

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

~ From the Meeting Held on March 25, 2010 ~

The following TAC representatives were present:

Jana Brule, Town of Florida
Sam Haupt, Town of Peru, TAC Vice Chair
Jack Hickey, Town of Lanesborough
Greg Federspiel, Town of Lenox
Joe Scelsi, Berkshire Mall
Ron Tinkham, Baker Hill Road District
Kevin O'Donnell, Town of Great Barrington
John Boyle, Town of Dalton
Bruce Collingwood, City of Pittsfield
Bill Mulholland, Berkshire Community College
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Wayne Burkhart, Town of Monterey

Also present were:

Dave Daskal, BRPC
Anuja Koirala, BRPC
Nat Karns, BRPC
Jane Winn, Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT

Summary of Items Discussed

Election of TAC Officers for 2010

Ron Tinkham moved to nominate Mark Siegars for Chair and Sam Haupt for Vice-Chair. Wayne Burkhart seconded this motion.

Greg Federspiel moved to nominate Jana Brule for Chair. John Boyle seconded this motion.

The results of a paper ballot were 7 to 4, in favor of Jana Brule over Mark Siegars.

Ron Tinkham then moved to nominate Mark Siegars for Vice-Chair. Wayne Burkhart seconded.

The results of the paper ballot were 6 to 5 in favor of Mark Siegars over Sam Haupt.

Proposed FY 2010 TIP Amendments

Dave Daskal and Nat Karns explained proposed TIP amendments which deal with changes in project designations for previously obligated federal target funds (HSIP) and earmarks (HPP I-90).

The discussion then changed focus to the Region's previously authorized ARRA projects, and specifically the Route 7/8 connector road in Lanesborough. It was established that the Route 7/8 bid price is significantly lower than its authorized funding level (by approximately 2 million).

Jack Hickey recommended that staff meet with our state representatives to request they act to keep these 'surplus' funds in Berkshire County. A general discussion ensued concerning what projects may be sufficiently advanced in design to be eligible for newly available ARRA funds.

Sam Haupt made a motion, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, that the TAC support MPO action to request any ARRA funds currently authorized to be spent in Berkshire County stay in Berkshire County. The motion was approved.

2010 RTP Update

Dave Daskal briefed the committee on the schedule for the upcoming RTP and requested TAC comments on areas of special concern or interest. Sam Haupt commented on the need for the RTP to address enhancements to commuter rail service.

Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting date was set for May 11th at 4:00pm.