



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, August 23, 2022

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Jamey Tesler)
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Representative
John Duval	BRPC Chair
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Sheila Irvin	Chair of BRTA
Kent Lew	Southeast Subregion Representative
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Subregion Representative
Mike Nuvalle	City of North Adams

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Cassandra Gascon	MassDOT OTP
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Clete Kus	BRPC
Tom Matuszko	BRPC
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Mike Nuvalle	City of North Adams
Chris Rembold	Town of Great Barrington
Andrew Reovan	FHWA
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 4:01 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 July 26th, 2022 (Action Item)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Nuvalle to approve the meeting minutes from the July 26th, 2022, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Stephen Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Heming – Yea

John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irvin – Abstain
Mike Nuvallie – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Kent Lew – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Ms. Irvin abstained from voting. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of an amendment (5th amendment) to the 2022-2026 TIP and to add 5317 funding and authorize the Chair to sign the endorsement of behalf of MPO members (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala mentioned that after the last MPO meeting, the MPO released the 5th amendment to the 2022-2026 TIP for a 21-day public comment period. No comments from the public have been received. This amendment relates to a new transit project – Demand-Response New Freedom Project – which encapsulates on-demand microtransit efforts in south county, specifically in Great Barrington, Egremont, and Stockbridge. The other component of the amendment includes a cost increase for BRTA – S&B Fare Collection Upgrades. Staff recommend the MPO endorse the amendment.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Boyle, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to endorse amendment #5 to the 2022-2026 TIP and authorize the Chair to sign the endorsement of behalf of the MPO.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Stephen Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Heming – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irvin – Yea
Mike Nuvallie – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Kent Lew – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Presentation on MassDOT’s Municipal Pavement Management Program

Ms. Gascon presented on [MassDOT’s Municipal Pavement Program](#). Ms. Gascon began with an overview of the program – which seeks to improve the condition of municipally-owned state numbered routes. The program emphasizes maintaining safety and accessibility for all modes particularly along municipally owned National Highway System (NHS) roadways. Ms. Gascon proceeded to review eligible activities including treatments with mill and overlay, full depth reclamation, cold in place recycling, rubber chip sealing, microsurfacing, fog seal, and more. Ms. Gascon then reviewed project selection criteria, noting that this program is not a competitive program, but rather MassDOT selects segments for improvement based on the following criteria:

- MassDOT pavement condition data
 - Data is collected for each roadway every 1 – 2 years.
- The amount of State Route inventory in poor condition
- Geographic equity

Ms. Gascon went on to describe some specific examples of the types of projects that are most suitable for this

program. After this, project implementation details were explained. There is no maximum award amount. Future maintenance will be handled by the municipality, and the work/improvements will not impact road ownership in anyway. Ms. Gascon concluded with project timeline details. Previously funded projects can be found [here](#).

Ms. Vallieres asked if RTA's are notified when a notification of award goes out.

Ms. Gascon mentioned that none of the previous projects have been on an RTA fixed route, however, if there is such a project award in the future, MassDOT will notify the RTA.

Mr. Matuszko proceeded to review the municipalities in Berkshire County that have benefitted from the program in the last couple years.

VI. Status Reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri proceeded to review [District 1 Project Updates](#).

Mr. Kus mentioned that the Berkshire Flyer continues to result in increased ridership. This past weekend, we have 70 visitors from New York City, which was a new high record. There are a couple more weeks of service for the remainder of the year. We look forward to it running again next year.

VII. Other Business

There was no other business.

VIII. Next Meeting date – September 27, 2022

The next MPO meeting will be held on September 27th, 2022.

ACTION: Mr. Lovejoy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Boyle. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Draft BMPO July 26th, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP 5th Amendment](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)