

**Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting
Monday, November 9th 2009, 4:30 PM**

At the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission office
1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

MPO Representatives and Alternates Present:

David Mohler, MassDOT (representing Secretary of Transportation Jeff Mullan)
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1 (representing Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky)
Jim Lovejoy, Town of Mt. Washington (Southwest Berkshire Representative)
Sam Haupt, Town of Peru, (BRPC Alternate)
Gary Shepard, BRTA (BRTA Representative)
Bruce Collingwood, City of Pittsfield (Pittsfield Alternate)
Tom Szczepaniak, Town of Dalton (North Central Berkshire Representative)
Roscoe Sandlin, Town of Lenox (Southeast Berkshire Alternate)

Member Agency Staff Present:

Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Nat Karns, BRPC
Dave Daskal, BRPC

Others Present:

Mark Siegars, Town of Tyringham, TAC Chair
Ron Tinkham, Baker Hill Road District
Jane Winn, Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Bill Prendergast, Town of Lanesborough
Colleen Henry, Berkshire Mall
Joe Scelsi, Berkshire Mall

1. Minutes from August 26, 2009 MPO meeting

Mr. Haupt moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting as presented. Mr. Lovejoy seconded. The motion was approved.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

3. Vote to release for Public Comment FFY 2010-2013 TIP amendments

Mr. Daskal summarized the amendments to the FFY2010 element of the FFY2010-2013 TIP. Amendments deal with adding new TIP projects from the ARRA project list, and modifying some cost and funding source details on existing TIP projects

Following the summary, Mr. Haupt asked why the Route 7/8 Connector Road Project had been delayed from the FFY 2009 TIP. Mr. Mohler responded that the project has ongoing issues with securing construction easements. Mr. Mohler further explained that if easement and right-of-way issues are not resolved soon, MassDOT will have to use its authority to take the requisite right-of-way. Mr. Mohler also expressed hope for a Spring 2010 construction start date

Mr. Moore moved to release the proposed TIP amendments for Public Comment. Mr. Lovejoy seconded. The motion was approved.

3. Status Reports on Planning and Design Projects of Member Agencies and Others

Mr. Frieri provided a handout regarding the status of current TIP projects.

Mr. Shepard reported on recent BRTA vehicle acquisitions and ongoing service planning activities.

Mr. Karns and Mr. Daskal reported on BRPC planning activities.

4. Other Business

Mr. Szczepaniak asked about recent state highway resurfacing projects, and materials used for resurfacing. Mr. Moore responding that MassDOT has modified asphalt mix and application on resurfacing projects, with the objective of achieving cost savings.

Mr. Siegars spoke about community concerns with rumble strips and their potential impacts on bicyclists. It was agreed that the TAC will report back to the MPO on this issue at a future date.

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10. Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting date of the Berkshire MPO was set for Tuesday, December 15th, 2009..