



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Franklin Regional Planning Board— *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, January 26, 2023 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Location:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA – First Floor Conference Room
Facilitator:	Jerry Lund, Chair - FRPB; Peggy Sloan, Planning Director - FRCOG

### FRPB MEMBERS

- Jerry Lund**, Chair, Leyden, At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Julia Blyth**, Clerk, Northfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Heidi Bohn**, New Salem Planning Board
- Marybeth Chichester**, Colrain Planning Board, FRPB Executive Committee
- Ron Coler**, Ashfield At-Large
- David Dean**, Sunderland Select Board
- Barry Del Castillo**, Buckland Select Board
- Jeff Lacy**, Shutesbury Planning Board, FRPB Executive Committee
- Richard Nathhorst**, Leverett Planning Board
- Charles Olchowski**, Greenfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Phil Pless**, Ashfield At-Large
- Walker Powell**, Orange Select Board
- Jane Shaney**, Ashfield Planning Board
- Don Sluter**, At-Large Whately, FRPB Executive Committee
- Chuck Washer**, Shelburne Select Board, FRPB Rep. to the REPC

### FRCOG STAFF

- Peggy Sloan**, Planning & Development Director
- Allison Gage**, Senior Land Use & Natural Resources Planner
- Beth Giannini**, Transportation Program Manager
- Liz Jacobson-Carroll**, Administrative Services Assistant

<b>1. Introductions and Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	J. Lund, Chair – FRPB & FRPB Members
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J. Lund convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. A round of introductions followed. **J. Blythe moved to adopt the November 3, 2023 minutes, R. Nathhorst seconded the motion, and the motion passed with abstentions.**

<b>2. Presentation and Discussion on the Regional Transportation Plan</b>	B. Giannini, Transportation Program Manager, FRCOG
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B. Giannini provided an overview of the history, purpose and development process of the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan. Goals include enhancing mobility; improving safety and security; encouraging sustainability and energy conservation; promoting economic development; maintaining the rural character of the region; and including the community in the planning process. She noted that all but two of the 25 recommendations made in the 2020 RTP have been implemented or are

underway, and provided examples. She briefed attendees on current and upcoming projects, and the schedule for completing the plan in time for endorsement by the Transportation Planning Organization in June 2023.

Giannini referenced a meeting for municipal officials on 2/16, then reviewed public outreach efforts. She pointed to the FRCOG website containing related links -- to a summary of the process, a survey (3/17/23 deadline), an interactive map for residents to submit suggestions, and a registration form for a 2/15/23 public meeting: <https://frcog.org/public-input-needed-for-the-update-to-the-franklin-county-regional-transportation-plan/>.

Finally, she encouraged any attendees with ideas for transportation projects to contact her [giannini@frcog.org](mailto:giannini@frcog.org) or M. Rhodes [mrhodes@frcog.org](mailto:mrhodes@frcog.org), 413-774-3167. Members referenced two long-sought projects: a sidewalk connecting Greenfield’s Leyden Woods complex to downtown, and safety improvements on Turners Falls Road.

<b>3. Community Planning for Net Zero Emissions</b>	A. Gage, Sr. Land Use & Natural Resources Planner, FRCOG
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Gage introduced an initiative, funded through the DOER’s Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA) grant, to facilitate communities’ efforts to meet Massachusetts 2050 net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) goal. It involves technical assistance from FRCOG to municipalities for filing reports, applying for grants, and amending energy-use plans. She gave an overview of how progress will be made and measured by the towns, and emphasized the important role GHG-reduction plays in improving public health and achieving social equity. She is currently working with Greenfield and Warwick to create baseline inventories of community GHG emissions, and net-zero plans for their municipal buildings and operations. She noted that other towns may soon apply for the next round of funding. She expressed appreciation for methodology developed by FRPB member Zara Dowling and UMass’s Clean Energy Extension. Depending on funding opportunities from the DOER, staff will work with the broader community and residents in the future. Discussion centered around residential/private energy use, including: the relative impact of different energy sources on a household’s carbon footprint; paying landowners to sequester carbon; the impact of high electricity rates on homeowners who have switched to more environmentally sustainable heating systems, etc.

<b>4. Brief Update on the FERC Relicensing Process</b>	P. Sloan, Planning Director, FRCOG
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Sloan said that the stakeholder group addressing concerns regarding erosion in the CT River has submitted another proposal to FirstLight, and is awaiting a response. The separate stakeholder groups are re-convening soon to discuss potential differences in their proposals. The re-licensing process is expected to conclude in March.

<b>5. Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting/Adjourn/Public Comment</b>	J. Lund, Chair - FRPB
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Sloan encouraged members to look at FRCOG’s new website.

**D. Travers moved to adjourn the meeting, M. Chichester seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.**

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, November 3, 2022 – DRAFT
- RTP public outreach Stakeholder Meetings
- Community Planning for Net Zero Emissions

The next FRPB meeting will be held on March 23, 2023. (The next FRPB Executive Committee meeting will be on February 23.) Copies of all documents are available. Please contact Liz Jacobson-Carroll at [ljc@frcog.org](mailto:ljc@frcog.org) or 413-774-3167 x101.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Blyth, Clerk - FRPB