Massachusetts Cities and Towns

Updated 3/06/06 (Population figures are based on the 2000 Census)
Origins and Methods

• Established in 1993 when 14 communities sought state funding to create a shared public administrator position
• The original mission was to act jointly to solve problems
• Member involvement was key to success
• Initial needs were for training, resource sharing (for new HR requirements at the time) and procurement
• By 1997 membership dues supported the organization independently from state or other funding
A collaborative approach to municipal procurement

• Adapted to changing needs
• Original *and continuing* mission: act jointly to solve problems
• Procurement remained the greatest mutual need
• Provide consistent and reliable service
• Organization remains small and focused, 1 employee
• Management by members is key to sustained success
• Board decides on and authorizes all work
• Mutual reliance and trust developed among members
• 19 Towns and 2 Cities working together
Six routine Procurements

Each procurement is for multiple items (#) as noted

- **Annually**: Paper (18), DPW Supplies (44), Water & Sewer Treatment Chemicals (22), and DPW Services (28)

- **Every two years**: Office Supplies (% discount for general supplies and lower discount for toner/ink cartridges)

- **Every three years**: Drug & Alcohol Testing Services (greatest benefit is randomization is spread over all participating towns/cities)
Monthly meeting of Highway Superintendents:

• Meets in member towns/cities in region
• Discussions are directed by participants
• With routine procurements administered by SERSG, Highway Superintendents, DPW Directors and other staff can focus on quality of products and services secured, and request new items as needed
• Share opinions and experiences with common vendors
• Contracted vendors are held accountable to group’s specifications
• Bi-Monthly meeting of Regional Stormwater Coalition (fairly new)
Statutory Authorization:

SERSG requires 3 things to participate in services and be an Associate Member:

• payment of dues - $4100
• authorization on the state’s CPO Delegation Form
• authorization of the SERSG Employee as a Special Municipal Employee

Member Municipalities that also sign an SERSG Intermunicipal Agreement are Full Members and have a vote on the Board of Directors