

**MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD**  
**OCTOBER 22, 2015 MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chairman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Joe Statler-Blacksville, Randy Hudak-WVU, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Brian Carr-WVDOH, Councilperson Bill Kawecky-City of Morgantown, Mayor Herman Reid -Star City, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County.

**Members Absent:** Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Mike Kelly-Board of Education

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin

**1. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Nugent introduced the approval of the August Policy Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Callen moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**4. Committee Reports**

A. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Rice, the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that he was absent in the October CAC meeting. He further noted that he supports the improvements at the intersection of Greenbag Rd and WV 7 and he encouraged WV DOH to develop and evaluate more alternatives that could be more efficient in addressing identified issues at that location.

Mr. Austin noted that the CAC unanimously recommended approval of the proposed TIP Amendments. In the other business section of the meeting, the CAC asked that he write a letter commending WV DOH for the projects they recently accomplished on Beechurst Ave and Chapter Hill Rd.

B. Financial Report

Mr. Austin presented a letter from Mayor Lewis. The letter described the MPO's last two months activities as the following:

-Beginning balance in August \$13,185.21 with expenditures of \$18,058.07 and four deposits totaling \$18,129.49 leaving a balance of \$13,256.63 at the beginning of September.

-Beginning balance in September \$13,256.63 with expenditures of \$72,726.85 and two deposits totaling \$69,783.33, leaving a balance of \$10,313.11 at the beginning of October. Commissioner Callen moved for approval of the financial report as presented; second by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO audit was last week. There were no issue in the audit.

### **C. Executive Directors Report**

#### **i. Update on I-79 Access Study and University Avenue Study**

Amy Staud, the project manager of the I-79 Access Study, reported that the project team has finished the existing condition report and will present it in the first steering committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to confirm identified issues and gather stakeholder's feedback. Mr. Austin noted that meeting will be held at the conference room in the Morgantown Municipal Airport Terminal Building on Oct 28<sup>th</sup> from 4 PM to 6 PM.

Mr. Austin noted that the University Ave Complete Street Study will hold a steering committee meeting on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. The consultant has prepared recommendations on preliminary design layout for the University Corridor based on the input from the community. The steering committee will review those recommendations

#### **ii. Update on Westover Granville Pedestrian Study**

Mr. Austin noted that the Westover Granville Pedestrian Study held the first steering committee meeting. Staff has completed the existing conditions, including sidewalk assessment, census analysis, and transit ridership analysis, and the results were presented to the steering committee members. Mr. Austin thanked MLTA for providing the meeting venue at the Westover MLTA administrative building. Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff will host a public meeting for this study on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **iii. Update on WV 7 / Greenbag Rd Intersection Public Meeting**

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH held a public meeting for the WV 7 / Greenbag Rd intersection project at Marilla Park. Four alternatives were presented during the meeting, which include roundabout, stretched roundabout, enlarged signalized intersection, and offset intersection. He noted that the community can submit comments on this project through WV DOH website until November 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **iv. Update on Mileground**

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH had a preliminary meeting on the Mileground reconstruction project from WV 705 to Hartman Run Rd. The cross-section shows four lanes with a continuous TWLTL. Mr. Austin informed the WV DOH project team that the MPO's Policy Board had recommended providing safe pedestrian crossings at strategic locations on Mileground Rd. The project team will evaluate the feasibility of installing pedestrian crossings in the corridor.

Mr. Austin also noted that WV DOH and WVU have reached a tentative agreement on the layout of the TWLTL project on Mon Blvd between Boyers Ave and Patteson Dr. The project will provide a southbound bicycle climbing lane and sidewalks. Mr. Austin noted that the agreement is **reached** that sidewalks being maintained by the Morgantown and Star City and bicycle lane will be used parking space during WVU sport events.

Mr. Statler asked about the level of service at the intersection of Mileground and Hartman Rd, if the Mileground is widened to five lanes at that location. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH traffic model show the LOS at that intersection is acceptable under the proposed alternative. Commissioner Callen noted that he is concerned about the traffic delay on the Hartman Run leg at this intersection.

## **5 TIP Amendment**

Mr. Austin noted that the Division of Highways has requested a TIP Amendment at Klondike Hill Road (CO 15), a resurfacing project for a distance of 2.4 miles. Mr. Austin noted that this project is located in the rural area in the western part of the County. Mr. Statler noted that the road condition is much worse in that project section. Mr. Statler also noted that CO 15 had been resurfaced on the other side of the county line. Mr. Statler moved to approve the TIP Amendment, seconded by Commissioner Callen. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin noted that there are 19 administrative adjustments, in addition to the TIP Amendment WVDOH has requested. The administrative adjustments are informational and require no board action.

## **6 Draft Public Involvement Policy**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is undergoing a revising on the Public Involvement Policy. The draft policy has been reviewed by the ad-hoc committee that agreed to work on the Policy and advertised to the public for comments. The Mountain Line Transit Authority relies on the MPO's Public Participation Process to satisfy its public participation requirements for the TIP. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff discussed this issue with FHWA. It has been decided that the MMMPO will develop a separate policy to address the requirements of Title VI which will be incorporated into this document when adopted. This is noted is the draft policy. Mr. Austin noted that there is no formal board action on this item at this meeting.

Councilperson Selin noted that it would be helpful to provide a copy of this policy at the City's library for public access.

## **7. Updated on MPO Projects in draft State Transpiration Improvement Program**

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH is updating the Statewide TIP (STIP). The STIP outlines projects programming from 2016 to 2021. Four projects on the MPO's LRTP Tier 1 list were selected for funding in the draft STIP. The selected projects are: 1) Beechurst Avenue Spot Improvements, 2) West Run Widening, 3) Greenbag Road, and 4) Van Voorhis Road Widening. Mr. Austin noted that the proposed STIP projects will be coordinated with ongoing projects from WV DOH.

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH will host a public hear for the draft STIP on November 2 from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Mountain Line Transit Terminal in Westover and encouraged interested parties to attend this event. The public can also make comments online. The web page link to the draft STIP is provided on the MPO's website. Mr. Carr noted that the public can also submit their comments through the DOT website page.

## **8. Discussion of Truck Issues with Congressman McKinley**

Mr. Austin noted that a meeting was held at the Congressman McKinley's office to discuss the feasibility of increasing weight limits on Interstate Highways for truck uses. Mr. Statler expressed his appreciation to State Delegate Kurcaba for his effort on this issue. Mr. Statler further noted that the meeting was fruitful and that a study is needed to assess the condition of bridges and to evaluate the feasibility of increasing weight limits on the Interstate in this area.

Mr. Statler noted that it is imperative to ensure that safety is not compromised on the Interstate. Councilperson Kawecky praised the collaboration among state and local legislators and the Congressman. Councilperson Selin asked what strategies other states have adopted in similar cases. Mr. Austin noted that most states allow an increase of weight limits on Interstate highways for truck traffic on a grandfather-in basis, in which an Interstate highway was built on a preexisting trucks route.

Mr. Statler noted that it will be helpful to identify defined truck routes used by trucking companies serving this area. Commissioner Callen moved a motion to authorize the Executive Director of the MPO to write a letter supporting the evaluation of the feasibility on increasing weight-limits on Interstate highways in the Morgantown area. The letter will be sent to Congressman McKinley's office and copied to other related parties at state and local level.

### **9. Presentation on Mountain Line Transit Efficiency Study**

Mr. Bruffy made a presentation on the preliminary recommendations made by the Mountain Line Transit Efficiency Study. As a response to a potential decrease of federal funding in the future, the study provides recommendations on equipment purchase, transit route, service schedule, fare adjustment, and other transit related issues.

Mr. Bruffy noted that that it is essential for a successful transit program that the community is aware of the function and advantage of transit service and consider transit as a viable solution to regional transportation issues and a way of improving quality of life.

### **10. Other Business**

No other business

### **11. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.