



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Derek Krevat	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Malcolm Fick	BRPC
Sheila Irvin	BRTA
Christine Hoyt	North Subregion Delegate
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Delegate
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion Delegate
George McGurn	Southwest Subregion Alternate
Mike Nuvallie	City of North Adams

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Charlotte Mays	MassDOT
Clete Kus	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Bob Malnati	BRTA
Ryan Griffis	BRPC
Derek Krevat	MassDOT
Chris Klem	MassDOT

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Krevat called the meeting to order at 4:05 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 July 25, 2023

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mrs. Irvin, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023, MPO meeting. Mr. Kus informed members that the draft minutes were revised to include a clarifying statement to item VI, second to last sentence. It now reads as follows: There was a decrease in the cost of Project 608813 Route 7 resurfacing project.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Nuvallie	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea

Mr. Boyle Yea
Mr. McGurn Abstain

IV. Consideration of an amendment (1st amendment: highway and transit) to the 2024-2028 TIP and authorize a 21-day public comment period

Ms. Koirala explained the increased costs and purpose of the proposed amendment and where and how funding would be distributed. There were no questions.

ACTION: Ms. Hoyt introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. McGurn, to nominate John Boyle as the MPO vice-chairperson.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Mr. Fick: Yea
Ms. Irvin: Yea
Mr. Nuvallie Yea
Ms. Hoyt Yea
Mr. Boyle: Yea
Mr. Bailey: Yea
Ms. Wood Yea

V. Approval of an Administrative Adjustment to the 2024 UPWP

Mr. Kus explained the purposes for this adjustment. There was an error in the previously approved dollar amount for FFY 24 which was \$168 higher than which was allocated. The adjustment will correct the originally approved amount of \$758,490 to \$758,332. Direct costs will be reduced by \$168, from \$19,500 to \$19,332.

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the administrative adjustment to the 2024 UPWP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Mr. Fick: Yea
Ms. Irvin: Yea
Mr. Nuvallie Yea
Ms. Hoyt Yea
Mr. Boyle: Yea
Mr. McGurn: Yea

VI. Presentation on Title VI procedures, annual Title VI Report and approval of Certifications and Assurances

Mr. Kus explained the purpose and importance of Title VI, and how BRPC is required to meet these requirements to receive federal funds. Mr. Kus shared the comment letter from DOT and elaborated on their requests and what BRPC is doing to meet them.

Mr. Klem informed the group that Katherine Riley, who is mentioned in MassDOT's letter as a specified contact person was no longer with DOT and offered to find a new contact.

Mr. Bailey then joined the meeting at 4:20 PM.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. McGurn, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Title VI certification and endorsement sheets on behalf of the MPO members.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Nuvallie	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Abstain
Mr. McGurn	Yea

VII. Presentation and discussion on the Urbanized Area Boundary

Ms. Koirala explained the reason why Gt. Barrington was excluded as part of the updated urbanized area boundary as a result of the 2020 census. The Census Bureau changed the population threshold .

Staff believe that it is beneficial for Gt. Barrington to remain as part of the urbanized area and has met with MassDOT and FHWA regarding this issues. Staff has made a formal request to MassDOT. Charlotte Mays stated that the request was received but was still waiting on management to make a decision. Their meeting was scheduled for this week. A shapefile of the current urban area boundary was shared with at meeting.

Ms. Heming asked whether data being used was from the 2020 census, which as confirmed it is.

VIII. Update on the Safe Streets and Roads for All initiative

Mr. Russo gave a presentation on the SS4A initiative, its purpose, and actions taken so far. A number of MPO members are members of the advisory committee. The planned process was presented, along with proposed information to be used, and how grant funding would be used.

A consultant is currently being solicited to spearhead research and proposals. Two RFP submissions were received and are currently being scored by committee members.

Mr. Boyle asked if BRPC would be working with municipal traffic commissions. Mr. Russo confirmed they would.

IX. Presentation by BRTA on proposed service and route changes

Mr. Malnati shared a presentation on proposed new bus service for BRTA in FY 24. Public comments were taken, and proposals include increased service and meet rider needs and wants. Public comments are still being taken until the end of November.

BRTA planning phased implementation of proposed changes. Phase 1 proposes new weekday evening round-trip runs for Route 2, 11, and 15. Additional Saturday evening service for Route 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, and 15. A new express route 921 will replace the Route 21x. Enacting Phase 2 will require 3 additional operators, and would add new weekday and weekend roundtrips.

Mr. Boyle asked if the holiday season would be fare free again this year. Mr. Malnati confirmed this was the case thanks to grant funding from MassDOT.

X. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri detailed the four projects that were advertised and their approved contractors. Of the FY 24 projects, there are 4 bridge projects, with one being currently advertised. The other 3 projects are currently in design, with one due to be released imminently.

Mr. Malnati commented again that the BRTA is fare free for the holiday season. As well, new bus seats are being tested at the BRTA office, and a survey on proposed service changes has been released on the BRTA facebook page.

Mr. Kus commented the final report of the western mass passenger rail commission was released the week prior, and is now available on the BRPC website for public review.

XI. Other Business

Mr. Kus commented the new secretary of transportation was interested in visiting western Mass. Mr. Krevat said January may be feasible.

Mr. Boyle asked if there would be a meeting in December. Mr. Krevat commented that the regular schedule would place the next meeting on December 26th – but due to holidays it will likely be rescheduled, and will follow-up on potential alternative meeting dates.

XII. Next Meeting date – December 26th, 2023

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on December 26th, 2023 – but will likely be rescheduled to a later date.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McGurn. Mr. Krevat adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO July 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes Draft Rev 1](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Highway 1st Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Transit 1st Amendment & Adjustment](#)
- [2024 UPWP Adjustment](#)
- [Title VI Submittal](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)