BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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MINUTES OF THE Berkshire Metropolitan Panning Organization (MPO)
Tuesday, October 20, 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)
Douglas McNally	BRTA
Ricardo Morales	City of Pittsfield (Representing Mayor Peter Marchetti)
Jay Meczycor	North Subregion
Jamie Minacci	Southwest Subregion
Bob Jones	Southeast Subregion

Others Present:

Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1
Calvin Poitras	MassDOT District 1
Sam Taylor	MassDOT OTP
Arnav Chatterjee	MassDOT
Laura Brennan	BRPC
Clete Kus	BRPC
Anuja Koirala	BRPC
Nicholas Russo	BRPC

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Mr. Shooster called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Members of the MPO introduced themselves via roll call.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2026

ACTION: Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2026, MPO meeting.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. McNally:	Abstain
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Jones	Yea
Ms. Minacci	Abstain

IV. Notice of Administrative Adjustment to the FFY 2027 UPWP

Mr. Kus shared that an administrative adjustment had taken place to the FFY 2027 UPWP to harmonize

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the final dollar amount to include the cents figures on the bottom line. The resulting total allocated funds for FFY27 came to $977,252.35.

V. Approval of an administrative adjustment to the FFY 2027-2031 TIP for Project 616338 Lee Lenox pavement preservation and Project 616345 Dalton pavement preservation [ACTION ITEM]

Ms. Koirala shared two project adjustments for 2029 and 2030. The 2029 project is being amended to include the town of Lenox in the title where Lee was only included previously. For the Dalton pavement preservation project, the title is amended to reflect work on MA-8 rather than MA-9.

Mr. McNally asked whether only MA-8 was being resurfaced rather than MA-9. Mr. Frieri clarified that both MA-8 and MA-9 share an alignment for a portion of the project, and the remainder is focused only on MA-8. Further concurrence with District 1 would be necessary to finalize the project title. This part of the adjustment was deferred to a future meeting.

ACTION: Mr. Meczycor introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. Morales, to approve adjustment #1 (Project 616338).

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. McNally:	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Jones	Yea
Ms. Minacci	Yea

VI. Consideration of an amendment (1st amendment) to the FFY 2027-2031 TIP for the following: SECTION 1B, Discretionary Earmark–Add Pittsfield Reconnecting Communities Grant (Project S13537) in the amount of $2,000,000 to FFY 2027. SECTION 2A, State Prioritized Reliability Projects, Remove Sheffield Bridge Replacement (Project 609068) from FFY 2027. Authorize staff to conduct a 21-day public comment period. [ACTION ITEM]

Ms. Koirala shared two projects for amendment. The first concerns the City of Pittsfield receiving a Reconnecting Communities grant award for $2 million, which needs to be included in the FFY27 TIP. The second amendment concerns the Sheffield bridge replacement project at Kelsey Road over Schenob Brook, currently programed in 2027. It was advertised earlier in 2026, so it would need to be removed from the FFY27 allocation for $4,144,916.

ACTION: Mr. Morales introduced a motion, seconded by Mr. McNally, to approve TIP Amendment #1.

Mr. Kus conducted a roll call:

Mr. Shooster:	Yea
Ms. Heming:	Yea
Mr. McNally:	Yea
Mr. Morales	Yea
Mr. Meczycor	Yea
Mr. Jones	Yea
Ms. Minacci	Yea

VII. Receive an update on the BRTA Route Analysis and Micro-Transit Integration Study

Ms. Koirala provided updates on the study that will be conducted using $155,000 from PL funding to retain a consultant. The RFP to seek a consultant was released on October 15th. The study is important because the Microtransit Feasibility Study conducted two years ago indicated that microtransit would be beneficial to Berkshire County by increasing mobility and encouraging economic development. This previous study indicated that a full analysis of BRTA fixed routes would be necessary to help integrate microtransit into the system, especially in northern and southern Berkshire County. The study is a coordinated effort between BRPC and BRTA. The deadline to receive proposals is November 20. Once the consultant is selected, coordination with BRTA will continue to gather and distill data to inform the study.

Mr. McNally shared that he had spoken with the new manager from Keolis regarding the grant, and he will reach out to BRPC to get more details. Additionally, BRTA is investing in new routing software that will integrate microtransit into the bus system. Ms. Koirala noted that funds were flexed in the previous TIP from STBG for $1 million along with a $200,000 grant to implement the software and update the ITS bus system. The consultants for the new study can utilize these tools and data. The current software only works with the fixed route buses and marginally with paratransit.

VIII. Member updates

Mr. Frieri shared that all FFY26 TIP projects are advertised, with three having bid openings scheduled for mid to late October. For FFY27, three projects are at 100% design, and two are at 75% design. For resurfacing and sidewalk construction in Lanesboro, a 25% design public hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 8, subject to confirmation. Mr. Frieri also shared his retirement date of October 30 and expressed his gratitude to the members the MPO and District 1.

Mr. Kus shared that recruitment is underway for a Transportation Planner staff member. 22 applications have been received and the organization is targeting first-round interviews later in October. Additionally, a public meeting was recently held regarding the Boston-Albany rail corridor Service Development Plan. The development will span about 2 years and periodic requests for updates will be made to Rail and Transit Division. The meeting recording is available online.

Mr. Shooster expressed gratitude to BRPC for an opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting on October 15th.

IX. Next Meeting date – November 24, 2026

The next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on November 24, 2026.

ACTION: Mr. McNally motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Morales. Mr. Shooster adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

- *Agenda*
- *BMPO Sept 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes Draft*
- *BMPO FFY 2027-2031 TIP 1st Amendment & Adjustment*
- *MassDOT District 1 TIP Projects Update*