

**Minutes of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting
Tuesday October 12th, 4:00 PM**

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

MPO Representatives and Alternates Present:

Clinton Bench, MassDOT (representing Secretary of Transportation Jeff Mullan)
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1 (representing Administrator Luisa Paiewonsky)
Jim Lovejoy, Town of Mt. Washington (Southwest Berkshire Representative)
James Mullen, Town of New Marlborough, (BRPC Representative)
Mike Ouellette, Town of Williamstown (North Berkshire Representative)
Gordon Bailey, Town of Lee (Southeast Berkshire Representative)

Member Agency Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Jana Brule, TAC Chair
Jane Winn, BEAT

1. Minutes from August 24, 2010 MPO meeting

Mr. Lovejoy moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Bailey seconded. The motion was approved.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

Ms. Winn commented on the imperative to address Climate Change issues in the 2011 RTP. She stated that prolonged droughts and more intense storm events are likely Climate Change impacts, and that infrastructure improvements should be consistent with Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards. She also stated that Climate Change sensitive design should seek to maximize water infiltration at the source, so to minimize storm event runoff and associated impacts.

3. Election of MPO Vice Chair

Mr. Bailey nominated Jim Lovejoy to serve as MPO Vice Chair. Mr. Ouellette seconded. The full MPO approved the nomination and Mr. Lovejoy accepted the position.

4. Release 2011-2014 TIP amendments for Public Comment

Mr. Daskal summarized proposed amendments to the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Group discussion centered on whether the proposed changes would result in any project displacement or cost modifications. The proposed amendments reflect pre-existing modifications to project schedules, and do not otherwise affect TIP projects.

Mr. Mullen moved and Mr. Bailey seconded a motion to release the proposed TIP amendments for Public Comments. The motion was approved.

5. Endorse South County Transit Study

Mr. Daskal summarized the recommendations from the study.

Mr. Bench commented on the important of incorporating study findings into the MPO's Coordinated Services Plan, and the need for ongoing analysis of service gaps.

Ms. Brule led a group discussion on transit service coordination and marketing activities now ongoing in the region.

Mr. Bailey moved and Mr. Lovejoy seconded a motion to endorse the Study. The motion was approved.

6. RTP Status Report

Mr. Daskal presented summary information on RTP project needs and projected revenues. Mr. Plachcinski explained the staff's project evaluation methodology, and presented information on project rankings, project phasing, and recommended future planning initiatives.

Mr. Bench initiated a group discussion on RTP project development and evaluation, and commented on the regional goal based context for transportation planning. The group discussed procedures and sources for transportation project development in the region. The group also discussed potential funding of projects on I-90, and issues associated with the funding of Interstate system and other Federal Aid System projects.

7. Status reports from Member Agencies

Mr. Frieri presented an update of road and bridge project status.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Berkshire MPO was set for Thursday November 18th, at 4:00 pm.

Materials Distributed:

- August meeting minutes
- 2011-2014 TIP amendments
- RTP memo, RTP project spreadsheets and maps
- MassDOT Project Status Report