



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Derek Shooster	MassDOT (Representing Acting Secretary Phil Eng)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Malcolm Fick	BRPC
Kathleen Lambert	BRTA (<i>joined at 4:10</i>)
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield
William Shanahan	City of North Adams
Jay Meczycor	North Subregion
Ron Deangelis	North Central Subregion
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion
Dottie Bonbrake	South Subregion

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Sam Taylor	MassDOT OTP
Makaela Niles	MassDOT
Arnav Chatterjee	MassDOT
Lily Kaufman	MassDOT
Calvin Poitras	MassDOT
Ben Hansen	BRTA
Laura Brennan	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nicholas Russo	BRPC
Ryan Griffis	BRPC

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves via a roll call conducted by Mr. Kus. Mr. Shooster called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 31, 2026

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonbrake, to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2026, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick	Abstain
Mr. Morales	Yea

Mr. Shanahan	Abstain
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Deangelis	Abstain
Mr. Bailey	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

IV. Approval Consideration of an amendment (3rd Amendment) to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP for the following: HIGHWAY SECTION – FFY 2026, Project 610728 Lee, resurfacing and related work on Route 20, reduce funding by \$2,622,178; Project 612168 Pittsfield Bridge Replacement, P-10-040, Pontoosuc Ave over West Branch Housatonic River Reservoir, remove project and funding in the amount of \$9,848,718; add same project (Project 612168) to FFY 2028 and funding in the amount of \$10,016,001 and authorize staff to conduct a 21-day public comment period

Ms. Koirala presented the proposed third amendment to the FY 2026 TIP, describing changes in the amendment, including a cost reduction for the Lee Route 20 resurfacing and related work project based on 100% design, and moving the Pittsfield Pontoosuc Ave bridge replacement from FY26 to FY28 due to readiness. Mr. Fick requested clarification on Pittsfield’s bridge replacement, which Ms. Koirala and Mr. Shooster reiterated had been delayed from FY26 to FY 28.

ACTION: Mr. Shanahan introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to approve the second amendment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick	Yea
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Shanahan	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Deangelis	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

V. Receive the draft 2027 – 2031 Transportation Improvement Program and authorize staff to conduct a 21-day public comment period

Ms. Koirala introduced the Draft FFY 2027–2031 TIP and noted it is a five-year document updated annually and posted online. Mr. Shooster noted the project lists had been presented comprehensively at prior meetings and had not changed, and invited questions from members. Ms. Lambert noted a cover detail referencing “2026,” which Ms. Koirala clarified the federal fiscal year start date of October 1, 2026, which corresponds to FFY 2027. Before the vote, Mr. Shooster recognized the work of staff and stakeholders and thanked Ms. Koirala specifically for assembling the TIP.

ACTION: Mr. Strout introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Morales, to accept the preferred scenario.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick	Yea
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Shanahan	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea

Mr. Deangelis Yea
Mr. Bailey Yea
Ms. Bonbrake Yea

VI. Inform the MPO of BRTA’s 2026 Community Transit Grant awards received from MassDOT

Mr. Kus summarized that MassDOT Rail & Transit Division annually awards Community Transit Grants (FTA Section 5310), and that awards can be reflected through administrative modification rather than requiring a TIP amendment and Board vote. Ms. Koirala reviewed Berkshire-region awards including BRTA operating/mobility management items (travel training and rural senior transportation), a Pittsfield COA award, vehicle awards to BRTA and partner providers, and microtransit/last-mile awards to Great Barrington and the 14 RTA consortium. Ms. Lambert thanked MassDOT and noted the flex funding and rural senior program support would help BRTA implement new software initiatives and strengthen service delivery.

VII. MPO endorsement of updated Critical Freight Corridor network for Berkshire County

Mr. Griffis presented the updated Critical Freight Corridor network map, noting it had been released for a 21-day public comment period following the February meeting and that no comments were received. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the network as presented.

ACTION: Mr. Shanahan introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonbrake, to endorse the updated Critical Freight Corridor network for Berkshire County.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Mr. Fick Yea
Ms. Lambert Yea
Mr. Morales Yea
Mr. Shanahan Yea
Mr. Meczycor Yea
Mr. Deangelis Yea
Mr. Bailey Yea
Ms. Bonbrake Yea

VIII. Update and discussion on the FFY 2027 UPWP

Mr. Kus provided an overview of the UPWP, describing major sections and anticipated work activities, including management/certification, technical support, planning studies, active transportation, transit planning, safety, infrastructure protection/resiliency (including culverts), freight planning, scenic byways, and rail initiatives (including East-West Rail, Berkshire Flyer, and Northern Tier rail). Mr. Shooster provided feedback on acronym clarity (CMP), and suggested ensuring transit planning language supports ongoing coordination for East-West Rail efforts; which BRPC and MassDOT staff indicated support for continued coordination and technical assistance.

IX. Other business

Mr. Frieri updated the MPO on FFY 2026 project status, including Sheffield County Road bridge work in construction, North Adams Veterans Memorial bridge preservation readiness, Route 8 ledge removal in Beckett, Great Barrington Division Street bridge replacement, Route 20 resurfacing in Lee with a public hearing anticipated, and North Adams Ashland Street reconstruction progressing toward advertisement; he also noted the Pontoosuc Avenue bridge project schedule aligns with the shift to FFY 2028.

Ms. Lambert reported BRTA's route realignment effort was cancelled after identifying efficiencies through revised driver run schedules; the revised service was issued and planned to go live May 11, with the goal of significantly reducing lost trips.

Mr. Kus noted Thursday would be the final day of Tom Matuszko's leadership as Executive Director and introduced incoming his incoming replacement, Laura Brennan, who briefly addressed the board. MassDOT expressed appreciation for Mr. Matuszko's service and welcomed Ms. Brennan, offering support for onboarding in transportation efforts.

X. Next Meeting date – May 26th, 2026

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on May 26, 2026.

ACTION: Mr. Shanahan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bonbrake. Mr. Shooster adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO March 31, 2026 Meeting Minutes Draft](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 Highway TIP 3rd Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 Highway TIP](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 Transit TIP](#)
- [DRAFT Berkshire MPO FFY 2027-2031 TIP Document](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 TIP Schedule](#)
- [MassDOT 2026 Transit Grants – Awards](#)
- [2026 UPWP Focus Areas](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)