

**Steve Olanoff**  
2011 Statement of Candidacy for Chair  
Regional Transportation Advisory Council

I respectfully submit my candidacy for election as chair of the Regional Transportation Advisory Council for the upcoming year.

I have been serving as the Town of Westwood representative on the Regional Transportation Advisory Council for 17 years. I have been the Advisory Council vice chair this past year, chair for two earlier years, and vice chair for two other years. For the last 10 years I have regularly attended TPPC and MPO meetings, and have for these years represented the Advisory Council on the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program Committee and the Clean Air and Mobility Committee (formerly the Suburban Mobility and Transportation Demand Management Committee).

In addition, I have represented my town for 6 years on the MBTA Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for 18 years, and on MAPC's Three Rivers Interlocal Council sub-region. I am the vice chair of the Westwood Planning Board where I have served for 20 years.

Candidates for office always claim that this year is different from all previous elections, and that they are needed now more than ever. With the significant increase in the size of the MPO starting on November 1, including representation from each sub-region, this is not an unreasonable claim for this year. There will be six or more new members of the MPO. It is important for the Advisory Council to take the lead among the new members to insure that all members of the MPO continue to think and act regionally. There is the possibility that the new sub-regional representatives might feel that they represent only their sub-region, contrary to the historic understanding that each MPO member representatives all 101 cities and towns in the Boston Region.

As always, the Advisory Council should work to increase its membership in those areas where representation is lacking. I would encourage attendance by more state agencies and other groups, particularly in light of the new MOU not including additional state agencies or other groups in its increased membership as had been suggested.

I would like to bring back field trips to the Advisory Council and have more informative presentations at meetings so that members will be well informed on the important projects proposed for our region. I hope that all members will feel free to bring any suggestions or concerns directly to me, so that I might always be well informed on all Advisory Council positions.

Finally, I would like to thank the nominating committee for their support in nominating me to the position of chair, and I appreciate everyone's support for the election.