



CITIZENS ADIVOSRY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 13, 2021

This meeting was held virtually on
<https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin>

Members Present:

Kelli LaNeve, Ed Sneckenberger, Matt Cross, Chip Walmsley, Heather Britton, Tom Zeni.

Others Present: Bill Austin, Jessica Shuey, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

Mr. Austin noted that due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the CAC meeting is being held as a teleconference. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized.

Chairman Abildso was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Austin presided over the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked about the reduce of funding for the Beechurst Ave project. He noted that the project was previously merged to the University Ave-Campus Dr. project. Mr. Austin noted that the two projects are combined with separate funding streams. The funding is adjusted based on the new information from the engineering design.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked if the project information on the MPO's website is connected to the DOH's database. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO's website is separate from the DOH's website. The adopted TIP amendments are reflected in the highway project tables which updated after each Policy Board meeting as applicable.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked about the use of placeholder in TIP amendments. Mr. Austin noted that it refers to the amount of funding that DOH created to hold a funding category when the estimated cost of the project is not immediately available.

Mr. Sneckenberger moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Cross. With no further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH has submitted TIP amendment requests. The MPO will make format changes to the TIP to make it consistent with the original format as adopted. The MPO will add information about performance measures to each highway project in the TIP. The performance measure information was not available to the MPO at the time the agenda went out. Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to DOH for providing that information.

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH requested the amendment to update funding amount to several projects, including the Beechurst Ave project, the Westover bridge project, the Everettville bridge project, the Morris Builder bridge project + 1, and the Boyer Ave / US 19 Improvements project. The DOH also request deleting the Mon River Rial Trail Maintenance Equipment purchase project from the MPO's TIP. Mr. Austin noted that he has discussed this amendment with Ella Belling, the Director of Mon River Trails Conservancy (MRTC), about this change. The MRTC has agreed to resubmit this project, folding it into another grant project. Mr. Austin noted that Ms. Belling is fine with the deletion of the project.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will start to update its Transportation Improvement Program and prepare for its adoption in August meetings.

Mr. Cross asked about the Boyers project in Start City. Mr. Austin noted that the project will add a protected left-turning lane for the NB traffic turning to Leeway St/Sheetz Station. The change will mitigate the backup of traffic from Mon Blvd turning into Boyers Ave.

Mr. Cross expressed his appreciation for installing the pedestrian signal bottom at the intersection of Fayette St. The change improves the safety for pedestrians and traffic flow for motor vehicles.

Mr. Cross asked about the Campus Dr intersection project. Mr. Austin noted that the WVU is working with the City of Morgantown and the DOH to align the parking lot driveway with 1st Street, creating a 4-leg intersection.

Mr. Sneckenberger moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments as presented; seconded by Mr. Cross. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

4. Status Report on Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Austin noted that the consultant held a second steering committee meeting and briefed participants about the outline of update process. The project team is expected to conduct extensive public engagement throughout the project period. Mr. Gast-Bray noted that the coordination between the MPO's transportation plan and the County's and Municipalities' land use plans is the key to the success of this project, as future year transportation model is depending on the land use forecast. Mr. Yeager noted that he is excited for this project. The city is working with its consultant on finalizing their contract.

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff is bringing the consultants up to speed on the MPO's travel demand model, which was developed by a different consulting firm in the previous metropolitan transportation plan update.

Mr. Cross asked if the DOH approves the prospectus of the update. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH is on board with the update.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked who prepared the plan to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. Austin noted the consultant prepared the plan based on the MPO's Request for Qualifications. The

consultant team is led by Mike Rutkowski, who has extensive experience working on transportation plans and studies in the area, including the pedestrian and bicycle plan and the University Ave Complete Street Plan.

5. Update on Mountain Line Transit Study

Mr. Austin noted that the Mountain Line is working with consultants to identify opportunities to develop a coordinated fare collection system in the area. She noted that the Mountain Line staff will meet with consultant tomorrow afternoon on potential proposals. Mr. Austin noted that the study is a part of previously adopted Mountain Line Transit Study and is funded separately by a federal AIM grant.

6. Status of Mineral Ave/WV 7 Intersection Data Collection

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff conducted data collection in the Mineral Ave/WV 7 Intersection area. Mr. Zhang noted that MPO staff did manual counts at WV 7 and Mineral Ave intersection and WV 7 and Hartman Run Rd intersection during two weekdays and two weekend days. The data collected include pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle turning movement. Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff will prepare a report of the data collection for committee review in the June meeting.

7. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that the Policy Board meeting will start to meet in person this month. He noted that the CAC could consider in-person meetings with virtual conference option. The committee agreed. Mrs. Briton and Mr. Sneckenberger noted that they will continue attending the meeting virtually.

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH will present its study at the WV 7 and Mineral Ave intersection in the near future, including alternatives to improve vehicle and pedestrian's safety at the intersection area. Mr. Zeni noted that the DOH conducted the study more than two year ago. The traffic condition might have been changed since the pandemic. Mr. Austin noted that the project is on the DOH's road network. The project is well coordinated among the DOH's design engineers and traffic engineers.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked about the I-79 Interchange project at Exit 155. Mr. Austin noted that it is a project in the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan under the alternative funding category. The project is expected to be programmed under the General Obligation Bond. The estimated cost of the project has increased from \$42 million to \$68 million to include realignment of the section on Chaplin Hill Rd in that area.

8. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.