



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Malcolm Fick	BRPC
Sarah Vallieres	BRTA
Randal Fippinger	North Subregion Delegate
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Delegate
Dottie Bonbrake	Southwest Subregion Delegate

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Chris Klem	MassDOT
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Ryan Griffis	BRPC
Angela Sirois-Pitel	The Nature Conservancy

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Meeting attendees introduced themselves via a roll call conducted by Mr. Kus.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 26, 2024

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2024, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Vallieres:	Yea
Mr. Fippinger:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake:	Yea

IV. Approval of an amendment (2nd Amendment) to the 2025-2029 TIP for changes to the Highway and Transit sections identified below:

HIGHWAY: 1) Add Project S13105 North Adams Adventure Trail (Design) in the amount of \$1,250,000 and 2) Add Project S13130 Planning for Safety (SS4A) in the amount of \$387,575.

TRANSIT: 1) Add Project BRTA011923 New Support Vehicle in the amount of \$31,561

Ms. Koirala began by recapping that the amendments were originally introduced on November 26. The amendments relate to the design of the adventure trail in North Adams for \$1,250,000, and planning for safety in the heart of the Berkshires for \$387,575, as well as a vehicle replacement using 5307 for \$31,561. These projects are to be added to the 2025 TIP, with the announcement made on November 27th, no public comments have been received.

ACTION: Ms. Bonbrake introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the amendment (2nd Amendment) to the 2025-2029 TIP for changes to the Highway and Transit sections HIGHWAY: 1) Project S13105 North Adams Adventure Trail (Design) in the amount of \$1,250,000 and 2) Project S13130 Planning for Safety (SS4A) in the amount of \$387,575; and TRANSIT: 1) Project BRTA011923 New Support Vehicle in the amount of \$31,561.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Vallieres:	Yea
Mr. Fippinger:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake:	Yea

V. Consideration of an amendment (3rd Amendment) to the 2025-2029 TIP for changes to the Highway and Transit sections identified below and authorize a 21-day comment period

TRANSIT: 1) Project BRTAA011921 BRTA HVAC Replacement; add \$100,000 of RTACAP funding and \$400,000 in 5339 funding, 2) Project BRTAA01192 Repair Work for ITC HVAC; add \$102,429 in 5339 funding and \$25,607 in RTACAP funding, 3) Project BRTAA011704 40' Bus, Delete \$126,483 in RTACAP funds and \$505,924 in 5339D funds and 4) Project RTD0011289 < 30' Bus Replacement (3), Remove \$360,000 in 5307 funds and remove \$90,000 in RTACAP funds.

Ms. Koirala introduced the third proposed amendment, consisting of BRTA HVAC replacement with \$100,000 of RTACAP funding and \$400,000 in 5339 funding; repair work for ITC HVAC with \$102,429 in 5339 funding and \$25,607 in RTACAP funding; BRTA buy replacement for 3 buses which needs to remove \$360,000 in 5307 funds and remove \$90,000 in RTACAP funds.

Ms. Vallieres mentioned that the amendment was also to include \$126,483 in RTACAP funds and \$505,924 in 5339D funds for a new 40' bus, but now also needs to be removed.

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve amendment (3rd Amendment) to the 2025-2029 TIP for changes to the Highway and Transit sections identified and authorize a 21-day comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Mr. Fick: Yea
Ms. Vallieres: Yea
Mr. Fippinger: Yea
Mr. Boyle: Yea
Ms. Bonbrake: Yea

VI. Consideration of an Administrative Adjustment to the 2025-2029 TIP for changes to the Transit sections identified below:

TRANSIT: 1) Project BRTA011922, BRTA Repair Work, expand description to tech specs for HVAC at Intermodal Transfer Center, 2) RTD00150571 BRTA Preventive Maintenance; increase 2025 BRTA-OT-RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance 5307 to \$315,943, and increase 2025 BRTA-OT-RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance RTACAP to \$78,986 and 3) Project BRTA0011702 5310 Grant Vehicles, increase 5307 2025 BRTA OT-RTA Vehicle replacement funds to \$56,000 and increase 2025 BRTA OT-RTA Vehicle replacement RTACAP funds to \$14,000.

Ms. Koirala noted that an administrative adjustment is needed to change the wording for BRTA repair work, changing from repair work at the Intermodal Transfer Center to repair work and tech specs for HVAC for Intermodal Transfer Center. Also, funding from 5310 for vehicle replacement has changed from to \$40,000 to \$56,000. The variance of \$16,000 needs to be included in 2025. When asked, Ms. Vallieres also brought up that preventative maintenance needs to be increased from \$200,000 to \$315,943

ACTION: Ms. Bonbrake introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the Administrative Adjustment to the 2025-2029 TIP for changes to the Transit sections identified below: TRANSIT: 1) Project BRTA011711, BRTA Operating Assistance 5307, reduce funding by -\$16,662 to \$2,456,985, 2) Add RTACAP funding for Project BRTA011923 New Support Vehicle in the amount of \$7,890 and 3) Add RTACAP funding for Project BRTA011924 in the amount of \$14,000.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Mr. Fick: Yea
Ms. Vallieres: Yea
Mr. Fippinger: Yea
Mr. Boyle: Yea
Ms. Bonbrake: Yea

VII. Approval of Project Listings Proposed for Inclusion in MassDOT's Resilience Improvement Plan for culverts and authorize the Chair to sign the accompanying endorsement sheet.

Ms. Sirois-Pitel of The Nature Conservancy and on behalf of a series of regional planners and conservations partners, has identified culverts that, if upgraded, would improve aquatic passage and reduce flood risk for communities. Identifying the PROTECT grant as a viable source of funding to use for

construction for identified projects. In anticipation of the February 24th deadline, projects in five communities have been identified and agreed to for submission to the Resiliency Improvement Capital Program. It was requested that the MPO approve the culvert list which would then allow them to be added to the Resilience Improvement Plan, allowing them to receive funding through this program.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to approve the project listings proposed for inclusion in MassDOT's Resilience Improvement Plan for culverts and authorize the Chair to sign the accompanying endorsement sheet.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Ms. Vallieres:	Yea
Mr. Nuvalle:	Yea
Mr. Fippinger:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Abbott:	Yea

VIII. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri began by briefly recapping changes made at the last meeting, including the bridge replacement in New Marlborough which had a bid opening on December 10th, with ET&L being the apparent low bidder. The reconstruction of East St in Pittsfield bid opened on November 5th and J.H. Maxamillion is the apparent low bidder and awaiting award. For FY25, advertised projects include a bridge replacement in Lanesborough is currently advertised; the bridge preservation in Adams is currently at 100% design and is due in January; the final design for a bridge replacement in Lee is expected in January as well. And a bridge preservation in North Adams over route 2 has been determined by MassDOT that it will not be ready for advertisement in 2025.

Mr. Boyle commented that an upgrade to Dalton's major intersection was decided a few years ago and asked when this project will be scheduled. Mr. Frieri replied that this project is part of a district wide signal upgrade, and he will determine when this occurs and report back.

Ms. Vallieres stated that the GM for the BRTA operating company has left for PVTA, and a new GM is starting in January. Mr. Boyle asked when fare-free will begin, which Ms. Vallieres replied it has already begun and will continue to Sept. 30th.

Ms. Bonbrake commented on changes to highway speed limits following construction.

Mr. Kus announced that a consultant has been chosen and a contract has been signed with Foursquare who will conduct the feasibility study. The consultant will coordinate with the MPO and will provide regular updates. The final report of the SS4A program has been completed and will be posted online in the near future. A vision zero work group will be assembled soon to help ensure these goals are met.

IX. Other Business

Ms. Koirala announced that although the 25-29 TIP was recently concluded the 26-30 TIP will begin soon. Solicitations for projects will be sent soon.

Mr. Klem announced that MassDOT has released its draft Public Participation Plan and is accepting public comments by January 10th.

X. Next Meeting date – January 28th, 2025

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on January 28th, 2025.

ACTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bonbrake. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda Revised](#)
- [BMPO November 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes DRAFT](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2025-2029 TIP 2nd Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2025-2029 Highway TIP 3rd Amendment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2025-2029 Transit TIP 3rd Amendment](#)
- [RIP Memo Endorsement and List](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)