



# 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](http://berkshireplanning.org)

## MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

*Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications*

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

### MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

|                  |                                                                  |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| David Mohler     | MassDOT (Representing Acting Secretary Phil Eng)                 |
| Francisca Heming | MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver) |
| Buck Donovan     | BRPC                                                             |
| Jay Meczycor     | North Subregion                                                  |
| Mark Strout      | North Central Subregion                                          |
| Dottie Bonbrake  | South Subregion                                                  |

### Others Present:

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Marya Kozik      | City of North Adams (joined at 4:17) |
| Ron DeAngelis    | North Central Subregion Alternate    |
| Peter Frieri     | MassDOT District 1                   |
| Mark Moore       | MassDOT District 1                   |
| Sam Taylor       | MassDOT OTP                          |
| Lily Kaufman     | MassDOT                              |
| Laura Brennan    | BRPC                                 |
| Clete Kus        | BRPC                                 |
| Anuja Koirala    | BRPC                                 |
| Nicholas Russo   | BRPC                                 |
| Ryan Griffis     | BRPC                                 |
| Brittany Ebeling | BEAT                                 |

## **I. Call to Order – Introductions**

Meeting attendees introduced themselves via a roll call conducted by Mr. Kus. Mr. Mohler called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

## **II. Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026**

**ACTION:** Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Strout, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2026, MPO meeting.

### Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Mr. Mohler:  | Yea     |
| Ms. Heming:  | Yea     |
| Mr. Donovan  | Abstain |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea     |
| Mr. Strout   | Yea     |
| Ms. Bonbrake | Yea     |

## **IV. Consideration of an adjustment to the FFY 2026-2023 TIP for the following: HIGHWAY SECTION – FFY 2026, Project 609277, North Adams Ashland Street,**

**Add \$4,600,459 in regional Carbon Reduction funds, Add statewide Carbon Reduction funds in the amount of \$4,994,080, reduce STBG funds by \$4,031,041 to \$2,317,690. In FFY 2027 reduce STBG funding in the amount of \$4,994,080.**

Ms. Koirala presented a TIP adjustment for the North Adams reconstruction of Ashland Street project. She explained that the project, currently programmed in FFY 2026 and FFY 2027 using STBG funds, would instead make use of carbon reduction funds and state prioritized modernization project funds. Ms. Koirala noted that this change would allow the project to be funded largely in FFY 2026 and would free up approximately \$5 million in regional target funding in FFY 2027 for future Berkshire MPO use. MassDOT staff confirmed that statewide Carbon Reduction Program funding was available and eligible for the project due to its Complete Streets elements.

**ACTION:** Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Strout, to approve the amendment.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler:  | Yea |
| Ms. Heming:  | Yea |
| Mr. Donovan  | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea |
| Mr. Strout   | Yea |
| Ms. Bonbrake | Yea |

**V. Consideration of an amendment (4th Amendment) to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP for the following: HIGHWAY SECTION – FFY 2026, Project 6095062, Becket Ledge Removal along Route 8, increase project funding by \$2,382,497 with Highway Resiliency Improvement Program funding to a total of \$ 5,332,914 and authorize and staff to conduct a 21-day public comment period.**

Ms. Koirala presented an amendment for the Beckett ledge removal project along Route 8. She explained that the project, currently programmed in FFY 2026 at \$2,950,417, had increased in cost to \$5,332,914, requiring an amendment to add \$2,382,497. Ms. Koirala noted that the project is funded through state-prioritized reliability funding and does not affect the MPO's regional target funds. During discussion, staff suggested that if no July meeting were anticipated, the MPO could release the amendment for public comment and conditionally approve it pending receipt of no adverse comments. Staff indicated that a July meeting was not otherwise needed.

**ACTION:** Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Lambert, to approve the amendment and authorize a 21-day public comment period and conditionally approve it pending no adverse comments.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler:  | Yea |
| Ms. Heming:  | Yea |
| Mr. Donovan  | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea |
| Mr. Strout   | Yea |
| Ms. Bonbrake | Yea |

**VI. Approval of the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program and authorize the Chairman to sign the certification documents on behalf of the MPO members**

Mr. Kus reported that the draft FFY 2027 UPWP had been released for a 21-day public comment period following the May MPO meeting. He stated that no public comments were received. He noted that comments were received from MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning and that staff addressed them through non-substantive revisions, including ADA accessibility formatting, clarification of the overhead

rate, additions related to social equity, minor language revisions regarding amendments and adjustments, and correction of typographical errors. Mr. Kus also reported that the comment matrix was included in the final document and that no comments were received from Federal Highway Administration. He stated that staff considered the document ready for MPO approval.

**ACTION:** Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Strout, to approve the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Mohler:  | Yea |
| Ms. Heming:  | Yea |
| Mr. Donovan  | Yea |
| Mr. Meczycor | Yea |
| Mr. Strout   | Yea |
| Ms. Bonbrake | Yea |

## **VII. Member updates**

Mr. Frieri provided a MassDOT District 1 update on the seven projects currently programmed in FFY 2026. He reported that three projects had already been advertised: the County Road bridge superstructure replacement in Sheffield, the Veterans Memorial Bridge preservation project in North Adams, and the Division Street bridge replacement in Great Barrington. He further reported that the Beckett ledge removal project on Route 8 remained at final design and was the subject of the TIP amendment discussed earlier in the meeting. He noted that the Lee resurfacing project on Route 20 had a virtual design public hearing scheduled for July 7, after which it should be ready for advertisement. Mr. Frieri also stated that the Ashland Street reconstruction project in North Adams was at final design with environmental permitting complete and that only municipal right-of-way agreements remained outstanding. He concluded by noting that the Kelsey Road bridge replacement project in Sheffield continued to be monitored for readiness due to right-of-way clearance and wetland replication design issues.

## **VIII. Other business**

An MPO meeting in July may not be needed – staff will update members if the meeting is cancelled.

## **IX. Next Meeting date – July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on July 28, 2026.

**ACTION:** Mr. Meczycor motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Strout. Mr. Mohler adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

## **Documents and Exhibits Used:**

- [\*Agenda\*](#)
- [\*BMPO May 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes DRAFT\*](#)
- [\*BMPO FFY 2026-2030 TIP 4th Amendment & Adjustment\*](#)
- [\*BMPO FFY 27 UPWP\*](#)
- [\*MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update\*](#)