



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Derek Shooster	MassDOT (Representing Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Malcolm Fick	BRPC
Bob Malnati	BRTA
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield
Michael Nuvallie	City of North Adams
Randal Fippingner	North Subregion Delegate
John Boyle	North Central Subregion Delegate
Frank Abbott	Southeast Subregion Delegate
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion Alternate
Dottie Bonbrake	South Subregion Delegate

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Chris Klem	MassDOT
Joshua Barber	FHWA
Thomas Matuszko	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nick Russo	BRPC
Ryan Griffis	BRPC
Brittany Ebeling	BEAT

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Shooster called the meeting to order at 4:01 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 March 25, 2025

ACTION: Mr. Nuvallie introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Nuvallie	Yea
Mr. Fippingner:	Yea

Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Abbott	Abstain
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

IV. Approval of an administrative adjustment to the 2025 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program, TRANSIT: remove BRTA011921HVAC Replacement and add \$100,000 RTA00150571 preventative Maintenance funding

Ms. Koirala detailed the proposed administrative adjustment, the community transit grant was awarded to BRTA for a travel training program for a total of \$11,160 which needs to be added to the 2025-2029 TIP. Also, three other community transit grants were awarded using fair share amendment funds, with a medical transportation fund awarded in the amount of \$151,012, and \$800,000 for a volunteer medicine van for people traveling outside of Berkshire County. Great Barrington was also awarded \$252,000 to operate the on-demand microtransit service.

ACTION: Ms. Bonbrake introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to approve the administrative adjustment to the 2025 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program to add funding from the CTGP for BRTA’s Travel Training Program.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Nuvallie	Yea
Mr. Fippinger:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Abbott	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

V. Consideration of an amendment (5th Amendment) to the 2025-2029 TIP, HIGHWAY Section to remove Project 612505 N Adams Route 2 Overpass and funding in the amount of \$40,095,720 and authorize a 21-day comment period

Ms. Koirala provided an overview of the 2026-2030 TIP project evaluation which was given at the previous meeting.

Scenario 1A is the preferred scenario, with the first project in FY25 is Ashland Street in North Adams, with an increased actual cost of \$11,085,532 – up from the total cost programmed of \$10,639,564, which would require an additional \$445,968 to be programmed and concluded the following fiscal year. For FY26, Mount Washington Road in Egremont, with a total cost of \$21,032,870, would be programmed for \$9,933,297, and the remaining \$11,099,297 the following fiscal year. For FY27, East Street in Pittsfield, with a total cost of \$7,096,206, would be programmed for \$1,544,813, and the remaining \$5,551,393 the following fiscal year. For FY28, Dalton Division Road in Dalton, with a total cost of \$15,351,595, would be programmed for \$7,596,147, and the remaining \$7,755,488 the following fiscal year. For FY29, Route 7 in Great Barrington, with a total cost of \$14,224,000, would be programmed for \$5,294,125, and the remaining \$8,929,875 the following year.

In the remaining scenarios, projects between FY26-28 are the same. In Scenario 1B, for FY29, Park Street in Great Barrington, with a total cost of \$31,403,428, would be programmed for \$18,552,389, and \$12,851,039 the following year, with a remaining total of \$12,851,039 to be programmed in FY31. In Scenario 1C, for FY29, Route 8 in Adams, with a total cost of \$20,070,372, would be programmed for \$5,294,125, and \$18,552,389 the following year, with a remaining total of \$1,517,983 to be programmed in FY31..

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Morales, to approve Scenario 1A as the preferred regional target program for the 2026-2030 TIP.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick:	Yea
Mr. Malnati	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Nuvallie	Yea
Mr. Fippinger:	Yea
Mr. Boyle:	Yea
Mr. Abbott	Yea
Ms. Bonbrake	Yea

VI. Discussion on the development of the 2026 – 2030 Transportation Improvement Program and authorize a 21-day public comment period

Ms. Koirala gave an update of the microtransit feasibility study, with studies completed all pointing to the insufficiency of public transportation in the region, especially for first and last mile transit and in rural areas. The process began in October, where the company FourSquare submitted the best proposal to conduct the feasibility study. After an initial hybrid meeting, FourSquare conducted outreach with stakeholders and conducted a needs assessment, which will be discussed at a future steering committee meeting. The next step will be based on this information and feedback received during outreach. The MPO will receive a presentation next month, with the final product needing to be submitted by September. After which, the materials gathered will be used to apply for funding.

VII. Receive a presentation on the Berkshire County Micro-transit Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan

VIII. Discussion on the 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

IX. Receive an update on MassDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning activities; Chirs Sorensen, MassDOT District 1

X. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri gave an update on the status of FY25 TIP projects. A bridge preservation in Adams is nearing 100% design and is anticipated to arrive by April; a bridge replacement in Lanesborough was granted a notice to proceed was issued at the end of January; a bridge replacement in Lee is expected to release its final design by the end of June; the reconstruction of Ashland Street in North Adams is under review by MassDOT; and a bridge replacement in North Adams is under study by the city, and has been determined by MassDOT is anticipated for 2026.

Mr. Malnati commented that the 40' bus expected to join the BRTA fleet will be battery-electric hybrid diesel, not hydrogen powered. BRTA is currently in the budget process at this time.

Mr. Kus reminded members that BRPC will be beginning discussions with the MPO next month on the Unified Planning Work Program for the next year. Any suggestions can be submitted over the next few months. A draft is expected by May, which will then begin the comment period in June.

XI. Other Business

Mr. Shooster informed members that the open meetings law extension of remote meetings is expected to be extended to June of 2027. This means future meetings will continue to be held virtually.

XII. Next Meeting date – May 27th, 2025

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on May 27th, 2025.

ACTION: Mr. Bonbrake motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Boyle. Mr. Shooster adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO February 25 Meeting Minutes DRAFT](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2025-2029 TIP Adjustment](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 TIP Scenarios](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 State Prioritized Projects](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 Transit TIP DRAFT](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 TIP Schedule](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)