



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Tuesday, April 19, 2022

*Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications*

Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/berkshire-transportation-advisory-committee-meeting-2/>

### TAC Representatives/Alternates:

Sam Haupt, Chair	Town of Peru
Bill Elovirta	Town of Becket
Bill Gop	Town of Lenox
Tom Hutcheson	Town of Dalton
Allison McCordie	City of Pittsfield
George McGurn	Town of Egremont

### Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Justin Gilmore	BRPC
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
John Morgan	CHA
Nick Russo	BRPC
Steve Savaria	Fuss & O'Neill

## **I. Introductions**

Mr. Haupt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

## **II. Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2022 (Action Item)**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Elovirta, seconded by Mr. McGurn, to approve the meeting minutes from the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, TAC meeting.

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## **IV. Discussion on draft 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, recommend MPO release draft for comment (Action Item)**

Ms. Koirala mentioned that over the past few meetings, we have been discussing the 2023-2027 TIP. The full TIP document will be released after the next MPO meeting, scheduled for April 27, 2022. Once that happens, Ms. Koirala will send around the TIP document to TAC members for review and comment. Ms. Koirala proceeded to review the full list of projects contained in the [TIP handout](#). Ms. Koirala mentioned that there is a typo, the Dalton, Division Road project should not be listed in FFY2026 but rather in FFY2027 – this typo will be corrected in the final version. Ms. Koirala proceeded to review the [transit TIP project list](#).

Mr. Haupt asked what the fuel source of the new buses that BRTA will acquire will be?

Ms. Koirala said they are diesel buses.

Mr. McGurn mentioned that he was taken aback when Ms. Koirala mentioned that new bus acquisitions from BRTA will be diesel buses and not electric buses.

Ms. Haupt asked about the recent comments made by BRPC to BRTA related to BRTA's latest purposed route changes.

Every few years, BRTA assesses whether to revise or update their fixed route operations. In undergoing this process, BRTA identified several proposed changes that would reduce services along particular routes. BRPC provided BRTA with comments on proposed changes, and specifically, in this case, BRPC asserted that adjustments should not be strictly based on low ridership on a route and that there are different reasons for low ridership including infrequent service, not connecting with other routes and long travel time. In essence, BRPC comments urge BRTA to rethink proposed route changes.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Elovirta, seconded by Mr. McGurn, to recommend the MPO release the 2023-2027 draft TIP document for public comment.

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## **V. Status Reports from Member Agencies**

Mr. Frieri proceeded to discuss [District 1 Project updates](#).

## **VI. Other Business**

There were no member items for discussion.

## **VII. Next Meeting Date – May 17, 2022**

The next Berkshire TAC meeting date is May 17, 2022.

**ACTION:** Mr. Elovirta motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McGurn. Mr. Haupt adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

### **Materials Distributed:**

- [Agenda](#)
- [Draft TAC March 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes](#)
- [DRAFT BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP](#)
- [DRAFT BMPO FFY 2023-2027 Transit TIP](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP Schedule – April 2022](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)