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## **MINUTES**

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room

January 13, 2015

1:30 PM

### **Members Present**

Rich Wood-MCPC, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Fouad Shoukry-WV DOH, Christopher Fletcher-City of Morgantown, , Bill Austin-MMMPO

### **Others Present**

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

### **I. Call to Order**

Bill Austin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the November meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Austin called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Wood. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **III. Draft 2015 Calendar**

Mr. Austin noted that the Draft 2015 Calendar was included in the agenda package for the committee's review. The Committee accepted the Draft 2015 Calendar as presented.

#### **IV. Draft 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is preparing its FY 2015-2016 UPWP. Major projects that the MPO anticipates undertaking include the completion of University Complete Street Study and the completion of I-79 Access Study. The budget for each study will be divided into this fiscal year and the next fiscal year. Mr. Austin then noted that the MPO will conduct the Westover Pedestrian Improvement Study in house. Mr. Austin went on to note that at no additional cost, the MPO intends to integrate two analysis tools into future project evaluation process. They are the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and the FHWA INVEST sustainability assessment.

Mr. Carr commented that the scope of University Complete Street Study should be adequately attuned to the transportation related issues to satisfy funding requirements from WV DOH. Mr. Fletcher commented that land-use concerns should be an integrated part of the study to maintain the consistency between transportation facilities and land-use development. Mr. Austin noted that this study will primarily focus on transportation issues and will include a large lane-use component to make sure the plan sustains any land use improvements in the future. He also noted that other aspects that should be emphasized in the scope of work in this project include traffic modeling, impact of changes on Beechurst Ave, and data collection for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend the proposed UPWP for approval by the MPO Policy Board; second by Mr. Carr. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin then noted that the MPO is to adjust the contribution to retirement funds from 12.5% to 14%. This adjustment was made to keep the rate consistent with the statewide retirement system, in accordance with the MPO's Policy.

#### **V. Status Report on Greenbag Road Study**

Mr. Austin noted that two maps of the Greenbag Rd Study have been included in the agenda to the committee for review. These maps illustrate initially proposed short-term and long-term improvements along the corridor. Also included in the meeting's package is a memo summarizing findings about the time saving benefits of some of the short-term improvements.

Mr. Fletcher noted that the projected population growth area shown in the maps is not accurate, based on current zoning regulations in that area. He also noted that the land adjacent to Lucky Ln and Greenbag Rd is currently under consideration for rezoning to a higher density use. Mr. Carr noted that WV DOH has been informed about the proposed development at the Luckey Ln/Greenbag Rd intersection area, but is uncertain of the actual circulation plan intended by its developer. Mr. Carr also noted that the ongoing study on CR 73 and US 119 would greatly enrich the understanding on how to improve the safety and efficiency at the intersection of Greenbag Rd and US 119. Mr. Austin noted that those identified improvements will be presented to the public for comments and then be further refined by the Steering Committee.

#### **VI. Status Report University Avenue Complete Streets Study**

Mr. Austin noted that he is coordinating with stakeholders to develop the scope of work for the University Avenue Complete Street Study and is expecting to work out a contract with the consultant in February.

## **VII. Status Report I-79 Access Study**

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study is proceeding and the consulting firm has submitted an initial scope to the MPO for review.

## **VIII. Other Business**

Mr. Shoukry noted that for the coming construction season, WV DOH is to undertake a sidewalk project at the Mountain Line Transit Terminal at Westover and the intersection improvement project at the US 119/VW 7 intersection. Mr. Shoukry also noted that he expects to meet stakeholders of the Mon Blvd Projects to determine a satisfactory site plan and cross section for the project.

Mr. Fletcher asked who is the designated person representing WV DOH in the City's Technical Review Team. Mr. Shoukry noted that he will represent WV DOH in that team.

## **VIII Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.