



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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)
John Boyle	North Central Towns Representative
Zac Feury	City of North Adams
Andy Hogeland	North Towns Representative
Jim Huebner	Southeast Towns Representative
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Towns Representative
Bob Malnati	BRTA
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield

Others Present:

Alice Bojanowski	Public
Eammon Coughlin	BRPC
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Michelle Ho	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Tom Matuszko	BRPC
Andrew Reovan	FHWA
Steve Savaria	Fuss & O'Neill

I. 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 the Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2021 (Action Item)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner to approve the meeting minutes from the March 23rd, 2021 MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Hemming – Yea
Bob Malnati – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
Andy Hogeland – Yea

John Boyle – Yea
Jim Huebner – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of an amendment (3rd amendment, Project No. 608642 New Marlborough SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT) to the 2021-2025 TIP and authorize the Chairman to sign the certifications on behalf of the MPO members (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala explained that after the last MPO meeting, the [3rd amendment to the current TIP](#) (2021-2025) was released for a 21-day public comment period. The amendment relates to a cost decrease due to a consolidation of related bridge work into a single project. There have been on public comments received.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Boyle to endorse the 3rd amendment to the 2021-2025 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:
Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Hemming – Yea
Bob Malnati – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
Andy Hogeland – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Jim Huebner – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Consideration of an administrative adjustment to the 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program regarding the Skyline Trail Project in Hinsdale-Peru to increase the project cost to \$7,635,464 and authorize the Chairman to sign the certifications on behalf of the MPO members (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Koirala proceeded to direct MPO members to the [TIP adjustment handout](#). Ms. Koirala explained that this adjustment relates to a cost increase of the reconstruction of skyline trail to \$7,635,464.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner to endorse the proposed TIP adjustment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:
Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Hemming – Yea
Bob Malnati – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
Andy Hogeland – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Jim Huebner – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion on the draft BMPO FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, authorize staff to initiate a 21-day public comment period (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Koirala proceeded to direct MPO members to the [2022-2026 TIP project list](#). The [draft 2022-2026 TIP document](#) was developed based the MPO's recommendation to fully develop TIP Scenario #3. Ms. Koirala proceeded to review each project from the 2022-2026 TIP project list, the year the project will be programmed, and the project funding source. These include all highway, bridge, bike and pedestrian projects. Ms. Koirala then proceeded to review draft [TIP Transit projects](#).

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Morales to initiate a 21-day public comment period for the 2022-2026 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:
Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Hemming – Yea
Bob Malnati – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
Andy Hogeland – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Jim Huebner – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Receive a presentation on the Berkshire Bike Path ArcGIS story map

Mr. Coughlin proceeded to present an [ArcGIS Story Map about the Berkshire bike path](#). The story map discusses the envisioned bike path (also referred to as a shared use path) through the Berkshires, extending down from Vermont, moving north to south through the Berkshires, and continuing south into Connecticut. Essentially, the story map can be used to view the envisioned route, identify usable segments of the path that currently exist, view the status of projects that seek to build out additional connections, and serves as a general clearinghouse for information related to the Berkshire Bike Path.

VIII. Discussion on focus areas of the 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Kus proceeded to update MPO members on [new focus areas for the 2022 Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#). These include updating BRPC's Public Participation Plan, education outreach to communities concerning involvement in the TIP process, bike and pedestrian safety plan, a scoping study related to bike planning from Hodges Cross Road to downtown North Adams, a countywide bike and pedestrian advisory board, updating demographic databases based on 2020 census, pavement management system and ratings, finalization of EV charging station plan and implementing recommendations, implementation plan for shared micro-mobility feasibility study, Housatonic Line intercounty service feasibility study, involvement in TCI-P, implementation of a TMA initiative, and Northern Tier rail study. Mr. Kus mentioned that due to reduced appropriations, next year's UPWP has been reduced by about \$13,000.

IX. Approval of MPO's self-certification and GHG certification document (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Kus proceeded to review the MPO's endorsement sheet showing that the Berkshire MPO complies with all required statutes in the development of the MPO's self-certification documents, including the Regional Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the Unified Planning Work Program.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to endorse self-certification and GHG certification document.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:
Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Hemming – Yea
Bob Malnati – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
Andy Hogeland – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Jim Huebner – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

X. Status Reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri provided MPO members a status report of District One project updates. All updates are outlined in the District One Project Update handout sheet ([here](#)).

XI. Other Business

Mr. Kus mentioned that there were concerns expressed by BRPC's environmental review committee concerning the Eagle Mill redevelopment project. The concerns that were expressed relate to ingress and egress to that site during the respective peak travel hour periods.

Mr. Woelfel reminded folks that the Innovation conference is happening on the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the last week in May. The conference will be virtual.

There was no other business.

XII. Next Meeting Date – May 18, 2021

The next Berkshire MPO meeting date is May 18th, 2021.

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

Materials Distributed:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [BMPO March 23, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2021-2025 TIP 3rd Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2021-2025 TIP Adjustment](#)
- [Draft Berkshire MPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Document](#)

- [Draft Berkshire MPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Projects](#)
- [Draft BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Projects – Transit](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Schedule](#)
- [Highlights of 2022 UPWP](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Project Update](#)