



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Tuesday, June 20, 2023

*Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications*

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

### TAC Representatives/Alternates:

Bill Elovirta, Interim Chair	Town of Becket	Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen	Town of Egremont
Peter Frieri	MassDOT D1	Clete Kus	BRPC
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP	Anuja Koirala	BRPC
George McGurn	Town of Egremont	Nick Russo	BRPC

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

Mr. Elovirta called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

### **II. Introductions**

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes from the April 18, 2023 TAC meeting**

Motion by Mr. McGurn, seconded by Mr. Elovirta, to approve the minutes of the April 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 TAC meeting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Approval of the Minutes from the May 18, 2023 TAC meeting**

Motion by Mr. McGurn, seconded by Ms. Fenn-Vermeulen, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 TAC meeting

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. Discussion on Planning Studies/Initiatives and proposed budget for the 2024 UPWP; recommend MPO initiate a 21 day comment period**

Mr. Kus provided an overview and proposed budget of the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The Plan consists of four sections with several tasks within each. Proposed budgets for the four sections are as follows:

- 1. Management and Certification: \$260,000
- 2. Technical Support: \$89,500
- 3. Planning Studies: \$298,000
- 4. Other Activities: \$91,490

Focus areas of the UPWP include:

- Bicycle and pedestrian planning
- Regional transit planning
- Safety Initiatives
- Climate Change and Resiliency

- Title VI and Environmental Justice
- Freight and Freight Rail planning
- Expansion of Rail Service

A total of \$748,490 is programmed for planning staff activities along with \$19,500 in direct expenses.

Motion by Mr. McGurn, seconded by Mr. Elovirta, to recommend the FY 2024 UPWP be moved forward to the MPO for approval of a 21-day public comment period.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

## **VI. Update and discussion on the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan, recommend MPO initiate a 21 day public comment period on the draft plan**

Mr. Russo shared an overview of each chapter for the draft RTP document. The final section of Chapter 4, along with Chapters 5 and 6 are still in development and will be shared with the group in the next several days.

Motion by Mr. McGurn, seconded by Mr. Elovirta, to forward the completed RTP document to the MPO with recommendation to release for 21-day public comment.

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

Mr. Frieri provided updates Berkshire projects for FY 2023. North Adams bridge replacement and Ashuwillticook Rail Trail projects are advertised, and the remaining projects are at 100% or final design.

## **VIII. Next Meeting Date – July 18, 2023**

The next Berkshire TAC meeting date is July 18, 2023.

Mr. Haupt adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

### **Materials Distributed:**

- [Agenda](#)
- [Draft TAC April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Draft TAC May 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [UPWP Update](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)