

**MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
August 15, 2013 Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Chairman Joe Statler-Blacksville, Perry Keller-WVDOH, Councilman Anthony Giambrone-Star City, Mayor Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Councilperson-Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Randy Hudak-West Virginia University, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County,

MPO DIRECTOR: Bill Austin

I. CALL TO ORDER: With a quorum present, Mr. Statler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He opened the meeting by introducing Mayor Selin, and Councilperson Shamberger as new members of the Policy Board. He also introduced Councilperson Bill Kawecki who will be serving as an alternate member of the Committee for the City of Morgantown.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Lewis moved to accept the March minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Nugent. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT: Mayor Lewis reported the MPO's June and July activities as follows:

June - Beginning balance \$5,497.19 with expenditures of \$4,289.06 and a deposit of \$25,720.25 leaving a balance of \$4289.06.

July-Beginning balance of \$4,289.06 with expenditures of \$44,449.17 and deposits totaling \$50,637.70 resulting in a balance of \$10,474.59.

Mayor Lewis recommended approval of the Finance Report.

Ms. Selin moved for approval of the financial report; seconded by Mr. Hudak. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Rice, Chair of the CAC, reported that the CAC had reviewed the proposed TIP Amendments and there had been some concern about the cost of the engineering for the Project but he had been informed by Mr. Austin that the concern was created by a typo and that with this clarification there was no concern with the project. He noted that the CAC had unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendment to the TIP. He also noted that the CACA had reviewed the proposed MPO Priority lists and had unanimously recommended its approval. He did note that there had been some concerns from the representatives of the bicycling and pedestrian communities but they felt that the process had been fair and they supported the priorities. Mr. Rice also stated that it was his impression that the new roundabout at WV 705 and the Mileground is working well.

VI. DIRECTORS REPORT:

- a. Mr. Austin reported that he and Mr. Radabaugh of DOH had met with the property owners in the vicinity of the Van Voorhis/Burroughs Street intersection and that the District is investigating the issues they raised.
- b. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO's traffic count program had been completed and the Policy Board had a copy of the report summarizing the counts at their seats.
- c. Mr. Austin also reported that the MPO had received the final documentation needed for the LRTP and that project had been closed out. Mayor Selin asked if the report included traffic accidents. Mr. Austin stated that the count report did not include accidents but the MPO had looked at traffic accidents as part of the evaluation of corridors and intersections for the project prioritization process. He stated that he could make that information available to the Board.
- d. Mr. Austin stated that work had begun on the Regional Bike Plan and that the Steering Committee had held their first meeting.
- e. Mr. Austin also stated that Mountain Line had hired a new Mobility Manager and he had begun work with her to revitalize the vanpool program. He also noted that she will be working to coordinate human services transportation as well as working on vanpools with the MPO.
- f. Mr. Austin informed the Committee that MPO staff is beginning to prepare for a followup study of pedestrian traffic on the Mileground to capture pedestrian traffic after the roundabouts opening.
- g. Mr. Austin said that he and Mr. Statler along with the Chamber of Commerce's Transportation had made recommendations encouraging local funding options from the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission. Mr. Statler stated that the MPO should also commented that local governments that contribute to transportation improvements should not lose State funding because they contributed to improving transportation in the area.
- h. Mr. Austin noted that he had asked Mr. Keller to report to the Board on the status of the Downtown Operations Study, the signalization study, and the status of the "Triangabout" Study. Mr. Keller reported that the Division of Highways contract for the Signalization Study and the Downtown Operations Study had expired and the DOH will be signing a new contract for the completion of these studies shortly. He also noted that DOH is hiring Burgess and Niple to review the work to date on the Triangabout Study and the signalization study to verify the findings. Ms. Shamberger asked for a better description of the signalization study. Mr. Keller explained that the DOH has been looking at implementing a new signal control system to improve the operations of the area's traffic signals along WV 705 and on the Beechurst Corridor downtown.

VIII. TIP AMENDMENT

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO had received two TIP Amendments for the Engineering and Construction of a proposed project to install a gravel trail in Westover's Park. After a short discussion Mr. Keller

moved approval of the proposed TIP Amendment, seconded by Mr. Giambrone. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. LRTP Tier One Project Prioritization and LRTP Project 38-Project Prioritization

Chairman Statler called on Mr. Austin to introduce the LRTP Tier One Project Prioritization. Mr. Austin stated that the MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee and Transportation Technical Advisory Committee had been asked to review the projects listed in Tier One of the MPO's LRTP. He stated that the Committee's had used the rating form enclosed in the agenda packet to grade each of the projects. He also noted that it was the Committee's suggestion that the Safe Routes to School project, the Intersection and Corridor Safety Project (LRTP Project 38) and the ADA Connectivity project be listed as "Ongoing Projects the MPO Supports" since DOH is working on all or part of each of these projects in a ongoing basis. He cited the ongoing study of the WV 705/Burroughs Street Intersection as an example of a project in the Intersection and Corridor Safety Project that is already being worked on. He then stated that after these projects had been taken out of consideration the Committees had both unanimously recommend the implementation of the remaining projects following the scoring determined by using the ranking sheets as shown in the Agenda Memorandum.

Chairman Statler stated that he was surprised that the proposed river crossing and the West Run projects did not rank higher. He stated that he felt the Committee should be looking at future needs as we prioritize projects. Mr. Austin stated that he understood the TTAC's and CAC's members concerns to be the cost of this project and they had therefore not ranked it very high because the project was so expensive. Mr. Giambrone noted that the \$45 million shown in the plan is a place holder and depending on the alternative selected the cost could be significantly higher. Mr. Austin noted that it is anticipated that there should be a feasibility study on the project started next year that could give the Board a better insight into the feasibility of the project. After further discussion Mayor Selin moved to approve the Priority List as recommended by the MPO's Committee's, seconded by Ms. Shamberger. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Statler then asked Mr. Austin to discuss the Project 38 Project Prioritization List. Mr. Austin noted that the prioritized Project 38 list would be provided to DOH to assist them in understanding local priorities as they consider spot improvements in the area. The MPO will also conduct studies to develop recommendations for those projects on the list that are not being worked on by DOH. After a short discussion Mr. Giambrone moved approval of the Priority List as recommended by the MPO's Committee's seconded by Mayor Selin. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Statler asked Mr. Austin to please make sure new members are briefed on ongoing projects that may come up prior to a Policy Board meeting. Mr. Austin stated that he would make sure to brief new members on these issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.