



MMMPO 2024 Winter Newsletter

2024 MPO COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Next MPO Policy Board

Thursday, March 14th, 2024

Time: 6pm

Next Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 7th, 2024

Time: 6pm

Next Technical Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

Time: 1pm

Policy Advisory Committee

Meets 2nd Monday of the Month at 9 AM at Morgantown Area Partnership Transportation Committee

How to attend

Check our website, plantogether.org, for the location of the March Policy Board Meeting. The meeting is also broadcasted live on our YouTube channel.

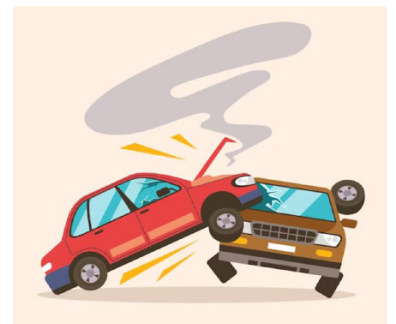
Meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee are held at the MPO's conference room at 243 High Street, Morgantown. The meetings are accessible virtually on: morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin

MMMPO INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Greenbag Road Design Study is kicking off, and the MMMPO has held the scoping meeting for this project. Stay tuned for more updates.
- **Need to report road repairs? Below is contact information for Monongalia County:**
Citizen's Request For Assistance - Marion and Monongalia Counties
Tonya Clemente: 304-326-0109, Tonya.S.Clemente@wv.gov

MPO STAFF UPDATE:

MPO Staff has been working on the 2018-2022 Crash Report. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of crashes. The report helps to identify trends within our region. It will offer insights for both transportation planners and the public. By examining the data collected over these five years, the MPO can promote a safer and more informed approach to urban and regional planning. Ultimately, this work will support the goal of reducing accidents and enhancing road safety for all residents and commuters. The finalized report will be available at the March Policy Board Meeting.



PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **CITY OF MORGANTOWN**



The City of Morgantown has provided the MMMPO with multiple updates:

The end of the 2023 construction season brought several prominent City of Morgantown projects to completion, including the Pleasant Street Streetscape, the annual paving program, and initial improvements to facilitate recreational use of the lands surrounding the new Cobun Creek #2 Reservoir. The city is now in full swing in winter operations mode and is pursuing several transportation projects in between snowstorms.

Year five of the city's post-municipal service fee capital paving program kicked off a reassessment of their pavement network. City Staff elected to reassess all road segments - not just those they have yet to repave - to help them understand how new pavement preservation techniques are performing in the short-term. The city is working with a new vendor (Cycl.ai) who rents mobile lidar (light detection and ranging), an optical remote-sensing technique that uses laser light to densely sample the surface of the earth, producing highly accurate x,y,z measurements, and imagery equipment for clients to perform data collection themselves. They are eager to share the lessons learned upon project completion - look for the city to present at area conferences later in the year.

The city continues to shift substantial resources toward complete street improvements on the network. They are developing a series of rapid-response pedestrian safety improvement projects in support of the pedestrian safety implementation plan. Spread across the City's seven wards, they aim to use these highly visible investments to drive public participation and engagement in the 18-month planning process.

The city's grant seeking efforts continue to pay dividends. They finalized their \$500K FY23 Brownfields Grant cooperative agreement with the EPA to begin cleaning up White Park with a novel technique that combines remedy with reuse. The city will achieve this by augmenting trail construction methods to meet standard WVDEP Voluntary Remediation Program cap and cover guidelines and implementing carefully designed and maintained amenities, signage, and experiences to guide park visitors through the trail system. They submitted another \$2M application in November 2023 to expand this program in FY24. They hope other communities see their successes and begin to emulate their approach to leverage nontraditional grant programs to help further low-stress connectivity and mobility goals.

By the next newsletter, the City of Morgantown should have heard back on whether their follow up Brownfields and another multimillion-dollar RAISE grant application they intend to submit in February were successful. That latter application would fund the design of long-overdue multimodal corridor improvements along Dorsey Avenue and South High Streets. For any questions on these projects, please feel free to contact Drew Gatlin, Staff Engineer for the City of Morgantown.

PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **MOUNTAIN LINE TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MLTA)**



Mountain Line has provided the MMMPO with multiple updates:

Mountain Line Transit has opened their newly remodeled terminal lobby. They have received the new furniture and it will be installed. Their terminal lobby is customer focused. It will have an area for kids, charging stations and a vending area. Additionally, there is a water bottle filling station and fountain for the passengers. Mountain Line hopes to have a Grand Opening in the near future!

Starting January 8th, Mountain Line Transit will be discontinuing the Mountain Heights (Route 14) and Grafton Rd (Route 15) runs. For the past 18 months, Mountain Line has been running a Demand-Response service called RideMon in that area to provide more frequency of service. Two vans are stationed in a specific geographical location and riders use a mobile app to schedule rides. The vans can connect riders to higher frequency routes or if the destination is within the specified geographical area, the vans can take them directly to their destination. The cost for this service is the same as a bus ride, .75 cents. However, the app also accepts all current bus passes including the Property Tax Pass, Reduced fare pass, High School Ride Free pass, etc.

Mountain Line has also completed their Rider/Non-Rider survey and they are pulling together the data that was collected. They received several hundred responses and will be analyzing the data to see how they can better serve the community.

PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **CITY OF MORGANTOWN- PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BOARD**

Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board members provided input and recommendations for the city's Rapid Response plan to implement high profile, lower costing transportation infrastructure improvements within city jurisdiction. They also appreciate the attendance at their meetings of Frank Enko, Regional Program Manager in Baltimore City County, Maryland. Frank works with the NHTSA and we welcome his expertise.



PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **MON RIVER TRAILS CONSERVANCY**

MRTC is seeing movement with the Foundry Street Link Project. The Foundry Street Link Project will use a city right-of-way to create a walking and biking connector between the Mon River / Caperton / Deckers Creek Rail-Trail and downtown Morgantown. This project is partially funded by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program administered by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways. MRTC has received notice to proceed to construction, and the contractor plans to start work in March of this year to install way-finding signs.



MRTC has also had an on-going trail-counting project with partners from the City of Morgantown, West Virginia University, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization since 2014. Total annual trail traffic recorded at five locations with infrared counters has hit 400,000 for a fourth year in a row, up from roughly 350,000 per year in 2018 and 2019.

ABOUT THE MMMPO

The Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) was established in 2003 to be the areas transportation planning agency for the Morgantown, West Virginia urban area. Any urban area with a population greater than 50,000 citizens is required by Federal Statute to form a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The two main functions of an MPO are developing a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and ensure that the use of federal funds for transportation projects aligns with the goals of the MTP.

Policy Board Officers:

Joe Statler
Board Chairman

Maria Smith, MLTA
Board Vice-Chairman

Mayor Patricia Lewis,
Granville
Board Treasurer

Bill Austin
Secretary, Executive Director

Policy Board Members:

Monongalia County Commission:

Jeffrey Arnett
Tom Bloom
Sean Sikora

City of Morgantown City Council:

Jenny Selin
Bill Kawecki
Joe Abu-Ghannam

Mon County B.O.E- Michael Kelly
West Virginia University- Ron Justice
Star City- Steve Blinco, Recorder
City of Westover- Mayor Bob Lucci
West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways- Brian Carr
Morgantown Area Partnership- Russ Rogerson (Non Voting)

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the MMMPO strives to provide equal access to all members of the public at our public meetings and hearings. If you require mobility assistance, sign language interpretation, or interpretation in a foreign language, please contact us at least 4 business days prior to the scheduled meeting or hearing. Our contact information is as follows:

Jing Zhang/Jackie Peate
planning@plantogether.org
304-291-9671

The MMMPO is committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate and be heard at our public meetings and hearings.

Our Partners

