

**MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD**  
**JUNE 15, 2017 MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Ron Justice-WVU, Vice-Chairman Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Brian Carr-WV DOH.

**Members Absent:** Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Mayor Herman Reid-Star City

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Kelly noted that he will preside at the Policy Board meeting because Chairman Justice needs to leave this meeting early. With a quorum present, Vice-Chairman Kelly called the Policy Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Vice-Chairman Kelly noted that the minutes of the 2017 May meeting were included in the agenda packet. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mayor Lewis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Reports**

*a. Citizens Advisory Committee*

Mr. Rice, the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the CAC unanimously recommended approval of the TIP amendments. He also noted that the committee members raised concern about the delayed projects under administrative adjustments of the MPO's TIP. Chairman Justice

asked about the membership vacancy of the MPO's advisory committees. Mr. Rice noted that the CAC has one membership position open, which needs to be fulfilled by an appointee of the county commissioners. Mr. Austin noted that although TTAC currently has no vacancy, additional members can be appointed by agencies at the discretion of the Policy Board.

### ***b. Finance Report***

Mayor Lewis presented the Finance Report for May as the following:

-- Beginning balance in May \$24,346.00 with expenditures of \$43510.38 and a deposit of \$35,000, leaving a balance of \$15,835.62 at the beginning of June.

Mayor Shamberger moved to accept the May Finance Report; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

### ***c. Executive Director***

#### ***i. Audit***

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has released the Request for Proposal for audit and received two responses from qualified firms. The MPO's Audit Selection Committee will review the proposals and make a decision accordingly.

#### ***ii Secretary Smith Visit***

Mr. Austin noted that local officials and leadership have met with WV DOT Secretary Smith. It was a productive meeting on transportation issues in the area. Chairman Justice noted that the meeting was constructive and helped to coordinate the interests and efforts of DOH, WVU, the City of Morgantown, and the Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce. Vice Chairman Kelly noted that it is encouraging that the community speaks with a unified voice. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH will hold a follow up meeting with local stakeholders at the County Commissioners Chamber. The DOH's district manager for the area will discuss road maintenance, project programming, and other transportation related issues in the region.

#### ***iii Vacation Leave***

Mr. Austin noted that he will take vacation leave in the first week of June.

## **5. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH and WVU have requested TIP amendments. The amendments include 6 projects for FY 2017 and 3 projects for FY 2018. Mr. Austin briefly introduced each proposed projects for the amendments. He then noted that the TTAC and CAC recommended adoption of the TIP Amendments to the Policy Board with the exception that they requested clarification of the exact location of the "Mylan Park Bridge Approach Project" and whether or not the project is eligible for TIF funding. Mr. Carr noted that the project was inappropriately named. The project location is near the I-79 Bridge on

US 19. The project is not eligible for TIF funding. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the TIP Amendments requested, seconded by Chairman Justice. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin then noted that the DOH has requested 9 administrative adjustments in the MPO's TIP. Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC and CAC expressed concern that many delayed TIP projects are Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, and they were carried over as Administrative Adjustments several times. Mr. Carr noted that the major causes of project delay are the complexity of the funding allocation procedure and the limited staff resource of the Division of Highways in administering those projects.

## **6. Beechurst Avenue Study Status Report**

Mr. Austin noted that the Beechurst Ave Study Steering Committee met earlier of the day. The Committee discussed the scope of work for the study and raised major concerns of the study to address, including right-of-way limitations, past planning efforts, future corridor development, and key intersections. Mr. Austin noted that alternatives will be evaluated using a traffic microsimulation model, which will be prepared by a WVU professor. The professor introduced VISSIM modeling to the steering committee members during the meeting. Initial alternatives will be identified and reviewed in July and August.

## **7. Other Business**

No other business.

## **8. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.