



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
T: (413) 442-1521 · F: (413) 442-1523  
TTY: 771 or (800) 439-2370  
berkshireplanning.org

## MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Tuesday, February 21, 2023

*Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications*

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

| <u>TAC Representatives/Alternates:</u> |                    | <u>Others Present:</u> |                    |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sam Haupt, Chair                       | Town of Peru       | Peter Frieri           | MassDOT District 1 |
| Bill Elovirta                          | Town of Becket     | Chris Klem             | MassDOT OTP        |
| Jim Noe                                | Town of Egremont   | Clete Kus              | BRPC               |
| Bob Norcross                           | Town of Clarksburg | Nick Russo             | BRPC               |
| Tom Hutcheson                          | Town of Dalton     | Tyler Shedd            | City of Pittsfield |
| Lucina Fenn-Vermeulen                  | Town of Egremont   | Steve Savaria          | Fuss & O'Neill     |
| George McGurn                          | Town of Egremont   | Ellen Moshier          | CHA                |
|  |                    | Mary Brazie            | Town of Egremont   |

### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Haupt called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

### **II. Introductions**

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

### **III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2022**

Motion by Mr. Elovirta, seconded by Mr. McGurn, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously with abstentions by members not present on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **IV. Discussion on the development of the 2024 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program and project evaluation scores**

Mr. Kus shared the TIP development process schedule. This meeting's focus is the project evaluation scoring.

The ranked scoring matrix of the 2024-2028 TIP projects was shared with the TAC meeting group. There are eleven carryover projects and four new projects listed in the 2024-2028 listing. There are eight scoring criteria that receive either a zero (0) or a one (1) if qualifying conditions listed on the matrix are met. The eight scoring criteria are: Road Condition, Mobility, Regional Connectivity, Goods Movement, Safety, Environment, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, and Livability. The maximum score a project can receive is eight (8) points.

Mr. Kus shared a brief description and score of the projects on the TIP matrix.

Mr. Kus noted that the score for the Williamstown Route 43 project was recommended to receive a point in the Goods Movement category.

Mr. Norcross shared that there is a bridge currently reduced to one lane in the town of Clarksburg. It was noted that the bridge project was not included on the TIP list, and clarification is requested. Mr. Frieri explained that the bridge prioritization process is conducted on the state level separately from highway project evaluations. The next bridge prioritization list is being produced by the state bridge engineer and it will be seen how projects will be ranked. The Clarksburg bridge is considered a highway project because of its jurisdiction and functional classification.

Mr. Kus summarized the latest TIP Readiness Day that was conducted. The East Street Project programmed for 2026 will likely be moved up to 2024/2025. The Merrill Road project programmed for 2024 will likely move to 2027/2028. Great Barrington Route 7&23 is not currently programmed but likely would be scheduled for 2028. The Ashland Street project now requires an EIR.

Mr. Frieri added to the TIP Readiness Day discussion by sharing the scope of the many moving parts that go into the readiness evaluation and noted that the dates provided are general recommendations in order to fit projects into the finding puzzle.

Mr. Haupt noted that proposed programming schedule included benefits for several towns.

Mr. Kus gave a summary of the funding targets for the fiscal years between 2024 and 2028. If TAC members have questions about the projects discussed, please reach out BRPC staff.

Mr. Kus noted that BRPC will be generating a map of Federal-Aid eligible roads and their pavement conditions to share with communities so that they can consider future requests for TIP projects.

Next meeting will involve discussion of scenario planning, for consideration and recommendation to the MPO.

Mr. Frieri noted that the current TIP materials offer a snapshot of where projects are at this time but could evolve as cost figures become more refined and the scenario planning process continues. Changes in cost estimates should be expected.

## **V. Member Items for Discussion**

Mr. Haupt noted that if others are interested in chairing the TAC, please reach out to Mr. Kus.

Mr. Russo provided a summary of preliminary RTP survey results to the TAC members.

Mr. Hutcheson noted that a transit loop between the Franklin Region, Pioneer Valley and the Berkshires could be an option for cross-region connectivity. A cross-county route down Route 9 would also be beneficial. Getting the capacity and service now could help the Northern Tier and East-West rail be successful.

## **VI. Next Meeting Date – March 21, 2023**

The next Berkshire TAC meeting date is March 21, 2023.

Mr. Haupt adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

### **Materials Distributed:**

- [Agenda](#)
- [Draft TAC May 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Schedule](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 Project Evaluation Scores](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Project Description Sheets](#)

- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development](#)

DRAFT