



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 14, 2025

This meeting was held virtually at <https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin> and in person at 243 High St (Court House), Room 026 in downtown Morgantown.

Members Present: Matthew Cross, Heather Morgan, Kelli LaNeve, Christian Abildso, Chip Wamsley, Tom Zeni

Others Present: Bill Austin, Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

The CAC meeting was held virtually and in person. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized. With a quorum present, Mr. Abildso called the meeting of the CAC to order at approximately 6:02 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Abildso noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. A member pointed out Snider St was misspelled. Mr. Wamsley moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Cross. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2025-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

The MPO has initiated the update of its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for 2025–2055. The key objectives of this update are to validate the continued relevance of projects currently included in the MTP, incorporate new projects based on community needs, and review and confirm project priorities and tier classifications. To support this effort, we have launched a project website:

www.planttogether.org/2055mtp. The site contains the plan development schedule, public surveys, project maps, proposed subarea improvements, and other related materials.

Work for the MTP update includes crash data from 2019-2023. This data has been an integral part of the analysis done by staff, and the work validates the recommendations for corridor improvements previously identified in the transportation plan.

The Draft Recommended Subarea Improvements include Downtown Morgantown Traffic Study, Brookhaven Rd Area Improvements, Subarea Conceptual Connections for Mon County, and Star City / University Ave Pedestrian Facility Improvements. Draft visuals of these recommendations are attached to this memorandum. These visuals may be changed/updated during the MTP update process.

The improvements in Downtown Morgantown based on the Downtown Microsimulation Traffic Study suggested were:

1. Signal timing optimization and corridor coordination, and bicycle and pedestrian safety and access improvements
2. Grumbein's island closure
3. One-way street conversions

4. Willey Street improvements (capacity, realignment, or both)
5. Intersection improvements and Beechurst corridor improvements from campus to 8th
6. Combined Grumbein's Island, Willey Street, and one-way conversion
7. Combined Grumbein's Island, Willey Street, and Intersection Improvements.

The recommendations are identified as Scenario 7 in the Downtown Microsimulation study. It is a combination of Scenario 1 (Signal optimization and multimodal improvements), Scenario 2 (Grumbein's Island closure), Scenario 4B (Realignment of US 119 to Snider Street), and Scenario 5 (Intersection Improvements). Scenario 7 can be phased as standalone projects. Scenario 3, the one-way street conversions, was recommended to not be carried forward.

MPO Staff has analyzed the Brookhaven Rd Area due to ongoing land use development as recognized by the public. The improvements suggested will help accommodate the increase in traffic. Some of the recommended upgrades include the rebuild of the installation a traffic signal at the Earl Core Rd intersection, adding turn lanes and improving curb radii at key intersections, lighting improvements, upgrading stormwater infrastructure, and installing guardrails at strategic locations to reduce the risk of crashes (especially single-vehicle crashes).

Three specific subareas within Monongalia County have been identified by Monongalia County Planning as priorities for improving multimodal transportation connectivity. These areas were selected based on their potential to enhance regional mobility, support planned growth, and address local transportation challenges.

1. West Run Rd - Riddle Ave - Area Conceptual Connection Improvements
2. Ackerman Area Conceptual Connection Improvements
3. Valley View Conceptual Ped/Bike Network

The planning for these subareas was developed in close collaboration with Monongalia County Planning, ensuring strong alignment with the County's land use vision and infrastructure goals. To support this effort, MPO staff utilized the County's GIS database and conducted field visits to analyze property boundaries, terrain conditions, and existing roadway infrastructure.

Star City / University Ave Pedestrian Facility Improvements were studied as budgeted in the FY 2024-2025 UPWP. Recommendations include sidewalk improvements, a potential new sidewalk near the Glass Factory and Storybook Daycare, Bicycle Blvd Treatment on Low Stress Bicycle Routes, and a Bus Stop Shelter. A long-horizon project for this area would be Reconfiguring University Avenue (Broadway Avenue to glass factory building). This long-horizon project aims to comprehensively transform University Avenue into a safe, inviting, and vibrant corridor by creating a downtown-feeling streetscape. This work should be complementary to Star City's Safe Streets for All Grant. Star City officials are aware of this project and recommendation.

The MPO is asking the community for public review and comment on these potential subarea improvements.

Mr. Abildso asked for some clarification on the Conceptual County Sub-Area Developments. Mr. Austin provided some clarification, stating there are no set project, but the MPO is including this so as future developments occur there is a plan in place for connectivity and safety. Mr. Cross stated there have been many complaints about Willowdale Ave. Mr. Austin said Mr. Gast-Bray, the Director of Planning for the County, has been taking with DOH and trying to get ahead of the curve with development. Mr. Abildso asked if there was ever consideration to add a crosswalk 705. Mr. Austin said this is not a part of the MTP recommendation, but is in the TIP.

Mr. Cross asked if there is consideration for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at Irwin St, and Mr. Austin said there is not one at this point. Mr. Cross also asked about a trailhead at Brookhaven Rd, the data center, and the multiuse path from Boyers to Mylan, and Mr. Austin stated there have not been any updates. He asked if at Ackerman there would be a connection to the Greenbelt, and Mr. Zhang has been working on this possibility. Mr. Cross also asked if Star City was aware of the study included in the MTP, and Mr. Austin said they are aware.

Mr. Abildso asked about the role of public input. Mr. Austin stated the public feedback will be sent to the Policy Board and a part of the decision process.

4. Project Updates

Mr. Austin stated that money received from Complete Streets will be used for the Greenbelt, but the plans are still in the works and being evaluated. Mr. Abildso asked how the board could help, and Mr. Austin stated the MPO Staff is helping with the Greenbelt.

Mr. Cross asked if the sidewalk near the Glass Factory in Star City will be getting a RRFB. Mr. Austin stated it is not one of the current recommendations, but the Star City plans/improvements are still preliminary. Star City has Safe Streets funding.

Mr. Austin stated the Van Voorhis and West Run projects are delayed due to the location of utilities in the area and the completion date is now in 2027. The Brookhaven Rd signal is moving forward and should be completed next summer. The design is complete for the Exit 155 lights and the project will be let in October. The Walnut St project is in the process of obtaining materials to finish the streetscape project. The Greenbag Rd design study is wrapping up and is in the right of way process. The City of Morgantown is in the process of buying the necessary parcels. Mr. Cross asked is there will be a multiuse trail and Mr. Austin said yes.

Mr. Cross asked about the sidewalk on Holland Ave, and Mr. Austin stated this on ongoing.

Mr. Abildso asked if there are any updates on the Harmony Groove Intersection and the Industrial Park Bridge projects. Mr. Austin said the Harmony Groove Intersection is going to FHWA for consideration and the Industrial Park Bridge is in right of way. Mr. Abildso stated the consultants are working with the Mon Rail Trails Conservancy (MRTC).

Mr. Cross asked about the roundabout at University and Collins Ferry. Mr. Austin stated the project is still ongoing, did not have an update. He will check in on the project.

5. Other Business

Mr. Cross and the Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board wanted to say thank you to the DOH for adding ADA ramps in town.

6. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.