

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
AUGUST 20, 2015 MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, , Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Joe Statler-Blacksville, Randy Hudak-WVU, Elwood Penn-WVDOH, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown

Members Absent: Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County.

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Nugent introduced the approval of the June Policy Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Callen pointed out an error in the minutes: it did not show whether or not Commissioner Hawkins was present during the June meeting. Mr. Austin noted that Commissioner Hawkins was absent in that meeting and the minutes will be corrected accordingly. Commissioner Callen moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Kelly.

4. Committee Reports

A. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Austin noted that Chairman Rice was absent at the last CAC meeting. Mr. Austin then noted that there was a good turnout. The CAC unanimously recommended approval of the proposed TIP Amendments. The Committee suggested that the Boyers intersection Ave project should address the impact of traffic turning left into the gas station near the intersection and the safety of pedestrian crossing on both Boyers Ave and Mon Blvd. Mr. Austin then noted that there was a good interagency coordination in the last TTAC meeting on proposed TIP projects, including the paving and striping project on University Ave. The TTAC also unanimously recommended approval of the proposed TIP Amendments.

B. Financial Report

Chairman Nugent asked Mayor Lewis to present the finance report. Mayor Lewis presented the MPO's May activities as follows:

-Beginning balance in June \$2,117.02 with expenditures of \$55,257.92 and three deposits totaling \$76,831.69, leaving a balance of \$23,690.79 at the beginning of July. Councilperson Selin moved for approval of the financial report as presented; second by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

-Beginning balance in July \$23,690.79 with expenditures of \$28,152.44 and two deposits totaling \$17,646.66, leaving a balance of \$13,185.01 at the beginning of August. Mayor Shamberger moved for approval of the financial report as presented; second by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

C. Executive Directors Report

i. University Avenue Complete Streets Study

Mr. Austin noted that the University Ave Complete Streets Study has completed the first phase of public involvement and existing condition analysis. The draft existing condition report will be available for the Steering Committee to review. The study team will present a conceptual design of the corridor and host a public workshop at the WVU Mountain Lair on August 31 and September 1. The Steering Committee meeting will be on August 31.

Chairman Nugent expressed his appreciation to WVU for hosting this event for the study.

ii. I-79 Access Study

Mr. Austin noted that the the I-79 Access Study is in the modeling phase. The study team is updating origin and destination data and general socioeconomic information. A draft existing condition report will be available for review in the next few weeks. Mr. Austin noted that the study team is seeking representatives from the Board to serve on the Steering Committee for this study.

Commissioner Callen, Mayor Lewis, Mr. Bruffy, and Mayor Shamberger agreed to serve on the Steering Committee.

iii. Westover/Granville Pedestrian Study

Mr. Austin noted that the Westover/Granville Pedestrian Study is in the process of collecting GIS and socioeconomic information. MPO staff met with Mayor Lewis and Councilperson Goodwin to discuss the pedestrian amenities in the study area. In September, the MPO will carry out a sidewalk assessments.

iv. Project coordination with WV DOH

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff and representatives from the WVU, DOH, and the City of Morgantown will meet next week to discuss the design of the Mon Blvd Center Turning Lane Project.

Mr. Austin then noted that the MPO is communicating with Star City to seek representatives from the City for the MPO's Policy Board, TTAC, and CAC. Mr. Austin also noted that the he, Chairman Nugent and Commissioner Callen met with the Dominion post editorial board. The meeting fostered a positive relationship between the MPO and the Dominion Post.

Chairman Nugent noted that the meeting was a fruitful discussion on various transportation issues in the community. Commissioner Callen noted that he appreciates the collaboration among our communities and the MPO is a key element in addressing long-term transportation issues in the area.

Mr. Austin then noted that he will be out of the office from September 8 to September 18 for two business meetings and personal business.

5 TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the Division of Highways has requested that 19 projects be considered as TIP Amendments. He briefly introduced the proposed projects. They are: Boyers Avenue/US 19 intersection improvement, Collins Ferry Road Resurfacing, Grafton-Morgantown Road Resurfacing, Harner/West Run Resurfacing, Van Voorhis Road Resurfacing, Indian Creek Road Resurface, Morgantown Bicycle Signs, I-68/Pierpont Road Interchange Improvements, River Road Resurfacing, Smithtown Road Resurfacing, Smithtown Road Resurfacing, University Ave Resurfacing, Collins Ferry Connector, Deckers Creek Trail Repairs, Foundry Street Linkage Trail, Morris Builders Bridge Replacement, Everettville Bridge Replacement, and Arnettsville Arch Bridge Replacement. Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to the WV DOH for those project proposals. Councilperson Selin suggested to approve all the proposed TIP Amendments as one resolution.

Mayor Shamberger moved to approval all proposed TIP Amendments as presented, second by Councilperson Selin. Commissioner Callen asked whether the concerns raised in TTAC meeting were addressed by the WV DOH. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH responded every question and committed to close collaboration with the other agencies. Councilperson Selin asked whether the Collins Ferry Rd resurfacing project will overlap with the construction of the left-turn lane to the new Suncrest School. Mr. Austin noted that the two projects do not overlap. Councilperson Selin then asked about the coordination between the City and the DOH on the University Ave Resurfacing project. Mr. Austin noted that the City and the DOH agreed to work together to ensure that the linear alignment of travel lanes will match up on the two sides of the city boundary on University Ave. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. Other Business

Mr. Kelly noted that the sign near the ramp to I-79 north on US 19 is confusing. It often mislead drivers who need to get on I-79 north into Dents Run Blvd, especially during summer when the ramp is blocked by foliage. Mr. Austin noted that he will communicate with the DOH on this matter. Chairman Nugent asked the status of MLTA Route Efficiency & Vehicle Maximization Study. Mr. Bruffy noted that the study is in the process of reviewing the preliminary recommendations.

11. Meeting Adjournment

Mr. Statler moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Callen.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.