

**Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 4:00 PM

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) Office

1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Brian Pounds, Chair	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing Secretary Pollack)
Francesca Hemming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
John Boyle	Northcentral Towns Representative
John Duval	North Towns Representative
Kyle Hanlon	BRPC Chair
Jim Huebner	Southeast Berkshire Towns Representative
Sheila Irvin	Chair of BRTA Advisory Board
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Berkshire Towns Representative
David Turocy	City of Pittsfield (Representing Mayor Tyer)

Others Present:

Eammon Coughlin	BRPC
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Robert Malnati	BRTA Director
Clete Kus	BRPC
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Mike Nuvallie	City of North Adams, Special Projects Coordinator
Sarah Vallieres	BTRA
Brandon Wilcox	FHWA

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Pounds called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2019 (ACTION ITEM)**

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Heubner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to approve the meeting minutes for the January 22, 2018 MPO meeting with one correction. Jim Huebner's name was removed from the list of attendees for the January 22, 2018 BMPO meeting.

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS (PM 1) (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Pounds directed MPO members to the MassDOT CY19 Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1) handout. Mr. Pounds briefly reminded MPO members that MassDOT and the Berkshire MPO previously adopted calendar year 2018 safety targets (PM1) and NHS bridge and pavement condition targets (PM2) but was not required to adopt CMAQ and Freight targets (PM3). PM1 targets differ from PM2 and PM3 targets in that PM1 targets must be adopted on a calendar year basis. MassDOT has already adopted safety performance measure targets in five categories (total fatalities Commonwealth wide, fatality rate, total incapacitating injuries, incapacitating injuries rate, and total number of non-motorized fatalities and incapacitating injuries) in August 2018. The action item for today is for the Berkshire MPO to consider adopting MassDOT's safety targets in all five categories for this year. Mr. Coughlin briefly followed-up by providing statistics for the Berkshire region within each safety target for comparison with statewide statistics.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Heubner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to adopt the calendar year 2019 MassDOT safety targets as presented.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. DISCUSSION ON PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING AGREEMENT**

Mr. Pounds explained that this document has, in part, come out of the federal certification review process which has looked at updating the Urbanized Zone Area agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, and so forth. The Performance-Based Planning and Programming Agreement is a federally required document. It requires MassDOT to enter into an agreement with all MPOs and TPOs in the Commonwealth, including RTAs, to establish a coordinated process in target setting. This document outlines the mutual responsibilities in carrying out performance-based planning and programming along with how targets are developed and set. Mr. Pounds mentioned that MPO members should review this document and contact MassDOT with any questions or comments.

Mr. Malnati asked a clarifying question regarding TPM measures and the process for reviewing transit performance measures on an annual basis, when reviewing the TIP. There was some confusion as to how an annual review process corresponds with the requirement to reassess performance targets on a four-year time horizon, as mandated by the Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan.

Mr. Pounds explained that reassessment of the targets, occurring prior to the mandated four-year time horizon, will only occur annually if the Berkshire MPO decides to revisit the targets. This document will be revisited next month to review any updates and/or comments received.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT (1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT) TO THE 2019-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TRANSIT) (ACTION ITEM)**

Ms. Koirala updated MPO members on recent funding awards to BRTA warranting an amendment to 'Transit' section of the existing TIP. Under the 5310 grant program, BRTA was awarded a total of \$389,160 for three items. Under the program BRTA received:

- 1) \$282,400 for a bus replacement (under 30').
- 2) \$96,800 for the purchase of two vans, each wheelchair accessible.
- 3) \$9,960 for operating assistance for mobility management travel training.

Ms. Koirala explained that the amendment was released for public comment, and to date, there have not been any public comments received. Ms. Koirala asked MPO members to consider endorsing the amendment.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Heubner to endorse the amendment to the 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2020-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Ms. Koirala stated that the review process for the 2020-2024 TIP has begun. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, solicitation letters were sent out with a due date of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – indicating project selection. Ms. Koirala stated that on February 11<sup>th</sup>, project evaluations were conducted for this year’s TIP.

Ms. Koirala reviewed TIP project evaluations and scoring along with the TIP targets set by MassDOT. This year, twenty-two (22) highway projects were evaluated, of which five (5) are new projects and seventeen (17) are old projects. Ms. Koirala directed MPO members to the TIP Project Evaluation handout, stating that the projects are ranked from highest to lowest. Ms. Koirala continued reviewing specific projects and scoring.

Next, Ms. Koirala reviewed the Bike/Ped project evaluations and scoring.

Ms. Koirala continued by directing MPO members to the final handout containing expected target funding levels set by MassDOT. Ms. Koirala concluded by stating that TIP scenarios would be reviewed at the next meeting and the Berkshire MPO will be asked to select a preferred project list.

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON 2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Mr. Coughlin provided a brief update on the status of the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Coughlin briefly reviewed a series of projections in population, age, employment, along with socioeconomic indicators and their influence on projected transportation needs for the region. Mr. Coughlin then reviewed major projects and initiatives that are currently being explored or were extracted from the last RTP and still hold relevance for inclusion into the updated document. Mr. Coughlin proceeded to ask MPO members to go around the table and voice the various priorities and visions of the future of transportation for the region. MPO members went around voicing priorities and visions. Mr. Coughlin concluded by stating that at the next MPO meeting, members will review projected financial estimates received from MassDOT, outlining the expected level of transportation funding for the region over the RTP’s 20-year horizon.

## **9. STATUS REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES**

Mr. Moore provided updates to the MPO on District 1 Projects.

Mr. Kus reviewed BRPC's monthly activity report

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Koirala briefly updated members on the status of the Berkshire Flyer 2.0 and the draft feasibility study.

## **11. NEXT MEETING DATE – FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

The next MPO meeting will be on March 26, 2019.

ACTION: Mr. Hanlon motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Turocy. Mr. Ponds adjourned the meeting at 5:46 PM

### Materials Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- MassDOT CY19 Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1)
- Berkshire Region – Safety Performance
- Performance-Based Planning and Programming Agreement
- Berkshire MPO FFY 2019-2023 Transit TIP 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment release by MPO on January 22, 2019
- FFY 2020-2024 TIP Schedule
- 2020-2024 Berkshire TIP Project Evaluation: Results of MPO Staff Evaluation of Highway Projects, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, sorted by Total Project Score
- 2020-2024 Berkshire TIP Project Evaluation: Results of MPO Staff Evaluation of Bike/Ped Projects, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, sorted by Total Project Score
- 2020-2024 Berkshire TIP Project Development: TIP Funding by Federal Fiscal Year
- Berkshire MPO 02/26/2019 – MassDOT District One Project Update
- Berkshire MPO Work Activity Update
- 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Overview Presentation