



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Materials: <https://berkshireplanning.org/event/berkshire-transportation-advisory-committee-3/>

TAC Representatives/Alternates:

Sam Haupt, Chair	Town of Peru	Clete Kus	BRPC
Bill Elovirta	Town of Becket	Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Peter Frieri	MassDOT	Nick Russo	BRPC
Sam Taylor	MassDOT	Ryan Griffis	BRPC
Calvin Poitras	MassDOT	Brittany Ebeling	BEAT

I. Call to Order

Mr. Haupt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

II. Introductions

The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the March 10, 2026 TAC meeting

Mr. Elovirta motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Haupt seconded. The minutes were unanimously Approved.

IV. Discussion on the 2027 – 2031 Transportation Improvement Program and provide a recommendation to the MPO

Ms. Koirala presented the FFY 2027–2031 TIP tables for highway and transit components, while not that the MPO is scheduled to release the full TIP document at its April 28 meeting, after which it will be available for a 21-day public comment period. Ms. Koirala reviewed the programmed projects by fiscal year, highlighting several projects, including highway projects including bridge replacements, roadway reconstructions, pavement preservation, bike and pedestrian projects, and earmark-funded initiatives; the inclusion of a highway-to-transit funding flex in FFY 2027 to support BRTA's microtransit software procurement; and multi-year projects such as Dalton Division Road, Great Barrington Route 7 reconstruction, and the Adams Holland Avenue project beginning in FFY 2031. Ms. Koirala concluded with transit programming, including operating funds, vehicle replacements, capital improvements, and a major maintenance facility project anticipated in FFY 2031.

Mr. Russo inquired whether BRTA currently leased or owned the property at Downing, the site of their future maintenance facility, which Mr. Kus affirmed they leased the site. Ms. Ebeling asked for clarification about the term "alternative fuels" which was mentioned at the previous MPO meeting. Ms. Koirala answered to the best of her ability, as no BRTA members were present.

Mr. Elovirta motioned to release the recommendation for a 21-day public comment period; Mr. Haupt seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Update on Skyline Trail scenic byway designation efforts

Mr. Griffis provided an update on outreach efforts to designate the Skyline Trail as a Scenic Byway,

reporting that the Town of Hinsdale has provided full support for the designation, and that the Town of Peru also expressed interest and invited him to present the issue to its Select Board, scheduled for the following week. Coordination with counterparts at PVPC is ongoing, with the goal of securing municipal endorsements and advancing the designation through the legislative process.

VI. Member Items for Discussion

Mr. Frieri provided an update on FFY 2026 programmed projects in Berkshire County,

The Sheffield bridge replacement projects at County Road and Kelsey Road; bridge preservation at the Veterans Memorial Bridge in North Adams; ledge removal on Route 8 in Beckett; Division Street bridge replacement in Great Barrington; and Route 20 resurfacing project in Lee. The reconstruction of Ashland Street in North Adams. Mr. Frieri noted anticipated advertisement timelines and potential schedule shifts for select projects.

Mr. Elovirta asked when the ledge removal in Beckett was scheduled for removal, which Mr. Frieri provided a general timeframe to begin construction in early 2027. Ms. Koirala mentioned an article on Ashland Street which indicated the project funding was approved, which Mr. Frieri replied clerical issues were delaying the start of the project, which is now anticipated to begin in late 2026

VII. Next Meeting Date – May 19, 2026

Mr. Haupt adjourned the meeting at 4:33 pm.

Materials Distributed:

- [Agenda](#)
- [TAC March 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes Draft](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 Highway TIP](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 Transit TIP](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2027-2031 TIP Schedule](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)