



**Franklin Regional
Council of Governments**

PARTNERING WITH RPAs

A Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
Case Study

ABOUT THE FRCOG

Mission: to foster a vibrant, sustainable region for all, and to leverage resources that promote collaboration and efficiency within our member communities.

We do this by providing advocacy, planning, and cooperative services – both proactively and in direct response to our member communities' needs.

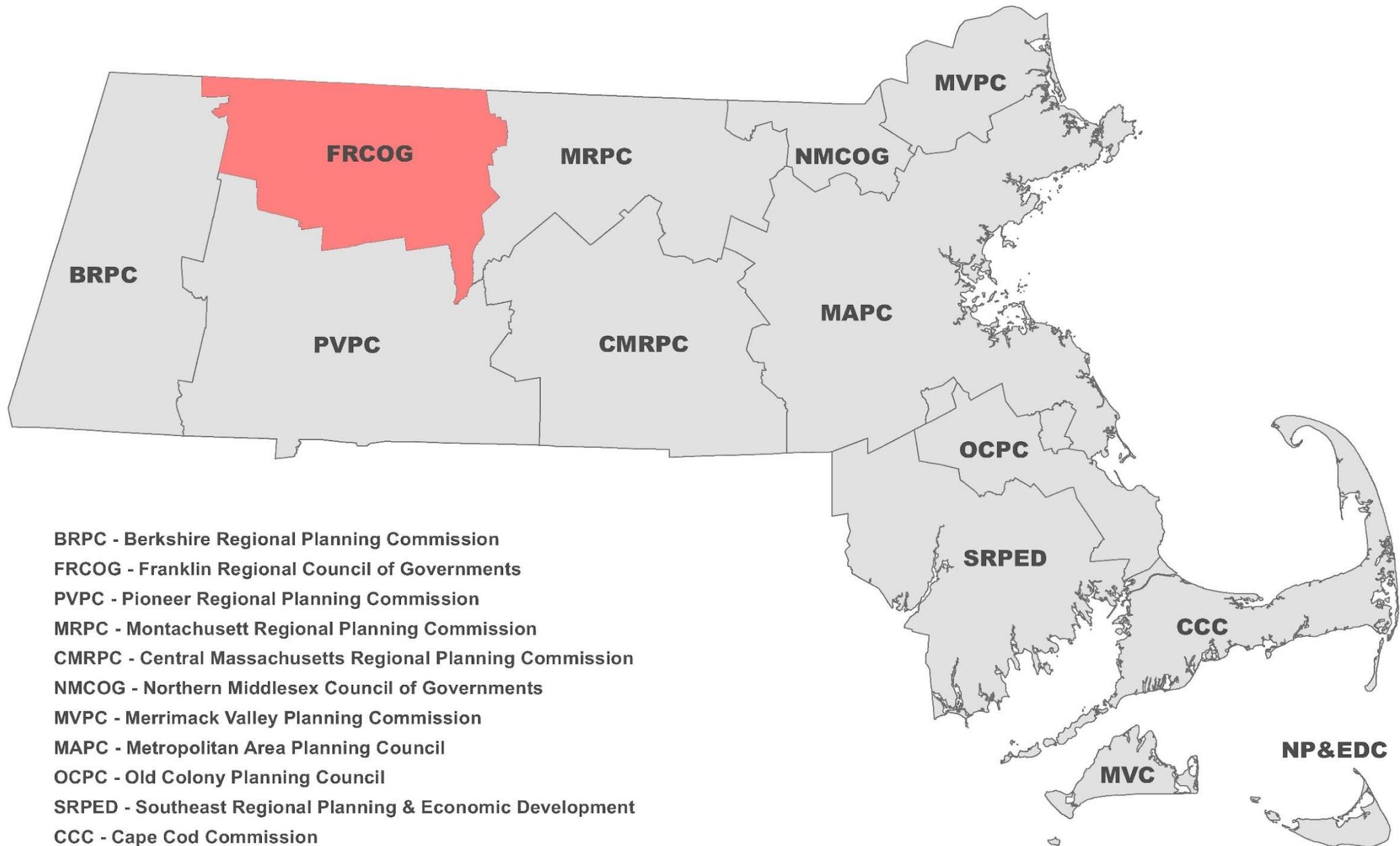
The FRCOG is both a **Council of Governments** (COG) and the designated **Regional Planning Agency** (RPA) for Franklin County.

Councils of Governments:

- Provide cooperative planning, coordination, and technical assistance on issues of mutual concern that cross jurisdictional lines

Regional Planning Agencies:

- Created by Massachusetts General Law in 1974
- Purpose is to study, plan, and recommend how a region can protect and enhance its environment, economy and quality of life through the land use, natural resources, climate resiliency, economic development, transportation



- BRPC** - Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- FRCOG** - Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- PVPC** - Pioneer Regional Planning Commission
- MRPC** - Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
- CMRPC** - Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
- NMCOG** - Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
- MVPC** - Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
- MAPC** - Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- OCPC** - Old Colony Planning Council
- SRPED** - Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development
- CCC** - Cape Cod Commission
- MVC** - Martha's Vineyard Commission
- NP&EDC** - Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission

OUR REGION

- **Largest community: Greenfield (pop. 17,768)**
- **Smallest community: Monroe (pop. 118)**

Most of our communities do not have their own planning staff.

The communities look to us for help with transportation planning and technical assistance on both a regional and local level.

In particular we provide support to the towns by seeking grant funds on projects that are regionally significant.



TRANSPORTATION

FRCOG serves as the Transportation Planning Organization, through which we develop the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP) for the region with state and federal partners (MassDOT and Federal Highway).



Our transportation planning encompasses:

- Road
- Bridge
- Rail
- Transit
- Bike
- Pedestrian

SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A)

FRCOG submitted an application to the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program in partnership with the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission and the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

The application is to develop comprehensive safety action plans for Franklin County, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket.



WHY A JOINT APPLICATION?

Similar scale, context, and crash trends create a natural partnership opportunity for these geographically distinct regions to develop solutions that address critical rural safety needs.

Advantageous for **collaboration and information sharing** purposes and also creating an **economy of scale** for hiring a consultant to develop the plan.

Opportunity to connect and discuss safety planning in our regions as we met many times virtually to develop the application.

CHALLENGES OF A JOINT APPLICATION

The compilation of the application is a lot of work.

Generating a shared understanding of what we wanted to get out of it.

Writing the grant is time consuming - dividing the work up could be challenging.

CHALLENGES OF A JOINT APPLICATION



BENEFITS TO PARTNERING WITH YOUR RPA

High familiarity with our regions and communities.

High familiarity with the requirements of Federal transportation funding and contracting.

We often have data to help to make your case.

GET INVOLVED NOW WITH YOUR RPA!



It is advantageous to be involved with the regional planning process! Don't wait until you are writing an application to engage with your RPA.

All of the RPAs are currently updating our Regional Transportation Plans; now is a good time to get involved and provide input and feedback on transportation needs in your region.

These plans help us to make recommendations and set priorities for regional transportation projects.

It is helpful for your transportation planning priorities to be included in a regional plan.



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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