

**MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2016 MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown

**Members Absent:**, Chairman Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Vice Chairman Mayor Herman Reid-Star City, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Randy Hudak-WVU, Councilperson Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown.

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin

**1. Call to Order**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mr. Austin called the meeting to order. Mr. Austin requested that the Board select an interim chairman for this meeting. Mr. Bruffy moved to select Mr. Kelly as the interim chairman; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**2. Public Comment**

Robert Morgano, a resident living in the Suncrest area, noted that a roundabout at the intersection of University Ave and Collins Ferry Rd will deeply impact his property adjacent to that intersection as well as the connecting street in that area. He noted that he is interested in joining the effort to develop a safe and a better solution at that intersection.

Mr. Anthony Sodoro, a resident living in the Suncrest area, expressed his concerns that the proposed roundabout at the intersection of University Ave and Collins Ferry Rd will reduce the accessibility of businesses located nearby. He noted that more effort should be made to identify a solution that will improve the overall safety and efficiency in the project area.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has been aware of those concerns and has forwarded this information to the DOH.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Kelly introduced the approval of the Minutes for the September meeting. Commissioner Bloom moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Councilperson Goodwin. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

#### **4. Reports**

##### *a. Citizens Advisory Committee Report*

Mr. Rice, the Chairman of the CAC, noted that the CAC members served on the steering committee for the 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. He encouraged community participation in the 2016 MTP Update process. Mr. Rice then noted that under the new state administration and legislation, the CAC aims to play a positive role to move transportation projects forward in this region. He noted that the CAC recommended approval of the MPO's 2017 meeting calendar to the Policy Board.

##### *b. Finance Report*

Mayor Lewis presented the Finance Report for October as the following:

-- Beginning balance in October \$30,049.48 with expenditures of \$20,130.46 and one deposits of \$2,660.00, leaving a balance of \$12,579.02 at the beginning of November.

Mr. Statler moved to accept the October Finance Report; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

##### *c. Executive Directors Report*

###### *i. I-79 Access Study Update*

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO held a public meeting at the Mountaineer Station on Oct 11. 55 people attended the meeting. All the alternatives developed in the Study were presented to the public for comments. Mr. Austin noted that the Alternative 12, a combination of Alternative 10 and Alternative 6, is currently considered the favorite alternative. Mr. Bruffy noted that the turnout at this meeting is satisfactory and he expects more public participation at right-of-way and engineering stage.

###### *ii. Update on Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update*

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is in the process of reviewing goals and objectives of the 2013 Long Range Transportation Plan. MPO staff proposed minor changes to some objectives, to reflect the new requirement outlined by the recently adopted FAST Act.

Mr. Austin then noted that MPO has held a public meeting for the 2016 MTP Update at the Marilla Park Recreation center. The project map and status, the environmental justice analysis, September community survey results, project ranking criteria, and the planning process were presented at the meeting. Information on the I-79 Access Study were also presented at the meeting. Approximately 22 people attended this meeting.

#### **5. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH requested removal of two projects. One is the I-68 Exit 7 Ramp Widening project and the other is CO 73 (Smithtown Road) Resurfacing project. The DOH requested adding four projects for TIP Amendments. They are Deckers Creek Trail design and construction, WV 100 Granville Bertha Hill Slide Correction Project, and Mon River Trail Maintenance Equipment Purchase.

Commissioner Bloom noted that Smithtown road has been an enduring concern of the community because of its defective road condition. The road is heavily used by the residents living in the southern part of the county, and there is a lot of truck traffic on that road. Major Lewis noted that WV 100 in

Granville is of similar situation. Commissioner Bloom noted that it will be imprudent to approve the removal of the CO 73 resurfacing project without requesting a clarification for its reason. Mr. Carr noted that the CO 73 resurfacing project is for short term maintenance and its funding is not sufficient to solve the major problems on that road. He then noted that the State is cutting funding for paving projects due to funding shortage. Mr. Statler asked whether it is a statewide funding deficiency or it applies only to the certain districts of the DOH. Mr. Carr noted that it is a statewide funding shortage and DOH primarily use a funding formula to allocate funds to each district.

Commissioner Bloom noted that the proposed TIP Amendment requests that the University Ave/Collins Ferry Rd intersection improvement project be postponed to 2019. He asked how the community can provide input to the project at its engineering stage. Mr. Austin noted that MPO can facilitate the communication between the project design engineers and pertinent property owners. Mr. Statler asked about the funding source for the project. Mr. Austin noted that it is funded by the Federal's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement program.

Mr. Statler moved to approve the proposed TIP Amendment, except for the CO 79 Resurfacing project; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Statler, in a separate resolution, moved to approve the removal of CO 73 resurfacing project with a request for a maintenance review on Smithtown Rd by DOH; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

## **6. Approval of Draft 2017 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff have prepared a draft 2017 meeting schedule. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the draft 2017 meeting schedule, seconded by Mr. Statler. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

## **7. Input on MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2017-18**

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff is seeking input from the Policy Board on work to be performed in the upcoming fiscal year as a part of the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Austin then noted that staff has been asked to consider performing an update of the Regional Pedestrian Plan as one of the primary in-house work tasks in the upcoming fiscal year. This work will include integrating the Granville/Westover Pedestrian Plan into the larger regional plan.

Mr. Bruffy noted that it would be helpful that DOH staff identify the amount of financial resource that is needed to adequately maintain the State routes in Monongalia County. The information could be used to address the gap between the funding that is available and the funding that is required. Mr. Statler suggested identifying some projects that can be constructed within a short time once required funding for those projects is in place. Mr. Carr agreed and noted that most shovel ready projects require significant financial investment. Under the current economic climate, those investment is unlikely to occur. Mr. Austin noted that some projects included in the MPO's transportation plan can be implemented in a relatively short time, such as Greenbag Rd improvement project and Van Voorhis improvements project.

## **8. Administrative Items:**

### *a. Appointment of Officer Nominating Committee*

Mr. Austin noted that according to the MPO's By Laws, the Policy Board is to elect new officers during the first business meeting of the year. Mr. Kelly asked volunteers to serve on a nominating committee for the election. Mr. Bruffy, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Statler agreed to serve on the nominating committee.

### *b. Notice of Director Review*

Mr. Austin noted that the 2017 Executive Directors review will be held during the January Policy Board meeting. Staff will be sending out an evaluation form to each Policy Board member by email within the next week.

## **9. Other Business**

Mr. Statler noted that the 2017 Monongalia Day in Charleston will be in March.

## **10. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.