

2014-15 Advisory Council Officer Candidate Statements

Chair Nominee Mike Gowing

I was raised in the city of Boston (from Roxbury to Readville) and grew up going to school on public transportation. My father was a motorman on the Orange line until he passed. After a stint in the Marines, I got my degree, a job, a wife, and moved to the suburbs. I moved to Acton 10 years ago and was elected to local government as a selectman in 2009 (and subsequently reelected in 2011). RTAC was assigned to me as a liaison position. Living in the suburbs for the last 38 years has taught me that there's very little transportation available in the suburbs. After a Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) training session in 2009, I was hooked on transportation. In the last four years, we have developed a Transportation Management Association (TMA) called CrossTown Connect that provides transportation for eight communities and five businesses in our region utilizing a combination of COA vans and other rolling stock. We also negotiated successfully with the MBTA to improve the station located in South Acton (second busiest stop on the Fitchburg line) to include security cameras and elevators for access as part of their federally funded double tracking effort. We currently have two rail trails (the Bruce Freeman and the Assabet River rail trail) being developed in our town. The ARRT terminates at the train station making it truly multimodal. I look forward to the opportunity to advance the cause of RTAC in the upcoming years.

Vice Chair Nominee David Montgomery

As Chairman of the Advisory Council for the past year, I have enjoyed working with the Council's membership, Vice Chair Mike Gowing and our staff David Fargen and Pamela Wolfe (and their many CTPS colleagues) to enhance significant dialogue on many important transportation planning issues. Collectively, we have made much progress in bringing new voices into these vital discussions and I am confident we have provided – and will continue to provide – additional substantive input to the Boston Region MPO's many planning processes and initiatives. The work is never done, of course; that is how it should be. The opportunity to serve as Vice Chair in the coming year will allow me to focus on addressing some persistent membership issues (increasing our numbers and revising our quorum requirement). I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to build on the foundation we've established. Thank you for a good year. Your involvement and support makes all the difference.