CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 14th, 2026

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: Christiaan Abildso, Wallace Venable, Heather Morgan, Tom Zeni, Kelli LaNeve, Chip Wamsley

Others Present: Bill Austin, Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang

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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 6:03 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Abildso noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Venable moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2026 May – TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin stated that the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, has requested the following amendments and administrative adjustments to the MPO's TIP:

TIP Amendment:

I-79 CHAPLIN HILL GATEWAY (PHASE 2) (CONVERT AC). Federal ID: NHPP0079156D. FFY: 2027. Type of Work: RECONSTRUCT I/C. Phase: Construction. Funding Source: MEGA GRANT. Federal Funding: $31,000,000. Total Funding: $135,000,000. Location Description: I-79 Exist 155.

POINT MARION ROAD INTERSECTION. Federal ID: CARB0119605D. FFY: 2026. Type of Work: DESIGN STUDY. Phase: Engineering. Funding Source: CRP 50-200K POP. Federal Funding: $960,000. Total Funding: $1,200,000. Location Description: Intersection of Point Marion Rd and Stewartstown Rd/Canyon Rd.

Mr. Zeni moved to recommend approval for the 2026 May – TIP Amendments; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

4. On Call Consultant RFQ

Mr. Austin stated that the purpose of this RFQ is to make qualified Consultant resources available to the MMMPO. The Selection Committee was made up of five members- Damien Davis, Michael Dougherty, Andrew Gast-Bray, Kimberly Fragola, and Bill Austin. Four firms applied- AECOM, Burgess and Niple, HDR and Kimley Horn. Each firm has a WVDOT approved overhead rate and their documentation shows

that they are financially solvent. Applications from these four firms were uploaded to a secure Dropbox and sent to Selection Committee members on April 23, 2026. Staff requested completed score sheets by April 30, 2026. On May 1, 2026 the Committee met virtually to discuss scoring and finalized their decision.

Kimley Horn had 2 first place votes, AECOM had 2 first place votes, and HDR had 1 first place vote. Burgess and Niple was eliminated due to no first-place votes, and having scored 40-60 points below second place HDR and third place (AECOM). Burgess and Niple also exhibited less experience and fewer tools for regional travel demand modeling. The RFQ for our on-call consultants states that the MPO can accept up to three firms. The Consultant Selection Committee determined that selecting three firms will provide the MMMPO with flexibility in selecting a qualified firm for its work in specific projects. Also, if the three firms are contractually on the on-call contract, then the MMMPO can ask them to provide a scope of work including price for a project. The recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee is that HDR, AECOM and Kimley Horn should all be offered the MPO on-call consulting contract.

Mr. Zeni asked if there is a 'rank' to the selected firms. Mr. Austin said no, the MMMPO will play to their strengths as project come in. There will also be an RFP process. Mr. Ausitn briefly went over previous projects the selected firms have completed.

Mr. Venable moved to recommend approval of the selected firms from the On Call Consultant RFQ; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Prioritization of Downtown Microsimulation Study Projects

Mr. Austin stated that this report, included in the agenda, was developed as a supplement to the Downtown Morgantown Microsimulation Study conducted for the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) by Kimley Horn and Associates. This report was presented to the CAC in March and it has been cleaned up based on feedback. The Microsimulation Study evaluated various alternative configurations of the street network. The Study analysis used turning movement counts and real time traffic origin and destination data and a simulation of downtown Morgantown's signal system using signal timings provided by WVDOH. For the analysis of future year operations, the Study used traffic volumes from the MMMPO's regional travel demand model. Them MMMPO is asking the CAC to recommend that the Policy Board approve this report as this shows what needs to be done in order to close Grumbein's Island.

Mr. Zeni asked which entity would be responsible for recommending to close Grumbien's Island. Mr. Austin stated WVU would request this action. Mr. Zeni also asked what is requested from the CAC to move this forward, and how to encourage WVU to request the closure. Mr. Austin stated WVU has been presented with this information.

Mr. Abildso asked for some clarification on the Willey connector. Mr. Austin stated it is in Tier 3, and page 13 in the report shows the relationship of traffic if there is only the Willey connector. This action helps Grumbien's Island.

Mr. Venable clarified that accepting this report shows what projects/actions need to take place if Grumbien's Island is to be closed. Mr. Austin stated this is correct.

Mr. Venable moved to recommend approval for the Prioritization of Downtown Microsimulation Study Projects; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Other Business

Mr. Austin stated the WVAMPO Conference will be hosted in Morgantown in June. He will then be going to Tulsa to present at a conference on funding for organizations. He is set to retire June 30th. Mr. Austin also stated both interstate projects, Harmony Grove and Exit 155, are moving forward. The University and Collin's Ferry roundabout should be completed in the fall. He also stated there has been utility relocation on Greenbag Rd, utility issues with West Run (but it is still moving forward), and there is a Complete Street Study for the Greenbelt that is looking at West Run.

Mr. Wamsley asked about the 705 multiuse path and that area in general. Mr. Austin stated it had gone stale. Mr. Wamsley mentioned this area still need action as people are still walking across the traffic. There are weird jurisdiction boundaries in this area. Mr. Wamsley suggested a multiuse path on the other side of the guardrail on 705.

Mr. Venable mentioned that the area from Osage to Ft. Martin is a mess with trucks and that lots of traffic goes into the railroad yard. He stated there is room for development in this area and to keep an eye out for that as it would increase traffic.

7. Meeting Adjournment

The CAC called for a Vote of Appreciation for Bill Austin as he is retiring June 30th. They wanted to thank him for his service and dedication to the community. Mr. Venable moved to approve the Vote of Appreciation for Bill Austin; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.