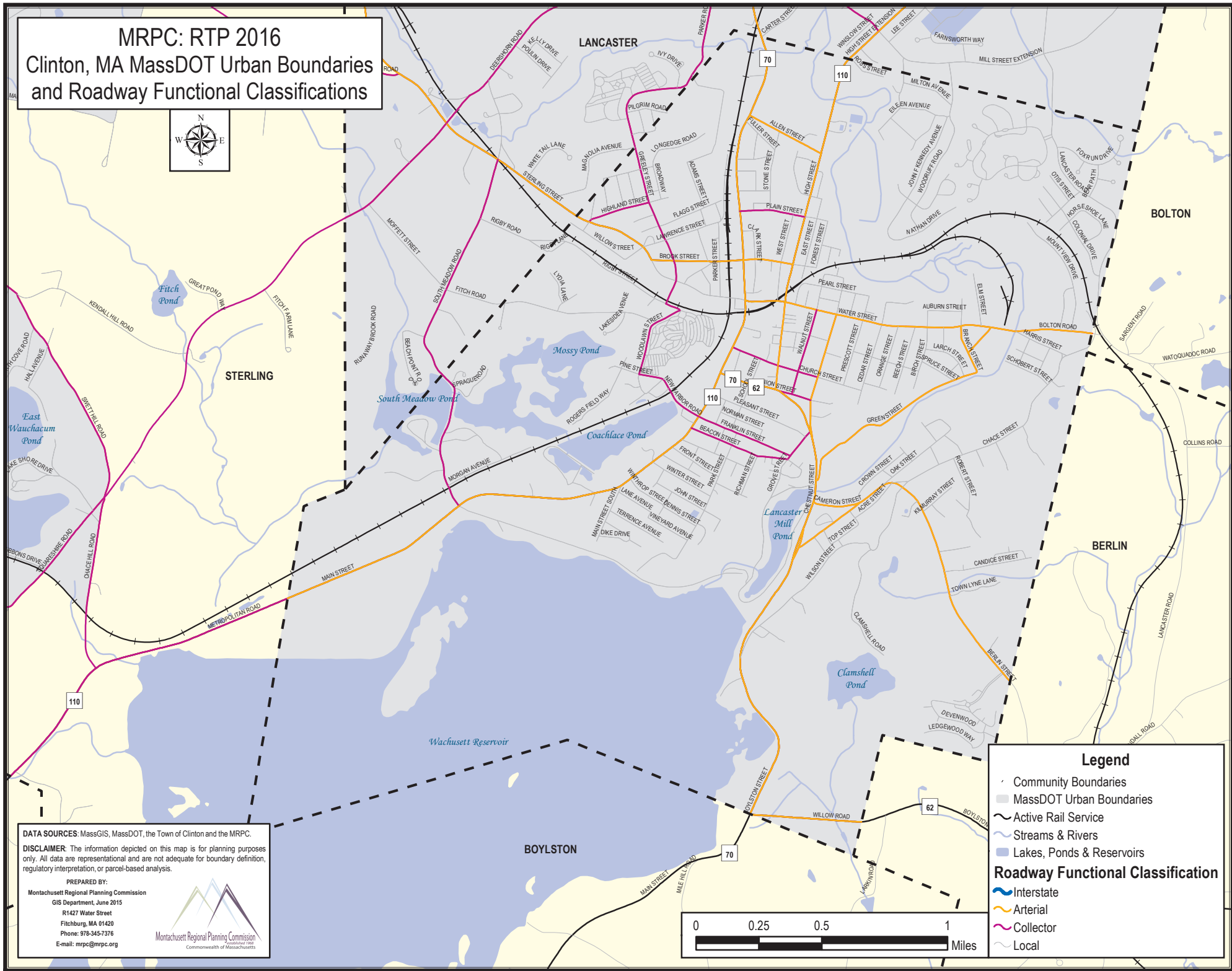
MRPC: RTP 2016

Athol, MA MassDOT Urban Boundaries and Roadway Functional Classifications



MRPC: RTP 2016

Clinton, MA MassDOT Urban Boundaries and Roadway Functional Classifications



DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the Town of Clinton and the MRPC.
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Legend

- Community Boundaries
- MassDOT Urban Boundaries
- Active Rail Service
- Streams & Rivers
- Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs

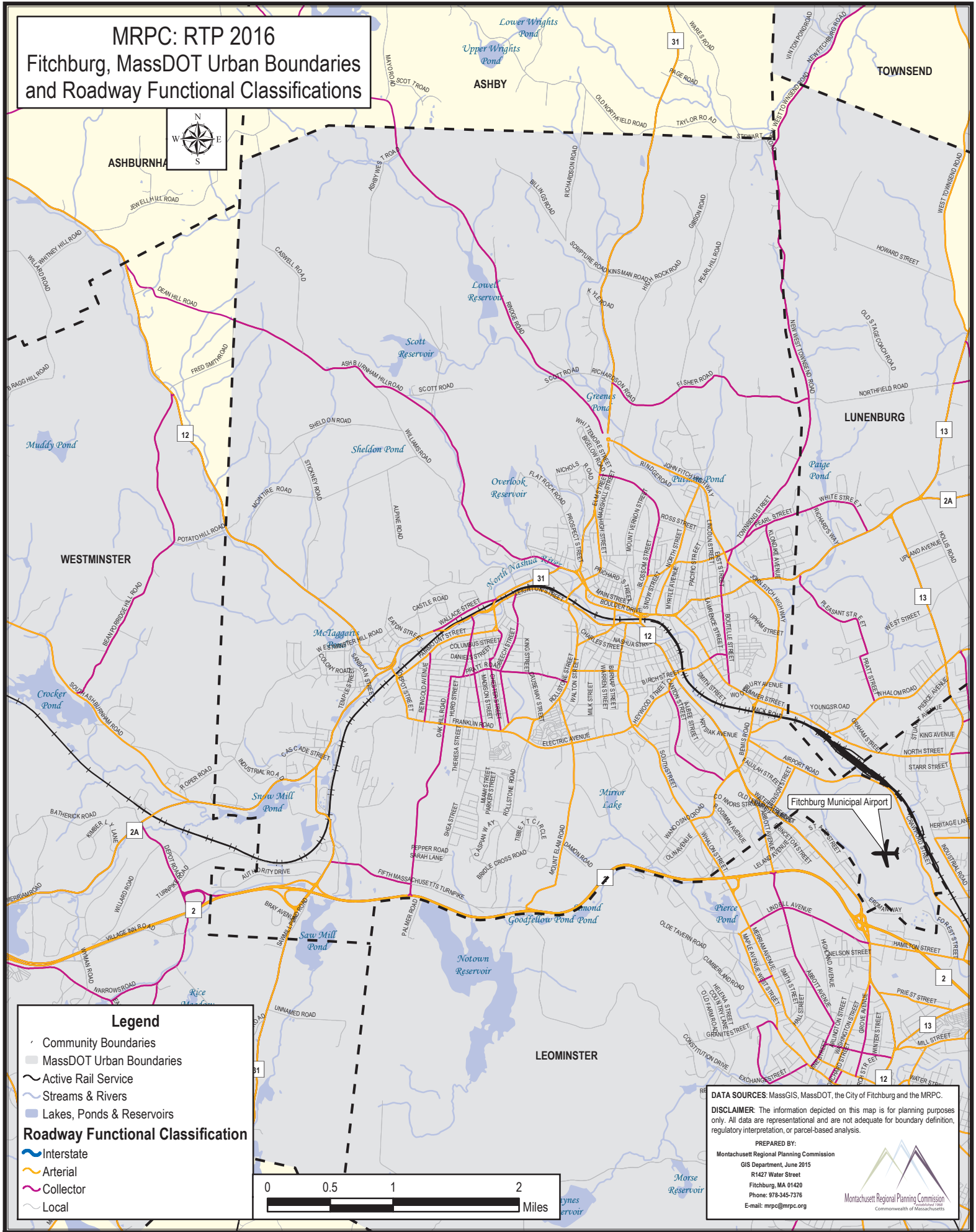
Roadway Functional Classification

- Interstate
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local



MRPC: RTP 2016

Fitchburg, MassDOT Urban Boundaries and Roadway Functional Classifications



DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the City of Fitchburg and the MRPC.

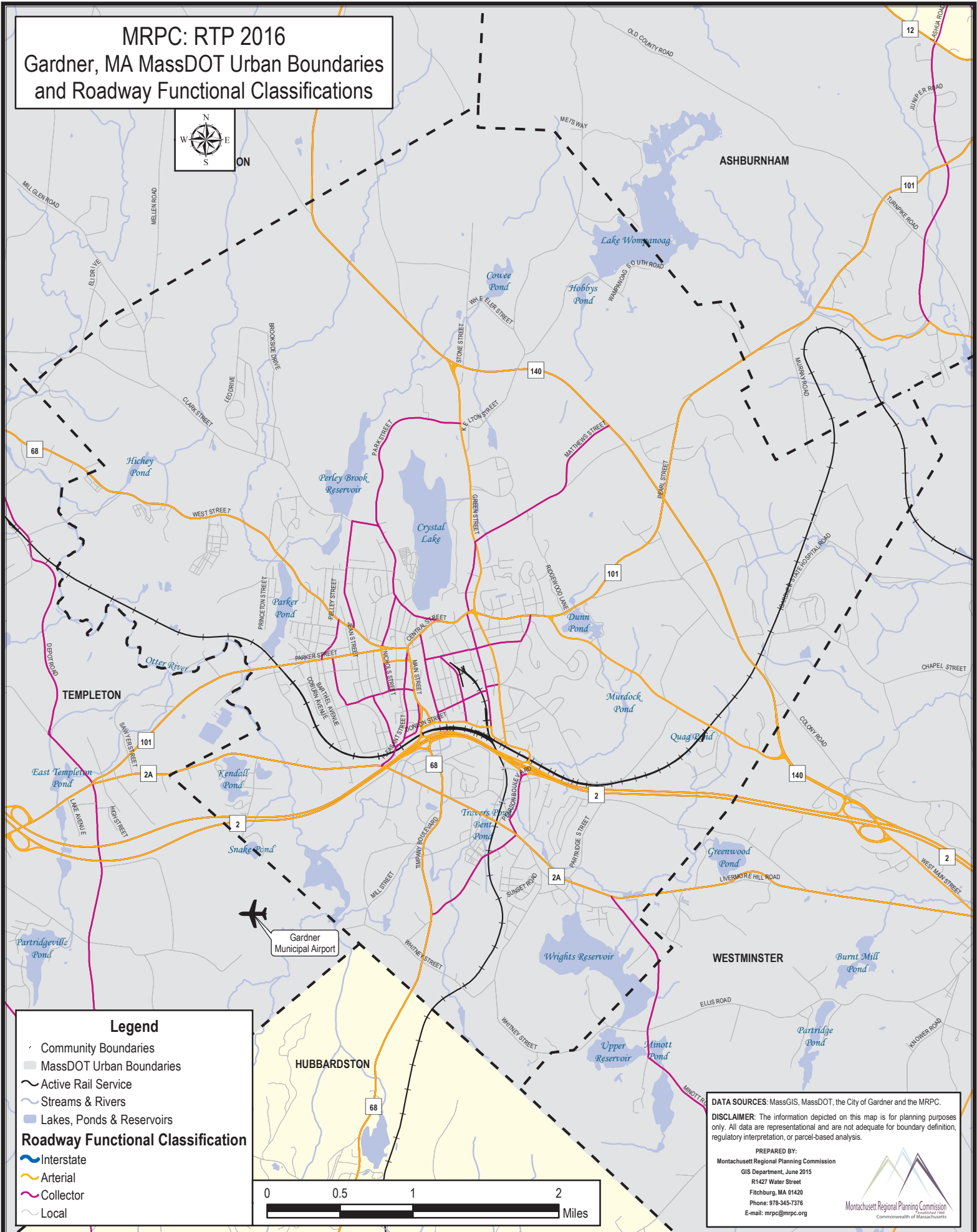
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Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MRPC: RTP 2016

Gardner, MA MassDOT Urban Boundaries and Roadway Functional Classifications

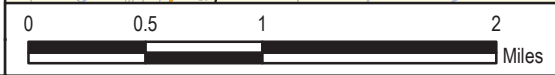


Legend

- Community Boundaries
- MassDOT Urban Boundaries
- Active Rail Service
- Streams & Rivers
- Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs

Roadway Functional Classification

- Interstate
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local



DATA SOURCES: MassGIS, MassDOT, the City of Gardner and the MRPC.

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