

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

**Tuesday March 29, 2011 4:00 PM**

At the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission office  
1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

MPO Representatives and Alternates Present:

Clinton Bench, MassDOT (Representing Secretary Mullan)  
Peter Niles, MassDOT District 1 (representing Administrator Paiewonsky)  
Jim Lovejoy, Town of Mt. Washington (Southwest Berkshire Representative)  
Ronald Turbin, Town of Williamstown (North Berkshire Alternate)  
Thomas Szczepaniak, Town of Dalton (North Central Representative)  
Jim Huebner, Town of Washington (Southeast Berkshire Alternate)  
Bruce Collingwood, City of Pittsfield (Representing Mayor Ruberto)  
Gordon D. Bailey (Southeast Berkshire Representative)

Others Present:

Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT  
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1  
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1  
Nat Karns, BRPC  
Clete Kus, BRPC  
Douglas Plachcinski, BRPC  
Lauren Gaherty, BRPC  
Jane Winn, BEAT

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bench called the meeting to order at 4:06

**2. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011**

ACTION: Motion by Lovejoy, supported by Huebner, to approve the minutes of February 22, 2011.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bench complimented BRPC on the complete and accurate minutes.

VOICE VOTE: 6 Ayes, 1 Abstention

MOTION CARRIED

**3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**4. RTP UPDATE**

Mr. Plachcinski provided a status report on the RTP. Mr. Karns asked when MassDOT will provide final financial provisions. Mr. Bench indicated that MassDOT prepared the information and the financial projections were in final draft form. He anticipated a transmittal to the MPO's shortly. He further indicated that the required air quality conformity analysis for Western Massachusetts was not complete because at least one other MPO was not going to submit their project list until MassDOT's projections were set. Mr. Bench indicated that he anticipated that to happen sometime in the third quarter of 2011. Staff will adjust the RTP

adoption timeline accordingly.

## **5. MPO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Mr. Bench explained what the MOU was. Mr. Szczepaniak asked for an explanation of the modifications to the MOU. Mr. Kus explained the changes and indicated that the draft MOU was circulated according to the BRPC Public Participation Plan.

**ACTION:** Motion by Szczepaniak, seconded by Lovejoy, to endorse the MOU and distribute the document for signatures.

**DISCUSSION:** No Discussion

**VOICE VOTE:** 8 Ayes

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **6. UPWP AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Bench and Mr. Kus described the proposed amendments regarding Transit Database reporting, RTP follow-up, and Scenic Byways. Mr. Kus summarized the financial changes to the UPWP budget and indicated that there was an additional column demarcating the differences in the task budgets.

**ACTION:** Motion by Niles, seconded by Lovejoy, to approve the UPWP Amendment.

**DISCUSSION:** No Discussion

**VOICE VOTE:** 8 Ayes

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. TIP PROJECT EVALUATION**

Mr. Kus described the process and content of the new TIP project evaluation criteria. Mr. restated his concern about the new criteria adversely affecting less populated communities. Mr. Lovejoy explained that the thought that the ratings update simplified the information that the MPO members could base decisions on and better understand community impacts. Mr. Bench reminded the MPO that the evaluation criteria was dynamic and could be adjusted in the future. Mr. Szczepaniak indicated he was concerned that the changes were not in line with his understanding and the process has operated fairly to this point. The MPO reached a consensus to proceed with the changes and see how they affected future decision-making.

**ACTION:** Motion by Hubener, seconded by Niles, to approve the TIP evaluation criteria.

**VOICE VOTE:** 8 Ayes

**MOTION CARRIED**

**8. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

Mr. Frieri provided an update on the status of improvement projects within the region, most specifically projects that changed status or are slated for the FFY2011. Mr. Collingwood updated the MPO on the South St. project development. Mr. Karns also mentioned the development of Bike Path project PNF forms.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Moore discussed the next steps for review on Lee's Tyringham Road project.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Plachcinski, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner

Materials Distributed:

- February meeting minutes
- RTP update
- MOU staff report / materials
- UPWP Amendment and report
- TIP project evaluation staff report
- Project status report from MassDOT D1