



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, March 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
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Subregion Delegate
Michael Nuvallie	City of North Adams
John Duval	BRPC
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA

### Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Mike Fisher	BL Companies

## **I. Call to Order – 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 Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2023**

**ACTION:** Ms. Hoyt introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Heming, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023, MPO meeting.

### Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt:	Yea
Ms. Vallieres:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Mr. Lovejoy:	Abstain
Mr. Nuvallie:	Abstain
Mr. Duval:	Abstain

**IV. Approval of an amendment (2nd amendment) to the 2023-2027 TIP (Transit) and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members**

Ms. Koirala proceeded to request authorization to certify the 2<sup>nd</sup> TIP Amendment following the public comment period. There were no public comments received.

**ACTION:** Mr. Lovejoy introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Hoyt, to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> TIP Amendment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea  
Ms. Heming: Yea  
Ms. Hoyt: Yea  
Ms. Vallieres: Yea  
Mr. Bailey: Yea  
Mr. Lovejoy: Yea  
Mr. Nuvallie: Yea  
Mr. Duval: Yea

**V. Consideration of an amendment (3rd amendment: highway and transit) to the 2023-2027 TIP and authorize a 21-day public comment period**

Ms. Koirala shared new cost figures for TIP Amendment #3, including bus purchases and the Pittsfield Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension.

**ACTION:** Mr. Lovejoy introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Hoyt, to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> TIP Amendment and open a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Bailey inquired about the change in cost for the Rail Trail extension. Mr. Frieri explained that the current cost is catching up with price increases that do not reflect the original price tag from the PRC approval several years ago.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea  
Ms. Heming: Yea  
Ms. Hoyt: Yea  
Ms. Vallieres: Yea  
Mr. Bailey: Yea  
Mr. Lovejoy: Yea  
Mr. Nuvallie: Yea  
Mr. Duval: Yea

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

Ms. Koirala shared the 2024-2028 TIP funding scenarios and state prioritized projects. The Merrill Road (East St to Lyman St) project is slated to commence in 2024/2025 based on TIP readiness day evaluation.

There are two scenarios developed for the 2024-2028 TIP. Year 5 is the only difference between the two scenarios. In Scenario 1, the Dalton Division Road project would utilize AC construction between 2028-2029. Scenario 2 would not include AC for Dalton Division Road and the project would be completed in 2028.

Mr. Woelfel noted that it should not be a problem to utilize AC construction for Dalton Division Road, as long as the MPO is cognizant of the fact that a portion of 2029 TIP monies (amount currently unknown) will be spoken for. Mr. Bailey asked to clarify the extents of the Mount Washington Road project.

**ACTION:** Mr. Lovejoy introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve TIP funding Scenario 1.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea  
Ms. Heming: Yea  
Ms. Hoyt: Yea  
Ms. Vallieres: Yea  
Mr. Bailey: Yea  
Mr. Lovejoy: Yea  
Mr. Nuvallie: Yea  
Mr. Duval: Yea

Ms. Koirala then proceeded to share STIP investments in Berkshire County for 2024-2028, including bridge projects.

## **VII. Discussion and action on Travel Time Reliability Performance Measure**

Mr. Klem introduced the Performance Measure tracking requirement, which includes PM3 – reliability, congestion, and emissions. The Berkshire region only needs to vote on adoption of statewide reliability standards. LOTTR (Level of Travel Time Reliability) is based on the amount of time it takes to drive a length of road segment. The state will report the percentage of person-miles that are considered reliable. Trendlines for statewide reliability show a decrease in reliability out to 2026. A 2-year target of **74%** set in 2024 and **76%** in 2026 is proposed to establish an improving target.

Non-interstate travel time reliability has shown an increasing trend from 2017 to 2022. A 2024 target of **85%** and a 2026 target of **87%** is proposed to establish an improving target.

Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) is reported on the state level and only on the interstate system. This metric is reported as an index rather than percentage. A trend of lowering the index is desired. An increasing trend is projected from 2022 to 2026. A 2024 target of **1.8** and a 2026 target of **1.75** is set to pursue continuing performance improvement.

Mr. Lovejoy asked what the impact on Berkshire resources is based on accepting and tracking the PM3 metrics. Mr. Krevat responded that there is not a big impact on the Berkshires from this metric. The intent is to keep a running metric and continue the conversation about reliability while still developing the full potential of these efforts based on a relatively new 2016 FHWA rule. Future CIP or STIP projects could be considered. The adopted targets will be noted in the TIP and RTP.

**ACTION:** Mr. Lovejoy introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, for the MPO to adopt the targets for PM3.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea  
Ms. Heming: Yea  
Ms. Hoyt: Yea  
Ms. Vallieres: Yea  
Mr. Bailey: Yea  
Mr. Lovejoy: Yea  
Mr. Nuvallie: Yea  
Mr. Duval: Yea

## **VIII. Update on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan**

Mr. Russo shared components of the introduction to the RTP: Planning insights based on the data and trends from the Transportation Community Survey, high-level socio-economic trends in Berkshire County, and a draft vision statement for the overall RTP effort.

Mr. Lovejoy noted that a metric for income inequality would be a helpful way to better inform our priorities on budgeting for mass transit among other things.

## **IX. Status reports from Member Agencies**

Mr. Frieri gave an update on MassDOT District 1 projects for the 2023 TIP. Most projects are at 100% design or advertised for bid. Several projects will need TIP amendments for cost increases. The New Marlborough bridge replacement project will likely be advertised in 2024.

Mr. Woelfel noted that the Transportation Innovation Conference agenda will be shared shortly.

## **X. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **XI. Next Meeting date – April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The next MPO meeting will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**ACTION:** Mr. Lovejoy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bailey. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

### **Materials Distributed:**

- [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](#)