



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

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| Stephen Woelfel | MassDOT (Representing Secretary Stephanie Pollack) |
| John Boyle | North Central Towns Representative |
| John Duval | North Towns Representative |
| Jim Huebner | Southeast Towns Representative |
| Francisca Heming | MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver) |
| Sheila Irving | Chair of BRTA |
| Jim Lovejoy | Southwest Towns Representative |
| Ricardo Morales | City of Pittsfield |
| Kyle Hanlon | Chairman, BRPC |

Others Present:

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| Eammon Coughlin | BRPC |
| Peter Frieri | MassDOT District 1 |
| Justin Gilmore | BRPC |
| Anuja Koirala | BRPC |
| Derek Krevat | MassDOT OTP |
| Clete Kus | BRPC |
| Tom Matuszko | BRPC |
| Mark Moore | MassDOT District 1 |
| Andrew Reovan | FHWA |
| Sarah Vallieres | BRTA |

I. 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 the Meeting Minutes from December 22, 2020 (Action Item)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve the meeting minutes from the December 22th, 2020 MPO meeting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Duval, Mr. Huebner, and Ms. Irving all abstained from voting.

IV. Safety Performance Measure Targets (Action Item)

Mr. Krevat began with giving an overview of the safety performance measure targets, which are the result

of a 2016 FHWA regulation mandating all MPO's to adopt performance measures. There are three overarching categories for these measures:

- PM1 – safety.
- PM2 – pavement and bridge condition.
- PM3 – system performance measures, including things like GHG emissions and congestion reduction.

Each has their own deadline for adoption, and the end of February is the deadline for MPO's to adopt PM1 – safety performance measures targets. Five key metrics are used to capture safety performance – including total number of fatalities, total fatality rate per 100 million VMT, total serious injuries, total serious injuries rate, and a combined measure for non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Data from the last 12 years are reviewed and the trendline helps inform reasonable targets for the state to adopt. Statewide, total fatalities and total serious injuries are decreasing. Total combined non-motorized injuries and fatalities are only recently decreasing.

Mr. Coughlin followed-up with safety performance measure data specific to the Berkshires. The Berkshire region is heading in the right direction with respect to total fatalities and rate of fatalities. The Berkshires does have a higher fatality rate than the state, but this is not uncommon for more rural areas with smaller populations. Again, the Berkshires is headed in the right direction with respect to injuries and total serious injury rate, and this rate is lower in the Berkshires than statewide. The Berkshire region is seeing an upward trend in the rate of total combined non-motorized injuries and fatalities. 2019 was the worst year for non-motorized injuries and fatalities in the Berkshires (3 fatalities and 13 injuries). Handout ([here](#)).

Mr. Lovejoy asked for more clarification on the non-motorized injuries and fatalities in the Berkshires.

Mr. Coughlin responded by stating that mostly non-motorized injuries and fatalities in the Berkshire are among pedestrians, with very little being among cyclists.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner to adopt the state safety performance measure targets.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Consideration of an amendment (2nd amendment) to the 2021 – 2025 Transportation Improvement program and initiate a 21-day public comment period (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala proceeded to review the 2nd amendment, which contains two proposed amendments, one for highway and one for transit. For the highway project, there has been a cost increase of \$1.13 million for the Hinsdale-Peru-Reconstruction of Skyline Trail (Middlefield Road) project, programmed for FYY21.

Mr. Frieri explained that the cost increase is related to a reevaluation of bid quantities that were originally developed.

Ms. Koirala proceeded to review the transit amendment. This amendment relates to 5339 discretionary grant funding received by BRTA. A total of \$333,732 was awarded, and BRTA is utilizing this funding for two projects – the rehab/renovation of BRTA maintenance facility and the purchase of a <30 ft. bus to replace existing stock.

Ms. Vallieres further elaborated.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy to release the 2nd amendment to the 2021-2025 TIP for a 21-day public comment period.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Consideration of an amendment to the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program and initiate a 21-day public comment period (Action Item)

Mr. Kus proceeded to review the 1st amendment to the 2020 UPWP. This amendment reallocated \$22,500 from the Berkshire Flyer Marketing and Implementation task (task 3.9) to the Climate Change task (task 3.6). Since the start of the federal fiscal year, virtually no work has occurred on task 3.9 by staff. Work efforts associated with climate change has been more significant to date, and reallocation makes sense.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner to release the 1st amendment to the 2020 UPWP for a 21-day public comment period.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Overview of the 2022 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program development schedule

Ms. Koirala proceeded to review the 2022-2026 TIP development schedule outlined in the TIP Schedule Handout ([here](#)).

VIII. Status Reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri provided MPO members a status report of District One project updates. All updates are outlined in the District One Project Update handout sheet ([here](#)).

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Next Meeting Date – February 23, 2021

The next Berkshire MPO meeting date is February 23, 2021.

ACTION: Mr. Huebner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft December 22, 2020 MPO Meeting Minutes
- Safety Performance Measure Targets
- BMPO FFY 2021-2025 TIP 2nd Amendment
- BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Schedule
- 2021 UPWP 1st Amendment Funding Profile
- 2021 UPWP 1st Amendment Pages