



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

*Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications*

*Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/berkshire-mpo-meeting-3/>*

### MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Derek Krevat	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Robert Malnati	BRTA
Sam Haupt	BRPC
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield
Christine Hoyt	North Subregion Delegate
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Delegate
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion Delegate

### Others Present:

Tom Matuszko	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Ryan Griffis	BRPC
Chris Klem	MassDOT
Peter Frieri	MassDOT
Derek Shooster	MassDOT

## **I. Call to Order – Introductions**

Mr. Krevat called the meeting to order at 4:04 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 June 25, 2024**

**ACTION:** Mr. Malnati introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2024 MPO meeting.

### Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea

## **IV. Approval of an amendment (4th amendment) to the 2024-2028 TIP for changes to the Highway and Transit sections identified**

**below and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members**

**HIGHWAY: 1) Increase funding for Project 609078 New Marlborough Keyes Hill Road bridge and change funding source. 2) Remove Lee, Meadow Street bridge replacement project (607597) and reprogram in FFY 2025, increase cost to \$3,653,679 with On-System non-NHS NGBP funds.**

**TRANSIT: 1) Add 5311 Operating Assistance funds (BRTA011862), 2) add 5310 funds (BRTA011844) and local funds for vehicle purchase, 3) add \$364,104 GOBOND funding for 3 Type E2A Vans in FFY 2025 and 4) add \$970,611 GOBOND funding in FFY 2026 for 5 low floor vans (BRTA011845).**

Ms. Koirala provided details on the fourth amendment for highway and transit which was introduced at the previous MPO meeting and approved for a 21-day comment period. For highway, the cost of bridge replacement in New Marlborough cost had increased to \$5,395,160; and the bridge replacement in Lee cost increased to a new value of \$3,653,679 and needed to be moved from 2024 to 2025.

Regarding the transit amendment: for the first project, in 2024 BRTA received matching operational funding from state and local funds, totaling \$448,646 each. And for the second project, the town of Great Barrington received funds at the rate of 80/20 from the state, in addition to local funds being used to purchase an electric vehicle, totaling \$87,941 and \$21,985 respectively. In 2025, BRTA intends to utilize funding from GOBOND for the purchase of three E2A vans with total value of \$364,104. And in 2026, BRTA will use vehicle replacement GOBOND funds to purchase five low-floor vans totaling \$970,611.

No public have been received for any projects. Mr. Bailey requested clarification on where "local matching" in funding would be received from for the project in Great Barrington. Ms. Koirala clarified that local funds would be from the town, as well as other neighboring municipalities which contributed as well. Mr. Haupt added that in future presentations it would be beneficial for more details to be provided. Mr. Krevat mentioned that press releases for transit grants did contain more details, and that they can be shared with moving forward.

**ACTION:** Mr. Bailey introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Malnati, to approve the amendment to the 2024-2028 TIP for changes to the Highway and Transit sections and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Haupt	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Abstain
Mr. Bailey	Yea

**V. Consideration of an amendment (5th amendment) to the 2024-2028 TIP to address the cost increase to Pittsfield East Street project (604003) and authorize a 21-day public comment period**

Mr. Koirala detailed the cost increase for the reconstruction of East Street (Route 9) in Pittsfield, which was originally slated for \$10,423,290 in FFY 2024, has since grown by \$2,799,466 to a new total of

\$13,222,756. No additional regional funding is available to supplement this increase, however, MassDOT has indicated that will provide additional funding from Statewide Roadways Reconstruction Funds in 2025. Mr. Koirala invited Mr. Frieri from District 1 to provide his comments, in which he noted that there was an 18-month span between design completion in which there were significant increases in industry materials costs. Mr. Bailey questioned whether the EPA had been considered as a funding source – Mr. Haupt agreed. Mr. Krevat acknowledged that looking into additional funding sources was a reasonable course of action moving forward, but would not impact any ongoing projects.

**ACTION:** Mr. Malnati introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve the amendment (5th amendment) to the 2024-2028 TIP to address the cost increase to Pittsfield East Street project (604003) and authorize a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Krevat:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Haupt	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Ms. Hoyt	Yea
Mr. Boyle	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea

## **VI. Status reports from Member Agencies**

Mr. Frieri provided an update on District 1 improvements currently scheduled. The bridge replacement in Alford is currently received a notice to proceed in January and is currently under construction; the final design for East Street (Route 9) in Pittsfield is actively advancing; the bridge replacement in Cheshire received a notice to proceed was issued in March; the bridge replacement in Lee will be moving to 2025, and the bridge replacement in New Marlborough was submitted on June 14 and is under review by MassDOT.

Mr. Malnati mentioned that BRTA received its fourth hybrid bus and a fifth is expected to be delivered shortly. BRTA is wrapping up its tri-annual review with the federal transit administration, which has requested updated language for its MPO agreement. Details will be transmitted to BRPC soon.

Mr. Kus noted that BRPC is continuing its work for the Safe Streets for All program, and the dashboard being designed will be shared with the MPO when available. Pavement evaluations for Berkshire municipalities are ongoing for the summer. BRPC is collaborating with BRTA to identify potential changes to the MOU, as previously stated by Mr. Malnati. Mr. Kus also noted that caucuses to elect subregion delegates to the MPO will take place in August.

## **VII. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **VIII. Next Meeting date – August 27, 2024**

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**ACTION:** Mr. Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Malnati. Mr. Krevat adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

### **Documents and Exhibits Used:**

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO Meeting Minutes June 25, 2024 DRAFT](#)

- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 Highway TIP 4th Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 Transit TIP 4th Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2024-2028 Highway TIP 5th Amendment](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)

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