



## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 9th, 2024

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 (Chairman), Matthew Cross, Tom Zeni, Chip Wamsley, Wallace Venable

**Others Present:** Bill Austin, 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.

The newest member, Wallace Venable, introduced himself. Other members introduced themselves, and Mr. Austin gave Mr. Venable a brief overview of the responsibilities of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

### 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 edited; seconded by Mr. Wamsley.

With no further discussion, the minutes passed with one abstention.

### 3. 2024 May TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin stated the 2024 May TIP Amendments are as follows:

West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (WV DOH) has requested the following TIP amendments:

#### Funding Change

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AUTH AC). FFY 2024. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds reduce from \$57,600,000 to \$20,000,000.

STAR CITY I/C IMPROVEMENT. FFY 2029 Federal ID: NHPP0079156D. Construction Phase. ACTION: Federal funds increase from \$0 to \$59,400,000.

#### Add New Project

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2025. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2026. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2027. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2029. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$7,600,000.

Mr. Austin stated the Administrative Adjustments, which are as follows:

BROCKWAY AVE. Federal ID: STP0007305D. FYY 2024. Construction Phase. Increase Federal funds from \$800,000 to \$1,680,000; total funds from \$640,000 to \$2,100,000

UNIVERSITY AVE BRIDGE. Federal ID: HWI0119547D. FYY 2024. Construction Phase. ACTION: Total funds from \$500,000 to \$900,000. Federal funds from \$ 400,00 to \$720,000

The Administrative Adjustments are informational.

Mr. Abildso noted some of the funds are mixed up in one of the Administrative Adjustments, and staff will fix this before the agenda is sent to the Policy Board.

Mr. Zeni asked about the Industrial Park funds, did not realize it was a 5-year project. Mr. Austin clarified that this '5 years' is just for funding, not construction. Mr. Ausitn said they did the same thing with funding for Exit 153.

Mr. Abildso asked about match for STBG. Mr. Austin stated there is a 20% match for the Industrial Park and it is coming from the state. Harmony Groove funding is coming from the TIF district. Mr. Abildso mentioned that on the behalf of the MRTC, he wanted to state that mudslides from this new Industrial Park bridge will be damaging. He additionally asked about Star City funding, and Mr. Austin said it is at \$66 Million dollars currently. Funding is being shifted, but the project is still funded.

Mr. Venable asked about public comment and timeline for the Industrial Park bridge. Mr. Austin stated there was a public comment forum open and that they hope to start construction by the end of the year. He also stated that Ms. Belling was concerned that engineers said they will not fix what slides onto the trails, but this is because it is a financial issue and the engineers do not control that. The public will put plenty of pressure on WVDOH to get the trails cleaned up.

Mr. Venable moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments; seconded by Mr. Zeni. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Downtown Microsimulation Study Update**

Mr. Austin provided an update on the Downtown Microsimulation Study. There was a Steering Committee meeting April 30<sup>th</sup>. This meeting presented the data that has been collected and helped

familiarize the Steering Committee with the model they will be using. Also, AECOM will be a secondary consulting firm that will double check Kimley-Horn's to make sure it is accurate. The Steering Committee will meet at the end of June with the calibrated model, and Kimely-Horn will be asking for input. They will begin to consider changes to downtown traffic flow for improvements.

Mr. Venable asked about the consultants and background of this study. Mr. Austin stated AECOM will be reviewing Kimley-Horn's work. Mr. Venable asked if this data and information can be used in Star City and elsewhere in the area. Mr. Austin clarified the analysis is specific to downtown, but one could run this model in Star City with the appropriate data and time.

Mr. Cross asked about study area. Ms. Peate stated she will send the CAC the document that provides the study area and further information.

### **5. Community Garden Project Update**

Ms. Austin provided an update on the Community Garden Project. He stated the Steering Committee met on April 29<sup>th</sup> to score the four applicants. The Steering Committee members are Bill Austin and Andrew Gast-Bray from the MPO, and Rickie Yeager and Katherine Millete from the City of Morgantown.

Based on the scoring and after consultation with the Policy Board Chairman, the MPO is moving forward with the recommendation of the Steering Committee to fund West Virginia Garden Collaborative and Scott's Run Settlement House. They will be awarded the full amount requested. The Steering Committee came to the consensus to award Chris White's Community Garden on the condition that he provides further documentation of the organization that runs the garden, and provides information about volunteers. Mr. White did provide this information to the Steering Committee, so they are moving forward with funding the garden. Joanna's Jarden was an incomplete application and will not be awarded funds.

MPO Staff is currently drafting an agreement for the applicants receiving the grant money. This agreement will state that they will run their gardens as presented and explain the reimbursement process. There is a second agreement being drafted for the reimbursement of these funds to the MPO from the state. As soon as the MPO can get funds secured from the State, recipients will be notified and this project will begin. Projects will not begin until agreements are finalized.

Mr. Venable asked where the funding is from, and Mr. Austin stated it is from the Federal Government. This project exists to help mitigate the Community Garden being removed due to the Greenbag Road project.

### **6. Other Business**

Mr. Cross raised concern about pedestrian safety during the upcoming Summer Concert Series. He asked if there was a way to guide pedestrians under the dangerous crossing at University Ave. Bridge. Mr. Cross suggested installing a sign, but one would have to reach out to the district. Mr. Austin suggested a temporary sign, and Ms. Peate stated she will include safety instructions in the summer newsletter.

Mr. Abildso raised concern about conflict of interest of Policy Board members making decision on the Industrial Park Bridge. Mr. Austin stated the state has a and policy for Conflict of Interest, and this applies to the Policy Board. When a decision affects direct or personal property, members abstain from voting. Mr. Abildso stated that ‘word of mouth’ is that some members are in it for personal benefit. Mr. Venable suggested that the Policy Board could state they follow the rules as designated by the State next meeting so it is in the minutes.

There was brief discussion about the Downtown Microsimulation Study, and Mr. Austin stated that the alternatives will be brought before the committees for consideration.

### **7. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.