



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Gina Fiandaca)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Christine Hoyt	North Subregion Delegate
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion Delegate
Rene Wood	Southwest Subregion Delegate
Sheila Irvin	Chair of BRTA
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Michelle Ho	MassDOT OTP
Jack Moran	MassDOT Highway Division
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA

I. Call to Order – 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 January 24, 2023

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Irvin, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Morales:	Yea

Mr. Bailey and Ms. Wood abstained from the vote.

IV. Approval of an amendment (1st amendment) to the 2023-2027 TIP (Transit) and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members

Ms. Koirala shared details of the first amendment of the 2023-2027 TIP. New funding for the Mobility Assistance Program has been made available for FY 2023.

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Hoyt, to approve the 1st TIP Amendment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Ms. Hoyt: Yea
Ms. Irvin: Yea
Mr. Morales: Yea
Mr. Bailey: Yea
Ms. Wood: Yea

V. Consideration of an amendment (2nd amendment) to the 2023-2027 TIP and authorize a 21 day public comment period

Ms. Koirala shared details of the second TIP Amendment concerning the 2023-2027 Transit TIP to include grants newly received by BRTA toward replacement vehicle purchases and maintenance facility improvements.

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Hoyt, to approve the 2nd TIP Amendment and open a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Ms. Hoyt: Yea
Ms. Irvin: Yea
Mr. Morales: Yea
Mr. Bailey: Yea
Ms. Wood: Yea

VI. Discussion on the development of the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program and project evaluation scores

Ms. Koirala described the current state of the 2024-2028 TIP development process. There are 15 projects being evaluated with eight criteria. One point can be awarded to a project for each criteria met for a possible total of eight points. The criteria include Road Condition, Mobility, Regional Connectivity, Goods Movement, Safety, Environment, GHG Emissions, and Livability. Based on the latest MassDOT TIP readiness day feedback, projected dates have been provided for several projects:

- East Street: 2024/2025
- Dalton Division Road: 2027/2028
- Merrill Road (Route 8): 2027
- East Street (Lyman St to Elm Street): 2028
- Ashland Street: 2024 (EIR is needed)
- Route 7 & 23 Great Barrington: 2028
- Mount Washington Rd: 2025/2026

- New Projects identified:
 - Route 7 Retaining Wall in Williamstown
 - Blantyre Road/Route 7 in Lenox
 - Route 7 Access improvement at Mt. Greylock High School
 - Route 7 Williamstown
- Three Bike/Ped projects identified:
 - Lee Bikeway: 2028
 - Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension (Lime St to Hodges Cross Rd): 2028
 - Mohawk Bike-Ped Trail Phase II

Ms. Koirala shared the funding targets for each fiscal year between 2024 and 2028. Each project’s cost estimate is projected to future years anticipating year-over-year inflation. Funding scenarios will be presented at the next MPO meeting.

VII. Presentation, discussion and action on Safety Performance Measure Targets and Pavement/Bridge Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Russo shared the Berkshire Region’s CY 2023 Performance Measure (PM1) Safety statistics. There are three data points that are tracked in the PM1 Safety metric: Total fatalities (5-year average and rate per 100M VMT), Total serious injuries (5-year average and rate per 100M VMT), and non-motorist combined total fatalities and serious injuries (5-year average).

Mr. Bailey queried how the VMT statistics are gathered and provided to the Berkshire region. Mr. Woelfel responded that he will follow up with specific answers soon.

Mr. Klem presented the statewide PM1 Safety statistics and targets to the MPO. It was noted that new guidelines from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law must show constant or improved performance. The 2018-2022 five-year average graph point is left blank for this analysis as the data was incomplete at the time of writing.

Mr. Moran presented statewide targets for infrastructure conditions (PM2). Measures are exclusive for conditions on the National Highway System (NHS): Proportions of pavement in good and poor condition and bridge area in good and poor condition are tracked. Initiatives like the Municipal Pavement Program are intended to improve pavement conditions on municipally owned state numbered routes. Berkshire County is ahead of the state in terms of bridges in good condition. Mr. Moran noted that as Bipartisan Infrastructure Projects ramp up to construction, the number of bridges in good condition will increase in the latter half of the decade.

ACTION: Ms. Wood introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Hoyt, for the MPO to adopt the targets for PM1 and PM2

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea
 Ms. Heming: Yea
 Ms. Hoyt: Yea
 Ms. Irvin: Yea
 Mr. Morales: Yea
 Mr. Bailey: Yea
 Ms. Wood: Yea

MassDOT Targets:

PM1 Safety:

- 5-year average total fatalities: **355**
- 5-year average fatality rate per 100M VMT: **0.59**
- 5-year average total serious injuries: **2569**
- 5-year average total serious injuries per 100M VMT: **4.25**
- 5-year average combined non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries: **437**

PM2 Bridge and Pavement:

- Interstate Pavement condition targets:
 - *Base:* Good 72%
Poor 0%
 - 2023: Good: **70%**
Poor: **2%**
 - 2025: Good: **70%**
Poor: **2%**
- Non-Interstate Pavement condition targets:
 - *Base:* Good 33.9%
Poor 2.9%
 - 2023: Good: **30%**
Poor: **5%**
 - 2025: Good: **30%**
Poor: **5%**
- NHS Bridge condition targets:
 - *Base:* Good 16%
Poor 12%
 - 2023: Good: **16%**
Poor: **12%**
 - 2025: Good: **16%**
Poor: **12%**

VIII. Update on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Russo shared the overall goals and objectives proposed for the 2024 RTP. They include: (1) Maintain a State of Good Repair, (2) Foster Economic Development, (3) Enhance Transit Services and Options, (4) Increase Safety and Security, (5) Promote Active Transportation, and (6) Adapt for Sustainability and Resilience.

IX. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri shared updates from MassDOT: Bridge replacement over the Hoosac River in North Adams has been advertised. 100% design submittal received for Lanesboro resurfacing and related work on Route 7, 100% design received for Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension to Merrill Road in Pittsfield. PS&E due in late

February/early March.

Mr. Morales provided comments for Ashuwillticook project: the City is performing title research and negotiations, and is providing Notices of Intent to abutters to keep the project on schedule for bidding in September.

Mr. Kus and Mr. Russo shared BIL funding updates: the Safe Street and Roads for All grant application from BRPC has been approved for award. The Reconnecting Communities grant application from the City of North Adams has been approved for award.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Next Meeting date – March 28th, 2023

The next MPO meeting will be held on March 28th, 2023.

ACTION: Mr. Morales motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Wood. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [BMPO January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Draft](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP 1st and 2nd Amendment Transit](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 Projects Evaluation Scores](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Projects Description Sheets](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development](#)
- [BMPO FY 2024-2028 TIP Schedule](#)
- [UPDATED – Safety Performance Measures CY23](#)
- [Safety Performance Measures CY23 – Berkshire Comparison](#)
- [2024 RTP Preliminary Survey Results](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)