



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Communications

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

MPO Representatives/Alternates Present:

Derek Shooster	MassDOT (Representing Acting Secretary Phil Eng)
Francisca Heming	MassDOT District 1 (Representing Highway Administrator Gulliver)
Buck Donovan	BRPC
Kathleen Lambert	BRTA
Marya Kozik	City of North Adams (Representing Mayor Jennifer Macksey)
Jay Meczycor	North Subregion
Ron DeAngelos	North Central Subregion
Bob Jones	Southeast Subregion

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Sam Taylor	MassDOT OTP
Dottie Bonbrake	Mount Washington
Andrew Krouss	West Stockbridge
Laura Brennan	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nicholas Russo	BRPC
Emily Weckman	Weston & Sampson Engineering

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Kus introduced new members representing the Southeast and Southwest MPO subregions. Bob Jones was elected to represent the Southeast subregion with William West as alternate. For the Southwest subregion, James Hall was elected as delegate with Jamie Minacci as alternate. Meeting attendees introduced themselves via roll call conducted by Mr. Kus. Mr. Shooster called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026

ACTION: Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Ms. Kozik, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2026, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. Donovan:	Yea
Ms. Lambert:	Yea
Ms. Kozik:	Yea
Mr. Meczycor:	Yea

Mr. DeAngeles	Yea
Mr. Jones	Abstain

IV. Notice of Administrative Adjustment to the FFY 2026 UPWP

Mr. Kus shared that an administrative adjustment had taken place to the FFY 2026 UPWP due to extra efforts under the Safety and Active Transportation Planning work tasks. Additional time was needed to work on grant activities from an award by the Office of Grants and Research for interactive dashboards and high-injury network updates, as well as a Southern Berkshire Bike Path feasibility study. \$10,000 was reprogrammed from Special Studies, with \$5,000 directed to Safety Planning and \$5,000 directed to Active Transportation Planning. As a matter of practice, the change is being shared with the MPO following approval by the Office of Transportation Planning.

V. Receive a presentation on the Southern Berkshire Bike Path feasibility study from the project's consultant, Weston Sampson

Mr. Russo gave an overview of the study efforts for the Southern Berkshire Bike Path feasibility study and introduced Emily Weckman from Weston & Sampson Engineers to provide a presentation of the work accomplished. Major findings of the study include:

- The primary goals of the Southern Berkshire Bike Path include proving a connected, safe, and feasible option to connect town centers in southern Berkshire County
- The five towns that were covered in the study include Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and Sheffield
- The study provides envisioned and alternate routes for the bike path through each town, listing the type of facility that would be proposed (such as shared-use paths, boardwalks, or bike lanes)
- Future work will involve working with towns as opportunities arise to construct segments of the path over time.

Ms. Lambert asked about including park-and-ride areas and integration with transit services along sections of the trail. Ms. Weckman shared two notes of potential parking opportunities in Sheffield, and Mr. Russo noted the request with opportunities to include those options in the final report.

Mr. Shooster noted that the final copy of the report should pass a web accessibility check, including color contrast and font size. Mr. Shooster also asked for clarification on the Sheffield route decision of Hewins Street/Boardman Street versus Route 7.

VI. Discussion on next meeting date

Mr. Shooster noted that the next MPO meeting date would overlap with the MassDOT Moving Together Conference. Mr. Kus suggested moving the meeting date back a week to October 20th. There were no objections to moving the meeting to then.

VII. Member updates

Mr. Frieri provided a MassDOT District 1 update on the seven projects currently programmed in FFY 2026. All programmed projects have been advertised. The Ashland Street reconstruction project conducted its bid opening, with J.H. Maxymillian the apparent low bidder. Ledge removal in Becket, road reconstruction in Lee, and a bridge replacement in Sheffield have bid openings scheduled for late October. For FFY27, there are 5 programmed projects in Berkshire County under design, accounting for approximately \$57 million of investment. They include bridge replacement projects in Lee, Monterey, and Pittsfield, as well as resurfacing on Route 7 in Sheffield. There will be a virtual public hearing for a future bridge superstructure project slated in Adams (Cook Street over Hoosic River). The project is not currently programmed, but a 25% design package has been submitted to MassDOT. The design public

hearing can be joined virtually on October 7th at 7:00pm.

Ms. Lambert shared that buses purchased under the Low-No grant are currently on the production line. BRTA will also be applying for an additional Bus and Bus Facilities grant to fill the budget gap in proposed facility repair and maintenance work at the Intermodal Transportation Center. Future TIP amendments may be needed. BRTA also received all bids for the ITS technology expansion for future bus routing. The community shuttle program is also rolling out and has been received well. BRTA has rolled out a data page regarding Link 413 that members of the public can visit.

VIII. Other business

Mr. Kus shared a public meeting notice regarding the Service Development Plan for West-East Rail on October 6th at 6:00pm. The meeting notice is also posted on the BRPC web page. Additionally, the BRPC annual meeting is scheduled for October 15.

Mr. Shooster reminded the MPO the MassDOT Moving Together conference is on October 27th at the Boston Sheraton.

IX. Next Meeting date – July 28th, 2026

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on October 20, 2026.

ACTION: Ms. Kozik motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Meczycor. Mr. Shooster adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- [Agenda](#)
- [BMPO June 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes DRAFT](#)
- [MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update](#)