



MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Tuesday, July 18, 2023

*Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications*

Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/transportation-advisory-committee-3/>

TAC Representatives/Alternates:

Sam Haupt, Chair

Town of Becket

Michael Melencio

MasDOT

Peter Frieri

MassDOT D1

Clete Kus

BRPC

Liz Williams

MassDOT

Nick Russo

BRPC

## **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Haupt called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

## **II. Introductions**

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

## **III. Approval of the Minutes from the June 20, 2023 TAC meeting**

Mr. Haupt moved to table approval of the minutes until the next meeting.

## **IV. Discussion on draft 2024 UPWP; recommend MPO endorse the draft document**

Mr. Kus shared an updated overview of the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) focus areas. There are 23 subtasks spread over four focus areas. Proposed special studies include an ITS corridor along Route 7 in Pittsfield, and an electric grid capacity analysis for electric vehicle charging. A proposed transit study of hydrogen fuel for BRTA bus fleets is also proposed.

Mr. Haupt moved to recommend the MPO endorse the final draft UPWP document.

## **V. Discussion on the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan; recommend MPO endorse the draft document**

Mr. Russo updated the TAC on the RTP process. July 18 is the closing date for the public comment period. About one dozen comments were received and were generally supportive of recommended projects and initiatives in the RTP. Comments will be incorporated into the final draft and listed in the Appendix. The final draft RTP is requested to be endorsed by the MPO at the July meeting.

Mr. Haupt moved to recommend the MPO endorse the final draft RTP document.

## **VI. Presentation by Liz Williams, Director of Data and Policy at MassDOT, on the MA Vehicle Census**

Ms. Williams and Mr. Melencio shared the new MA Vehicle Census Tool. Odometer information collected from vehicle inspections can be leveraged along with vehicle data to give new insights about vehicle travel in the state. There are six key performance indicators tracked by the tool:

- Total vehicle count
- % zero-emission or hybrid
- Daily VMT
- % Daily VMT zero-emission or hybrid
- Average miles per day
- Average miles per day zero-emission or hybrid

Mr. Haupt inquired how the tool and data can help to level regional inequities in terms of electric vehicle adoption or resources. Ms. Williams noted that there is an opportunity to better illustrate the socio-economic differences between regions supplemented by the new electric vehicle data. In the future, Census Block Group data will be available to look at the neighborhood level.

[MassVehicleCensus | GeoDOT \(arcgis.com\)](#)

## **VII. Member Items for Discussion**

Mr. Frieri shared updates on the FY 2023 TIP projects. A notice to proceed was issued to J. H. Maxymillian on July 10<sup>th</sup> for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension project.

For FY 2024 projects, one project is at Final design (Alford Bridge Replacement), two projects are at 75% design (Pittsfield East Street and Cheshire Bridge Replacement), and two are at 25% design (Lee Bridge Replacement and New Marlborough Bridge Replacement)

## **VIII. Next Meeting Date – August 16, 2023**

The next Berkshire TAC meeting date is tentative for August 16, 2023.

Mr. Haupt adjourned the meeting at 4:28 pm.

### **Materials Distributed:**

- [Agenda](#)
- [Draft TAC Minutes June 20 2023](#)