



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Stephen Woelfel	MassDOT (Representing Acting Secretary Phil Eng)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Malcolm Fick	BRPC
Kathleen Lambert	BRTA
Jay Meczycor	North Subregion
Gordon Bailey	Southeast Subregion

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Sam Taylor	MassDOT OTP
Arnav Chatterjee	MassDOT
Ben Hansen	BRTA
Laura Brennan	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nicholas Russo	BRPC
Ryan Griffis	BRPC
Brittany Ebeling	BEAT
Yaw Boadi-Acheampong	

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves via a roll call conducted by Mr. Kus. Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2026

ACTION: Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Lambert, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick	Yea
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea

IV. Approval of an amendment (3rd Amendment) to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP for the following: HIGHWAY SECTION – FFY 2026, Project 610728 Lee, resurfacing

and related work on Route 20, reduce funding by \$2,622,178; Project 612168 Pittsfield Bridge Replacement, P-10-040, Pontoosuc Ave over West Branch Housatonic River Reservoir, remove project and funding in the amount of \$9,848,718; add same project (Project 612168) to FFY 2028 and funding in the amount of \$10,016,001 and authorize Chairman to sign the certification documents.

Ms. Koirala reported that Amendment #3 to the FFY 2026–2030 TIP was released for a 21-day public comment period at the April 28, 2026, MPO meeting. The amendment included a cost reduction for the Lee resurfacing and related work project on Route 20 due to a scope reduction and the Pontoosuc Avenue bridge replacement in Pittsfield from FFY 2026, with the project being moved to FFY 2028. Ms. Koirala noted that no public comments were received and requested MPO endorsement of the amendment.

ACTION: Mr. Bailey introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to approve the amendment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick	Yea
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea

V. Approval of the 2027 – 2031 Transportation Improvement Program and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members

Ms. Koirala stated that the FFY 2027–2031 TIP was released for a 21-day public comment period at the April 28, 2026, MPO meeting and that the public comment period ended on May 19, 2026. She reported that no public comments were received. Ms. Koirala noted that MassDOT submitted comments, including editorial and technical corrections, and that two Great Barrington bridge projects originally programmed for FFY 2027 were moved to FFY 2028: the State Road bridge over the Housatonic River and the Cottage Street bridge over the Housatonic River. She stated that all comments and updates were incorporated into the final document posted on the website.

ACTION: Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Lambert, to approve the TIP and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick	Yea
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea

VI. Discussion on the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and staff to conduct a 21- day public comment period

Mr. Kus reviewed the FFY 2027 UPWP and highlighted several focus areas for the upcoming federal fiscal year. He explained that while many tasks carry over from year to year, the greatest changes occur in the regional planning studies section. Mr. Kus described proposed work related to active transportation planning, with particular emphasis on micro-mobility, including follow-up to the state Micro-Mobility Commission’s work and development of a best practices document for Berkshire communities. He also

discussed continued work related to the Adventure to Ashuwillticook Trail design project, a countywide critical gap analysis for missing trails, sidewalks, and other path connections, as well as exploration of extending the Mass Central Rail Trail westward.

Mr. Bailey asked for clarification regarding Vision Zero, and Mr. Kus explained that it is a safety plan prepared through the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program that guides implementation of safety measures in the region. Ms. Lambert reported that BRTA had formed a microtransit committee and invited interested community members to participate. Ms. Ebeling offered to help publicize the committee through the Berkshire Environmental Action Team newsletter and asked about alternative fuel technologies referenced in the UPWP, which Mr. Kus explained that the reference remains broad for the time being and would receive more attention in the coming year.

ACTION: Mr. Bailey introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Fick, to release the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program for a 21- day public comment period.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Woelfel:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Fick	Yea
Ms. Lambert	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Bailey	Yea

VII. Receive and update on the Southern Berkshire Bike Path feasibility study

Mr. Russo provided an update on the Southern Berkshire Bike Path feasibility study being conducted with consultant Weston & Sampson. He explained that the study is drawing on past plans and data to develop envisioned route options connecting Sheffield, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Lee, and Lenox. Mr. Russo described upcoming public meetings in Stockbridge and Lenox Dale during the same week, followed by meetings in Great Barrington and Sheffield in early June. He noted that the meetings would gather feedback on potential routes, barriers, and opportunities and that maps would be posted on the project webpage prior to the meetings.

Mr. Russo emphasized that the effort remains a planning study and that future recommendations may include a combination of facility types rather than a single continuous trail corridor. He also noted that all meeting locations are accessible by BRTA transit or the South County Connector and invited MPO members and the public to attend.

VIII. Other business

Mr. Frieri provided a MassDOT District 1 update on eight FFY 2026 projects being tracked for the MPO. He reported that the Sheffield bridge superstructure replacement project is under construction, the North Adams Veterans Memorial Bridge preservation project is ready to advertise, and the Route 8 ledge removal project in Becket remains under revised final design review and will require a TIP amendment for a cost increase. He also noted that the Great Barrington Division Street bridge replacement project had received right-of-way certification and environmental clearance and is close to being ready for advertisement.

Mr. Frieri further reported that the Route 20 resurfacing project in Lee remains in final design, with a design public hearing tentatively scheduled for July 7, 2026. He stated that the Ashland Street reconstruction project in North Adams is close to being ready to advertise after resolving the right-of-way issue involving MCLA and DCAM. He added that the Kelsey Road bridge replacement in Sheffield remains under review and may slip to FFY 2027 due to right-of-way compliance and wetland replication issues, while the Pontoosuc Avenue bridge replacement in Pittsfield will move to FFY 2028 as previously amended.

IX. Next Meeting date – June 23rd, 2026

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on June 23, 2026.

ACTION: Mr. Bailey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Lambert. Mr. Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes DRAFT](#)
- [BMPO FFY 2026-2030 Highway TIP 3rd Amendment](#)
- [Berkshire MPO FFY 2027-2031 TIP Document](#)
- [FFY 27 UPWP Draft](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)