



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Acting Secretary Jamey Tesler)
John Boyle	North Central Towns Representative
Zac Feury	City of North Adams
Kyle Hanlon	BRPC Chair
Jim Huebner	Southeast Towns Representative
Francesca Hemming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Sheila Irving	Chair of BRTA
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Towns Representative

Others Present:

Matt Chase	VHB
Eammon Coughlin	BRPC
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Michelle Ho	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Clete Kus	BRPC
Tom Matuszko	BRPC
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Bryan Pounds	MassDOT OTP
Andrew Reovan	FHWA
Steve Savaria	Fuss & O'Neill
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 February 23, 2021 (Action Item)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Huebner to approve the meeting minutes from the February 23rd, 2021 MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Hemming – Yea
Kyle Hanlon – Yea
Sheila Irving – Yea

Zac Feury – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Jim Huebner – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consideration of an amendment (3rd amendment) to the 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program and authorize a 21-day public comment period (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala explained that there was a [3rd amendment consideration](#) for the Bridge program of the 2021-2025 TIP. The superstructure replacement project for Norfolk Road, Lumbert Road, and Southfield Road over Umpachene Brook has undergone a cost decrease of \$3,184,715. Moreover, the language of the project description has changed slightly with the addition of 'three bridges' in the project description and the replacement of the word 'brook' with word 'river' – to more accurately describe Umpachene River.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Boyle to release the 3rd TIP Amendment out for a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Huebner asked for further clarification related to the cost reduction of the project.

Mr. Frieri explained that the project was originally composed of three bridge replacements, however, now it will involve only the replacement of the superstructure and will combine all three projects resulting in significant cost savings.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:
Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:
Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Hemming – Yea
Kyle Hanlon – Yea
Sheila Irving – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Jim Huebner – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Discussion on draft project listing for the 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and preliminary funding scenarios

Ms. Koirala proceeded to update MPO members on the development of the 2022-2026 TIP – with the new cycle beginning this past January. Ms. Koirala directed MPO members to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP development targets and project cost handout ([here](#)). Ms. Koirala proceeded to review [Scenario 1](#), [Scenario 2](#), and [Scenario 3](#). Ms. Koirala explained that the first 3-years for each scenario (FFY22, FFY23, FFY24) is the same. Ms. Koirala proceeded to distinguish the differences between each scenario. Highlighted differences between each scenario can be easily viewed in the [TIP Development Scenarios Summary handout](#). Ms. Koirala explained that these scenarios were presented to the TAC a week ago, and the TAC recommended the MPO move forward with fully developing Scenario 3. At the next MPO meeting, Ms. Koirala will present a fully developed TIP using Scenario 3 for MPO members to review.

Mr. Lovejoy asked why there were not many south county projects listed in the future TIP.

Ms. Koirala briefly recapped the recently complete south county projects, and also explained that there

simply were not many south county projects ready to move forward in the design phase to be programmed in the 2022-2026 TIP cycle.

Mr. Koirala explained that bridge, bike and pedestrian, and transit TIP projects are not developed yet and will likely be presented at the next MPO meeting.

VI. 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](#)).

VII. Other Business

Mr. Kus mentioned to the MPO that BRPC recently submitted comments to the MA 2030 Plan. For another update, CSX recently acquired Pan Am rail line, which means they will now control both the existing rail lines that run east to west across the Commonwealth. This could have implications for east-west passenger rail in the future. At next month's meeting, Mr. Kus will be briefing MPO members on the upcoming UPWP and asked if MPO members had any suggestions for UPWP tasks – and to share with him those suggestions.

Mr. Woelfel mentioned that the MassDOT Innovation conference will occur on May 25th, 26th, and 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. those three days. It will be fully virtual and registration is now open.

There was no other business.

VIII. Next Meeting Date – April 20, 2021

The next Berkshire MPO meeting date is April 20th, 2021.

ACTION: Mr. Huebner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [BMPO February 23, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2021-2025 TIP 3rd Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Targets and Project Costs](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Scenario 1](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Scenario 2](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Scenario 3](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Scenarios Summary](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2022-2026 TIP Development Schedule](#)
- [MassDOT District One TIP Project Update](#)