



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/berkshire-mpo-virtual-meeting-3/>

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Steve Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Jamey Tesler)
John Boyle	North Towns Representative
John Duval	BRPC Chair
Zac Feury	City of North Adams
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Christine Hoyt	North Central Towns Representative
Sheila Irving	Chair of BRTA
Kent Lew	Southeast Towns Representative
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Towns Representative
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Clete Kus	BRPC
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Nick Russo	BRPC

I. Introductions

Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 Meeting Minutes from July 27, 2021 (Action Item)

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve the meeting minutes from the July 27th meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Heming – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irving – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
Christine Hoyt – Abstain

John Boyle – Yea
Kent Lew – Abstain
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Hoyt and Mr. Lew abstained from voting.

IV. Consideration of an amendment (1st amendment) to the 2022-2026 TIP (Transit) and authorize staff to initiate a 21-day comment period (Action Item)

Ms. Koirala proceeded to review the first amendment to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP. The first amendment relates to the need to include four new Transit projects to the FFY 2022 project list. Two projects fall under 5307, one for preventative maintenance (\$36,240) and one for operating assistance (\$1,624,683). The other two projects include the purchase of a <30 ft replacement bus (\$190,567) and S&B fare collection upgrades (\$257,134). Ms. Koirala stated that this amendment needs to go out to public comment.

ACTION: Motion by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Morales to release the first amendment to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Steve Woelfel – Yea
Francisca Heming – Yea
John Duval – Yea
Sheila Irving – Yea
Ricardo Morales – Yea
Zac Feury – Yea
Christine Hoyt – Yea
John Boyle – Yea
Kent Lew – Yea
Jim Lovejoy – Yea

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Update on the Berkshire County Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan implementation efforts

Mr. Gilmore proceeded to update MPO members on EV charging station plan implementation efforts. Mr. Gilmore stated that at the last MPO meeting, he gave a presentation on the Berkshire County Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station plan. That plan contains a number of recommendations focused on advancing the strategic installation of charging stations throughout the county. One of those recommendations is to establish a charging station working group that would focus on establishing charging station priorities at the county level along with getting into the process of identifying potential suitable sites at the municipal level for expanding Level 2 (L2) and Direct Current (DC) Fast Charging stations. Last week, Mr. Gilmore sent around a survey to selectboard members in each community to gauge interest in participating in a working group. The survey also asks selectboard members where EV charging station installation and converting municipal fleets to EVs falls on the list of priorities for the community. Lastly, the survey looks to identify resources that BRPC could distribute/create to better help municipal officials understand this evolving landscape and to take advantage of existing funding programs/incentives.

VI. Status Reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri provided a [brief update on District One projects to the MPO](#). Mr. Frieri also prepared a report looking forward into FFY 2022. Currently, all the projects that are programmed for FFY 2022 in the

Berkshires are each at no less than 75% design – which is a good status to be at, at the start of the fiscal year.

Mr. Ricardo gave a brief update on the Mill Street bridge project – stating that the city has the agreement and intends to sign and return it by next week. However, if it must go to City Council for approval, it might take a bit longer.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Kus first mentioned that since the last MPO meeting, four caucuses have been held to elect delegates or alternates to the MPO. New additions include Kent Lew of Washington (representing Southeast Towns), Christine Hoyt (North Towns) who took over for John Duval, who has since been elected to the Chair of BRPC. Jim Lovejoy was reelected (to represent Southeast Towns), and Rene Woods will serve as the alternate.

Mr. Kus also welcomed Nick Russo to the group. Nick was recently hired as the Senior Transportation Planner. Mr. Kus also welcomed Chris Klem who will be serving as the Berkshires MPO liaison.

There was no other business.

VIII. Next Meeting date – December 28, 2021

Mr. Kus will be in touch with MPO members in the coming weeks regarding the scheduling of the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Woelfel mentioned that the Moving Together Conference will be occurring virtually on December 7th, 8th, and 9th and encouraged MPO members to check it out.

ACTION: Mr. Lovejoy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Boyle. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Draft July 27, 2021, MPO Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Berkshire MPO FFY 2022-2026 Transit TIP 1st Amendment](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)