



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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 (Chair), Bill Austin, Heather Morgan, Chip Wamsley, Matthew Cross, and Thomas Zeni

**Others Present:** 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 6:04 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Cross moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Abildso; with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Agenda Item Name – TIP**

Mr. Austin discussed the proposed TIP Amendments and Administrative changes to the MPO's TIP under the MPO's recently adopted policy. Administrative changes include bridge reconstruction and refurbishment. These changes came due to a new STIP being implemented. The proposed TIP Amendment is to program the Right of Way acquisition and construction of the Smithtown Road/US 119 intersection. The Right of Way Phase is \$100,000, with \$90,000 in Federal Funds. The Obligation Date is 4/28/2024. The Construction Phase has \$ \$1,080,000 in Federal Funds and \$1,200,000 in total funds. The Obligation Date is 6/28/2024.

Mr. Abildso asked about funding source and crash data. Mr. Austin clarified funding source. Mr. Abildso and Ms. Morgan noted the lack of transportation near Smithtown Road/US 119. Mr. Austin said he would pass this along to Mountain Lion. Mr. Cross asked about University Avenue, and Mr. Austin clarified that it is a state road maintained by the city. Mr. Cross questioned does 'slab' means in TIP? Mr. Austin noted that the MMMPO has requested further information from the DOH.

Mr. Cross moved to recommend the recommendation of the TIP Amendments and Adjustments to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Ms. Morgan. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Agenda Item Name – Microsimulation Scope of Work

Mr. Austin noted that the next item was the scope of work for the Downtown Microsimulation Study for planning and traffic engineering services for the Morgantown Downtown Traffic Study. The purpose of the ‘Downtown Traffic Study’ is to recommend potential future reconfigurations of the downtown Morgantown transportation network based on a data driven process with additional input from the community and stakeholders. A draft of the Scope has been reviewed by the Study Steering Committee members. Kimley Horn has modified the Scope per those comments. This project is funded with \$400,000 of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Funding. Part of MPO’s suballocation are these funds. \$100,000 of funding coming from Monongalia County, City of Morgantown, Morgantown Area Partnership, and WVU. Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Gatlin raised a concern about the language including pedestrian safety in the TTAC meeting. The language will be adjusted to address this. Data collection is projected to begin in October when students are back in town.

Mr. Cross noted that the Concert Series at the Waterfront area may increase traffic, suggested looking at this area. He additionally asked if the Kimley Horn will suggest Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs). Mr. Austin said they were looking at signal optimization.

Mr. Abildso had a question about Task 1. Mentions one and two days of collection. Mr. Austin clarified that sites had been added for day 2. Mr. Abildso raised a concern about the Beechurst construction interfering with traffic collection data. The counts there may be messed up due to construction, and he was concerned about money being wasted. Mr. Austin noted there is available data from previous studies to aid in this, and some of the construction will be completed by the time the microsimulation is projected to begin. This concern will be passed along to Kimley Horn.

Mr. Zeni moved to recommend the recommendation of the Microsimulation Scope of Work to the MPO’s Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Cross. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Other Business

Mr. Abildso noted there have been updates on repaving and drainage on the Rail Trail, and that the Collins Ferry Connector will open 6/9/2023.

Mr. Cross noted that paving on Patterson Drive looks good. But he is concerned about two lanes creating a weaving issue. He suggested PR, possibly in the Dominion Post, to educate drivers about new crosswalk and how to be aware of pedestrians crossing. Mr. Austin said the Dominion Post would provide space for safety education, could be used to address this concern. Mr. Cross suggested a diagram.

Mr. Zeni commented about Sabrton Ave. and another street connected to the Mile Ground (City Streets). He noted there was an increase in traffic directed to these narrow streets, and people are not driving well/safely on them. Mr. Zeni raised concern about traffic safety with construction on Mile Ground Road. Mr. Austin noted this was a temporary situation.

Mr. Cross raised a concern about the long duration of the light at Mon Blvd and Patterson Dr. Mr. Austin noted he had correspondence with Charleston Traffic Operations, and they have identified a need to do a study at Mon Blvd and Patterson Dr.

Ms. Morgan raised a concern about pedestrian issues at Maple Drive and Mon General. She takes the Purple Line (Mountain Lion) frequently, and the stop at Oasis Café is popular. There is a blind turn and

increase in speed from drivers, making it dangerous for pedestrians and those getting off at that bus stop. Mr. Austin said a traffic study at this intersection could help address this issue.

Mr. Austin noted the WRA Study for the Division of Highways on Pedestrians has been folded into the State's Highway Safety Program. He will be attending the meeting to kick off this Program next week. They have 7 emphasis areas, one being pedestrian safety. A plan will be provided for the MMMPO and this plan can begin to be implemented.

## **8. Meeting Adjournment**

The Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM