



# MMMPO 2024 Spring Newsletter

## 2024 MPO COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Next MPO Policy Board

Thursday, May 16th, 2024

Time: 6pm

### Next Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 9th, 2024

Time: 6pm

### Next Technical Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

Time: 1pm

### Policy Advisory Committee

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

### How to attend

Check our website, [plantogether.org](http://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](http://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin)

## MMMPO INFORMATION

### • Want to report road repairs that are needed? 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](mailto:Tonya.S.Clemente@wv.gov)

- There is a Public Meeting for the Morgantown Industrial Park Access - Monongalia County. It is Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the Westwood Middle School Gymnasium, 670 River Road, Westover, Monongalia County, West Virginia. See announcements on our website for more details.

## MPO STAFF UPDATE: JACKIE PEATE & THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM

The MMMPO is working with the City of Morgantown to support Community Gardens. This program can assist with the purchase of tools and supplies to implement a community garden in neighborhoods. The reason for this program is that WVDOH is preparing to improve Greenbag Road and this project will eliminate an existing community garden that serves the residents of the surrounding area. The WVDOH and the Federal Highway Administration will provide up to \$15,000 to be distributed to at least three (3) community organizations (not individuals). Groups are welcome to apply for smaller grant amounts, allowing for the creation of more than three (3) gardens. For example, there could be five (5) organizations awarded \$3,000 each, \$5,000 is the maximum that can be awarded per organization. Applicants should ensure that the garden is sufficiently accessible to the community participants, and produce food products for the surrounding community.

The application deadline is April 22nd. The application is on the MMMPO website. If you have any questions you can email staff at [jpeate@plantogether.org](mailto:jpeate@plantogether.org) or call at (304) 284-7302.



## WEST VIRGINIA VULNERABLE ROAD USERS ASSESSMENT FOR MORGANTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

Donna Hardy, PE, Assistant Director of Traffic Engineering for WVDOH made a presentation about Vulnerable Road Users at the March Policy Board Meeting. Below is a summary of the presentation.



### Background

A Vulnerable Road User (VRU) is a non-motorist including pedestrians, bicyclists, other cyclists, or persons using a mobility assistance device (ex: wheelchair). This also includes highway workers on foot. A motorcyclist is not considered a VRU. The VRU study is an assessment of the safety performance of a State with respect to VRUs as required by the Federal Highway Administration. The State has prepared a plan to improve VRU Safety. There are average of 66 VRU fatalities and serious injuries in West Virginia every year. WVDOH held several public meetings and sent out surveys for the State's input as a part of developing the plan.



### Results

The Public Survey asked two main questions, with 648 total respondents:

- *What Barriers Discourage You from Walking or Biking?*
- *What Do You Think Are the Most Promising Investments for Road Safety?*

Seventy three percent of participants said that lack of facilities discourage walking and biking, while sixty three percent of participants said that unsafe areas to cross traffic discourage walking and biking.



Sixty nine percent of participants said that more pedestrian infrastructure is the most promising investment for road safety, while fifty nine percent of participants said that more bike infrastructure is the most promising investment for road safety.

The State's Crash Data showed that in Mon County, there were 8 identified High Injury Networks. It was found that seventy one percent of the drivers involved with incidents were men. Seventy three percent of the VRU's involved in incidents were men. The top two VRU activities in fatal and serious injury crashes were pedestrian crossing mid-block at 32.5%, and pedestrian walking in travel lane at 23.6%. These crashes tend to occur at nighttime, and impairment played a big role in these crashes.

The Strategies and Next Steps include providing VRU accommodations along the High Injury Network and High-Risk Segments, educating road users on VRU safety, reducing vehicle speeds in areas with high VRU presence, updating crash reports for more specific VRU details, and a bi-annual reviews of VRU crash data and the status of strategy implementation. WVDOH is also focusing on improvements for Brookhaven Rd and Exit 155, in addition to other high priority projects and areas of need.

The full Vulnerable Road Users Assessment is available on the MMMPO's website.

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

The Pedestrian Safety Board thanks Frank Enko for his attendance and input. Frank is the Regional Program Manager for the NHTSA in Baltimore City County Maryland. He informed the Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board of Maryland's walk/bike to school education campaign for the public school system.



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

**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. The project has added new lighting and wayfinding signs for trail users on the Mon River Rail-Trails to connect downtown Morgantown and find other amenities on the 48-mile trail network. Lights were installed on the road overpass to shine on the start of the Deckers Creek Rail-Trail and route to Foundry and High Streets in downtown Morgantown. Four new wayfinding signs provide direction to restaurants, outfitters, and other services in the and destinations on the rail-trails. Two new totem signs mark the welcome entrance to trailhead parking at Sturgiss Street and Hazel Ruby McQuain Park. The Foundry Street Link 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. Learn more- <https://montrails.org/foundry-street-link/>



**Star City Repaving Project** will take place this Spring. Expect trail closures on mile 6 and 7 of the Mon River / Caperton Trail in Star City. Work is expected to take place between April 22 and May 31. Trail closures will be listed on the MRTC website and social media- [www.montrails.org](http://www.montrails.org)

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.

**The Mon River Trails Conservancy's Spring Handmade Market** is taking place on Saturday, April 27 from 12pm-5pm in the Wharf District of Morgantown. Art vendors will line the rail-trail in mile 10. Besides shopping and supporting local arts, there will be live music, free trees by Morgantown Tree Board, free health info and screenings provided by WVU School of Pharmacy, and free kid's activities. This event is a part of the national Celebrate Trails Day.

Learn more- <https://montrails.org/mrtc-handmade-market/>

## ABOUT THE MMMPO

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

### Policy Board Officers:

Joe Statler, Blacksville  
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:*

Mayor Jennifer 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)

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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](mailto: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.

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## Our Partners

