

**Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting
Tuesday March 2nd, 4:00 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)
Peter Niles, MassDOT District 1 (representing Administrator Luisa Paiewonsky)
Jim Lovejoy, Town of Mt. Washington (Southwest Berkshire Representative)
Sam Haupt, Town of Peru, (BRPC Alternate)
Gary Shepard, BRTA (BRTA Representative)
Ron Turbin, Town of Williamstown (North Berkshire Representative)
Mike Ouellette, Town of Adams (North Berkshire Alternate)
Tom Szczepaniak, Town of Dalton (North Central Berkshire Representative)
Gordon Bailey, Town of Lee (Southeast Berkshire Representative)

Member Agency Staff Present:

Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT Boston
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Nat Karns, BRPC
Dave Daskal, BRPC
Anuja Koirala, BRPC

Others Present:

1. Minutes from December 15, 2009 MPO meeting

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

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no public comment

3. Vote to endorse Public Participation Plan Amendment

Mr. Haupt moved to endorse the amendment. Mr. Lovejoy seconded. The motion was approved.

4. Vote to release amendments to the FY 2010 TIP for Public Review

Mr. Lovejoy moved to endorse the amendment. Mr. Szczepaniak seconded. The motion was approved.

5. Lee Area Traffic Study

Mr. Daskal presented findings and recommendations from the Lee Area Traffic Study.

The full Study report will be reviewed by the Lee Study Working Group later in March, and brought back to the MPO for endorsement at their next meeting.

Mr. Haupt requested that the Executive Summary be modified to include the roster of participants from the Lee Study Working Group and inquired as to how this would be communicated to the legislative delegation.

6. 2011 RTP Update

Mr. Daskal introduced MPO members to topic areas of special emphasis for the 2011 RTP update. Regional Transportation Financing will receive more in-depth analysis in the upcoming RTP.

Mr. Shepard commented that the Berkshire RTA does not receive an equitable share of funding when compared to the transit funds made available to the MBTA, and other RTA's in the state are in the same position. Mr. Shepard requested that the RTP examine the formula for how statewide dollars are distributed to RTA's, and include an analysis of potential benefits to the Berkshire region if a more equitable share of state sales tax were to be available in future years, such as what would the 1 cent of sales tax generated in Berkshire County which goes to the MBTA amount to?

Mr. Bailey commented that the financial analysis should include examination of re-instituting the tolls on the western portion of the Mass Turnpike. It was observed that this proposed action would more likely be supported if a high proportion of the new toll revenue was to be dedicated to the western region of the state, rather than allocated on a statewide basis.

Mr. Haupt requested a presentation on the status of MassDOT reorganization and reform at a future MPO meeting, incorporating a discussion of future expectations for state and federal funds in the Berkshire region.

6. Status Report of Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri and Mr. Shepard provided brief updates of project status for their respective organizations.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Berkshire MPO was set for Tuesday April 6th, at 4:00 pm.