

BERKSHIRE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM  
Amended February 2021

**Task 3.6 Climate Change**

**OBJECTIVE:**

Evaluate the potential impacts of Climate Change on regional transportation facilities with an emphasis on improving the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system along with mitigating climate change and storm water impacts on surface transportation. Participate in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change through participating in such efforts as the Transportation Climate Initiative. This task is directed towards addressing Infrastructure Condition and System Reliability national performance goals from FAST performance measures.

**PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES:**

1. Completed Hazard Mitigation Plans
2. Compilation of stream crossing data
3. Transportation Climate Initiative

**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in activities focused on reducing the impact of climate change including the Transportation and Climate Initiative.
2. Coordinate with recommendations developed through the Hazard Mitigation Planning process, Green Communities program, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness planning, and other related activities.
3. Assist in efforts related to Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards and aid communities seeking financial assistance for new projects.
4. Work with MassDOT and municipalities to identifying vulnerable assets and prioritize projects as part of its Climate Vulnerability Assessment.
5. Actively promote and work with municipalities to identify and implement model green infrastructure strategies.
6. Participate in statewide GHG Emission regulatory efforts, perform GHG emissions analyses and promote alternative fuel vehicles.
7. Promote electric vehicle acquisition and charging infrastructure development and provide assistance to Berkshire municipalities pursuing private/state-funded incentives.
8. Assist in efforts to reduce GHG emissions from public transportation sources and provide assistance to BRTA in identifying and assessing the viability of implementing electric buses/alternative fuel buses.
9. Assist communities to gain access to the MVP program and participate in efforts to improve efficiency and reduce costs of culverts and bridges.

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**PRODUCTS:**

1. Research and data collection that supports updates to Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards.
2. Implementation of model green infrastructure strategies in selected communities.
3. Share information on electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) to evaluate viability of municipal and public transportation electric vehicle implementation.

**SCHEDULE:**

1. Work on this task will continue in FFY 2021.

**COMMUNITY BENEFICIARY:**

All Berkshire County Communities

**BUDGET:**

<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>BRPC Staff Cost</b>	<b>BRPC Staff Days</b>
<b>FEDERAL/STATE</b>	\$38,000/9,500	\$47,500	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$47,500	\$47,500	88

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**Task 3.9    *Berkshire Flyer Marketing and Service Implementation***

**OBJECTIVES:**

To assist with implementation efforts of the Berkshire Flyer rail service, coordinating efforts with CSX and Amtrak, and to oversee a consultant hired with FFY funding to perform a rail corridor capacity analysis. The consultant will be selected by Amtrak with concurrence from CSX and MassDOT Rail and Transit. Continue with implementation of recommendations outlined in prior study efforts to ensure success of this new rail service and assist in coordination efforts to finalize a service agreement between MassDOT and Amtrak for this service.

**PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES:**

1.     Berkshire Flyer: Pittsfield to New York City Feasibility Study
2.     Berkshire Flyer 2.0 Study

**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:**

1.     Conduct a profession services solicitation for a rail corridor capacity analysis. Oversee procurement and contracting, provide contract and project management.
2.     Work with the Berkshire Flyer working group to implement study recommendations including first/last mile transportation options
3.     Assist MassDOT Rail and Transit in developing a service agreement with Amtrak.

**PRODUCTS:**

1.     Rail corridor capacity analysis.
2.     Amtrak service agreement

**SCHEDULE:**

1.     Work on this task will commence immediately and continue through the inaugural year of the Berkshire Flyer, FFY 2021.

**COMMUNITY BENEFICIARY:**

All Berkshire County Communities

**BUDGET:**

Funding Source(s)	Total	BRPC Staff Cost	BRPC Staff Days
FEDERAL/STATE	\$18,000/4,500	\$22,500	30
STATE	\$22,500	\$22,500	30