



TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY MEETING

October 10, 2021

This meeting was held virtually on
<https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin>

Members Present:

Bill Austin (Chair), Andrew Gast-Bray, Latina Mayle, Michael Dougherty, Rickie Yeager, Jeremy Evans, Maria Smith, Brian Carr

Others Present: Jeff Pethtel, Josh Brown, Mike Cronin, Sharon Patrick, Jessica Shuey, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the TTAC meeting was held virtually. 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 1:00 PM.

Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to DOH District staff for attending this meeting. Mr. Austin noted that the committee provides a platform for transportation stakeholders to communicate and collaborate.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were not included in the agenda package. The minutes will be submitted to TTAC for approval in November.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the West Virginia Division of Highway (WVDOH) has requested amendments to the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendments include adding I-79 Bridge Replacement project to FY2022 and adding Patteson Dr RRFB project to FY 2022.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Dougherty. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will make several TIP administrative adjustments, including moving the Caperton Trail Drainage project to 2022, moving Caperton Trail Lighting project to 2023, and moving Greenbag Rd project to FY 24(right-of-way) and FY 25(construction). The adjustments require no action from the committee.

4. Performance Measure

Mr. Austin noted that WVDOH requests that the MPO adopt the State's Highway Safety Performance measure targets for 2022-2024. The agenda package includes a table outlining the statewide targets and the progress that has been made. Mr. Austin noted that the performance measures include targeted fatality/injury rate for both non-motorized and motorized transportation. The package also includes a table showing the status of local performance measures.

Mrs. Smith asked what actions the DOH has taken to achieve those goals. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH integrated pedestrian safety improvements to roadway projects and tied funding with each performance measure in the TIP to reflect the targeting measures for each project.

Mr. Gast-Bray agreed and noted that by doing this, DOH shows the association between projects and performance measures and helps stakeholders better understand the funding mechanism. Mr. Gast-Bray noted that if the DOH shares more data on performance measures, local agencies can collaborate with them to identify strategies to address the safety targets adopted in the highway safety plan.

Mrs. Smith moved to recommend adoption of the performance measure to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Gast-Bray. Without further discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

5. Status of Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff is working with consultants on the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. The Update provides opportunities for stakeholders to identify areas of improvements in the regional transportation network. The MTP update is coordinated with the comprehensive plan updates for local municipalities and the Monongalia County. The land use forecast will be integrated with proposed future transportation infrastructure improvements. Mr. Austin noted that the MTP update will impact transportation project funding to the region in the upcoming years, and he would like to invite staff of District Office to the update process. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO can expect to have a draft MTP update for public participation review by March, 2021.

Mr. Gast-Bray noted that the MTP update process has been excellent. It helps the County to push its comprehensive plan update. The process will help the County to include a more diverse population in the comprehensive plan update.

Mr. Yeager agreed and expressed his appreciation to the MPO for leading the process. He noted that it is the second time that the city collaborated with the MPO on plan update and he looks forward to the project moving forward.

Mrs. Mayle noted that the Town of Granville has held the first meeting for its comprehensive plan update. The next meeting will be on November 1st.

Mr. Dougherty noted that the City of Westover has also completed its initial meetings and is working the consultants on developing vision and goals.

6. Discussion of Bicycle and Pedestrian Data Collection

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO established a subcommittee focusing on pedestrian bicycle data collection. Many members of TTAC and CAC are in the committee. The committee will identify permanent and

temporary count locations for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The locations will be submitted to the committee for review and comments.

7. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH mistakenly proposed a TIP amendment to delete the Dent's Run Intersection Improvement.

Mr. Brown noted that the mistake was a miscommunication between the District Office and the Central Office in Charleston. The project was reinstated into the TIP. However, the money that has been set aside for the project is not sufficient to complete the project.

Mr. Carr noted that the Dent's Run project is included in the STIP for FY23. It is not sure how the project will progress, but the DOH will continue developing the project in the coming fiscal years.

Mr. Cronin updated the committee with recently completed maintenance projects by the District Office in the MMMPO area. Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation for the update.

Mr. Gatlin noted that the City of Morgantown is planning to install a traffic signal with pedestrian-leading phase at the intersection of Oakland St and University Ave. Since there were two pedestrian crashes reported in that intersection in the last two weeks, the City considers it a high priority issue and intends to do a rapid intervention. Mr. Gatlin welcomed input from the District Office on this matter.

Mr. Gatlin noted that WVU Police Department informed the city about the two pedestrian crashes at that intersection. Otherwise, the city would not be able to know the crashes in a timely fashion. Mr. Gatlin encouraged sharing crash data among the City of Morgantown, West Virginia University, and the Division of Highways. It would be very helpful for the staff to assess the road safety within the city boundary.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.