

Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Wednesday, September 12, 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)
Ron Turbin, Town of Williamstown (North Berkshire Alternate)
Bruce Collingwood, City of Pittsfield
Bob Malnati, BRTA
James Mullen, BRPC
Jim Huebner, Town of Washington (Southeast Berkshire Delegate)

Others Present:

Clete Kus, BRPC
Anuja Koirala, BRPC
Nat Karns, BRPC
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Jane Winn, BEAT

1. CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Lovejoy called the meeting to order at 4:00.

2. MINUTES OF August 28, 2012

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Mullen, supported by Mr. Malnati, to approve the August 28, 2012 minutes, as corrected.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Winn requested that the MPO ask the Housatonic Rail Road behave in an environmentally responsible manner when disposing of liquid and solid waste.

4. CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FFY 2012 -2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PLAN (TIP) FOR THE TCSP GRANT-PASSENGER RAIL STATION LOCATION AND DESIGN ANALYSIS

Mr. Kus described this project and the history of examining passenger rail return to the Housatonic Rail Road, including the opportunities for stations in different communities from the Connecticut state line north to Pittsfield. Mr. Bench arrived and began to preside over the meeting. Mr. Lovejoy asked to address environmental concerns and Mr. Bench suggested that ADA design requirements are extensive for rail stations.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, supported by Mr. Mullen, to approve the amended 2013-2016 TIP as presented. 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. Mr. Malnati described a statewide process that reassigned unspent earmarks within the Commonwealth. There was a general discussion about federal funding earmarks that remain unspent from old legislation. BRTA's priorities are completing ITS upgrades, then purchasing vehicles, then repairing the maintenance facility.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The MPO did not discuss other business

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 30, 2012

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- August meeting minutes
- 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Materials
- Project update spreadhseet

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Plachcinski, AICP
Senior Transportation Planner