



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201
Pittsfield, MA 01201
T: (413) 442-1521 · F: (413) 442-1523
TTY: 771 or (800) 439-2370
berkshireplanning.org

MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| David Mohler | MassDOT (Representing Secretary Gina Fiandaca) |
| Francisca Heming | MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver) |
| John Duval | BRPC |
| Gordon Bailey | Southeast Subregion Delegate |
| Rene Wood | Southwest Subregion Alternate |
| John Boyle | North Central Subregion Delegate |
| Sheila Irvin | BRTA |

Others Present:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Peter Frieri | MassDOT District 1 |
| Mark Moore | MassDOT District 1 |
| Derek Shooster | MassDOT OTP |
| Malcolm Fick | BRPC |
| Anuja Koirala | BRPC |
| Clete Kus | BRPC |
| Nick Russo | BRPC |
| Thomas Matuszko | BRPC |
| Sarah Vallieres | BRTA |

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 May 23, 2023

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Mr. Mohler: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Duval: | Abstain |
| Ms. Irvin: | Yea |
| Mr. Boyle: | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey: | Yea |
| Ms. Wood | Yea |

IV. Approval of the 4th amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP, Highway Section, for Project 609072, to increase Statewide STBG-BR-Off funding by \$1,270,616 and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members.

Ms. Koirala introduced the amendment to increase the funding for the Williamstown bridge project.

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

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Duval: | Yea |
| Ms. Irvin: | Yea |
| Mr. Boyle: | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey: | Yea |
| Ms. Wood | Yea |

V. Approval of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plan

Ms. Koirala shared the draft final document for the CHST. There were no comments received during the comment period.

Ms. Wood commended the report and its reflection of the changing demographics and needs of public transit in Berkshire County

ACTION: Mr. Bailey introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Wood, to approve the 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Duval: | Yea |
| Ms. Irvin: | Yea |
| Mr. Boyle: | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey: | Yea |
| Ms. Wood | Yea |

VI. Consideration of an amendment, 5th amendment, to the 2023-2027 TIP and authorize a 21-day public comment period 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.**

Ms. Koirala shared details relating to the 5th Amendment. There are amendments for both highway and transit projects. The Pittsfield BMC Area Intersection projects will receive funding from the TAP program and statewide Intersection Improvements STBG program. The Williamstown Intersection Improvement project will receive funding from the statewide Intersection Improvements STBG program. Lanesborough Resurfacing Project will receive additional funding from the NHPP program.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Wood, to authorize a 21-day public comment period for the Transit TIP Amendment 5.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Duval: | Yea |
| Ms. Irvin: | Yea |
| Mr. Boyle: | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey: | Yea |
| Ms. Wood | Yea |

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to authorize a 21-day public comment period for the Highway TIP Amendment 5.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Duval: | Yea |
| Ms. Irvin: | Yea |
| Mr. Boyle: | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey: | Yea |
| Ms. Wood | Yea |

VII. Presentation on the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program, release document and authorize staff to initiate a 21-day public comment period

Mr. Kus provided an overview and proposed budget of the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The Plan consists of four sections with several tasks within each. Proposed budgets for the four sections are as follows:

1. Management and Certification: \$260,000
2. Technical Support: \$89,500
3. Planning Studies: \$298,000
4. Other Activities: \$91,490

Focus areas of the UPWP include:

- Bicycle and pedestrian planning
- Regional transit planning
- Safety Initiatives
- Climate Change and Resiliency
- Title VI and Environmental Justice
- Freight and Freight Rail planning
- Expansion of Rail Service

A total of \$748,490 is programmed for planning staff activities along with \$19,500 in direct expenses.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Wood, to authorize the release of the draft UPWP document for a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Duval: | Yea |
| Ms. Irvin: | Yea |
| Mr. Boyle: | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey: | Yea |
| Ms. Wood | Yea |

VIII. Receive the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan, release draft document and authorize staff to initiate a 21-day comment period

Mr. Russo shared an overview of each chapter of the draft RTP document with the MPO members via a slideshow. The Executive Summary, Introduction and Planning Framework, Regional Data and Context, Goals and Recommendations, Fiscal Constraint, and Air Quality Conformity and GHG Analysis.

Mr. Bailey introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to authorize a 21-day public comment period for the RTP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Duval: | Yea |
| Ms. Irvin: | Yea |
| Mr. Boyle: | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey: | Yea |
| Ms. Wood | Yea |

IX. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri shared updates on the 6 projects that will be advertised by District 1. Two have already been advertised and the remaining projects are on schedule: at 100% or final design. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension project held a bid opening on 6/21/23. Maxymillian was the apparent low bidder.

Mr. Kus shared that John Duval will be leaving as chair of the MPO, and welcomed Malcolm Fick, who will be assuming the position at the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus also noted that a vice-chair of the MPO will need to be elected to replace Jim Lovejoy. An agenda item will be provided at the next meeting at the direction of the MPO.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Next Meeting date – July 25th, 2023

The next MPO meeting will be held on July 25th, 2023.

ACTION: Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Irvin. Mr. Mohler adjourned the meeting at 4:58 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](#)