

Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Thursday, November 8, 2012 4:30 PM

At the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission office

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

MPO Representatives and Alternates Voting:

Clinton Bench, MassDOT (Representing Secretary Davey)

Peter Niles, MassDOT District 1 (representing Administrator DePaola)

Jim Lovejoy, Town of Mt. Washington (Southwest Berkshire)

Bruce Collingwood, City of Pittsfield

Bob Malnati, BRTA

Sheila Irvin, BRPC

Michael Canales, City of North Adams

John Boyle, Town of Dalton (North Central Berkshire)

Jim Huebner, Town of Washington (Southeast Berkshire)

Michael Ouellette, Town of Adams

Others Present:

Clete Kus, BRPC

Anuja Koirala, BRPC

Nat Karns, BRPC

Jonathan Butler, Town of Adams

Donna Cesan, Town of Adams

Arthur Harrington, Town of Adams

Bill Palmer, MassDOT

Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1

Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1

Jane Winn, BEAT

Andy McKeever

Phil Demers

Ed Nardi, Tyringham Planning Board

1. CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bench called the meeting to order at 4:35. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES OF October 16, 2012

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Malnati, supported by Mr. Lovejoy, to approve the October 16, 2012 minutes.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED, ONE ABSTENTION

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

4. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FFY 2013-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PLAN (TIP).

Mr. Bench described the Federal Government's "We Can't Wait" idle earmark reduction process. Massachusetts identified several idle earmarks across the Commonwealth. Secretary Davey corresponded to FHWA that MassDOT would redistribute the approximately \$14 million dollars from those idle earmarks to regional transit authorities. Mr. Kus explained the dollar amounts of the TIP amendments and the non-Federal funds (\$105,000) to make the Route 8 & Friend Street intersection design complete. The TIP

development cycle will identify sources of construction funding for that intersection. Mr. Malnati described the status of the BRTA projects, and Mr. Lovejoy agreed they appeared very close to fruition. Mr. Karns indicated that reprogramming a CMAQ project in a future year may be an option for funding the roundabout construction.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Ouellette, supported by Mr. Boyle, to approve the amended 2013-2016 TIP, as presented for public comment with one addition. Specifically, inserting the purchase of four paratransit vehicles (\$420,000, FY 2013) and roof repairs to the BRTA maintenance facility (\$250,000, FY 2013) while removing construction funding for the Friend Street and Route 8 intersection improvement project in Adams (\$650,000, FY 2014). MassDOT committed \$105,000 of non-federal funds to complete the design of the Friend Street and Route 8 intersection improvement project and for this design project to be included in section 2A (Non Federal Aid) of the TIP for FFY2013.

VOICE VOTE, MOTION CARRIED

5. STATUS REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

Mr. Frieri provided an update on the status of all projects MassDOT was reviewing, including all of the projects scheduled for Federal Fiscal Year 2013 like the Great Barrington Main Street project and the Rail Trail extension. There are bridge replacement design contracts and rail trail construction contracts that are recently completed and MassDOT anticipated work commencing shortly. Great Barrington is close to 100% submission for the Main Street Project. Mr. Kus mentioned that the MPO would be undertaking extensive efforts to enhance the Region's Title VI efforts.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The MPO did not discuss other business

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

December 18, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- October meeting minutes
- 2013-2016 TIP Amendment Materials
- Project update spreadsheet

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Plachcinski, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner