

# Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization Newsletter

## Summer Edition 2022



### Public Involvement Policy

June, 2022

Draft

#### MMMPO Policy Board Members:

Ron Justice, *Chairman*  
Michael Kelly, *Vice-Chairman*  
Patricia Lewis, *Treasurer*  
Steve Solomon, *Westover*  
Steve Blinco, *Star City*  
Joe Statler, *Blacksville*  
Dave Bruffy, *Mountain Line*  
Brian Carr, *WVDOH*

#### Monongalia County Commissioners:

Jeffery Arnett  
Tom Bloom  
Sean Sikora

#### Morgantown City Council Members:

Jenny Selin  
Bill Kawecki  
Dave Harshbarger

#### Public Involvement Policy (PIP)

The Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization is updating the Public Involvement Policy and requests input from the community. Please see the MMMPO's website for more information or to comment on the draft Public Involvement Policy. Copies of the draft PIP are available at the MMMPO Office and the MMMPO's website:

[www.planttogether.org](http://www.planttogether.org)

According to the current MMMPO Public Involvement Policy, the adoption of a new Public Involvement Policy requires a forty-five (45) day public comment period. The draft PIP will be available for review from Wednesday June 22, 2022 until Wednesday August 17, 2022 on the MMMPO's website and at the address shown below.

The MMMPO Policy Board will consider adoption of this document at a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday August 18, 2022 at 6 PM, location to be determined. If you have questions or comments contact the MMMPO Office at 243 High Street Room 026 Morgantown, WV 26505 or call (304) 291-9571. Written comments should be received on or before August 17, 2022. Written comments can be forwarded to:

[jmoberly@planttogether.org](mailto:jmoberly@planttogether.org)

#### Access the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

#### Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update 2050

The Morgantown Monongalia MPO partnered with the engineering firm, Stantec, to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Federal regulations require that the plan be updated every five years. Stantec conducted in-depth analysis of the current roadway network along with a comprehensive review of existing transportation plans. The MMMPO has been coordinating with the City of Morgantown, Monongalia County, and various other regional entities to integrate their comprehensive plans into the transportation plan. The MMMPO's Policy Board met in May at which time the draft document of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan was approved.

# Metropolitan Transportation Plan Tier One Project Listing

TIER 1 (TIP + INTERIM YEAR 2030) PROJECTS				
MTP ID	Project / Location / Description	Category	Length	Project Cost
-	<b>Current TIP Projects</b> Various roadways and multimodal projects already programmed for construction in the TIP. Including, but not limited to the Roads to Prosperity projects: Greenbag Road Segment 1, West Run Road (eastern and western sections), Van Voorhis Road Segment 1, Mileground Road, I-79 exit 155 reconstruction, and Beechurst Avenue/Campus Drive.	Varies	-	\$118,950,000
M73b	<b>WV 705 Corridor Improvements</b> From Monongahela Blvd to Mon General Dr / Don Nehlen Dr	Access Management	1.82	\$15,300,000
M52	<b>Earl Core Road (WV 7) - Northern Section Improvements</b> From Deckers Creek Blvd to I-68 Interchange	Modify / Capacity	1.45	\$10,900,000
M50	<b>Fairmont Rd / Holland Ave Improvements</b> From I-79 Interchange to Westover Bridge	Modify / Capacity	1.79	\$13,300,000
M64	<b>Willey St / Mileground Rd Improvements</b> From High St to WV 705	Modify / Capacity	1.67	\$15,700,000
M14	<b>Point Marion - Stewartstown Intersection Improvements</b> Intersection of Point Marion Rd at Stewartstown Rd	Safety / Intersection	-	\$2,100,000
M106	<b>Dupont Road Improvements</b> From River Rd to Fairmont Rd (US 19)	Safety / Intersection	1.24	\$8,800,000
M7	<b>Richwood - North Willey Intersection Improvements</b> Intersection of Richwood Street and North Willey Street	Safety / Intersection	-	\$1,600,000
M51b	<b>Greenbag Rd Improvements Segment 2</b> From Lucky Ln to Earl Core Rd (WV 7)	Modify / Capacity	1.86	\$12,400,000
M51a	<b>Greenbag Rd Improvements Segment 3</b> From Don Knotts Blvd (US 119) to Mississippi St	Modify / Capacity	0.75	\$5,600,000
M20	<b>WV7 - Deckers Creek - Mineral Pedestrian Improvements</b> Intersection of Mineral Ave at Deckers Creek Blvd	Pedestrian Safety / Intersection	-	\$400,000
C1	<b>Industrial Park Access Improvements - Harmony Grove Interchange</b> Exit 150 (River Road) <Tax Increment Financing (TIF)>	New Roadway Connection	-	\$10,400,000 \$31,200,000
M1	<b>Grafton - Smithtown - Don Knotts Intersection Improvements</b> Intersection of Grafton Rd / Don Knotts Blvd at Smithtown Rd	Safety / Intersection	-	\$2,100,000
M123	<b>Trail Connection - Collins Ferry to Mon River North Trail</b> From Collins Ferry Rd to Mon River North Trail	Multimodal (Trail)	0.27	\$500,000
-	<b>Design Study - White Park / Caperton Multimodal Trail Connection</b> White Park to Caperton Trail with pedestrian crossing over US 119	Study	-	\$300,000
-	<b>Downtown Microsimulation Model</b> Downtown Morgantown	Study	-	\$500,000

## Notifications from the West Virginia Department of Transportation

- Governor Justice declared Juneteenth to be observed on Friday, June 17, 2022. Therefore, the Virtual Public Workshop for the 2023-2028 STIP has been rescheduled to June 30, 2022, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Please see the Amended Notification below:
- The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is seeking input to help guide the future of transportation in West Virginia. WVDOT is in the process of developing its new 6-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The 2023-2028 STIP identifies project investments over a 6-year period to fund the operation, preservation, rehabilitation, and expansion of West Virginia’s highway and transit assets statewide with the revenue that is estimated to be available.
- WVDOT is hosting a virtual public workshop on June 30, 2022, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, for the public to review information on future funding levels and provide input on the potential program categories and funding levels for the 6-year period. The workshop will provide a venue for the public to ask questions and discuss the program with the project team. The input will be used to help formulate a draft STIP document that will be available for review and comment at a later date. Please visit the STIP website at any time during the workshop to access the virtual meeting.

<https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/Programming/STIP/Pages/default.aspx>

Please visit [www.planttogether.org](http://www.planttogether.org) and click “Contact Us”

## Community Committee Member Recruitment

- The City of Morgantown is looking for additional volunteer members for the 15-person Pedestrian Safety Board. Positions are available for City of Morgantown and Monongalia County residents. This is an opportunity to help make our community more walkable, safe, and healthy.
- The Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization is looking for enthusiastic community members to join its Citizens Advisory Committee, or CAC. The CAC ensures that the MMMPO receives input from the public regarding all transportation plans, programs and policies that the MMMPO Policy Board adopts. CAC members are appointed on a volunteer basis. The CAC is composed of citizens appointed by the Policy Board to represent the public interest in transportation decision making. The Citizens Advisory Committee meets prior to the Policy Board to review and evaluate matters and materials on the Policy Board Agenda. At this time, the CAC has openings for appointees to represent the local community and interest groups. There are seven CAC meetings per year (January, March, May, June, August, October, November). The CAC typically meets at 6:00 PM on the second Thursday of the month at the Monongalia County Planning Office conference room, members may also participate virtually via Webex meetings due to concerns surrounding the ongoing pandemic.

## Mountain Line Update

### FREE RIDES IN HONOR OF WEST VIRGINIA DAY

Mountain Line Transit Authority is pleased to announce that in honor of West Virginia Day, rides will be free on all local routes Monday, June 20th through Sunday, June 26th.

This week of ridership is to provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to get back on board or learn how to ride. Without worrying about fares for a week allows riders to experiment with the different routes, see where they go and get a better understanding of the opportunities the system provides. For trip planning visit [busride.org](http://busride.org) for all route schedules, our Google Transit Trip Planner and our Bus Tracker App. If additional assistance is needed for trip planning call our Mobility Coordinator at 304-296-3680. This ride free service is available on all local routes but does not include the Grey Line that travels from Clarksburg to Pittsburgh daily. For questions or more information on Mountain Line services call 304-291-RIDE (7433) during normal hours of operation.

### RIDE MON

Mountain Line has teamed up with Uber to offer a new type of service for a 6-month demonstration project serving residents along the Mountain Heights (Rt. 14) and Grafton Road (Rt. 15) bus route. Currently, the Mountain Heights route operates three runs per day departing the Westover Terminal at 8 am, 2 pm and 5 pm. Similarly, service on the Grafton Road route operates two trips daily at 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Saturday.

RideMon service will operate from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday through Saturday. During this 6-month Demonstration Project, regular route service will continue, but passengers will be encouraged to try this new service as a better way to meet their transportation needs.

Please visit [www.plantgether.org](http://www.plantgether.org) and click “Contact Us”

## Mileground Construction Update

Construction of the road widening portion of the Mileground roundabout is underway. The initial work in the vicinity was relocation of various utilities. The WVDOH anticipates the widening project to be completed in November 2022.

## Beechurst Avenue Spot Improvement Project

Beechurst Avenue Spot Improvement Project, including the relocation of the intersection with Campus Drive, was let for bidding June 15th, 2022. It is anticipated that construction of the project will begin in 2023.

## Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Study - WVDOH

The West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways is working to address pedestrian safety in the Morgantown area.

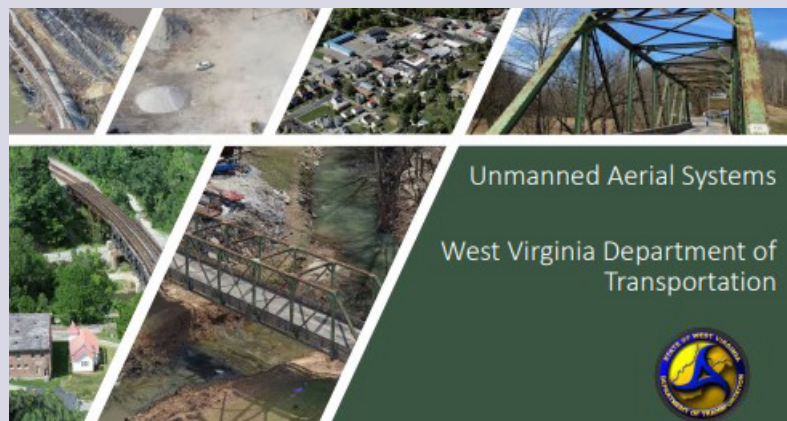
View a presentation about the status of the Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Study [here](#)



## WV Planning Conference in April

At the end of April the MMMPO staff attended a yearly planning conference that was held in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia at Cacapon State Park. The conference was a three day immersive experience in all aspects of transportation planning in the state of West Virginia.

To view the presentation materials from the 2022 Planning Conference click [here](#)



## Congrats Jing

MMMPO's Planner II, Jing Zhang, was recently nominated to serve as the Chairperson of the International Division of the American Planning Association. Jing serves this division by managing committee activities, developing and managing the division's communications strategies, working with the Association on any marketing and promotional efforts, and maintaining photographic images taken at the Annual Business Meeting. He is also responsible for on-going communication to members and oversight of the work from the Communications Committee which creates and distributes the division newsletters, e-news, social media, and other written and electronic member communications.

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