



TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY MEETING

October 10th, 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:

Bill Austin (Chair), Andrew Gast-Bray, Drew Gatlin, Jason Stinespring, Jeremy Evans, Brian Carr, Michael Dougherty, Kara Greathouse, Latina Mayle

Others Present: Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang, Robert Flackler

1. Call to Order

The TTAC meeting was held virtually and in person. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized. With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 1:02 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Gast-Bray moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Evans. The motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

3. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin stated the West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways has requested the following TIP Amendments:

ADD

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD

Federal ID: STBG2023312D. Engineering. FY2023. Construction New Road & Bridge. Federal Funds: \$3,720,000; Total funds: \$4,650,000. Obligation Date: 10/28/2023.

Federal ID: STBG2023313D. Right of Way. FY2024. Construction New Road & Bridge. Federal Funds: \$6,400,000; total funds: \$8,000,000. Obligation Date: 10/28/2023.

Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction. FY2024. Construction New Road & Bridge. Federal Funds: \$57,600,000; total funds: \$72,000,000. Obligation Date: 2/28/2024.

MODIFY

STAR CITY INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT (I-79 Exit 155).

-Federal ID: NHPP0079156D, Construction. FY2028. Reconstruct interchange. Federal Funds: \$59,400,000, total funds: \$66,000,000. Action: Move to FFY 2029, changing to federal funded projects with \$59,400,000 federal funds.

Mr. Gatlin asked about funding for the southern bridge project and Star City Interchange. He reported citizens are concerned that funding is being pulled from one for the other. Mr. Carr clarified that these are two different projects and money is not being pulled from one to the other.

Mr. Dougherty recommended to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments; seconded by Mr. Carr.

The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention from the City of Morgantown.

4. Suballocated Funds Project Applications

Mr. Austin noted that the MMMPO has approximately \$1.8 million dollars in suballocated STBG and Carbon Reduction Programs funds available to program projects in our area. He noted the agenda contains a memorandum identifying the project applications submitted for these funds as well as staff's recommendation concerning these projects. Two applicants, City of Morgantown and Mon River Trails Conservancy did not demonstrate coordination with DOH, while Westover did demonstrate this. MMMPO Staff recommends approving Westover, and tentatively approving City of Morgantown and MRTC pending DOH approval.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend the Suballocated Funds Project Applications as presented; seconded by Mr. Evans.

Mr. Gatlin asked what WVDOH coordination is required. Mr. Austin said we just need demonstration that district or Charleston level DOH is willing to construct their project. An email would suffice. Mr. Gatlin also asked what the process is if an entity is underfunded for their project. Mr. Austin stated the entity can submit for supplemental funding, but it is the responsibility of the entity.

TTAC members involved with submitted projects abstained from voting. This included Mr. Gatlin, Mr. Dougherty, and Mr. Stinespring

Without further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

5. Draft Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Austin noted that it has been approximately two years since the MPO has adopted a new TIP, and the agenda contains a draft TIP for the TTAC's review. The MMMPO respectfully requests that the TTAC recommend release of this document for public comment, and staff anticipate that the Policy Board will adopt the new TIP at their November meeting.

This was an informational item, not action item. There were no comments from the advisory board.

6. Other Business

Mr. Austin stated he will be attending a Highway Safety Plan meeting with traffic engineering in Charleston on October 11th and 12th. He recently attended a national AMPO conference. Mr. Austin also gave an update on the public meeting hosted by WVDOH for the new southern bridge access. There were about 50 attendees. He reminded the advisory board that the public comment period is open until November 3rd. WVAMPO will be meeting with Secretary Wriston to discuss sub-allocated funding process on October 31th. Mr. Austin also noted that MPO staff, stakeholders, and Kimley Horn met for a kick-off meeting for the downtown microsimulation study. MPO Staff has given Kimley Horn the okay to proceed, and data collection will begin shortly.

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff, Jing Zhang and Jackie Peate collected pedestrian data at 705 and Maple Dr. because a CAC member reported the dangers of pedestrians crossing in that area. The preliminary results will be sent to the advisory board. MPO Staff will also be attending a Complete Streets workshop October 24th.

7. Meeting Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 1:24.