

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
MAY 19, 2017 MINUTES

Members Present:

Chairman Ron Justice-WVU, Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County

Members Absent: Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Mayor Herman Reid-Star City, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Brian Carr-WV DOH

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Justice called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2 Public Comment

Non public comment.

3 Approval of Minutes

Chairman Justice noted that the minutes of the March meeting were included in the agenda package. Commissioner Sikora pointed out an error in the financial reporting section of the minutes. The amount of expenditure in the minutes is not consistent with that in the original financial report. Mr. Austin noted that it is probably a transcript error and that MPO staff will have the amount corrected.

Mayor Shamberger moved to approve the minutes with corrections; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

4. Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Bill Rice, the Chairman of Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the CAC recommended approval of requested TIP Amendments to the MPO's Policy Board. He encouraged community support to move the MPO's programmed TIP projects forward.

Mr. Rice then noted that the CAC supports the MPO's initiative to apply for a grant from Transportation for American. The grant focuses on the role of arts in transportation planning and engineering. He noted that the CAC discussed some potential projects for this grant, including improving the appearance of PRT pillars.

b. Finance Report

Mayor Lewis presented the Finance Report for March and April as the following:

-- Beginning balance in March \$1,946.11 with expenditures of \$31,576.91 and two deposits of \$53,293.42, leaving a balance of \$23,662.62 at the beginning of December.

-- Beginning balance in December \$23,662.62 with expenditures of \$21,345.50 and one deposit of \$22,028.88, leaving a balance of \$24,346.00 at the beginning of December.

Mayor Shamberger moved to approve the finance report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Executive Directors Report

i. Beechurst Avenue Study Status Report

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff collected data for the Beechurst Ave Corridor Study, which include turning movement counts, performing pedestrian safety audit, collecting speed data, and land use information. MPO staff is working with a WVU professor to develop a Vissim model to simulate the traffic pattern on Beechurst Ave and S University Ave from 8th Street to Foundry Street. It is expected that the baseline model will be available for review in the middle of July.

Mr. Austin noted that the primary focus of this project is to evaluate a wide range of alternatives to improve traffic operation in the Beechurst corridor. Various cross-sections will be evaluated based on the built environment and forecasted development in the corridor. Improvements for pedestrian safety will be an integrate part of the plan. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has held a steering committee meeting for the Study. Committee members discussed the project scope of work, study schedule, and major concerns in the corridor. Chairman Justice expressed his appreciation to city staff for providing helpful land use information during the meeting.

Commissioner Bloom noted that the intersection 3rd Street and Beechurst Ave is a particular concern of the community. Mr. Austin noted that safety and operational improvements at that intersection will be considered in the corridor study.

ii. WV DOH Ongoing Project Update

Mr. Austin noted that the intersection improvement project at WV 7 and Greenbag Rd will realign the intersection with a optimized traffic timing plan to improve safety and efficiency. The alternative has relatively smaller impact to adjacent properties. The project is expected for construction in 2018. Councilperson Selin asked if the left turn to Greenbag Rd will be improved for commercial trucks. Mr. Austin noted that the turning movement will be improved.

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH will do a resurfacing project on West Run Rd this summer. The Easton Hill intersection will be closed in July for two weeks for construction. MUB is doing drainage improvements and utility relocation on Mon Blvd to prepare for the construction of the TWLTL project on Mon Blvd next year. Councilperson Selin asked about pedestrian and bicycle accommodation in the Mon Blvd TWLTL project. Mr. Austin noted that sidewalks will be provided on the east side of the road. There will be a bicycle climbing lane starting from the Boyers Ave intersection. Mr. Austin then noted that the Dents Run project and Mileground reconstruction project are in the right-of-way phase.

Chairman Justice noted that he met the Dominion Post's editorial board and discussed the status of ongoing projects in the MPO's TIP. He noted the importance of continuing community support for programmed projects in the MPO's TIP and the commitment from the DOH to move those projects forward.

iii. Need for Bylaw Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff assessed the need for Bylaw Amendments and concluded that there is no need to amend the MPO's Bylaw at this time to create a Freight Advisory Committee. It is suggested that the committee members meet at least two times a year and hold additional meetings as needed for major studies and projects.

Mr. Austin then noted that he is looking for volunteers from the Policy Board to serve on an audit selection committee. Mr. Austin noted that he himself will be on the committee and at least 2 members from the Board is needed. Mayor Shamberger, Commissioner Sikora, and Mayor Lewis noted that they can serve on this committee.

5 TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH and WVU have requested TIP Amendments. Chairman Justice read the TIP Amendments requested by DOH, which includes White Day Creek Bridge replacement project, Pleasant Street Streetscape Project, US 119 resurface Hornbeck to Scott Ave project. Commissioner Bloom asked about the scope of work of the Pleasant Street project. Mr. Austin noted that the project includes improvements on street lights, planters, sidewalk, and crosswalk. Councilperson Nugent moved to approve the TIP Amendments; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin noted that the TIP amendments requested by WVU are essentially the same as the TIP Amendments approved by the Policy Board at the March meeting except that WVU had included the installation of an HVAC System and the installation of an industrial uninterruptable power supply in the update to the PRT's control system. The FTA requested the information be shown in disaggregate in the TIP. Commissioner Sikora moved to approve the TIP Amendments; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. Freight Advisory Committee Creation

Chairman Justice read the Resolution establishing a Freight Advisory Committee. He noted an error of the date in the Resolution and corrected the error. Mr. Sikora moved to adopt the resolution with

correction; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed. Mr. Austin noted that the next Freight Advisory Committee meeting will be in August.

7. Transportation and Art Grant

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff has learned of a grant opportunity from Transportation for America. The grant focuses on the art in transportation planning, design, and construction. Major criteria includes equity, creativity, and community involvement. MPO staff has not identified an appropriate project for this grant so far. Mr. Austin noted that he is seeking the consent from the Policy Board to allocate staff time on this grant application. The deadline of the grant application is June 2.

Councilperson Selin noted that improving the exterior of former Barlett House building on S University Ave could be a good candidate for the grant. Mayor Lewis noted that improving buses provided by Mon General Hospital and Ruby Memorial Hospital could also be a good project.

Commission Bloom moved to allow MPO staff working on this grant application; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

8. Other Business

Mr. Rice noted that the MUB has completed the drainage portion of the Van Voorhis project and the road is ready for resurfacing. He commended the collaboration among the MUB, the DOH, and the City of Morgantown.

Commissioner Bloom asked about the information for a DOH contact person in the area. The information will help him to send out requests and to follow up concerns on transportation maintenance issues in the region. Mr. Austin noted that he will request that a contact person be designated and he will send the contact information to the Policy Board members.

Commissioner Sikora asked why separate the sidewalk construction from the current resurfacing project on Van Voorhis Rd. Mr. Austin noted that the current project on Van Voorhis Rd is primarily a drainage project, which was originally programmed for construction in 2014. The project was delayed due to personnel changes in the DOH. The resurfacing part of the project was performed under a budget surplus of the drainage improvements. Instead of sidewalks, wide shoulders will be provided. The sidewalk construction will be a part of Van Voorhis Widening project, which is recommended by the MPO's long range plan and is programmed for construction in 2020.

9. Meeting Adjournment

Chairman Justice adjourned the meeting at 6:51 PM.