

Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday March 27, 2012 4:00 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)
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1 (representing Administrator DePaola)
Jim Lovejoy, Town of Mt. Washington (Southwest Berkshire Delegate)
Gordon Bailey, Town of Lee (Southeast Berkshire Delegate)
Bruce Collingwood, City of Pittsfield
John Boyle, Town of Dalton (North Central Berkshire Delegate)
Gary Shepard, BRTA
James Mullen, BRPC
Mike Nuvallie, City of North Adams

Others Present:

Kevin O'Donnell, TAC Chair (Great Barrington)
Andrew Lehmann, MassDOT
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Justin Diagle, MassDOT District 1
Jana Brule, Town of Florida, TAC
Jane Winn, BEAT
Clete Kus, BRPC
Anuja Koirala, BRPC

1. CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bench called the meeting to order at 4:02

2. MINUTES OF January 31, 2012

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Mullen, supported by Mr. Boyle, to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2012 MPO meeting.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED, TWO ABSTENTIONS

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments

4. REPORT FROM THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Donnell reviewed the TAC's March 2012 meeting.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON FREIGHT AND GOODS MOVEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Mr. Plachcinski described the survey results. He explained that the input was consistent with the needs described in the RTP. Poor pavement, traffic lights, and some problematic intersections were the most notable comments. There were 14 responses, but no big box retailers. Lack of freeway access was a drawback to conducting business according to almost all of the respondents. Signalized intersection efficiency is a MassDOT priority.

6. PRESENTATION ON THE BERKSHIRE REGIONAL COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Koirala introduced the human services plan and delivered the presentation from the public hearing. The plan is important for federal funds eligibility and must be reviewed each three years. Ms. Koirala explained the funding resources and how they are used within the Region. The overarching goal is to eliminate service gaps. Mr. Shepard described the need to implement deviated fixed route service. Mr. Bench asked for information on destinations. Mr. Shepard explained the destinations within the County. It is important to note specific deficiencies in the Plan.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Shepard, support from Mr. Boyle, to release the human services plan for public comment.

VOICE VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

7. 2013-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Koirala presents the funding targets and the projects that were submitted for funding consideration. There is a tentative schedule for analysis and presentation of results to the TAC and MPO in April. TIP final adoption in September.

8. H.1808- AN ACT RELATIVE TO SPEED LIMITS

Mr. Kus explained the effect the Act would have on local roads. Non-posted local roads would have a presumptive speed limit of 25 MPH. BRPC will follow up with local officials.

9. STATUS REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

Mr. Shepard indicated that a fare structure study will coincide with new fare boxes and BRTA's new paratransit vehicles. Mr. Frieri provided an update on the status of improvement projects within the region, most specifically projects that changed status or are slated for FFY12 and FFY13. Mr. Mullen described the BRPC's Tiger IV grant application.

10. OTHER BUSINESS**11. NEXT MEETING DATE**

April 24, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Shepard, support from Mr. Lovejoy, to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- January meeting minutes
- Freight survey results
- TIP development
- Project Updates
- H.1808
- Coordinated Human Services Plan presentation

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Plachcinski, AICP
Senior Transportation Planner