

September 30, 2024

Monica Tibbits-Nutt
Berkshire MPO Chair
1 Fenn Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Re: Berkshire MPO MOU Amendment

Dear Secretary Tibbits-Nutt,

During BRTA's Federal Triennial Review, the Berkshire MPO agreement was reviewed to ensure BRTA participates in the transportation planning process in accordance with FTA requirements and the metropolitan and statewide planning regulations. The Review found that there were "no written provisions for developing and sharing performance information...The MOU did not address BRTA's responsibilities in the development and sharing of information for financial plans, the development of the annual listing of obligated projects, or written provision for cooperatively developing and sharing the performance information." BRTA with the Berkshire MPO and MassDOT currently performs all of these items, but it is not written in the Berkshire MPO MOU document.

In response to this, BRTA is requesting an amendment to the Berkshire MPO MOU. With FTA's approval, BRTA would like to change:

The current 2011 MPO MOU document states:

"WHEREAS, the Advisory Board of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) is comprised of the chief elected officials or designee of 23 cities and towns that have joined to form a regional transit authority under the provisions of Chapter 161B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The BRTA has the statutory responsibility for providing public transportation on an exclusive basis in the area constituting the authority, to provide public transportation including long and short range planning elements together with implementation schedules for public transportation improvements..."

The proposed language change:

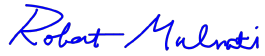
WHEREAS, the Advisory Board of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) is comprised of the chief elected officials or designee of 30 cities and towns that have joined to form a regional transit authority under the provisions of Chapter 161B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The BRTA has the statutory responsibility for providing public transportation on an exclusive basis in the area constituting the authority, to provide public transportation including long and short-range planning elements together with implementation schedules for public transportation improvement. The BRTA will develop and share information for financial plans and the annual listing of obligated projects in the form of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) using the Berkshire MPO's public participation process. BRTA will cooperatively develop and share the following performance information: transportation performance



data, selection of performance targets, reporting of performance targets, reporting of performance to be used in tracking progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the region of the MPO, and collection of data for the State asset management plan.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Malnati
BRTA Administrator

