

# WHAT IS THE MPO?

**M**etropolitan **P**lanning **O**rganizations are established in urbanized areas across the nation to implement federally mandated transportation planning. The MPO decides how to spend federal funds for transit projects and both state and federal funds for roadway and bridge projects.

The Southeastern Massachusetts MPO was restructured in 1997 to add eight elected officials. Previously the MPO members were only state and regional agency representatives. The Secretary of Transportation is the Chairman of all of the 13 MPOs in the Commonwealth. Deputy Secretary Clinton Bench has been representing the Secretary at this region's MPO meetings. Mayor Kevin Dumas is the Vice-Chairman of the MPO.

The SRPEDD Transportation Planning Staff provides technical support and coordination services for the MPO. This includes organizational support, public outreach, the preparation of certification documents, transportation studies and reports, regional transportation modeling, and transit planning.

The Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG), consisting of appointed delegates from each of SRPEDD's member municipalities is the transportation advisory body and citizen participation tool of the MPO. The SRPEDD Transportation Planning Staff works with the JTPG to prepare the Regional Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program. The MPO is responsible for the preparation and approval of each of these documents.

## 2011/2012 SMMPO MEMBERS

- Richard A. Davey, Secretary of Transportation and CEO, Chairman
- Frank DePaolo, Commissioner, Highway Division, MassDOT
- Scott W. Lang, Mayor of the City of New Bedford
- William A. Flanagan, Mayor of the City of Fall River
- Kevin J. Dumas, Mayor of the City of Attleboro, Vice Chairman
- Charles Crowley, Mayor of the City of Taunton
- **Selectman Vacancy**
- Jonathan F. Henry, Selectman Town of Marion
- Stephen McKinnon, Selectman Town of Middleborough
- Shawn McDonald, Selectman Town of Dartmouth
- Randall Kunz, Chairman of the SRPEDD Commission
- Arthur Frank, Acting Administrator of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority
- Francis J. Gay, Administrator of the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relating to the comprehensive, continuing and cooperative (3C) transportation planning process, the SRPEDD Commission is authorized to elect the four representatives to the MPO from the Boards of Selectmen utilizing the procedure described below.

**Term of Office:** Two representatives shall be elected each year for two-year terms.

**Solicitation of Nominees:** Annually SRPEDD sends notices to each Board of Selectmen and SRPEDD Commissioners of each member town. The purpose and role of the MPO and a description of the election process accompanies the notice. Each member of every local Board of Selectmen shall be offered an opportunity to nominate themselves as a candidate for election to the MPO. Nominations shall be returned to SRPEDD within four weeks of the date they are distributed.

**Election of Selectmen Representatives:** Nominations shall be referred to the SRPEDD Commission for a vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission. All names and towns of the interested selectmen shall be printed on a paper ballot. Nominees will be invited to attend and speak at the meeting of the SRPEDD Commission when the vote is taken.

**Designees:** Members of Boards of Selectmen elected to the MPO may send a designee, who is directly responsible and accountable to the Selectmen, to a meeting in their place, but the designee may vote only with written and signed authorization from the elected MPO member.

**Vacancies:** Should a selectmen's position fall vacant between annual elections, any member town may nominate, and the SRPEDD Commission may elect, a candidate to fill the vacancy until the following election.