



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, March 31, 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)
Buck Donovan	BRPC
Kathleen Lambert	BRTA
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield
Marya Kozik	City of North Adams
Jay Meczycor	North Subregion
Marc Strout	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
Arnav Chatterjee	MassDOT
Lily Kaufman	MassDOT
Brittany Ebeling	BEAT
Ben Hansen	BRTA
Tom Matuszko	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 4:05 p.m.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Shooster, to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2025, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Donovan	Abstain
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea

Ms. Kozik	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Strout	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

IV. Approval of a TIP amendment to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP (2nd Amendment) for the following:

- V. Consideration of an amendment (2nd Amendment) to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP for the following: HIGHWAY SECTION – FFY 2026, Project 612498 Pittsfield South Street over Housatonic RR and River, reduce funding by -\$11,687,325 (project moves to FFY2027); Project 612505 Route 2 over Hoosic River and Route 8, reduce funding by -\$33,497,475; Project 607677 Lee Bridge Replacement Mill street over Mountain Brook, reduce funding by -\$6,850,760 (project moves to FFY 2027). FFY 2027 – Project 609076 Gt Barrington bridge replacement Cottage Street over Housatonic add project and associated funding in the amount of \$19,052,150; Project 612498 Pittsfield South Street over Housatonic RR and River, project moves from FFY 2026 with increased funding of \$12,824,729 (\$27,824,729 total project cost); Project 607677 Lee Bridge Replacement Mill street over Mountain Brook, project moves from FFY 2026 with a project cost of \$7,124,790; Project 612162 Pittsfield Wahconah Street over West Branch Housatonic reduce funding by -\$5,762,273 (project moves to FFY 2028). FFY 2028, Project 609069 Becket bridge replacement Quarry Road over Cushman Brook, add project and funding in the amount of \$4,916,351; Project 612162 Pittsfield Wahconah Street over West Branch Housatonic, add project and funding in the amount of \$5,983,899.**

Ms. Koirala reported that second amendment to the FFY 2026–2030 TIP was released for a 21-day public comment period. The amendment was advertised in The Berkshire Eagle on February 25 and posted on the BRPC website. No public comments were received. Anuja offered to review the project list again if requested.

ACTION: Ms. Bonbrake introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve the second amendment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Donaovan	Yes
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Ms. Kozik	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Strout	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

VI. Discussion on the development of the 2027 – 2031 Transportation Improvement Program and funding scenarios

Ms. Koirala gave a detailed overview of the potential funding scenarios, with Scenario 1 serving as a continuation of the current TIP structure with no additional new projects, and Scenario 2 building on Scenario 1 by using available target funds to add Sheffield Route 7 Resurfacing in 2027 and Adams

Route 8 / Hoosac Street at Holland Avenue in 2031. There were no questions about the scenarios.

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. Donaovan	Yes
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Ms. Kozik	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Strout	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

Ms. Koirala summarized the draft statewide prioritized highway project list for FFYs 2027–2031, organized by funding section. Highlights included bridge replacements across multiple communities, pavement preservation and roadway reconstruction projects, and shared-use path and rail trail extensions, among other projects. Ms. Koirala noted that while the list is largely finalized, minor revisions may occur based on updated cost estimates and scope clarifications from MassDOT. Finalized information is expected to be distributed at the next MPO meeting. With no questions, Ms. Koirala moved onto transit projects, which include recurring activities such as operating assistance, preventive maintenance, and vehicle purchases and replacements. Giving a brief overview, Ms. Lambert reported that BRTA targeted the opening of a new maintenance facility for the early 2030s. Ms. Lambert also noted that BRTA received \$8.2M in recent grants for buses and facility upgrades, four new 40-foot hybrid buses are on order, and planning is underway with the City of Pittsfield to identify and evaluate potential new facility sites. As well, a vehicle transition to hydrogen is no longer anticipated, and electric vehicles may be considered for microtransit.

VII. Update on the development of the Berkshire County high injury network (2026 version) and interactive dashboards

Mr. Russo provided an update on the development of the 2026 High Injury Network using funding from a Traffic Safety Information Systems Improvement Grant. Updates included the creation of a new interactive, living dashboard using crash data from MassDOT's IMPACT portal; partnering with the software vendor CITIAN to analyze the most dangerous roads in the county; and a countywide outreach survey to assess how stakeholders access and use crash data. Mr. Griffis gave a brief overview of the survey, which has received 29 responses to date, with respondents primarily from DPW, highway departments, and public safety officials. Additional outreach planned via BRPC newsletter and direct engagement, and updates will be provided at future MPO meetings.

VIII. Other business

Mr. Frieri gave an update on District 1 projects, including the Sheffield County Road superstructure replacement being awarded March 27; ledge removal for Beckett Route 8 is at 25% DPH conducted; Great Barrington's Division Street bridge replacement; Route 20 resurfacing has a public hearing scheduled May 7; A design public hearing was announced for April 8 in Williamstown regarding Route 7 ledge stabilization. Mr. Bailey asked about the reported sinkhole near Division Street Bridge, and if this would impact project cost or time. Mr. Moore replied they were looking into the matter and would report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Kus noted that proposed revisions to the UPWP will be presented at the next meeting and feedback is encouraged by members. As well, May is bike month, and staff are working to develop multiple events to promote it.

Ms. Lambert reported that the BRTA route realignment project was cancelled, and mitigations are underway to avoid service cuts.

IX. Next Meeting date – April 28th, 2026

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on April 28, 2026.

ACTION: Mr. Bailey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bonbrake. Mr. Shooster adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO February 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes DRAFT](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 TIP 2nd Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 TIP Development – Scenarios](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 Highway TIP State Prioritized](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 Transit TIP](#)
- [District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)