

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments provides a variety of services and programming to the municipalities of Franklin County and to the greater Franklin County region. The FRCOG's 2016 Annual Report, which will be available in April of 2017 and on [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org) shortly thereafter, will highlight our work over the past year. Specific services to the Town of Montague in 2016 included the following.

#### **Administration and Special Projects**

- Individual members of several Town energy committees met together informally on a bi-monthly basis to share news from their respective towns and to learn from each other and from invited guests about energy-related topics of mutual interest. FRCOG staff provided assistance in facilitating meetings, presented information, and conducted follow-up communication.

#### **Collective Bidding & Purchasing Program**

- Montague contracted with the FRCOG to receive cooperative bid pricing for up to 24 different Highway Products and Services. Total estimated highway needs for FY17 is \$306,725.
- Montague participated in the #2 Fuel, Gasoline, and Diesel Fuel bids.
- Montague participated in the Dog Tags and Licenses collective bid program.
- Montague participated in the Elevator Maintenance program.
- The Chief Procurement Officer issued a bid for Sidewalk Reconstruction on Montague Street.

#### **Partnership for Youth**

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Gill-Montague Regional School administrators on results from 139 Gill-Montague students, representing 72% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.
- PFY and Planning staff worked with WalkBoston and the Montague Planner to develop a wayfinding campaign in downtown Turners Falls.
- Staff conducted 2 focus groups with elders and residents of congregate housing to assess attitudes, facilitating factors, and barriers to accessing healthy foods.

#### **Planning and Development Department**

- Staff began an update of the 2010 Montague Open Space and Recreation Plan, including a public survey that received 206 responses.
- Staff began to work with the Montague Planning Board on potential zoning revisions to protect natural resources and encourage development and redevelopment in and near existing village centers.
- Staff provided technical assistance to support the redevelopment of the former Strathmore Mill complex and the creation of the Historic Canal District Plan.
- Staff completed a data request for the Town in support of an EPA grant application.
- At the 2016 Western Mass Developers Conference, staff promoted a site that is located in the town and is available for development.

- Staff revised the schedules, brochures, and maps of the FRTA's Fixed Routes.
- Staff conducted a Sidewalk Inventory for Turners Falls and mapped the data.
- Staff assisted with the implementation of walking wayfinding signs in Turners Falls.
- Staff compiled preliminary information needed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission to consider a proposed Millers Falls Historic District.
- Staff finished a Complete Streets assessment in Lake Pleasant.
- Staff updated the Walk Franklin County map for Montague.
- Staff provided technical assistance on the FERC permitting process for the proposed KM-TGP NED pipeline project.
- Staff conducted traffic counts on Center Street, Sunderland Road (Route 47), Third Street, Turnpike Road, and Unity Street as part of the regional traffic counting program.
- Staff conducted bicycle and pedestrian counts on the Canalside Trail, G Street, O Street, Paradise Parkway, Avenue A, Keith Street, Unity Street, Fourth Street, Seventh Street, Power Street, Davis Street, High Street, Central Street, and Riverside Drive; in support of the statewide mode shift goal.
- Staff developed a map of the town showing all bridges and their ownership (MassDOT or Municipal).

### **Regional Preparedness Program**

- The Turners Falls Fire Department, the Montague Center Fire District, and fire districts along their borders explored the suitability of regionalizing fire departments.
- Staff conducted quarterly contact drills and a site notification drill to test the *Montague Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Plan*.
- Staff met with the Health Director to review and make Emergency Dispensing Site Plan improvements.
- Montague entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the FRCOG to recognize the Multi-Agency Coordination Center as the official organization to assist them with emergency management needs.

### **Workshops & Training**

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that Montague public officials, staff, and residents attended and the number in attendance.

#### **Cooperative Public Health Service**

ServSafe/Choke Saver/Allergen Training Series — 4

#### **Municipal Official Continuing Education Series**

Public Records Law — 2

#### **Partnership for Youth**

Community Facility Use Agreement — 1

Advanced LifeSkills — 3 representatives of the Gill-Montague Regional School District

### **Planning, Conservation, and Development**



USDA Federal Funding for Nonprofit Capacity Building — 1

**Regional Emergency Preparedness**

Multiple Casualty Incident Exercise — 21

Hazardous Materials Exercise — 4

Hazardous Materials Awareness — 3

Emergency Preparedness for People with Access and Functional Needs — 3

Let's Make a Plan — 8

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, & Explosive Incidents — 2

Active Shooter Symposium — 13

Tactical EMS Training — 6

Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents — 2

