



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, May 24, 2022

*Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications*

*Meeting Materials:* <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/berkshire-mpo-virtual-meeting-7/>

### MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

David Mohler	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Jamey Tesler)
John Boyle	North Towns Representative
John Duval	BRPC Chair
Zac Feury	City of North Adams
Andy Hogeland	North Subregion Representative
Sheila Irvin	Chair of BRTA
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Towns Representative
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)

### Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Tom Matuszko	BRPC
Andrew Reovan	FHWA
Nick Russo	BRPC
Steve Savaria	Fuss & O'Neill
Derek Shooster	MassDOT OTP

### **I. Call to Order – Introductions**

Mr. Mohler 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 April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Action Item)**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Duval to approve the meeting minutes from the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, MPO meeting.

#### Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

David Mohler – Yea  
Mark Moore – Yea  
John Duval – Yea  
Sheila Irvin – Yea  
Zac Feury – Abstain  
Andy Hogeland – Abstain  
John Boyle – Yea

Jim Lovejoy – Yea

**VOICE VOTE:** Mr. Feury and Mr. Hogeland abstained from voting. Motion carried.

**IV. Approval of amendment (3<sup>rd</sup> amendment) to the 2022-2026 TIP to 1) add new project 609464 – Gt. Barrington, resurfacing Route 23/183 (609464) in the amount of \$2,690,763 ; 2) increase project cost to the amount of in the amount of \$3,470,391 for Pittsfield, Superstructure replacement (611955), Holmes Road over Housatonic River; 3) move Lanesborough, resurfacing of Route 7 (608813) to FFY 2023; and 4) add new project, Lanesborough pavement preservation on Route 7 (612593) in the amount of \$5,118,813 and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members**

Ms. Koirala stated that the MPO released the 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the current TIP (2022-2026) for a 21-day public comment period after the last MPO meeting – no comments have been received to date. Ms. Koirala briefly outlined the amendment – which includes the addition of a project in Great Barrington – resurfacing and related work on Route 23/183 (Project I.D. 609464) – using regional target monies. The amendment also included a cost increase for the Pittsfield-Superstructure Replacement, Holmes Road over Housatonic Road (I.D. 611955), moving the Lanesborough-Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 7 to FFY2023 (I.D. 608813)), and the addition of the Lanesborough-Pavement Preservation and Related Work on Route 7 (I.D. 612593) project.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Boyle to endorse the 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the 2022-2026 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

David Mohler – Yea  
Mark Moore – Yea  
John Duval – Yea  
Sheila Irvin – Yea  
Zac Feury – Yea  
Andy Hogeland – Yea  
John Boyle – Yea  
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**V. Approval of the MPO and the GHG Self Certification Documents and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents (Action Item)**

Mr. Kus briefly mentioned that in the development of documents such as the Regional Transportation Plan, the TIP, and the UPWP, those include a certification document. This is a requirement in which the MPO certifies the various procedures that are followed. These certification documents also reflect some of the MA laws and requirements. Mr. Kus mentioned that there are two certification documents that are currently in need of approval to reflect recent changes. They include the Global Warming Solutions Act certification document, and the MPO STIP certification document.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Hogeland, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve the GHG self-certification document and authorize the Chairman to sign the document on behalf of the MPO.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

David Mohler – Yea

Mark Moore – Yea  
John Duval – Yea  
Sheila Irvin – Yea  
Zac Feury – Yea  
Andy Hogeland – Yea  
John Boyle – Yea  
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Hogeland, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to approve the MPO self-certification document and authorize the Chairman to sign the document on behalf of the MPO.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

David Mohler – Yea  
Mark Moore – Yea  
John Duval – Yea  
Sheila Irvin – Yea  
Zac Feury – Yea  
Andy Hogeland – Yea  
John Boyle – Yea  
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Endorse the Draft BMPO FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, authorize the Chairman to sign the certifications documents on behalf of the MPO members (Action Item)**

Ms. Koirala stated that the full TIP document was released for a 21-day public comment period after the last MPO meeting. The public notice was posted on BRPC's website and in the Berkshire Eagle. No comments were received by the public and two comments, one from MassDOT and one from FHWA were received. The comments were minor, and the appropriate edits have been made. Ms. Koirala asked the group if they would like to go through the TIP document or if they have any other questions related to it. The group has already seen the projects and Ms. Koirala was instructed that the group did not need to go through the document in depth at this time.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Hogeland, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve the 2023-2027 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

David Mohler – Yea  
Mark Moore – Yea  
John Duval – Yea  
Sheila Irvin – Yea  
Zac Feury – Yea  
Andy Hogeland – Yea  
John Boyle – Yea  
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Receive the Draft 2023 Unified Planning Work Program and authorize staff to initiate a 21-day public comment period (Action**

## Item)

Mr. Kus stated that when we last met, he provided an overview of the focus areas for the upcoming Unified Planning work Program (UPWP). Among the work activities outlined, updating the RTP, implementing the state's carbon reduction plan, continuing regional bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts, moving forward with micro-transit, electric vehicles, buses, and charging equipment, updating the countywide Human Service Transportation Plan, assessing post-pandemic impacts on the transportation system, roadway safety, climate initiatives, and regional passenger rail service, were all highlighted. Mr. Kus proceeded to outline the budget associated with the UPWP.

Mr. Hogeland asked about the Northern Tier study – as things have been quiet since December.

Mr. Kus mentioned that he had not heard of anything aside from the next scheduled advisory committee meeting which is set for some time spring.

Mr. Matuszko mentioned that he and BRPC's economic development program manager had a meeting a few months ago with one of the consultants for the project. As far as Mr. Matuszko knows, the consultants are still conducting background work.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Hogeland, seconded by Mr. Boyle to initiate a 21-day public comment period for the 2023 UPWP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

David Mohler – Yea

Mark Moore – Yea

John Duval – Yea

Sheila Irvin – Yea

Zac Feury – Yea

Andy Hogeland – Yea

John Boyle – Yea

Jim Lovejoy – Yea

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## VIII. Presentation on MassDOT's Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Klem proceeded to update MPO members on MassDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan update – called [Beyond Mobility](#). Mr. Klem outlined the plans' purpose, desired outcomes, and process for plan development. MassDOT is currently in the 'visioning' phase of the plan and has a [public input survey available online](#). This will be one of many avenues for the public to give input to the plan's development.

## IX. Status Reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri provided a brief [update on District One projects](#) to the MPO.

Ms. Irvin mentioned that BRTA advisory group will meet on Thursday to look at the draft budget.

## X. Other Business

There was no other business.

## XI. Next Meeting date – June 28, 2022

The next MPO meeting will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**ACTION:** Mr. Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Irvin. Mr. Mohler adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

**Materials Distributed:**

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Draft MPO April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment](#)
- [BMPO Certification of 3C Planning Process](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit](#)
- [Final Berkshire MPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP Document](#)
- [Draft FFY 23 UPWP](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)
- [MassDOT Beyond Mobility MA 2050 Transportation Plan](#)