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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
March 11, 2014
1:30 PM

Members Present

Damien Davis-City of Morgantown, Terry Hough-City of Morgantown, Richard Wood-Monongalia County, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Elwood Penn-WVDOH, Fouad Shoukry-WVDOH, Arlie Forman-WVU, Brian Carr-WVDOH, Chris Fletcher-City of Morgantown, Kevin Burgess-FHWA

Others Present

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

Call to Order

Bill Austin called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM.

Approval of the Minutes

After the introductions Mr. Austin noted that the Minutes of the January meeting had been included in the agenda packet. He noted that the year of the meeting needed to be changed and then asked for any corrections the Committee members might have to the Minutes. There being no corrections Mr. Austin then called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Wood moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Penn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin introduced the proposed amendments to the TIP. Mr. Austin noted that the most unusual TIP amendment was the removal of the Project to install a center turn lane on Monongahela Boulevard. Mr. Austin asked if the Division of Highways would please explain why this project was being removed. Mr. Carr stated that he was not certain of the reason. Mr.

Fletcher noted that \$1.3 million was a lot of money for the area to lose. Mr. Shoukry stated that he was unaware of the reason for the withdrawal of the funding but he feels this is a worthwhile project. Ms. Hough stated that a possible reason for the withdrawal of the project is the cost associated with the need to accommodate pedestrians within the area. She also stated another possible reason that the funding for the project might have been removed was the WVU Athletic Departments concern about the potential loss of parking associated with it.

Mr. Austin then introduced the remainder of the highway projects for consideration by the TTAC. Mr. Austin noted that there is a project for a design study of the intersection of WV 7 and US 19 in Pursglove, Mr. Austin stated that there had been a fatality at this intersection last year. Mr. Shoukry asked exactly what is meant by a design study. Mr. Carr was not exactly sure what is meant by this term but he would follow up on it.

Mr. Austin then noted that there is a proposed project to realign the intersection of Beechurst Avenue and Campus drive and to potentially make it a four legged intersection. Mr. Austin noted that this project is in agreement with LRTP's recommendation to improve the Beechurst corridor.

After a short discussion Mr. Austin then introduced the proposed amendment for the addition of a turn lane in the installation of a signal at the intersection of WV7 at Brookhaven Road, In reviewing the mapping provided by the MPO based on information from WVDOT, it was determined by the TTAC that the subject project is actually proposed to take place at the intersection of Tyrone Road and WV 7.

Mr. Austin then introduced Mountain Lines requested TIP Amendments to add back most of the funding for the Senior Mons Nutrition Program service and the Mobility Manager. Austin noted that these amendments added back \$280,000 of the \$300,000 that was removed from Mountain Lines budget with the last TIP Amendments. He explained that these amendments are due to WVDOT stipulating that Section 5307 funds can be used for these projects which was unclear at the time of the previous TIP Amendments.

After a short discussion Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the proposed TIP amendments to the MPO Policy Board with the stipulation that Mr. Austin relay the suspected reasons for the loss of the Monongahela Boulevard Project to the Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Ms, Hough. The motion was unanimously approved.

Draft Morgantown Monongalia County Bicycle Plan

Mr. Austin then introduced the Draft Morgantown Monongalia County Bicycle Plan. He stated that with his assistance Mr. Zhang and Mr. Davis have been working with a steering committee to develop an Urban Area Bicycle Plan. He noted that the draft Bicycle Route Map had been presented to the TTAC and the MPO at the last meeting. Since that time the Steering Committee had held a public meeting and sought comments on the Plan on the internet and from members of

the Greater Morgantown Bicycle Board. He stated that this Plan has been designed for ease of implementation at a low cost.

Mr. Shoukry asked for clarification on the type of information that would be available for DOH as they considered improvements to the area. Mr. Zhang stated that there is documentation of the recommendations for these facilities on the corridor level that will be shared in the final report. Mr. Zhang noted that the information provided on the mapping also identifies locations where it may be necessary to purchase right of way to implement the Plan. He noted that there are only 3 locations where this may be necessary.

Mr. Fletcher noted that funding is limited for these types of improvements and he would like to make sure that the City Manager is aware of these efforts. Mr. Austin stated that he had forwarded the Route Map that was shared with the TTAC and the Policy Board to the City Manager and that he would forward the draft Plan to the City Manager as well.

Ms. Hough expressed concern about the cost of implementing the plan and the maintenance of the proposed facilities. Mr. Davis stated that the Steering Committee had be very mindful of this issue and that the designated proposed facilities consisted primarily of striping and signage. Mr. Austin noted that the Steering Committee's top 5 priorities were estimated to cost less than \$100,000.

After a more discussion Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the draft Bicycle Plan to the MPO Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood. Ms. Hough commented that she was relying on Mr. Davis' recommendation in this matter. Without further comment Mr. Fletcher's motion was unanimously approved.

Downtown Operations Study

After the conclusion of the discussion of the draft Bicycle Plan Mr. Austin introduced the Downtown Operations Study. He stated that it had been hoped that Dr. Nichols of the Rahall Institute would have the preliminary findings documentation available for this meeting. He will be making a presentation on those findings at the Policy Board meeting. He stated that those findings should be available prior to the end of the week and that he will share them with the MPO's Committees prior to the Policy Board meeting.

Traffic Count Locations

Mr. Austin then noted that the counts for the MPO's Annual traffic count would be taken in April on the 9th and 10th. The TTAC had been provided with a map of proposed count locations to be added to the Program and that he would appreciate the Committee's review and comments on the proposed new locations. He noted that this item is clearly a technical item that would not need to be addressed by the Policy Board. Ms. Hough noted that the only count location she could see a problem with was the North Avenue location. Her concern with this location is that

North Avenue is experiencing physical problems and that she did not know if the counters would be affected by work that may need to be done to the road. Mr. Austin said that the MPO would take this location off of the list until the road is in better condition. Ms. Hough asked that the MPO remind the City and the University of the traffic count dates so that the counters would not be impacted by street sweepers. Mr. Austin stated that he would make sure to notify these agencies prior to the counts.

Status of the Van Pool Program

Mr. Austin informed the TTAC that the MPO is now subsidizing two van pools and that Ms. LaNeve, Mountain Lines Mobility Coordinator is working to recruit additional van pools. He stated that there had been some questions from FTA about the CMAQ grant for the Project since until recently very little of the funding had been spent. He noted that Mr. Bruffy had responded to the inquiry and that since the project is now moving forward it is not anticipated that this funding is in jeopardy.

Other Business

Mr. Austin opened the floor for other business the group might bring forward. Mr. Fletcher asked DOH how he should respond to groups who asked if they could plant flowers or other plants in the roundabout. Mr. Shoukry stated that these groups could be referred to him.

After that discussion. Mr. Austin stated that he had asked Mr. Carr to update the MPO on the status of several projects, the Patteson+1 Project, the Van Voorhis Project, the West Run Widening Project, the Collins Ferry roundabout study and the Green Bag Road/WV 7 Intersection Improvement Project. Mr. Carr stated that the Green Bag Road/WV7 Study has been given to a consulting firm. He also noted that the West Run Project may be ready for letting as early as this fall. The other projects are waiting on the new Division Design Engineer to get in place before they can move forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.