



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/berkshire-metropolitan-planning-organization-meeting-2/>

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Derek Krevat	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Gina Fiandaca)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Malcolm Fick	BRPC
Sheila Irvin	BRTA
Christine Hoyt	North Subregion Delegate
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Delegate
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion Delegate
Rene Wood	Southwest Subregion Alternate
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Michael Melencio	MassDOT
Clete Kus	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Bob Malnati	BRTA

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Krevat called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Meeting attendees introduced themselves via a roll call conducted by Mr. Kus.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 27, 2023

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Ms. Wood	Yea

IV. Solicit nominations for and vote to select a vice chairperson for the Berkshire MPO

Mr. Kus stated the need for an MPO vice chairperson to take the place of Jim Lovejoy. Their primary role would be to facilitate MPO meetings in the absence of the chairperson.

John Boyle volunteered himself for nomination, seconded by Ms. Wood. Mr. Krevat noted that he would abstain from the vote as he is not affiliated with an MPO region. According to the MOU, the vote is intended to be taken by regional delegate membership.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Wood, to nominate John Boyle as the MPO vice-chairperson.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Abstain
Ms. Heming:	Abstain
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Morales	Abstain
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Ms. Wood	Yea

V. Approval of the 5th amendment, to the 2023-2027 TIP for following:

Highway Section

- **Project 606233, increase project funding by \$1,325,380, increase by \$532,124 in Statewide STBG and increase by \$2,000,000 in Statewide TAP funding,**
- **Project 610716, increase STBG funding by \$1,209,087,**
- **Project 608813, increase NHPP funding by \$1,497,701.**

Transit Section

- **BRTA Project BRTA011552, add project and 5310 funds \$74,645 to purchase SVC Expansion van, and add \$3,959 in GOBOND funds,**
- **BRTA Project BRTA011503, add project and 5310 funds \$62,883 to purchase Type A replacement vehicle, and add \$15,721 in GOBOND funds,**
- **BRTA Project BRTA011504, add project and 5310 funds \$105,319 to purchase Type E replacement vehicle, and add \$212,681 in GOBOND funds,**
- **BRTA Project BRTA011553, add project and 5310 carry over funds \$93,360 to purchase replacement van, and add \$23,340 in GOBOND funds,**
- **BRTA Project BRTA011505, add \$116,700 in GOBOND funds for purchase of RTA replacement vehicle.**

Mr. Kus noted that project 606233 has a price increase to \$9,273,140, up from \$8,836,791.

There was a decrease for the price of project 608813, Route 7 Resurfacing.

The Transit TIP has five changes to the funding structure. The Community Transit grant provided vehicles

to communities around Berkshire County.

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to endorse the Highway Amendment.

Ms. Wood queried about how typical it is that price changes occur with TIP projects. Mr. Kus responded that it is not out of the ordinary to see price fluctuations with construction projects over time.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Ms. Wood	Yea

ACTION: Mr. Bailey introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Wood, to endorse the Transit Amendment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Ms. Wood	Yea

VI. Endorsement of the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members

Mr. Kus shared the results of the Public Comment period, with the updates provided by the MassDOT comment matrix.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to authorize the Chairman to sign the certification on behalf of the MPO members.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Ms. Wood	Yea

VII. Endorsement of the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members

Mr. Russo

ACTION: Mr. Morales introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Wood, to authorize the Chairman to sign the certification on behalf of the MPO members.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yes
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Ms. Wood	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea

VIII. Presentation by Liz Williams, Director of Data and Policy at MassDOT, on the MA Vehicle Census

Ms. Williams could not attend the meeting; the MA Vehicle Census was presented by Mr. Melencio. There are five major sets of data available in the Census:

- Total Daily vehicle count
- % total count of Zero-emission or hybrid
- Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled
- % Daily VMT Zero-emission or hybrid
- Average mileage per day
- Average Mileage per day zero-emission or hybrid

Vehicle data can also be broken by attribute such as body type, fuel type, and use. Registration point-in-time data is available for January 1 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. All data is available on the MassDOT open data portal.

Mr. Malnati queried if the BRTA buses were categorized under commercial, municipal, or state registration. More research would be needed.

IX. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri shared updates from the MassDOT district 1 office. Of the 6 projects programmed for 2023, two have been advertised. Notice to proceed on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail was issued to Maxymillian. Route 7 Lanesborough, First Street intersection improvements, and the Five Corners roundabout are at final design.

Mr. Boyle asked if there was an update on the northern Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension to Hodges Cross Road. The project is programmed in the 2024-2028 TIP.

For FY 2024 projects, the Alford bridge project is at Final design, Pittsfield East Street reconstruction and Cheshire Bridge Replacement are at 75% design, and Lee Bridge Replacement and New Marlborough Bridge Replacement are at 25% design.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Next Meeting date – August 22nd, 2023

The next MPO meeting will be held on August 22nd, 2023.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hoyt. Mr. Krevat adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Agenda Revised](#)
- [BMPO May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Draft](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP 4th & 5th Amendment Highway](#)
- [Berkshire Regional CHST Plan June 2023](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP 5th Amendment Transit](#)
- [BMPO Draft FFY 24 UPWP](#)
- [BMPO Draft RTP](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)