

**MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
October 17, 2013 Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Chairman Joe Statler-Blacksville (late), Brian Carr-WVDOH, Councilman Anthony Giambrone-Star City, Mayor Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Councilperson-Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Randy Hudak-West Virginia University, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Mike Kelly-Board of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County,

MPO DIRECTOR: Bill Austin

I. CALL TO ORDER: With a quorum present, Vice-Chair Giambrone called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Vice-Chair asked the Board Members to introduce themselves for Mr. Carr of the Division of Highways who was sitting in for Mr. Keller.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After the introductions Vice-Chair Giambrone introduced the Minutes of the last meeting. Ms. Shamberger moved to accept the August minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Nugent. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT: Mayor Lewis reported the MPO's August and September activities as follows:

August - Beginning balance \$10,474.59 with expenditures of \$18,794.95 and deposits of \$26,247.60 leaving a balance of \$17,927.24.

August-Beginning balance of \$17,927.24 with expenditures of \$12,695.88 and deposits totaling \$128.24 resulting in a balance of \$5,359.16.

Mayor Lewis recommended approval of the Finance Report.

Mr. Kelly moved for approval of the financial report; seconded by Mr. Carr. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Rice, Chair of the CAC, reported that the CAC had reviewed the proposed TIP Amendments and there had been some concern about the Chaplin Hill Road Widening Project and the University Avenue/Collins Ferry Road Intersection Modification Project. He stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee had recommended against approval of these projects since there is a concern that they would not be in compliance with the Long Range Transportation Plan's recommendations for Safe Routes to School and the MPO's and the States Complete Streets Policy. He stated that he had been informed by Mr. Austin that the concerns had been addressed by DOH. Mr. Rice noted that the CAC had unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendments to the TIP for the PRT and for the WV 100 Slide Repair Project and the US 119 Resurfacing Project.

Mr. Austin noted that he would provide the Policy Board with the information DOH had shared with him during consideration of the TIP Amendments.

VI. DIRECTORS REPORT:

- a. Mr. Austin said that he and Mr. Statler have been working with the Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Committee. He noted that the Chamber is planning to hold a Monongalia County Day at the Legislature in January. It is anticipated that transportation will be a key issue presented at this session. Mr.
- b. Mr. Austin then noted that MPO Staff has been working with Mountain Lines Mobility Coordinator to revive the vanpool program DOH provided \$50,000 in CMAQ funds to encourage. He stated that they had met with staff from the Pittsburgh transportation demand management effort. This meeting reinforced the need for the effort to promote vanpools more to the general public than the previous effort which had focused on employer assistance in promoting vanpools. Mr. Bruffy commented that Ms. LaNeve, the Mobility Coordinator is working on a wide variety of efforts to more effectively coordinate all forms of transportation in the area in accordance with Mountain Lines recently adopted Mobility Plan.
- c. Mr. Austin then noted that MPO Staff is also working on developing an urban area bicycle plan. The Steering committee for the plan primarily consists of members of the Morgantown Bicycle Board. He stated that the first public meeting in the planning process is preliminarily scheduled for October 29th at Marilla Park from 4:30 until 7:30.

VIII. TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO had received several TIP Amendments from WVU for the PRT and from the Division of Highways for Roadway improvements. Mr. Austin asked Mr. Carr to discuss the Highway improvements proposed for the TIP Amendments. Mr. Carr stated that the amendments consist of the following projects

-Collins Ferry University Avenue Intersection Project-It is requested that this project be approved for programming of a design study in FY 2014 and Right of Way Acquisition and Construction in FY 2015.

-WV 100 Slide Repair Project-This project is immediately north of the Granville City limits. It is requested that the project be approved for programming in FY 2014.

-US 119 (Chaplin Hill Road) Project-This project primarily consists of the installation of an additional left turn lane from southbound US 119 onto WV 7 in the proximity of University Town Center. It is requested that the project be approved for programming in FY 2014.

-US 19 (Grafton Road) Resurfacing Project-The proposed project runs two miles from one half mile north of I-68 south to the vicinity of the S. University Plaza.

Mr. Austin noted that he had been in touch with Mr. Radabaugh of DOH District Four concerning the Citizens Advisory Committee's concerns with the University Avenue Project and the Chaplin Hill Road Widening Project. He said that Mr. Radabaugh had informed him that the DOH was aware of the pedestrian and school issues with the University Avenue Project and that they are prepared to have a public meeting to receive comments on the proposed design prior to constructing the project.

Mr. Austin said that Mr. Radabaugh had also clarified the description of the Chaplin Hill Road Project. The initial description of the project provided to the MPO and the Citizens Advisory Committee had indicated that there would be two left turn lanes installed on southbound Chaplin Hill Road to access west bound WV 7. This construction would require two lanes of traffic to merge into one lane on WV 7. It was the concern of the CAC that the merge movement would require taking the space needed for cyclists to use WV 7. Mr. Austin stated that Mr. Radabaugh had clarified the project description stating that the DOH was planning to add the lane as a through travel lane instead of as a turn lane. This would allow the extension of the existing turning lane further back through the existing through lane to provide the capacity needed for this movement at the intersection. This configuration of the project would not impact cyclists. He stated that Mr. Radabaugh also noted that the DOH would keep cyclists in mind when designing the project. Mr. Austin concluded stating that he felt that Mr. Radabaugh's comments had adequately addressed the Citizens Advisory Committee's concerns.

Mr. Austin then described the PRT Amendments proposed by WVU.

-Ongoing systemwide electrical upgrades in Fiscal Years 2014 through 2017. These projects utilize Federal Transit Administration Section 5337 Funds.

-Replacement of the PRT's vehicle fleet beginning in FY 2015 currently programmed for funding by WVU, though WVU is seeking Federal assistance with this project.

Mr. Austin stated that the TTAC unanimously recommended approval of all of the proposed amendments. He also noted that the CAC had recommended approval of all of the amendments except those noted by Mr. Rice.

Mayor Selin asked what would happen if the Policy Board did not approve these projects. Mr. Austin stated that the DOH would not be able to use Federal funds for these projects but that they could use State funds. After a short discussion Mr. Bruffy moved approval of all of the proposed amendments seconded by Councilor Shamberger. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Statler stated that the School Board has concerns with the progress of the purchase of Easton Elementary School by the Division of Highways. He stated that the project had been moving forward but that now there was some kind of stumbling block. He asked the Policy Board to authorize Mr. Austin to write a letter requesting that DOH move forward with the acquisition. After a short discussion Mr. Bruffy moved approval of Mr. Statler's request seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was unanimously approved.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.