



## POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown  
389 Spruce Street  
Morgantown, WV  
November 21, 2024, 6 PM

### Members Present:

Chairman Joe Statler - Blacksville, Board Vice-Chairman Maria Smith- Mountain Line Transit Authority, Mike Kelly – Board of Education, Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Bill Kawecki – City of Morgantown, Sean Sikora – Monongalia County, Mayor Patricia Lewis - Town of Granville, Mayor Joe AbuGhannam - City of Morgantown, Russ Rogerson - Morgantown Area Partnership, Steve Blinco – Star City, Jenny Selin, City of Morgantown, Brian Carr, WVDOT - DOH, Jeff Arnett - Monongalia County, Tom Bloom - Monongalia County

**Others Present:** Jing Zhang, Jackie Peate

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin, AICP

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### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Statler called the meeting of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) Policy Board to order at 6:01 PM.

### 2. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mayor Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Committee Reports

#### *a. Citizens Advisory Committee*

Mr. Austin stated there was no quorum at the last meeting due to a member having a last minute emergency, and one falling ill.

#### *b. Finance*

Mayor Lewis provided the Finance Committee Update. She provided the financial report for the month of October. The beginning balance in October was \$51,027.79, there were 3 deposits totaling \$54,150.51, 22 disbursements totaling \$67,846.50, leaving the ending balance at \$37,331.80

Mr. Justice moved to approve the Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Arnett. The motion passed unanimously.

*c. Executive Director*

Mr. Austin provided the board with his report. He stated there has been many discussions about RAISE grants and other grant opportunities, and the MPO has been encouraged to brainstorm. One big idea that came up was having a Traffic Operations Center in Morgantown to help improve signalization in the area. Mr. Austin would like to further explore this idea.

Commissioner Bloom thanked Mr. Austin and endorsed this idea for a future project. There were no objections by the Board for the Executive Director to explore this project. Mr. Austin also attended the District 4 Open House and stated there were many productive discussions with management. Chairman Statler added in that the day of the meeting was very busy for many organizations. District Four recognized this, and encouraged individuals to call to schedule a meeting.

## **5. 2024 November TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin reviewed the November TIP Amendments and Adjustments.

### **Amendment**

Add New Project

I-79 EXIT 155 RAMPS TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL. FFY: 2025. Federal ID: CARB1924001D.

Phase: Construction. Type of Work: traffic signal. Funding Source: CRP 50-200K POP. Federal Funding:

\$750,000. Total Funding: \$750,000. Location: The intersections of the I-79 Exit 155 ramps and Chaplin

Hill Road. The interchange updates are still planning to be implemented, these temporary lights are being added currently to improve safety for the community as the interchange project progresses.

Mr. Carr added that WVDOH is moving forward with doing the design in-house, starting at the beginning of the new year, and should have the project completed within six months.

### **Split Funding Source**

CAPERTRON TRAIL LIGHTING. FFY: 2026. Federal ID: NRT2018218D. Phase: Construction. Type of

Work: install lighting. Location: N/A.

- Funding Source: NRT. Federal funding: \$239,280. Total funding: \$299,100.
- Funding Source: CRP 50-200k POP. Federal funding: \$320,000. Total funding: \$400,000.

Chairman Statler asked what the cost of the lighting is, and Mr. Austin stated it is \$320,000 and that the City of Morgantown will be picking up the match for this price.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the 2024 November TIP Amendments; seconded by Mr. Kelly. Ms. Selin and Commissioner Bloom expressed gratitude for moving this project forward. The motion passed unanimously.

## Administrative Adjustment

### Split Funding Source

I-79 LIGHTING. FFY: 2025. Federal ID: STBG0079084D. Phase: Construction. Type of Work: Lighting. Location: I-79 from Exit 148 (I-68 Interchange) to Exit 152 (Westover/Fairmont Rd)

- Funding Source: STBG-FLEX. Federal funding: \$4,750,000. Total funding: \$7,500,000
- Funding Source: HSIP: Federal funding: \$2,000,000. Total funding: \$2,000,000

### FFY Change

WALNUT STREET BRIDGE. Federal ID: NHPP0007383D. Phase: Construction. Type of Work: Bridge  
Repair. BRIDGE REPAIR. Location: Walnut St between Spruce St Brockway Ave. Action: Move from  
FFY 2025 to FFY 2028

### Project Deletion

D4 RDWAY DEPARTURE (districtwide). FFY: 2025. Federal ID: HSIP2023046D. Phase: Construction.  
Type of work: Signing; delineators. Funding source: HSIP. Federal funding: \$855,000. Total funding: \$950,000. Location: N/A

## 6. 2025 TAM Targets for West Virginia Public Transportation

The attached Memorandum informs the Advisory Committee members of WVDOT's proposed 2025 TAM Targets for West Virginia. The MPO adopts these targets for MLTA. WVDOT defines SGR (State of Good Repair) as a system meeting the following criteria: All assets are functioning at their ideal capacity within their design life. The state's asset management system, AVIS, includes consistent, accurate and relatively current information on the status of each capital asset covered by the TAM. Each system has a maintenance program to ensure maintenance is performed per manufacturer requirements and intervals. No rolling stock assets are placed in revenue service with identified safety defects. The Targets are presented in the table in the agenda. The Targets are presented in the table below. Data from 2023 and 2024 can be seen on the right side of the table, with the 2025 targets on the end. The MMMPO hopes to adopt these targets for the upcoming year. The TTAC reviewed this and recommended approval. It is respectfully requested that the Policy Board approve the proposed targets.

Ms. Smith stated Mountain Line annual reports the status of their vehicles to the state, and the targets correctly reflect their report.

Ms. Smith moved to approve the 2025 TAM Targets; seconded by Mayor Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

### **7. Contract for Don Knott's Blvd. Ped Bridge Feasibility Study**

Mr. Austin explained that a pedestrian bridge over Don Knott's Boulevard connecting the City of Morgantown's First Ward to the Waterfront area and the Rail Trail is a Tier One Project in the MTP. WVDOH has concerns about the feasibility of the pedestrian bridge due to elevation changes between First Ward and the Waterfront area. The MPO asked our on-call consultants to prepare a scope of work for a study to determine a more precise location for the proposed bridge and to examine the constructability of the ped bridge including the cost. MPO staff and City Engineering staff were the selection committee for the project. The selection committee recommended Kimley Horn and Associates for this work at a cost of is \$37,500. This was the less costly of the two proposals though cost was not considered as part of the evaluation criteria. A copy of the recommended proposal was included with the agenda package. This project fits into the MPO's existing budget and no extra funds are required to perform this work. It is respectfully requested that the Policy Board authorize the MPO Director to sign the contract for this work.

Mr. Carr asked if the City of Morgantown applied for a TAP grant for this project. Mr. Austin stated they have applied in the past, but not recently. There is no connection to this potential project and the Dorsey Ave project.

Ms. Selin moved to approve the contract for Don Knott's Blvd. Ped Bridge Feasibility Study; seconded by Mayor Lewis.

Commissioner Sikora asked where the funding came from, and Mr. Austin stated it came from the Unified Plan Work Program. Chairman Statler asked if there will be a public comment period, and Mr. Austin stated there will be public involvement. Mayor Selin stated this project has been on the City of Morgantown's radar for a while, and they appreciate the project being reviewed. Mayor AbuGhannam agreed, and stated the connectivity this bridge would bring would be a huge asset to the community. Commissioner Sikora asked when the public comment period would be, and Mr. Austin stated it will occur during the Stakeholder Review.

Commissioner Arnett moved to amend the motion to allow Mr. Austin to sign the document; seconded by Mayor AbuGhannam. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bloom asked if the City of Morgantown will have their own public meeting. City board members stated this project is in various City documents and has been on the wish list for a long time.

Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **8. 2025 MPO Meeting Dates**

Mr. Austin stated that the dates proposed for the MPO's Committee meetings in 2025 are included in the agenda. Please note that this calendar does not include meetings in June. This is a change from previous practice. This change is recommended due to the Juneteenth and West Virginia Day holidays making it difficult to meet in June. The TTAC and the CAC have recommended that the Policy Board adopt of the meeting dates.

Ms. Selin moved to approve the 2025 MPO Meeting Dates; seconded by Commissioner Arnett. The motion passed unanimously.

### **9. Draft TIP**

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO and WVDOH have developed an updated TIP for consideration at the Policy Board's January meeting. This item is to present the draft to the public and the Policy Board for comment. A copy of the draft TIP is in the agenda package.

Commissioner Bloom asked about page 28, the Star City Interchange. He stated they have funds that need to be used by 2026, and asked about the 2029 date in the TIP. Mr. Austin stated this is the date for the construction phase. There should not be a conflict with timelines and grant deadlines.

### **10. FY 2025-26 UPWP**

Mr. Austin stated that MPO Staff is seeking input into the development of next fiscal year's work program. Currently staff is proposing to perform an in-house minor update of the urban area's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. We would appreciate any idea's the Policy Board may have for additional work. We will be presenting the draft UPWP to the Policy Board at the January meeting.

Mr. Austin provide an update on the Downtown Microsimulation Study. The consultants are reviewing the six options approved by the Steering Committee. The next meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kelly asked if the new charter school will be included in the analysis, and Mr. Austin stated it will be looked at in the new MTP update. Brookhaven will also be included in the MTP update. Ms. Selin asked what happens next with this Microsimulation Study once we have answers. Mr. Austin said an implantation plan will come out of this study and that pedestrian safety is being looked at. Commissioner Sikora had a citizen reach out to him about Brookhaven Road, and will make sure to keep her and the public updated with news. Mr. Kelly asked about the results, and Mr. Austin said the raw data will be available at the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Steering Committee will direct the consultant on which direction to proceed. Mr. Blinco asked if this study will look at where to place new lights, and Mr. Austin said that may be one of the solutions. Mr. Austin reminded the board that the Downtown Study is specific to downtown, and the MTP look at county wide needs and projects.

### **11. Other Business**

Chairman Statler reminded the Policy Board to complete evaluations. He also stated they need to create a Nominating Committee for the election of officers in the new year. He appointed Russ Rodgerson, Tom Bloom, and Mike Kelly.

### **12. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.