

Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 4:00 PM
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) Office
1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Steve Woelfel, 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 Huebner	Southeast Berkshire Towns Representative
Andy Hogeland	North Berkshire Towns Representative
Sheila Irvin	Chair of BRTA Advisory Board
David Turocy	City of Pittsfield (Representing Mayor Tyer)
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA

Others Present:

Mike Case	Washington Select Board Member
Eammon Coughlin	BRPC
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Gabriel Sherman	MassDOT Planning
Andy McKeever	iBerkshires

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 26, 2018

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Hanlon, seconded by Mr. Huebner to approve the meeting minutes for the June 26, 2018 MPO meeting with one correction. Andy Hogeland's name was incorporated to the list of attendees for the June 26, 2018 BMPO meeting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2016 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO INCORPORATE AN AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATION ON BEHALF OF THE MPO MEMBERS

Following-up on June 2018 MPO meeting, Mr. Kus updated members on the air conformity determination amendment to the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan. A 21-day comment period for the conformity determination amendment was initiated for review by the public. No public comments were received. BRPC staff recommends the MPO endorse the amendment.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Hanlon, seconded by Mr. Huebner amend the 2016 RTP to incorporate an air quality conformity determination.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT TO THE 2018-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ALLOCATING STATE FUNDING FOR 2 FIXED ROUTE TRANSIT BUSES

Mrs. Koirala discussed the administrative adjustment to the 2018-2022 TIP. BRTA received left-over state funding to purchase two additional vehicles to operate along its fixed-route. Ms. Vallieres confirmed the purchase of two smaller buses by BRTA.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Hanlon, seconded by Mr. Huebner to approve the administrative adjustment to the 2018-2022 TIP.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Coughlin reviewed BRPC's work activities in preparing to update the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan. BRPC's 'transportation needs' survey has been developed, and an English version and Spanish version are available online. 4,000 post cards are planned to be sent out through every door direct mail to encourage residents, particularly those in low-income and environmental justice neighborhoods, to take the survey. RTP update materials will be sent to town managers for local distribution. Mr. Coughlin pointed to BRPC's flyers and business cards, which contain a link and QR code to the RTP survey. BRPC plans to complete collecting survey responses by late October or early November 2018.

Mr. Woelfel suggested utilizing Baystate Roads' mailing list to distribute survey links. An upcoming advisory board meeting among DPW directors in October might also serve as a useful venue to distribute survey material.

Mr. Coughlin concluded by stating that BRPC will be holding an RTP public information session at the Berkshire Athenaeum Auditorium in October. BRPC will also be attending Pittsfield's Third Thursday event in September and will be holding a TIP workshop in late October.

7. STATUS REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

Mr. Kus reviewed BRPC's monthly activity report.

Ms. Koirala gave an update on work activities pertaining to the Berkshire Flyer. BRPC will focus on bridging first and last mile transportation connections for New Yorker's arriving to the Berkshires. 1Berkshires will be responsible for Berkshire Flyer advertising. A Berkshire Flyer Working Group

meeting will be held on September 24, 2018 and is open to the public. Berkshire Flyer work activities need to conclude by March 1st, 2019.

Mr. Hogeland asked for clarification on which study the guest origin data collection efforts fall under. Mr. Kus explained these as part of BRPC's special studies – travel and tourism study efforts which support the FHA's planning factors in addition to Berkshire Flyer feasibility analysis.

Mr. Frieri updated the MPO on District 1 Projects.

Ms. Vallieres gave a brief update on BRTA's recent purchase of two buses through the FDA's 5339 discretionary grant program. Electric mini-buses are being explored for use by BRTA.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next MPO meeting will be on September 25, 2018.

Mr. Huebner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hanlon. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM

Materials Distributed:

- Agenda
- Draft June MPO meeting minutes
- 2016 RTP Air Quality Conformity Determination Amendment
- MPO FFY 2018-2022 Transit TIP Administrative Adjustment
- 2020 RTP flyer and business cards
- TIP Workshop flyer
- MassDOT projects status report
- MPO work activity updates