

**Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 4:00 PM

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) Office

1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA

MPO Representatives/Alternates:

Michael Canales	City of North Adams (representing Mayor Alcombright)
John Duval	North Berkshire Towns Representative
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Tom Tinlin)
Jim Huebner	Southeast Berkshire Towns Representative
Sheila Irvin	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Berkshire Towns Representative
David Mohler, Chair	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing Secretary Pollack)
David Turocy	City of Pittsfield (Representing Mayor Tyer)
Laurel Scialabba	North-Central Berkshire Towns Representative

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Nat Karns	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Emily Lindsey	BRPC
Gabriel Sherman	MassDOT
Sean VanDeusen	Town of Lenox

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Mohler called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 26, 2016**

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy, to approve the meeting minutes for the April 26, 2016 meeting of the Berkshire MPO, as presented.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries with one abstention (Irvin).

**4. REPORT FROM THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 21, 2016**

Mr. Kus noted the TAC discussed many of the items on the MPO agenda at their June meeting, highlighting the TAC discussion on TIP scenarios and their unanimous support of Scenario 3 and Scenario A (Skyline Trail).

**5. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FY 2016-2019 TIP: HIGHWAY SECTION, OFF SYSTEM BRIDGE SECTION, AND TRANSIT SECTION**

Ms. Koirala described administrative adjustments to the FY 2016-2019 TIP. There were three bridges (Florida, Washington, and New Marlborough) whose costs needed to be adjusted as the cost for the projects had decreased. Mr. Fieri noted that bridge descriptions (Washington and New Marlborough) needed to be adjusted as the scope had changed, originally they were scoped as full replacements

but now they are only superstructure replacements. Mr. Huebner requested information on the updated projects, Mr. Fieri will follow up. There is one administrative adjustment to the Transit section to move a bus replacement from FY 2017 to FY 2016.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner, to approve the administrative adjustments to the FY 2016-2019 TIP.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2016-2019 TIP AMENDMENT #3 AND INITIATE A 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Ms. Koirala described the proposed Amendment #3 to the FY 2016-2019 TIP. Amendment #3 includes changes to the highway, bridge, and transit sections. Pittsfield's Center St. and West Housatonic St. project increased in cost, Lanesborough's Narragansett Ave. over Pontoosuc Lake bridge project increased in cost once MassDOT reached 75% design, the final cost was updated, and the transit section was updated to include the award of 5310 funds to the Berkshire region. Ms. Koirala explained some of the 5310 awards, which includes: Berkshire Community Action Council's operating assistance and fleet management, BRTA's 5 replacement vehicles, mobility management – travel training, and 2 replacement vans. Mr. Lovejoy inquired about the travel training program and Ms. Koirala and Mr. Mohler highlighted some of the goals of the program, like training riders of dial-a-ride, seniors, and others to use fixed route transit.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy, to initiate a 30-day public comment period for FY 2016-2019 TIP Amendment #3.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

**7. APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Ms. Lindsey provided the group with a brief description of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and highlighted some of the major goals of the Plan. Ms. Lindsey described the 45-day public comment period, where staff hosted an Open House on May 25, 2016. Ms. Lindsey pointed to the public involvement process for the PPP, which is documented in Appendix A.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy, to approve the draft Public Participation Plan.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

**8. PRESENTATION ON THE FY 2017-2021 TIP AND RECOMMENDED PROJECT FUNDING SCENARIO AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO INITIATE A 30 DAY COMMEND PERIOD**

Ms. Koirala recapped the process by which the draft FY 2017-2021 TIP was developed. She went through the projects in the draft TIP by year. Mr. Karns inquired about the Route 8 project in Adams, programmed in 2020; Mr. Fieri described the project as town line to town line. Mr. Mohler noted this TIP shows leaving \$355,000 in 2020 and \$1.5 million in 2021 not programmed. Ms. Koirala confirmed and said this is due to not having any projects ready to go. These will be revisited as projects are considered. Mr. Mohler also noted the over programmed STP, and asked if BRPC staff had checked with MassDOT staff to ensure this was okay. Both Mr. Sherman and Ms. Koirala confirmed.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy, to release the FY 2017-2021 TIP for a 30-day public comment period.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

**9. PRESENTATION ON THE 2017 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO INITIATE A 30 DAY COMMEND PERIOD**

Ms. Kus described the FY 2017 UPWP focus areas which include special studies that incorporate the two new FAST Act planning factors (tourism and resiliency), supporting multimodal transportation, providing support to local communities on local issues (access management, road diets, safety audits), supporting transit in the region, looking at climate change and resiliency, developing performance measures, and working to enhance freight and passenger rail planning. A summary of these activities was provided to the MPO. Mr. Kus pointed to a corresponding budget that showed, by task, where the funds were allocated.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy, to release the FY 2017 UPWP for a 30-day public comment period.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

**10. STATUS REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES**

Mr. Frieri reported the project status of TIP projects in the Berkshire MPO area, noting an error in the handout, Mr. Fieri corrected the year of the Great Barrington bridge project to FY 2016. Mr. Duval inquired about the estimated completion date for the Ashuwillticook extension. Mr. Frieri will follow up with Mr. Duval. Mr. Lovejoy conveyed compliments to MassDOT District 1 for new paving projects.

Mr. Karns noted the success and interest Berkshire communities have had in the MassDOT Complete Streets program so far. He noted towns both large (North Adams) and small (Egremont) that were proceeding with the program.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE/MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2016. Mr. Mohler adjourned the meeting at 4:43 PM.

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- Public Participation Plan Memo
- Draft FY 2017-2021 TIP Tables
- Draft FY 2016-2019 TIP Amendments and Adjustments
- UPWP Topics
- UPWP Budget
- MassDOT Project Status Report