



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/metropolitan-planning-organization/>

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Gina Fiandaca)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Christine Hoyt	North Subregion Delegate
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion Delegate
Jim Lovejoy	Southwest Subregion Delegate
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Delegate
Sheila Irvin	BRTA
Tim Lescarbæu	City of North Adams
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Brandi Page	Town of Otis
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA

I. Call to Order – 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 Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2023

ACTION: Mr. Lovejoy introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Hoyt, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Abstain
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Mr. Lovejoy:	Abstain
Mr. Boyle:	Abstain
Mr. Duval:	Abstain
Mr. Lescarbæu:	Abstain

IV. Approval of an amendment (3rd amendment: highway and transit) to the 2023-2027 TIP and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members

Ms. Koirala proceeded to request authorization to certify the 3rd TIP Amendment following the public comment period. There were no public comments received.

ACTION: Mr. Lovejoy introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve the 3rd TIP Amendment and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification on behalf of the MPO members.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Lescarbeau:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Mr. Lovejoy:	Yea

V. Consideration of an amendment (4th amendment: highway) to the 2023-2027 TIP and authorize a 21 day public comment period

Ms. Koirala shared new cost figures for TIP Amendment #4, including Williamstown bridge replacement and New Marlborough bridge replacement (moving to 2024)

ACTION: Mr. Lovejoy introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve the 4th TIP Amendment and open a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Lescarbeau:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Mr. Lovejoy:	Yea

VI. Discussion on the development of the 2024 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program and authorize a 21-day public comment period

Ms. Koirala introduced the 2024-2028 TIP document, based on past discussions and approvals from the TAC and MPO. There are separate listings for Highway/Bike-Ped and Transit comprising the document.

Mr. Lovejoy inquired if the Egremont Mount Washington Road project could be moved up, based on discussions with the design consultant and past TAC meetings. Ms. Koirala noted that the project advancement was discussed in previous TAC meetings, as designs have been finalized. For now, the project will need to stay in 2026 unless the projects already listed in 2024 or 2025 are delayed, which would allow Mount Washington Road to move up in years.

The transit TIP investment list now shows projects broken out by funding sources including Section 5339 and 5307. Some projects are listed twice if they are funded by both state and federal sources.

Mr. Morales joined the MPO meeting at this time and was added to roll-call voting.

ACTION: Mr. Morales introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy, to release the Highway and Transit TIP document for 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Ms. Irvin:	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Lescarbeau:	Yea
Ms. Hoyt:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Bailey:	Yea
Mr. Lovejoy:	Yea

VII. Update on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Russo shared components of the introduction to the RTP: Planning insights based on the data and trends from the Transportation Community Survey, high-level socio-economic trends in Berkshire County, and a draft vision statement for the overall RTP effort.

Mr. Lovejoy noted that a metric for income inequality would be a helpful way to better inform our priorities on budgeting for mass transit among other things.

VIII. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri gave an update on MassDOT District 1 projects for the 2023 TIP. Most projects are at 100% design or advertised for bid. Several projects will need TIP amendments for cost increases. The New Marlborough bridge replacement project will likely be advertised in 2024. The bid opening for the North Adams Bridge Replacement took place on March 21 and Maxymillian was the apparent low bidder.

Williamstown intersection improvements: 100% design is anticipated shortly. New Marlborough Bridge Replacement is moved to 2024.

Mr. Woelfel reminded participants to reach out to him to register for the Transportation Innovation Conference as the in-person ticketing is sold-out.

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Next Meeting date – May 23rd, 2023

The next MPO meeting will be held on May 23rd, 2023.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Materials Distributed:

- [Agenda](#)

- [BMPO January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Draft](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2023-2027 TIP 1st and 2nd Amendment Transit](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 Projects Evaluation Scores](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Projects Description Sheets](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development](#)
- [BMPO FY 2024-2028 TIP Schedule](#)
- [UPDATED – Safety Performance Measures CY23](#)
- [Safety Performance Measures CY23 – Berkshire Comparison](#)
- [2024 RTP Preliminary Survey Results](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)

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