

Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 4:00 PM

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) Office

1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

David Mohler, Chair	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing Secretary Pollack)
Larysa Bernstein	City of North Adams (Representing Mayor Bernard)
Kyle Hanlon	BRPC Chair
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Berkshire Towns Representative
Jim Huebner	Southeast Berkshire Towns Representative
Laurel Scialabba	North Central Berkshire Towns Representative
David Turocy	City of Pittsfield (Representing Mayor Tyer)
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA

Others Present:

Eammon Coughlin	BRPC
Bill Cooke	Town of Great Barrington, Southwest towns alternate
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Nat Karns	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Gabriel Sherman	MassDOT Planning
Margo Souza	MassDOT
Sean Van Deusen	Town of Great Barrington

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Mohler called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 24, 2018

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Hanlon, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to approve the minutes as written.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried. Mr. Huebner and Mrs. Vallieres abstained from voting.

4. APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT (5TH AMENDMENT) TO THE 2018 -2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HIGHWAY) AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE MPO MEMBERS

Mrs. Koirala explained that the 5th TIP amendment was released for a 21-day comment period and that no comments from the public had been received.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Hanlon to approve the amendment.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF THE 2019 – 2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE MPO MEMBERS

Mr. Koirala explained that the draft 2019-2023 TIP had been released for a 21-day public comment period. No comments were received from the public; however, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP) did submit comments.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy, to approve the 2019-2023 TIP.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF THE COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. Koirala explained that the CPTHST Plan had been released for a 21-day public comment period and that no public comments had been received.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Hanlon to approve the CPTHST Plan.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

7. RECEIVE THE 2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM, AUTHORIZE STAFF TO INITIATE A 21 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Kus described some minor changes to the draft 2019 UPWP, which included increasing hours and funding allocated to the preparation of the 2020 RTP.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner to release the draft UPWP for a 21-day public comment period.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carries unanimously.

8. UPDATE ON THE TMA INITIATIVE

Mr. Kus updated MPO members on the TMA initiative. This initiative involves Senator Hinds' office, BRTA, BRPC, and MCLA. The goal is to help address transportation shortfalls through a membership-based organization with a focus on transportation to places of employment. One possible scenario is that the TMA could help to coordinate small shuttles in the region, such as those that may already be owned by potential member organizations. However, TMAs can have many different organizational structures and methods of working.

Mr. Lovejoy stated that he felt something was needed to help address transportation issues in the

county but was not sure a TMA would finally solve the issue, given the small population and dispersed communities in the Berkshires.

Mr. Kus explained that nothing has been formalized yet, and that coming up with the best organizational structure will be challenge of the initiative.

9. STATUS REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

Mr. Frieri updated the MPO on District 1 Projects. Mr. Kus reviewed activities of BRPC staff.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next MPO meeting will be on June 26, 2018.

Mr. Huebner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy. Mr. Mohler adjourned the meeting at 5:33 PM.

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- Draft April MPO meeting minutes
- 5th amendment to the 2018-2022 TIP
- Draft UPWP budget
- CHST Plan
- District 1 Project Updates
- MPO work activity updates