



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, April 26, 2022

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/berkshire-mpo-virtual-meeting-6/>

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Jamey Tesler)
Ray Bolduc	North Central Towns Alternate
John Duval	BRPC Chair
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Sheila Irvin	Chair of BRTA
Kent Lew	Southeast Towns Representative
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Towns Representative
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Michelle Ho	MassDOT OTP
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Clete Kus	BRPC
Andrew Reovan	FHWA
Steve Savaria	Fuss & O'Neill
John Morgan	CHA
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA

I. Introductions

Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 March 22nd, 2022 (Action Item)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Bolduc to approve the meeting minutes from the March 22nd, 2022 MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Stephen Woelfel – Yea
Mark Moore – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irvin – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Ray Bolduc – Yea

Kent Lew – Abstain
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Mr. Lew abstained from voting. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of amendment (2nd amendment) to the 2022-2026 TIP related to cost increases for project 608767: Egremont, Route 23/41 and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala stated that at the last MPO meeting, the 2nd amendment to the 2022-2026 TIP was released for a public comment period. Ms. Koirala continued to explain [the 2nd amendment to the to 2022-2026 TIP](#). This amendment relates to the cost increase for project 608767: Egremont, Route 23/41. No public comments were received.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Morales to approve the 2nd amendment to the 2022-2026 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Stephen Woelfel – Yea
Mark Moore – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irvin – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Ray Bolduc – Yea
Kent Lew – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Consideration of an Administrative Adjustment to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP related to the cost increase of project 610646; Brayton Elementary School Improvements to \$842,352 (TFPC estimate) (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala proceeded to outline the administrative adjustment to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP, which relates to a cost increase for project 610646: Brayton Elementary School Improvements.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Bolduc, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to approve the administrative adjustment to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Stephen Woelfel – Yea
Mark Moore – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irvin – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Ray Bolduc – Yea
Kent Lew – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Consideration of an amendment (3rd amendment) to the 2022-2026 TIP and authorize a 21-day public comment period (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala proceeded to outline the 3rd amendment to the 2022-2026 TIP. This amendment contains several changes, and includes programming left over funding toward a new project in Great Barrington – project 609464: Great Barrington resurfacing and related work on Route 23/183. Other items within this amendment relate to a cost increase for Pittsfield superstructure replacement, Holmes Road over Housatonic Railroad, and the Lanesborough resurfacing and related work on Route 7 (project 608813) project will be moved from 2022 to 2023.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Morales, to release the 3rd amendment to the 2022-2026 TIP out for a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Stephen Woelfel – Yea
Mark Moore – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irvin – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Ray Bolduc – Yea
Kent Lew – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Discussion on the draft BMPO FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, authorize staff to initiate a 21-day public comment period (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala proceeded to outline the [draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP document](#) including [highway, bridge, bicycle and pedestrian](#), and [transit project](#) listings.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Bolduc, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to initiate a 21-day public comment period for the draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Stephen Woelfel – Yea
Mark Moore – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irvin – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Ray Bolduc – Yea
Kent Lew – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Discussion on focus areas pf the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Kus proceeded to give a brief description of what the UPWP is – essentially stating that it is a yearly certification document that outlines BMPO staff work activities from one federal fiscal year to the next. As a financially constrained document, the UPWP outlines the costs associated with performing work

activities. Those costs will be provided at the next MPO meeting. Mr. Kus proceeded to outline upcoming UPWP focus areas. Among the work activities outlined, updating the RTP, implementing the state's carbon reduction plan, continuing regional bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts, moving forward with micro-transit, electric vehicles, buses, and charging equipment, updating the countywide Human Service Transportation Plan, assessing post-pandemic impacts on the transportation system, roadway safety, climate initiatives, and regional passenger rail service, were all highlighted.

IX. Status Reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri provided a brief [update on District One projects](#) to the MPO.

Ms. Irvin mentioned that BRTA recently completed projections for changing some of its routes. The public comment period just ended. BRTA worked with BRPC to assess proposed route changes and to ensure vulnerable populations, such as environmental justice populations, will be served. The Board will meet on Thursday to review the proposed changes. BRTA is also considering the possibility of piloting micro-transit services for work-based commuting.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Next Meeting date – May 24, 2022

The next MPO meeting will be held on May 24th, 2022.

ACTION: Mr. Lovejoy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bolduc. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Draft MPO March 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP 2nd Amendment released March 22, 2022](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP 3rd Amendment Adjustment](#)
- [Draft BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP](#)
- [Draft BMPO FFY 2023-2027 Transit TIP](#)
- [Draft Berkshire MPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP Document](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP Schedule – April 2022](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)