

Report from the Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization

~ From the Meeting Held on May 3, 2007 ~

Summary of Items Discussed

- An informative workshop was given by BRPC and MassHighway staff regarding the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project evaluation criteria. Staff provided overviews of the PIF and PNF processes, and two example improvement projects- the highest and lowest scoring, were provided so that TAC members could see how the final scoring was derived. An example preservation project was also provided to show the difference in scoring preservation projects. Discussion was held regarding the transportation related and regional planning scoring criteria
A follow-up discussion was held regarding the Park Square project and the programming of rural versus urban projects.
 - A comment was made that the environmental mitigation possible with preservation projects is not accurately reflected in the evaluation scoring for these types of projects.
 - Staff pointed out that the difficulty of programming rural transportation projects is true in each region of the state.

- A discussion was held regarding the FY 2008-2011 TIP project evaluation scores:
 - Staff presented the evaluation results, and explained that scoring is done cooperatively between MPO staff, EOT, and MassHighway District 1.
 - A discussion was held regarding the design status of the projects programmed for FY2008.

- A discussion was held regarding the FY draft Public Participation Process for the Berkshire County MPO:
 - A suggestion was made that the Berkshire Transportation Forum list be culled, and that BTF members who do not express a desire to remain on the list be removed.

- A discussion was held regarding the proposed FY2007-2010 TIP amendments:
 - Staff explained that the bridge program for FY2007 was over programmed, and this resulted in all bridge projects scheduled for that year to be moved up to FY2008.

- A discussion was held regarding the TAC's role to the MPO with regards to the TIP process.
 - Staff pointed out that a discussion of TIP programming could not effectively be held until funding targets are received.

- The next TAC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 12th at 5:30.

Majority Report on Issues Brought to a Motion

- The Minutes of the March 1st, 2007 TAC Meeting were approved unanimously.
- The draft Public Participation Process for the Berkshire County MPO was unanimously approved for recommendation as amended:
 - Clarify sections regarding the decision-making process, the involvement of the BRPC, project advisory groups, and the requirements for public hearings during the design process.
- The proposed 2007-2010 TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

Minority Report on Issues Brought to Motion

No minority dissenting opinions were expressed.