

# FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy



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NEWSLETTER

## Update of the Franklin County Regional Transportation Plan

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has begun updating the Franklin Long Range Regional Transportation Plan. The plan is a comprehensive document which provides the basis for transportation planning in the region. The plan reviews all types of transportation services and infrastructure, including roadways, passenger rail, freight transport, airports, bus services, sidewalks, and on and off-road bike routes. For each topic, the plan details current conditions and identifies key issues and assets. The plan uses a 25-year time horizon to project future population trends, transportation needs, and financial constraints, and makes recommendations for future transportation improvements based on these forecasts.

Public input is an essential part of the creation of the Regional Transportation Plan, and the FRCOG wants to hear the public's ideas for transportation improvements in Franklin County. Public input is used to establish the main recommendations of the plan and to identify the top priority future transportation projects for the region. There will be a countywide survey distributed in the coming weeks to gather public input. The survey will be available online, via the FRCOG website at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org). It will also be available in hard copy at all Town Halls and Libraries, on board FRTA buses, in the local newspapers, and many other locations.

For more information on the Transportation Plan or to obtain the survey, please contact Transportation and Land Use Planner, Megan Rhodes, at 413-774-1194, ext. 110 or [mrhodes@frcog.org](mailto:mrhodes@frcog.org).

## FRCOG Council Adopts 2011 Budget

At its January meeting the FRCOG Council adopted the 2011 budget. The assessment paid by member towns, known as the Regional Services Assessment, has been level funded for 2011. The assessment was cut by 10% last year and has been reduced by a total of 9.3% since 2001. The Council's Finance Committee recommended a level funded budget to the Council, in part, to prepare for the expected increased costs the FRCOG will face in Fiscal Year 2012 when staff offices are moved into the Franklin Regional Transit Center. While the total assessment has been level-funded, each town will see a small increase or decrease because Equalized Values (EQVs) have changed. EQV is the total property value of a community as certified by the MA Department Revenue and is part of the formula used to calculate the FRCOG assessment. Budgets and additional information will be sent to all member towns later this week.



Route 2 in Erving

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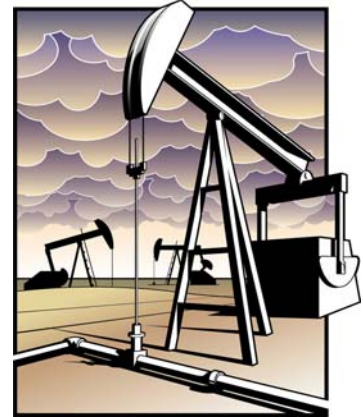
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## Cooperative Fuel Bids

Currently, 15 towns and 4 schools/non-profit entities participate in the FRCOG cooperative fuel contract. These contracts are for #2 Fuel (heating oil), Diesel, and Gasoline. The FRCOG offers three pricing programs – a fixed price for the year, a price that fluctuates based on a market index, and a fluctuating contract with a capped price.

The fee for participating in this program is kept very low and is an affordable way to explore bulk purchasing options with no commitment to lock in and join the final contract.

In addition to towns, we would like to invite more non-profits and schools within and outside Franklin County to join this program. The more fuel needs we can aggregate, the lower cost for all the participants. To see FY10 pricing and read more about the Fuel program, go to [http://www.frcog.org/services/coop\\_purchasing/index.php](http://www.frcog.org/services/coop_purchasing/index.php)



## Planning Department Receives \$215,521 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant



The FRCOG Planning Department was recently awarded a \$215,521 competitive grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to update the Franklin County Regional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and 21 Local Annexes, which were approved by FEMA on June 10, 2005 and will expire on June 10, 2010. The regional plan and local annexes must be updated and approved by FEMA in order for towns to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding. FEMA issued a new Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance document on July 1, 2008, which will help to make the plan updates more robust, specifically the Risk Assessment and Multiple Hazard Mitigation Strategy sections of the plans. For example, the vulnerability assessment will be much more complete and include the identification and mapping of Critical Facilities, Transportation Systems, Communication Systems and Networks, Hazardous Materials Facilities, and Historic, Cultural, and Natural Resources Areas. The updated plans will be expanded to include the type, location and extent of manmade hazards in the region and information on two new hazards – Landslides and Ice Jams – to be consistent with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The FRCOG plans to evaluate a more comprehensive data set for identified hazard areas and expand the vulnerability and risk assessment sections of the plans. In the coming weeks, FRCOG staff will be contacting towns to set up local project teams to assist with the plan updates. FRCOG staff will also be working closely with the members of the Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC), which serves all 26 Franklin County towns. For more information, please contact Natural Resources Program Manager, Kimberly Noake MacPhee, P.G., at 413-774-1194 ext. 103 or [natres@frcog.org](mailto:natres@frcog.org).

## Spring and Summer Highway Bids

Street sweeping, followed by 16 other highway products services will be bid for participating towns in the coming months. If your town has not participated in the past, and you would like an overview of the program, contact Chief Procurement Officer, Andrea Woods, at 413-774-3167 ext. 104 or [bids@frcog.org](mailto:bids@frcog.org). There are many benefits to cooperatively purchasing your highway products and services including the reduced costs due to bulk purchasing, reporting to Mass DOT (Chapter 90), and contract administration and troubleshooting handled by the FRCOG. The fee for participation is based on town population. Current product and services pricing is available on the FRCOG website [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org).



## ***Tri-State Connecticut River Targeted Watershed Initiative***

### **Construction in Gill, MA of Large Woody Debris Riverbank Stabilization Project Almost Complete**

Large woody debris and native plants are being used to stabilize and restore approximately 1,700 feet of eroding riverbank along the Connecticut River in Gill. This project is one of 10 partially funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Targeted Watershed Initiative grant awarded to the FRCOG and its project partners, which include FirstLight Power Resources, the owner of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility. FirstLight is providing the majority of the funding for this bank stabilization project, which is part of the ongoing erosion control work required under their FERC license. This project is a marked departure from the previous bioengineering bank stabilization projects in the Franklin County reach of the Connecticut River, which used extensive bank clearing, regrading and revegetation, and the construction of a stone toe. For the current project, the stone toe has been eliminated and the existing bank will be left undisturbed. The bank will be protected by engineered structures of large woody debris and a vegetated aquatic bench. This design has many advantages over previous bioengineering designs. For example, existing riparian vegetation at the top of the bank, which provides roosting trees for bald eagles, and bank swallow and kingfisher nesting holes in the eroding bank face will be undisturbed. The woody debris structures will provide improved habitat for many species, including rare dragonflies and fish. The structures will also trap sediment from the river water and act as a “breakwater” that will dissipate the erosive energy of the water. Vegetated aquatic benches have been successfully used at 3 other eroding sites along the Connecticut River in Franklin County. Construction is complete and the bench will be planted with native aquatic plants in the Spring. For more information about this project, call Natural Resources Program Manager, Kimberly Noake MacPhee, P.G., at 413-774-1194 ext.103 or [natres@frcog.org](mailto:natres@frcog.org).



### **Walk Franklin County – for the health of it!**

The FRCOG has partnered with the YMCA in Greenfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield Community College, and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to launch a free fitness program focused on walking. Participants wear a pedometer to count the number of steps walked in a day, and those steps can be entered into the program’s website [www.walkfranklincounty.org](http://www.walkfranklincounty.org). The website tracks total steps walked, and responds with email feedback as certain milestones are reached. Research shows that people who walk 10,000 steps per day have significantly fewer health problems than those who don’t. While 10,000 steps may seem high, the program can help motivate you to reach that goal, and in the meantime, any amount of walking can help improve your health! Get started today! Log on to [www.walkfranklincounty.org](http://www.walkfranklincounty.org) and register free of charge. If you are in need of a pedometer, you can purchase one from the YMCA for \$10. For more information contact Transportation & GIS Program Manager, Maureen Mullaney, at 413-774-1194 ext. 108 or [trans@frcog.org](mailto:trans@frcog.org).

## New Bikeway Maps for Franklin County

The FRCOG has created three new bicycling maps for Franklin County which include Eastern, Central and Western Franklin County Maps. This series of maps highlight routes were identified during the process of updating the Franklin County Bikeway Plan. The maps recommend loops as well as point to point routes that access many of the town centers throughout the County. The maps also classify the routes as novice, intermediate or advanced in order to help prospective bicyclists to determine the most suitable route for their ability and physical fitness level. The FRCOG has also updated and reprinted the previously published Franklin County Bikeway Map which depicted the 44-mile Franklin County Bikeway network that travels through Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, Northfield and Sunderland on off-road and shared roadway bicycle facilities. The maps are available at local bike shops, the Chamber of Commerce or by request to Senior Transportation Planner, Elizabeth Giannini, at 413-774-1194 ext.104 or [giannini@frcog.org](mailto:giannini@frcog.org).

## Franklin County Bikeway Signs Have Been Installed



*Franklin County Bikeway Logo and Directional Signs installed in Greenfield*

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is pleased to announce that Franklin County Bikeway logo and directional signs have been installed along the approximately 44-mile central section of the shared roadway portion of the Franklin County Bikeway. The Franklin County Bikeway is a regional bicycling network that travels through eight towns in Franklin County. This bicycle network consists of both off-road and shared roadway facilities, and provides access to employment, educational, cultural and recreational sites. The Bikeway travels through the towns of Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, Northfield, and Sunderland. These routes are depicted on the 2009 *Franklin County Bikeway Map*.

For further information, please contact Senior Transportation Planner, Elizabeth Giannini, at 413-774-1194 ext. 104 or [giannini@frcog.org](mailto:giannini@frcog.org).

## Work to Complete a Corridor Management Plan for the Route 122 Scenic Byway is Underway

The FRCOG has begun work on the development of a Corridor Management Plan for the Route 122 Scenic Byway in Orange and New Salem. The study area includes Route 122 in Orange and New Salem and a ½ mile buffer on each side of the road from its intersection with Route 2A (the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway) in downtown Orange south east through New Salem and north of the Quabbin Reservoir. The project area ends at the town border of New Salem and Petersham.

The FRCOG is currently seeking interested citizens to be a part of the Byway Area Committee. The Byway Area Committee will provide assistance and local knowledge during the development of this Plan. The Committee will meet quarterly during the planning process which will take place over the next fifteen months.

The development of a Corridor Management Plan for the Byway is intended to help guide future Byway related activities and projects. The work will include the completion of inventories of the historic, cultural, and natural resources; a scenic landscape inventory and assessment; an identification of heritage and recreational tourism related attractions and support services; and an evaluation of the land use regulations and resource protection measures that are in place. In addition, an implementation strategy will be developed, which identifies and prioritizes potential projects and/or improvements for which funding may be sought through the Scenic Byway Program in the future. Through the development of a Corridor Management Plan and the accompanying public participation this project will seek to recognize, interpret, preserve, and promote the unique scenic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the Route 122 Scenic Byway. By completing a Corridor Management Plan, this section of the Byway will be eligible to apply for project funding through the National Scenic Byway Program.

If you are interested in being part of this Byway Area Committee, please contact Senior Transportation Planner, Elizabeth Giannini, at 413-774-1194 ext. 104 or [giannini@frcog.org](mailto:giannini@frcog.org).

## The following exercises were funded by Homeland Security and sponsored by agencies in Franklin County

The Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council provided funding for the following initiatives throughout the four counties of Western Massachusetts, including Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Berkshire Counties.

**Fall 2009 MASCAL TTX** – This tabletop exercise was conducted to test Franklin County’s ability to respond to a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI). The exercise planning team was composed of individuals from specific agencies with the specialized skills, knowledge, and abilities to provide valid input into the components of this exercise. Those agencies included: Shelburne Falls Fire Department, FRCOG, Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (FCREPC), Franklin County EMT Association (FCEMTA), and Greenfield Public Safety. The exercise was conducted on October 10, 2009 and held in Charlemont. Other participating agencies included: Amherst Fire, Baystate Health Ambulance, Charlemont Ambulance, Charlemont Police Department, Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Service, Colrain Fire Department, Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO), Franklin County EMS Committee, Greenfield Dispatch, Greenfield Fire, Lanesborough Fire Department, MEMA – Region #3, Shelburne Fire Department, and Shelburne Control Regional Dispatch Center.

**Franklin County Multi-Clinic Mass Prophylaxis Exercise** – This exercise was developed to test Franklin County’s capability to protect the health of the population through administration of critical interventions (e.g., antibiotics, vaccinations, antivirals) to prevent the development of disease among those who are exposed or potentially exposed to public health threats. The exercise planning team was composed of numerous and diverse agencies, including the MAPHCO, the FRCOG, and the Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Work Groups of Frontier, Greenfield, Hawlemont, Leverett & Shutesbury, Mohawk, Montague, Pioneer, and Williamsburg & Goshen. The exercise was conducted over the span of several weeks and held in conjunction with H1N1 Flu Clinics.

**Franklin County Hazmat 2009 TTX** – This advanced tabletop exercise tested the Mass Casualty / Evacuation plan of Greenfield and participating Franklin REPC member towns. The exercise planning team consisted of Franklin REPC, FRCOG, Greenfield Fire, and Greenfield Public Safety Commission. The exercise was held in Greenfield on October 22, 2009. First responders from throughout Franklin County participated in the exercise.

The following trainings were funded by Homeland Security and were open to first responder personnel throughout the four counties:

**Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)** – This training was sponsored by Hampshire County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committee. PHTLS promotes excellence in trauma patient management through global education of all providers involved in the delivery of pre-hospital care. It is based on the belief that, given a good foundation of knowledge and key principles, EMS providers are capable of making reasoned decisions regarding patient care. This course was held on October 24 & 31, 2009.

**Gang Awareness Training for EMS Personnel** – This training, sponsored by Western Massachusetts Emergency Medical Services, was held on November 15, 2009. This one-day course covered the topics of identifying gang members, graffiti interpretation, dealing with gang members at the scene and personnel safety.

The following Emergency Preparedness efforts were funded throughout the four counties, with agencies in Franklin County participating as host entities:

**Western Massachusetts Fire Chief Association (WMFCA) Regional Self-Contained Foam Trailers** – The Western Homeland Security Council provided funds for the WMFCA’s proposal to purchase four (4) Self-Contained Mobile Foam Trailers. The foam of the trailers is specific to address fuel-based fires involving alcohol based fluids, ethanol and ethanol blended fuels. The trailers are being strategically placed throughout the four western counties to respond to ethanol based fires. Fire Departments of Longmeadow, Pittsfield, Greenfield and Palmer will house the trailers and be responsible to respond to mutual aid calls.

**Regional Sheltering Supplies and Trailers** – Five (5) dual-axle storage trailers have been purchased to be placed strategically throughout the region. The trailers house sheltering supplies, including cots, blankets, mats and pillows, that will be available for shelter support when shelters are activated. The trailers will be located at Greenfield Fire Department, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office, Great Barrington Fire Department, and at Salvation Army in Hadley and Springfield.

**Hospital EM Patient Barcode Scanners** - Funds were provided to the Western Massachusetts Hospital Emergency Planning Committee to further expand the EM Patient Tracking System throughout the hospitals of Western Massachusetts. EM track is a web based utility to manage the distribution of patients between a field incident and regional hospitals. System components consist of a web-based data collection area, a barcode reader and a data transmission device.

Some of the uses of the system are:

- Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Patient Tracking
- Hospital Evacuation
- Regional Evacuation
- Large Event Management
- Public Health and Pandemic Response
- Daily Patient Tracking
- Mass Fatality Management
- Shelter Management

Eleven hospitals received two (2) scanners each. Baystate Franklin Medical Center was a receiving hospital.

**Mass Decontamination Unit (MDU) upgrades** – The Homeland Security Council provided funds to make improvements and upgrades to regionally housed Mass Decontamination Units (MDU). A new air heater was supplied to the MDU housed at Greenfield Fire Department.

**WMFCA Continued Mutual Aid Buildout** - Funds were provided to the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association to expand the buildout of the Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council Fire mutual aid system. Radios were provided to additional fire departments throughout Hampden and Hampshire County. Mobile repeaters and radios were purchased and installed in two regional Field Communication units, one housed at Greenfield Fire Department and the other at Pittsfield Fire. These Field Comm units can respond to incidents throughout the region and extend the coverage of the interoperable emergency communication mutual aid system.

**ICS 300 & 400** - The Homeland Security Council continues to provide funds for backfill/overtime or volunteer reimbursement for hourly and volunteer first responders to maintain NIMS compliance. Funding is available for newly promoted, re-assigned staff, newly hired and previously vacant positions. For more information and appropriate forms, email Homeland Security Program Manager, Susan Brown, at [sbrown@frcog.org](mailto:sbrown@frcog.org).

MEMA is conducting ICS 300 & 400 level courses. For further information go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema) and following the links to MEMA's training calendar.

The FRCOG, as fiduciary, provides coordination and implementation of the Homeland Security grant funds for the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council. Further information about the Western Region's activities and programs can be found at [www.wrhsac.org](http://www.wrhsac.org) or by contacting Homeland Security Program Manager, Susan Brown, at 413-774-3167 ext. 117 or [sbrown@frcog.org](mailto:sbrown@frcog.org).

## Franklin County Public Schools

FRCOG is actively working with the School Business Managers in Franklin County to aggregate needs and cooperatively contract for services. Contracts for GASB45 auditing services, for shared tradespeople, and most recently for a cooperative contract to evaluate school insurance policies have been successfully initiated through the FRCOG Procurement Office with the desired effect of reducing costs to schools and transferring contract administration services to the FRCOG. Funding from the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant has made these procurement services free to the schools. For more information, contact Chief Procurement Officer, Andrea Woods, at 413-774-3167 ext. 104 or [bids@frcog.org](mailto:bids@frcog.org).

## Coming Soon, the 2010 Census!

As required by the Constitution, the United States government conducts a count of the total population of the country every ten years. In the coming months, the U.S. Census Bureau will be conducting this count for the 2010 Census. Starting in February, a brief ten-question survey will be mailed to residences throughout Franklin County. For households that do not receive mail directly, but instead use a post office box, survey forms will be dropped off at their location by an official Census employee. All information provided to the Census Bureau is held in the strictest confidence for a period of 72 years, and is not shared with any business or other governmental agency. It is vitally important for these surveys to be completed and returned to the Census Bureau. The data collected in the 2010 Census will lay the foundation for legislative districts, government funding distribution, business planning, and community service planning activities for the next ten years! For more information about the 2010 Census, including information about available Census jobs, please go to: [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).

## Changes to the State's Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP)

The EDIP focuses on stimulating business growth and job creation through specific state and local tax incentives. Municipalities can offer state-approved Certified Projects a local real estate tax incentive, specifically either a Special Tax Assessment or Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The specific terms of the tax exemption are negotiated between the municipality and the business, and must be approved by Town Meeting or Town Council. Additional state tax benefits also apply to Certified Projects, such as a 5% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and a 10% Abandoned Building Tax Deduction. In January 2010, the state legislature made specific changes to EDIP's state Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for future Certified Project. In short, the ITC is no longer a fixed 5% tax credit, but now has the flexibility to range from 1% to 10%, depending on factors, like the number of jobs created. The EDIP now requires for a state ITC, the business must demonstrate that it will generate sales from outside the state. In addition, the EDIP now has the ability to award a state ITC to a project that does not previously have a local TIF agreement in place. For more information about these changes or the EDIP in general, go to [www.mass.gov/mobd](http://www.mass.gov/mobd) or contact the Regional Director for the Massachusetts Office of Business Development, Michael Vedovelli, at 413-733-5358 or [Mike.Vedovelli@state.ma.us](mailto:Mike.Vedovelli@state.ma.us).

## FRCOG Participates in State's Broadband Mapping & Planning Grant

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has been awarded a \$2 million federal grant for statewide data collection and mapping, as well as planning activities to prepare for future deployment of broadband infrastructure and services in western Massachusetts. Working with the MBI on this effort will be the FRCOG, WesternMA Connect, Inc., the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. A Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> broadband forum was scheduled to review this effort with municipal stakeholders and to explain how municipalities can support it. Invitations were extended to the Board of Selectmen in each Franklin County community, with a request that they designate additional representatives from their community to attend as well. For more information, contact Sharon Ferry at WesternMA Connect, Inc. at 413-496-9606 or [sharon@westernmaconnect.org](mailto:sharon@westernmaconnect.org).

## Orange Route 2 Safety Improvements Bid for Construction

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation recently put the construction of Safety Improvements along Route 2 in Orange out to bid. The job is expected to cost approximately \$20 million, and is being funded entirely by economic stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The FRCOG, the Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, and the Route 2 Task Force have been working cooperatively with the communities along the corridor and MassDOT Highway Division 2 since 1994 to bring much needed safety improvements to the area. This project is the latest in a string of improvements for the roadway, and will focus on providing climbing lane and intersection improvements. In the past, this stretch of highway has seen numerous head-on collisions due to unsafe passing. Look for work to commence in the spring/summer of this year. For more information contact Transportation & GIS Program Manager, Maureen Mullaney, at 413-774-1194 ext. 108 or [trans@frcog.org](mailto:trans@frcog.org).

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Conference on March 5 at Pioneer



Organized by the Community Coalition for Teens, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Conference, “Your Future, Your Choice,” will take place on Friday, March 5, 2010 from 8:00 am-2:00 pm at Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield. Registration is now open—with a deadline of February 12. Registration materials can be found on the FRCOG website, or on the CCT Youth Conference facebook page, and by request from Administrative Program Assistant, Davette Young, at 413-774-3167 ext. 101 or [admin@frcog.org](mailto:admin@frcog.org).

The planning committee for this year’s conference is composed of Pioneer students, and, for the first time, the Youth Conference Coordinator is also a student, Senior Sarah Brault. She is coordinating the conference as part of her community service hours for school. Sarah initiated the idea for Pioneer to host the conference on a teacher in-service day when other districts have a regular school day. She and the student planners have worked closely with Student Assistance Counselor Sandy Kinsman and other school staff to address all aspects of the day including workshops, performances, food, giveaways, and logistics.

Conference attendees will choose from among 19 workshops which address topics ranging from social justice issues to economics to food and fitness. Workshops target young people of middle and high school age. The Franklin County Technical School conflict Resolution Theater Group will perform a series of scenes developed by students, and lead discussion with the audience.

CCT does not have grant funding for the conference this year. All expenses will be covered through conference fees, in-kind support, and donations. Donations will help to cover transportation costs for schools that cannot pay for buses to the conference, as well as scholarships for young people in need of funds to cover the registration fee. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Coalition Co-Coordinator, Rachel Stoler, at 413-774-1194 ext.116 or [rstoler@frcog.org](mailto:rstoler@frcog.org). All donations are tax deductible and donors will be recognized in conference publicity.

For questions about the Youth Conference, please contact Youth Conference Coordinator, Sarah Brault, at 413-774-1194 ext. 118 or [youthconference@frcog.org](mailto:youthconference@frcog.org) or Coalition Co-Coordinator, Rachel Stoler, at 413-774-1194 ext. 116 or [rstoler@frcog.org](mailto:rstoler@frcog.org).

## Road Safety Audit Program

The FRCOG, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and local communities, is bringing the Road Safety Audit (RSA) process to the region. Building on the prior identification of hazardous intersections in Franklin County, the RSA will be used to identify traffic safety improvement strategies at four hazardous intersections in the county. The first RSA is scheduled to occur in early spring, with the assistance of MassDOT, and will include the intersection of Conway Street at Devens Street as well as the intersection of Conway Street at Grove Street in Greenfield. The RSA consists of a multidisciplinary team of experts, from area residents to traffic engineers and public safety professionals, who gather to examine a specific location through the analysis of crash data, existing conditions, and physical design elements. The RSA concludes with a report which identifies several short and long-term safety improvement strategies that range in cost to include immediate, low-cost strategies that can be implemented by the community. This traffic safety tool will be an effective and affordable resource for many of our communities. For more information, please contact Transportation Planning Engineer, Stacy Metzger, at 413-774-1194 ext. 109 or [smetzger@frcog.org](mailto:smetzger@frcog.org).



**FORUMS/MEETINGS/SEMINARS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
Feb 10	6:00 PM	Public Forum for the Regional Transportation Plan	Erving Town Hall 12 East Main Street Erving	Maureen Mullaney
Feb 11	5:00 PM	FRCOG Executive Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
Feb 23	2:00 PM	Request for Price Quotes for Street Sweeping	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Andrea Woods
Feb 25	7:00 PM	Franklin Regional Planning Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Peggy Sloan
Mar 1	4:00 PM	MAPHCO Steering Committee	180 Turnpike Road Turners Falls	Thomas Williams
Mar 5	8:00 AM	Community Coalition for Teens 19th Annual Youth Conference	Pioneer Valley Regional School Northfield	Davette Young
Mar 11	5:00 PM	FRCOG Executive Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
Mar 25	7:00 PM	Franklin Regional Planning Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Peggy Sloan
Apr 5	4:00 PM	MAPHCO Steering Committee	180 Turnpike Road Turners Falls	Thomas Williams
Apr 6	3:30 PM	REPC Quarterly Meeting	Sheriff's Training Room 160 Elm Street Greenfield	Thomas Williams
Apr 8	5:00 PM	FRCOG Executive Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
Apr 29	5:30 PM	FRCOG Council Meeting	GCTV Studios 3rd Floor 393 Main Street Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
Apr 22	7:00 PM	Franklin Regional Planning Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Peggy Sloan
May 3	4:00 PM	MAPHCO Steering Committee	180 Turnpike Road Turners Falls	Thomas Williams
May 13	5:00 PM	FRCOG Executive Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
May 27	7:00 PM	Franklin Regional Planning Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Peggy Sloan

**FRCOG Council Representatives for FY 2010**

Ashfield	Dave Deherdt	Montague	Patricia Allen
Bernardston	Stanley Garland	New Salem	Jennifer Sandova
Buckland	Stefan Racz	Northfield	Nick Fleck
Charlemont	Winston Healy	Orange	Rick Kwiatkowski
Colrain	Mark Thibodeau	Rowe	Geoffrey Bagley
Conway	Tom Spiro	Shelburne	John Payne
Deerfield	John Paciorek	Shutesbury	F. Ellen McKay
Erving	Thomas Sharp, Chair	Sunderland	Tom Fydenkevez
Gill	John Ward	Warwick	Frederick Abbott
Greenfield	William Martin	Wendell	Vacant
Hawley	Philip Keenan	Whately	Lynn Sibley
Heath	Thomas Lively	FRPB Rep.	Sam Lovejoy, Secretary
Leverett	Gordon Fretwell	Reg. Elected	Ann Banash
Leyden	Michele Giarusso, Vice Chair	Reg. Elected	Bill Perlman
Monroe	David Nash		

## What is the FRCOG and What Does It Do?

We have a name that is sometimes confused with an amphibious creature and we do a vast array of different things for the Franklin County region that can be just as confusing. Add an array of acronyms that are tossed around by our programs and projects like CCT, CTC, CEDS, WAG-MAG, REPC, TIP, etc., and it is no wonder people often don't know what the FRCOG is. On March 4, 2010 we hope to remedy that. Along with the Franklin County Retirement System, we will hold a meeting that provides an overview of what the FRCOG is and does and what the Retirement System is and does. The meeting will be both fun and informative. Please join us.



*Joyce Muka, Town Accounting Program; Robert Dean, Regional Services*



*Phoebe Walker, Community Services*



*James Hawkins, FCCIP*



*Gretchen Johnson, Beth Giannini, Planning*