



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201
Pittsfield, MA 01201
T: (413) 442-1521 · F: (413) 442-1523
TTY: 771 or (800) 439-2370
berkshireplanning.org

MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

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|------------------|--|
| Derek Shooster | MassDOT (Representing Acting Secretary Phil Eng) |
| Francisca Heming | MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver) |
| Malcolm Fick | BRPC |
| Kathleen Lambert | BRTA (joined at 4:35 pm) |
| Marya Kozik | City of North Adams |
| Jay Meczycor | North Subregion |
| Marc Strout | North Central Subregion |
| Ron DeAngelis | North Central Subregion (alternate) |
| Gordon Bailey | Southeast Subregion (joined at 4:11 pm) |
| Dottie Bonbrake | South Subregion (joined at 4:25 pm) |

Others Present:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Peter Frieri | MassDOT District 1 |
| Mark Moore | MassDOT District 1 |
| Sam Taylor | MassDOT OTP |
| Calvin Poitras | MassDOT |
| Amber Vaillancourt | MassDOT |
| Tom Matuszko | BRPC |
| Clete Kus | BRPC |
| Anuja Koirala | BRPC |
| Nicholas Russo | BRPC |
| Ryan Griffis | BRPC |

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves via a roll call conducted by Mr. Kus. Mr. Shooster called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2025

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Shooster, to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2025, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

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| Mr. Shooster: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Fick: | Yea |
| Ms. Kozik: | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor: | Yea |
| Mr. Strout: | Yea |

- IV. Approval of a TIP amendment to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP (1st Amendment) for the following: HIGHWAY SECTION – FFY 2026, Project 609277, North Adams Ashland Street, increase STBG funding by \$5,902,763; Project S133324, North Adams Adventure Trail, Project add \$1,250,000 in earmark discretionary (Other FA) funds; Project S 13364 I-90 Mass Pike Wildlife Crossings, add \$1,374,464 of earmark discretionary OF-100 funds; Project S 13364 I-90 Mass Pike Wildlife Crossings, add \$391,440 in earmark discretionary NFA funds; and project 609277, North Adams Ashland Street, add STBG funds in the amount of \$4,994,080 (FFY 2027). Authorize the Chair to sign certification documents on behalf of the MPO members**

Ms. Koirala began by stating that the amendment was released Nov 25, 2025, for a 21-day public comment period; it has been longer than that and no comments from the public or MassDOT have been received. For section 1A, Project 609277 - Ashland Street in North Adams was initially a small-budget project, originally valued at \$445,968, however, with changes, has increased to \$6,348,731 in 2026 using regional target funds. Section 1B which are earmark and discretionary grant funded projects, the design of the North Adams Adventure Trail has been moved from 2025 to 2026, adding \$1,250,000 for design in 2026, and the Appalachian Trail/I-90 Crossing (ped/bike shared-use path) has had \$1,374,464 added in 2026; as well as \$391,440 in state/non-federal funds. With these changes, an available \$4,994,080 in funding will be programmed for the North Adams Reconstruction in 2027.

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Strout, to approve the amendment to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP and authorize the Chair to sign certification documents on behalf of the MPO members.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

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|---------------|-----|
| Mr. Shooster: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Fick: | Yea |
| Ms. Kozik | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea |
| Mr. Strout | Yea |

- V. Consideration of an amendment (2nd Amendment) to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP for the following: HIGHWAY SECTION – FFY 2026, Project 612498 Pittsfield South Street over Housatonic RR and River, reduce funding by -\$11,687,325 (project moves to FFY2027); Project 612505 Route 2 over Hoosic River and Route 8, reduce funding by -\$33,497,475; Project 607677 Lee Bridge Replacement Mill street over Mountain Brook, reduce funding by -\$6,850,760 (project moves to FFY 2027). FFY 2027 – Project 609076 Gt Barrington bridge replacement Cottage Street over Housatonic add project and associated funding in the amount of \$19,052,150; Project 612498 Pittsfield South Street over Housatonic RR and River, project moves from FFY 2026 with increased funding of \$12,824,729 (\$27,824,729 total project cost); Project 607677 Lee Bridge Replacement Mill street over Mountain Brook, project moves from FFY 2026 with a project cost of \$7,124,790; Project 612162 Pittsfield Wahconah Street over West Branch Housatonic reduce funding by -\$5,762,273 (project moves to FFY 2028). FFY 2028, Project 609069 Becket bridge replacement Quarry Road over Cushman Brook, add project and funding in the amount of \$4,916,351; Project 612162 Pittsfield Wahconah Street over West Branch Housatonic, add project and funding in the amount of \$5,983,899; Authorize a 21-day public comment period**

Ms. Koirala spoke the amended projects: for this fiscal year, in Pittsfield, the South St. bridge over Housatonic RR & River has been moved from 2026 to 2027, freeing up the previously programmed

amount of \$11,087,325 for 2026. In North Adams, the project scope of Route 2 Bridge over S. Branch Hoosic & Route 8 scope has changed from reconstruction to preservation, reducing costs from \$46,999,768 to \$13,502,293, freeing up an additional \$33,497,475 from 2026. In Lee, the bridge replacement on Mill St. over Washington Mountain Brook has been moved from 2026 to 2027, freeing up an additional \$6,850,760 from 2026. And a bridge replacement in Pittsfield on

For FY'27, a bridge replacement in Great Barrington has been added, with a total value of \$19,052,150. In Pittsfield, the bridge replacement moved from 2026 has its total budget increased to \$27,824,729. A bridge replacement in Lee has been added with an assigned value of \$7,124,790. A bridge replacement in Pittsfield over Waconah St. has been moved from 2027 to 2028.

For FY'28, a bridge replacement in has been assigned total funding of \$4,916,351, and the Waconah St. bridge in Pittsfield moved from 2027 has a new value of \$5,983,899.

Mr. Bailey asked if the Lee bridge delay has a projected beginning date and has a completed design to the best of his knowledge. Mr. Moore deferred to Mr. Frieri, which stated they had met with partners which recommended the delay as they would not be able to meet sufficient design needs in time for advertisement. It is currently at 75% design and will likely have a 100% design released soon.

ACTION: Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Kozik, to approve the amendment to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP and authorize a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

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|---------------|-----|
| Mr. Shooster: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Fick: | Yea |
| Ms. Kozik | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea |
| Mr. Strout | Yea |
| Mr. Bailey | Yea |

VI. Approval of an administrative adjustment to the FFY 2026-2027 TIP for FFY 2026: Highway: Project 609074 Monterey bridge replacement, Curtis Road over Konkapot River, increase project cost by \$422,300 to a total cost of \$5,532,828 Transit: BRTA-HVAC Replacement (Bus program - 5339), add funding in the amount of \$340,000. BRTA-HVAC replacement (RTA Facility & System Modernization), reduce project cost by \$15,000. BRTA-Preventive Maintenance (RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance-5307), increase project cost by \$43,314. BRTA-Preventive Maintenance (RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance-RTACAP), increase project cost by \$10,829

Ms. Koirala started with a Monterey bridge replacement, which had a project cost increase by \$422,300 to a total cost of \$5,532,828. For BRTA Transit adjustments, a new bus HVAC Replacement has a total cost of \$340,000. An RTA Facility & System Modernization project has been reduced by \$15,000 to \$85,000. In preventive maintenance, one project increased by \$43,314, while another increased by \$10,829.

ACTION: Mr. Fick introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Meczycwor, to approve administrative adjustments to the TIP for FFY 2026.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

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|---------------|-----|
| Mr. Shooster: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Fick: | Yea |
| Ms. Kozik | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea |
| Mr. Strout | Yea |

Mr. Bailey

Yea

VII. Discussion on the 2027 – 2031 Transportation Improvement Program project evaluation scores and preliminary TIP listing

Ms. Koirala provided a summary of the project evaluation meeting which took place on Feb. 12 with BRPC, MassDOT D1, and OTP). Nine projects were evaluated, with the highest score being 6 out of a max of 8. Going in order of total project score, in Dalton, Division Rd is currently in the TIP for 2028–2029; readiness OK; town/consultant must advance to 25%; few submissions so far, score of 6.

For East St. in Pittsfield (Lyman to Merrill), is the second portion of East St. project in Pittsfield, which has had its limits slightly extended towards the school, score of 6. As such it is being moved from 2027 & 2028 to 2028. In Great Barrington, Route 7/23 Corridor will be improved with modern infrastructure akin to complete streets. Comments received on the readiness is to remain in 2029, score of 6. For Route 8 Holland Ave in Adams, is a priority for the town, which PRC approved in 2023, score of 5. In Great Barrington, S. Main St. (Route 7) is not considered an active town priority; score of 4. In Egremont, Mount Washington Rd. (Phase 2) is not slated for 2031, but will likely be a future candidate; score of 4. For North Adams, improvements at the State/Main Intersection we approved by PRC in 2025 and are tied to potential Route 2 bridge changes and urban reconnection study; score of 4. For Park St. (Route 183) in Great Barrington, was approved by PRC in 2024 and is a priority for town, but no design or funding are currently designated; score of 3. In Sheffield, Route 7 resurfacing is a candidate for 2027 as replacement due to East St. deferral, and includes centerline rumble strip; score of 2.

Ms. Koirala presented one possible scenario for 2027-2031 TIP development, with scenario 1 being based on the current TIP. Different scenarios will be presented at the March 10th TAC meeting, followed by a draft listing at the March 31st MPO meeting. The scenarios will be released for public comment in April, endorsed by the MPO and TAC in May, and will seek federal approval between June and July before being published later in the year.

VIII. Presentation, discussion, and action on Safety Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Taylor began the presentation on calendar year 2026's highway safety performance targets, and review of the PM1 performance measures to improve safety. Currently required performance measures under PM1 involve roadway fatalities, serious injuries, nonmotorized fatalities and serious injuries. While zero total deaths remain the goal, trend projections with 3% annual reduction assumption (5% for non-motorized projection). VMTS estimates near pre-pandemic by 2025. The MPO is required to endorse MassDOT's state targets or establish their own by the end of February 2026.

Mr. Russo began his presentation on BRPC's safety performance measure targets for PM1. Using data specifically for Berkshire County showcased projections similar to the state's methodology. The only major difference noted by Mr. Russo between these two measure targets is, due to there being an outlier in 2023, the 3% decrease was applied by-year rather than in total. Total nonmotorized fatalities and injuries are expected to remain unchanged, but should decrease in coming years, hopefully reaching 0 by 2040 or sooner.

ACTION: Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to endorse the safety performance targets as presented by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Russo.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

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| Mr. Shooster: | Yea |
| Ms. Heming: | Yea |
| Mr. Fick: | Yea |
| Ms. Lambert | Yea |
| Ms. Kozik | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea |
| Mr. Strout | Yea |

Mr. Bailey Yea
Ms. Bonbrake Abstain

IX. Presentation on updates to Critical Freight Corridors and authorize a 21-day public comment period

Mr. Griffis presented proposed updates to critical freight corridors as required by MassDOT due to additional mileage becoming available as part of the IJA. Proposed corridors were selected from research on business vehicle travel data and input from the CEDS committee. New corridors are proposed at Route 8 in Adams and North Adams as this corridor serves Specialty Minerals and big-box stores, as well as improving regional connectivity. Segments in New Marlborough, Alford, Egremont, Richmond, Windsor, Savoy were recommended by the CEDS committee for their proximity to the Lanesborough Mall. A segment in Hancock has a business vehicle share of 22%, a high-end outlier. The road in Clarksburg which travels north to VT has a share of 16% business-class vehicles, while in Sheffield, the proposed segment is currently ~8%, with a previous high of 20+. In Pittsfield, Park Square, is the only newly proposed urban freight corridor.

ACTION: Ms. Kozik introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to authorize a 21-day public comment period on the newly proposed critical freight corridors.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster: Yea
Ms. Heming: Yea
Mr. Fick: Yea
Ms. Lambert Yea
Ms. Kozik Yea
Mr. Meczycor Yea
Mr. Strout Yea
Mr. Bailey Yea
Ms. Bonbrake Abstain

X. Presentation on BRTA's proposed route changes

Ms. Lambert presented on BRTA's Route Realignment Proposal. In development since January, due to BRTA's staff shortage, is working to reduce ride cancellations and stabilize operations. These proposed changes involve reducing current weekday runs from 36 runs, with only 26 drivers, leaving 10–13 cancelled runs open, to 30 runs covered by 26 drivers, reducing open runs to around 5 those days. Saturday service would be unaffected. Major changes would involve elimination of portions of Routes 1, 2, 21, and 921; elimination of Route 14; evening service reductions on select routes; Route 34 concluding services at 8:15pm; and introduction of Route 999 as a north-south regional connector, among other changes. Ms. Lambert then presented ridership data, which was used to shape these decisions, including the observation that after 7:30pm most routes only average 1 rider per hour. The public comment window will be open through Mar 2 and all members of the public and MPO are invited to submit their feedback, and upcoming public sessions will be held at the ITC.

Ms. Koirala commented on the driver shortages being faced across the state and provided feedback on the proposed changes, expressing support for the new Route 999. Mr. Shooster mentioned how additional highway funding may be used to fund BRTA operations.

XI. Update on the Ashuwillticook South Feasibility Study

Mr. Russo provided a brief update on the Ashuwillticook South Feasibility Study, stating that the consultant Weston & Sampson has been brought on board, and the study scope is best-quality multi-use path connections south from the existing connection in Pittsfield through Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and Sheffield to CT state line. This will align where possible with existing nodes and facilities. Periodic updates will be provided throughout the project.

XII. Other business

Mr. Frieri gave a brief overview of the ten FY'26 TIP projects. Six projects are at final design, with two being advertised. In Sheffield, the bridge replacement is at 100% design, but it is recommended to be moved to 2027 due to right-of-way and wetland applications. Similarly, in Lee, the bridge replacement is at 75% design, and it is also recommended to move to 2027 due to readiness concerns. For Pittsfield, the Pontoosuc Ave bridge is at 75% design, and they are addressing right-of-way issues with an adjacent property, while the bridge on South St is recommended to move to 2027 due to design and right-of-way concerns.

Mr. Shooster commended the comprehensive, multimodal work being addressed across the region.

XIII. Next Meeting date – March 31st, 2026

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on March 31st, 2026.

ACTION: Mr. Bailey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kozik. Mr. Shooster adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO November 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes Draft](#)
- [Highway TIP 1st & 2nd Amendment & Adjustment](#)
- [Transit TIP 1st Adjustment](#)
- [TIP Projects Evaluation Score & Description](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 TIP Development](#)
- [2026 PM1 Presentation for MPOs](#)
- [Safety Performance Measure Targets \(PM1\) CY26](#)
- [Safety Performance Measure Targets \(PM1\) CY26 – Berkshire](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)