



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 9, 2025

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: Matthew Cross, Heather Morgan, Christian Abildso, Chip Wamsley, Wallace Venable, Matt Ridgway

Others Present: Bill Austin, Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang, Mike Nolting (Virtual, Press - WAJR)

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 approximately 6:02 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Abildso noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Cross noted the minutes stated he mentioned complaints from residents about Northwestern/Valley View, and it should be Willowdale. Staff will correct the minutes. Mr. Cross moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Venable. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Point Marion – Stewartstown Intersection Study

Mr. Austin noted that a CAC member had stated this intersection was failing, so Mr. Zhang conducted a study to observe the intersection. Mr. Zhang stated that MPO staff conducted initial field observations on September 16 and 17, focusing on peak hours, queues, and general conditions in the intersection area. MPO staff did a follow-up traffic count and evaluation on September 30, focusing on traffic delay, movement pattern and signal timing. The intersection functions as a critical link within the eastern portion of the MPO's urban area. During peak periods, operational deficiencies are evident, driven primarily by school-related traffic, constrained intersection capacity, and geometric limitations. Analysis indicates that three of the four approaches (excluding Farm View Road) are currently operating at LOS F during peak periods, an indication of significant delay. The intersection is controlled by an actuated signal system, which adjusts phase timing in response to traffic volumes. This control strategy has enhanced overall capacity and mitigated congestion to some extent; however, peak-hour volumes exceed the operational limits of signal control. MPO staff recommend a detailed engineering study to evaluate feasible intersection improvement alternatives, first using designs identified in the 2022-2050 MTP.

Mr. Austin stated this is not an action item. This intersection is very complex and these are preliminary findings. This intersection is in Tier 1 of the current MTP, but it is struggling so much staff did the study to add emphasis that this area needs work.

Mr. Cross asked if pedestrian crossings were considered. Mr. Austin said no and that University High School traffic is the biggest generator of traffic for that area.

4. 2025 – 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Development

Mr. Austin stated the 2055 MTP Draft is included in the agenda packet. This is being released for public comment, and the MPO hopes to adopt it at the November Policy Board meeting. The update is a minor update to add a few projects and validate the existing plan. Some minor things are missing, but an Appendix will be added to include all information. It will also include an updated Regional Travel Demand Model update.

The Steering Committee recently met to discuss the prioritization of projects. Mr. Abildso is a part of this committee, and reported the meeting went well.

Mr. Cross asked about the North/South Connector. Mr. Austin stated this is a part of coordination with the county work on pedestrian upgrades. These Subarea County Connectors are desire lines, and the MPO is working with the county to connect the area. There is not a budget for this area with MPO funds. The MPO is including these potential projects to tee up coordination and potentially funding at a later date.

Mr. Cross also mentioned that too many people are making a right on red at Beechurst and Campus Dr. This intersection gets clogged and is confusing with an exclusive green. Mr. Austin stated staff can observe this intersection, and he has been having good conversations with the traffic engineer at DOH, and can relay any problems.

5. Greenbelt Update

Mr. Zhang stated he is working with the Monongalia County Greenspace Coalition in an effort to bring the City of Morgantown, WVU, and the Coalition together to develop the Greenbelt. The main funding for the Greenbelt connector study comes from FHWA Complete Streets funding. This will help fund access points to the Greenbelt itself. Mr. Zhang is identifying these access points in the corridor. Staff is hoping to send out an RFQ in January or February of 2026. This group is meeting every Wednesday morning and will start to reach out to shareholders such as MRTC, BOPARC, and MLTA soon.

Mr. Cross asked about signage with road connectors for the Greenbelt, and staff said this was being considered.

6. Community Garden Update

Ms. Peate told the board the Community Garden Grant recipients have been in contact with her and are in the process of spending the rest of their funds. Recipients must spend their funds by the end of November. Ms. Peate will be continuing to stay in contact with the recipients and monitor the garden's progress.

Mr. Cross asked if the food produced from the gardens will be going to the community. Ms. Peate stated that yes that is the goal, and some gardens have already been giving out food grown from their gardens.

7. Other Business

Mr. Venable mentioned potential traffic issues in Osage as this area could be developed in the future. Mr. Austin stated the MPO will keep an eye on this area although it is un zoned, so it may be difficult to monitor.

Mr. Austin stated the Harmony Groove and Exit 155 projects are moving forward.

Mr. Cross asked about the safety study near the Applebee's. Mr. Austin told him the state will sign contracts soon to start this study and others in the Vulnerable Road Users Plan.

Mr. Cross asked about the issue with the Van Voorhis signals. Mr. Ridgway noted there had been a crash since the intersection changed. Mr. Austin will look into this.

Mr. Cross asked about the WVU Safety Walk. Staff heard it was occurring on the 16th, but had no further information. Mr. Cross also thanked MPO staff for discussing the MTP update at the last Ped Safety Board meeting.

Mr. Abildso thanked Mr. Austin and Mr. Davis for the pedestrian / bike counter at 6th Street.

8. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.