



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Malcolm Fick	BRPC
Robert Malnati	BRTA
William Shanahan	City of North Adams
Christine Hoyt	North Subregion Delegate
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Delegate

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Jonathan Church	MassDOT OTP
Derek Shooster	MassDOT
Chris Klem	MassDOT
Lily Wallace	MassDOT
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Ryan Griffis	BRPC

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 of April 22, 2025

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Shanahan	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Yea

IV. Approval of an amendment (5th Amendment) to the 2025-2029 TIP: HIGHWAY Section - remove Project 612505 N Adams Route 2 Overpass and funding in the amount of \$40,095,720. TRANSIT Section - Add BRTA012059 Operating Assistance LF in the amount of \$449,005 and add Operating Assistance 5311 in the amount of \$449,005.

Ms. Koirala detailed actions taken at the last meeting, with two TIP amendments being released for public comment, one for a highway project and the other for transit. The highway project was a bridge replacement in North Adams which was originally scheduled for 2025 but was moved to 2026. Its total amount was \$14,095,720, and no public comments were received during the comment period. The transit project was for operation assistance funds for BRTA received under 5311 and local funds in the amount of \$449,005, and no public comments were received either.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to approve the amendment (5th Amendment) to the 2025-2029 TIP: HIGHWAY Section - remove Project 612505 N Adams Route 2 Overpass and funding in the amount of \$40,095,720. TRANSIT Section - Add BRTA012059 Operating Assistance LF in the amount of \$449,005 and add Operating Assistance 5311 in the amount of \$449,005.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Shanahan	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Yea

V. Approval of an administrative adjustment to the 2025 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program, TRANSIT: 1) add 2025 BRTA-OT- Fleet Upgrades-LF in the amount of \$16,879, 2) - add 2025 BRTA-OT- RTA Fleet Upgrades-GOBOND in the amount of \$95,650, 3) add 2025 BRTA-OT- RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND in the amount of \$59,616 and 3) add 2025 BRTA-OT- RTA Vehicle Replacement-LF in the amount of \$337,842

Ms. Koirala explained the proposed adjustments to the 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Of the two projects, the first was Great Barrington which received funding to purchase an electric vehicle. The funding sources for this purchase were GOBOND in the amount of \$95,650, and local funds at \$16,879. The second project was for BRTA to purchase two low floor vehicles, with \$59,616 in funding received from GOBOND, and \$337,824 in local funds.

ACTION: Mr. Shanahan introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the administrative adjustment to the 2025 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program, TRANSIT: 1) add 2025 BRTA-OT- Fleet Upgrades-LF in the amount of \$16,879, 2) - add 2025 BRTA-OT- RTA Fleet Upgrades-GOBOND in the amount of \$95,650, 3) add 2025 BRTA-OT- RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND in the amount of \$59,616 and 3) add 2025 BRTA-OT- RTA Vehicle Replacement-LF in the amount of \$337,842.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Shanahan	Yea

Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Yea

VI. Approval of the 2026 – 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Koirala explained that the TIP document was released at the last MPO meeting for a 21-day comment period, from which the only comment received was from MassDOT OTP, which related to the document itself adding or removing information. Mr. Woelfel asked if the document included certification required, which Ms. Koirala confirmed it did, and she would be sending it to those needed to sign it.

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the 2026 – 2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Shanahan	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Yea

VII. Discussion on the 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and authorize a 21-day comment period

Mr. Kus discussed the purpose and focus of the UPWP for unfamiliar members. Mr. Kus went on to provide an overview of the focus areas and anticipated projects of the upcoming UPWP, including special studies, expansion of transit and rail service, bicycle and pedestrian study, and safety. As well, Mr. Kus went over planned funding expenditures for each project and included that specific phrases had been removed to not attract the ire of the current administration.

ACTION: Mr. Shanahan introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to authorize a 21-day comment period for the 2026 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Shanahan	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Yea

VIII. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri gave an update on the status of FY25 TIP projects. A bridge replacement in Adams is currently in the final design phase and is being reviewed. A bridge replacement in Lanesborough is currently in the construction phase, with a notice to proceed being issued in January. A bridge replacement in Lee is expected to issue its final design in June. And the reconstruction of Ashland Street in North Adams has its review completed. Mr. Frieri also notified members of upcoming meetings, including June 3 at 7pm for a virtual public hearing on an ADA retrofit contract to make improvements to sidewalks and accessible ramps within its infrastructure, encompassing 18 Berkshire communities. On July 29, a public hearing for a bridge preservation in North Adams will be held in person at 6pm.

Mr. Malnati noted that replacement vehicles are expected to arrive by July 30th.

Mr. Kus informed members BRPC is sponsoring a fifth-Thursday event on the 29th which is related to the state's integrated land use strategy.

Mr. Klem stated that MassDOT, in cooperation with western regional planning agencies, is planning an event to go over the draft capital improvement plan (CIP). This will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd.

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Next Meeting date – June 24th, 2025

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on June 24th, 2025.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Fick. Mr. Shooster adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO March 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes Draft](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2025-2029 Transit TIP Adjustment and 5th Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2025-2029 Highway TIP 5th Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 Highway TIP](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 Transit TIP](#)
- [DRAFT Berkshire MPO FFY 2026-2030 TIP Document](#)
- [Berkshire Microtransit Feasibility Study](#)
- [2026 UPWP Focus & Budget](#)
- [MassDOT Bike-Ped Planning Activities](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)