



FRCOG Quarterly Report and Announcements – May 2009

Funding /Service Opportunities

- The FRCOG has received funding to **support local planning projects and regional initiatives**. Per the requests of all member towns, the FRCOG will be:
 - Providing technical assistance for Expedited Permitting work.
 - Providing technical assistance to communities interested in pursuing Green Communities designation.
 - Working on efforts to expand cooperative purchasing opportunities.
 - Expanding the Energy-Savings Performance Based Contracting Project.
 - Creating and installing a software system for Boards of Health to better track inspections, fees, and permits.
 - Creating an Internet-based communication system for towns.
- We received more requests than can be funded this year but have a small amount of unobligated funding. Contact lindad@frcog.org for more information on any of these initiatives or to suggest additional regional initiatives.
- It is time to submit **requests for traffic counts** to be conducted over the summer months. All Towns are eligible for free traffic counts, scheduled on a first come – first served basis. Contact trans@frcog.org.
- FRCOG staff will soon convene a meeting of interested Towns to look into **opportunities for cooperative arrangements**, such as sharing highway equipment or sharing a highway vehicle mechanic. Contact bdean@frcog.org.
- The Franklin County **Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) is accepting applications for new members. Contact mrc@frcog.org.

Program / Project Announcements

- The **FRCOG 2008 Annual Report** is complete and available in hard copy or on line at www.frcog.org. For a hard copy, please contact info@frcog.org.
- The Community Coalition for Teens is organizing two trainings on **Motivational Interviewing**, one for community/social service providers on May 1 and one for medical providers on May 12 (afternoon). Contact glennj@frcog.org.
- **The Franklin County Animal Carcass Disposal Plan** is in final draft form and will shortly be available for review on www.frcog.org. Boards of Health, Agricultural Commissions and Select Boards who would like a presentation on the Plan may contact glenayers@frcog.org.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FRCOG is completing a Heritage Landscape project for five towns in Franklin County. Contact adams@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FRCOG and its project partners are implementing a Tri-State Connecticut River Watershed Initiative Project funded by the EPA to stabilize eroding riverbanks, monitor water quality, and provide Smart Growth technical assistance to local towns. Contact natres@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report from the Franklin County Public School Project is complete and available at www.franklincountyeducation.info. A Power Point summary of the report's findings is also available on the site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Franklin County REPC has formed a task force to consider the creation of a Regional Emergency Operations Center. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 2 of the regional energy savings performance contracting project is underway in 6 towns and 2 school districts. All towns that participated in the first round of this project have had their free preliminary energy audit and Orange will be the first to proceed with the Investment-Grade Audit. Contact bdean@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FRCOG Purchasing Department has developed a new cooperative bid for Elevator Maintenance Service for the towns of Bernardston, Sunderland and Heath. This is a one year contract with option to renew for two more years. Contact bids@frcog.org for more information or if your town would be interested in participating in a similar bid.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nineteen towns and non-profits participated in the FY2010 Fuel Bids for heating oil, diesel fuel, and gasoline. A.R. Sandri Co., Dennis K. Burke Inc., and Whiting Energy Fuels will be serving the towns for their fuel needs. Contact bids@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance to towns who are dealing with Ice Storm Debris clean-up from the December 2008 storm has been on-going with bids for debris and tree removal to meet FEMA requirements. Contact bids@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring and summer highway products and services bids have just "hit the streets." Bids will be opened on May 15th. Contact bids@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Preparedness Program is hosting an ongoing series of risk communication workshops for public health officials. Others interested in learning about being a Public Information Officer are welcome. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.

FRCOG Staff Changes

- We are pleased to welcome **Brian Morton** of Amherst to the Town Accounting Program. Brian brings a wealth of municipal financial management experience with him through his many years serving on the Finance Committee in the Town of Amherst.
- After four years as Town Accounting Program Manager, **Janet Swem**, has announced her retirement from the FRCOG. We thank Janet for her service and for contributions in the creation of our Town Accounting Program.
- **Joyce Muka** has been promoted to the position of Town Accounting Program Manager. Joyce has worked in the Accounting Program for three years.
- After 13 years as the Planning Department's Transportation Planning Engineer, **Keith Wilson** has accepted a position in Santa Fe conducting transportation planning.
- We are pleased to announce that **Rachel Stoler** has reconsidered starting a youth advocacy program in Rwanda and instead will be staying with the FRCOG in her capacity as Co-Coordinator of the Community Coalition for Teens.

Legislation / Policy / Advocacy

- The FRCOG has sent a letter to the Franklin County Legislative Delegation and the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees advocating for the state to cover the local share of **costs associated with the December ice storm**. This letter included an estimation of the total costs of the storm to Franklin County municipalities, which was approximately \$2 million.
- Executive Director, Linda Dunlavy, has been appointed to the **Massachusetts Broadband Institute Board of Directors** by Governor Deval Patrick.
- After hard work and advocacy on the part of the FRTA and the FRCOG, the **Franklin Regional Transit Center is receiving \$12.8 million of Economic Recovery funds**. This building will be a transit hub for Franklin County, will house the offices of the FRTA and the FRCOG, and will be a net zero energy consumption building. It also had the honor of being one of the first federal stimulus projects in Massachusetts to celebrate its groundbreaking on April 17 with Governor Patrick and Congressman John Olver in attendance.

Meetings / Forums / Bid Dates

5/6/09 @ 3:00 p.m. – Evacuation Modeling presentation at the South Deerfield Fire Station. Contact sbrown@frcog.org.

5/7/09 @ 5:30 p.m. – Local Historic District Workshop at FRCOG's Planning Conference Room at 278 Main Street, Greenfield. Contact psloan@frcog.org.

5/11/09 @ 2:00 p.m. – Land Use Partnership Act Forum at Holyoke Community College. Contact psloan@frcog.org.

5/14/09 @ 5:00 p.m. – FRCOG Executive Committee Room 102 at 425 Main St. Contact lindad@frcog.org.

5/14/09 @ 5:30 p.m. – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee at FRCOG's Planning Conference Room at 278 Main Street, Greenfield. Contact jatwood@frcog.org.

5/15/09 @ 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – Highway Products and Services bids open in Room 102 at 425 Main St. Contact bids@frcog.org.

5/19/09 @ 7:00 p.m. – Route 112 Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee at Buckland Town Hall. Contact psmith@frcog.org.

- **REPC/MEMA Moore Dam Failure Tabletop Exercise** – Deerfield. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.

5/21/09 @ 5:30 p.m. – Community Coalition for Teens Advisory Board Meeting at FRCOG's Planning Conference Room at 278 Main Street.

5/28/09 @ 7:00 p.m. – Franklin Regional Planning Board at FRCOG's Planning Conference Room at 278 Main Street, Greenfield. Contact psloan@frcog.org.

- **5/28/09 @ 5:30** – Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO) Steering Committee Meeting, Franklin County Courthouse. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.

5/29/09 @ 1:00 p.m. – Request for Proposals for lease of office space in Greenfield to be opened at Room 205 at 425 Main St. Contact bids@frcog.org.

- **5/30/09 Communications Interoperability Drill** – Goshen. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.

6/11/09 @ 5:00 p.m. – FRCOG Executive Committee Room 102 at 425 Main St. Contact lindad@frcog.org.

- **6/11/09 @ 5:30** – CEDS Committee and EDD Governing Board, 278 Main St. Greenfield. Contact psloan@frcog.org.

- **6/25/09 @ 5:30** -- Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO) Steering Committee Meeting, Franklin County Courthouse. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/25/09 @ 7:00 p.m. – Franklin Regional Planning Board at FRCOG’s Planning Conference Room at 278 Main Street, Greenfield. Contact psloan@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7/7/09 @ 3:30 -- REPC Quarterly Meeting, FC Sheriff’s Training Room, Greenfield. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7/9/09 @ 5:00 PM – FRCOG Executive Committee. Contact lindad@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7/23/09 @ 7:00 p.m. – Franklin Regional Planning Board at FRCOG’s Planning Conference Room at 278 Main Street, Greenfield. Contact psloan@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7/23/09 @ 5:30 -- Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO) Steering Committee Meeting, Franklin County Courthouse. Contact twilliams@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7/30/09 @ 5:30 – FRCOG Full Council Meeting, GCTV Studios. Contact lindad@frcog.org.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/13/09 @ 5:00 – FRCOG Executive Committee. Contact lindad@frcog.org.