



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Tuesday, July 28, 2020
Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Steve Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Stephanie Pollack)
John Boyle	North Central Towns Representative
Francesca Hemming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Jim Huebner	Southeast Towns Representative
Sheila Irving	Chair of BRTA
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Towns Representative
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield

Others Present:

Eammon Coughlin	BRPC
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Clete Kus	BRPC
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Steve Savaria	Fuss and O'Neill

I. Call to Order

Mr. Mohler called the meeting to order at 4:03PM. 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 June 23, 2020 (Action Item)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner to approve the meeting minutes from the June 23rd, 2020 MPO meeting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of an amendment (4th amendment) to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (Transit – adding 5307, 5311, and non-federal funds) and authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the MPO (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala explained that after that last MPO meeting, the 4th TIP amendment was put out for a public comment period. No public comments were received. Ms. Koirala briefly reviewed the six projects that were added to the TIP – triggering this amendment. In addition, Ms. Koirala briefly reviewed each project cost.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve the 4th amendment to the 2020-2024 TIP and authorize the chair to sign on behalf of the MPO members.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Overview of the Regional Bike Share Feasibility Study

Mr. Coughlin briefly updated members on the status of the regional bike share feasibility study. The City of Pittsfield received a Workforce Transportation grant from MassDOT for \$60,000 to assess the feasibility of a regional bike share system. The Town's of Lenox, West Stockbridge, and Great Barrington have also committed funds to this project – bringing the grant total up to \$75,000. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was just issued by the City of Pittsfield. An inter-municipal agreement has also been developed, with the hope of bringing stakeholders from these communities together over the course of this project to give input and help guide the project along. The study should initiate sometime this fall and wrap-up in a 6-month time frame.

Mr. Morales added that just today, the City of Pittsfield issued the RFP for this project. Hopefully, the bid process will take no more than 3 to 4-weeks, at which point, the appropriate proposal will be selected.

Mr. Boyle asked if a bike share system operating in the Berkshires would be seasonal?

Mr. Kus mentioned that, just as the ValleyBike Share system operating in Hampshire and Hampden County's, a Berkshire bike share system would also be seasonal.

VI. Status Reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri provided MPO members a status report of District One project updates.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Kus provided MPO members with a brief update on East-West Passenger Rail Study. The advisory committee will reconvene in about two-weeks, after that, the third and final public meeting will occur. Following the conclusion of those two meetings, a draft document will be developed and released (potentially by mid-August).

VIII. Next Meeting Date – August 25th, 2020 (if necessary)

If necessary, the next MPO meeting will be held on August 25th, 2020.

ACTION: Ms. Irving motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Boyle. Mr. Mohler adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft June 23, 2020 MPO Meeting Minutes
- BMPO FFY 2020-2024 Transit TIP 4th Amendment
- MassDOT District One TIP Project Updates