



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 10th, 2024

This meeting was held virtually at <https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin> and in person at 243 High St (Court House), Room 026 in downtown Morgantown.

Members Present: Christiaan Abildso (Chairman), Wallace Venable, Matthew Cross, Kelli LaNeve, Thomas Zeni

Others Present: Bill Austin, Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

The CAC meeting was held virtually and in person. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized. With a quorum present, Mr. Abildso called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:01 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Cross pointed out a small error in the minutes. Mr. Venable moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Zeni. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2024 October TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin provided the TTAC with the October TIP Amendments.

MLTA requested adding bus facility roof replacement funding to FY 2025 with federal funding of \$1,360,000 and local funding of \$340,000. They are also funding increases for the Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement for FY 2025, FY 2027, and FY 2028.

WVDOH requested TIP amendments for two projects. They are:

1. Morgantown Industrial Park Access Road - moving FY 2025 construction phase to FY 2026 and moving from FY 2026 construction phase to FY 2027.
2. Harmony Grove I.C - moving from FY 2025 to FY 2028 with funding decreases.

Mr. Austin requested that the board vote on the two amendments separately.

MLTA Amendment Request

FY2025

- Add Bus Facility Roof Replacement. Source: 5339. Federal funding: \$1,360,000. Local funding: \$340,000.
- Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (1). Source 5330. Federal funding increases from \$145,240 to \$445,189. Local funding increases from \$36,310 to \$111,297.

- Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (2). Source 5330. Federal funding increases from \$241,031 to \$1,400,000. Local funding increases from \$60,258 to \$350,000.

FY2027

- Operating Assistance - Capital. Source: 5307. Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500.

FY2028

- Operating Assistance - Capital. Source: 5307. Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500.

Ms. LaNeve stated she has discussed these TIP Amendments with Mrs. Smith, and they are correct.

Mr. Venable moved to recommend approval of the MLTA Amendment Request; seconded by Mr. Zeni. The motion passed unanimously.

WV DOH Amendments Request

The following projects are requested to be amended to the MPO's TIP as non-groupable projects according to MPO's TIP policy.

- MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FY2026. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Type of Work: CONST NEW ROAD & BRIDGE. Phase: CON. Funding Source: STBG-FLEX. Federal Funding: \$10,000,000; Total Funding: \$10,000,000. Project Location Description: Connecting Morgantown Industrial Park to Don Knotts Blvd over Monongahela River. Action: move to FY 2027.
- HARMONY GROVE I/C. FY2025. Federal ID: NHPP0079109D. Type of Work: CONST NEW I/C. Phase: ENG. Funding Source: NHPP. Federal Funding: \$3,330,000; Total Funding: \$3,700,000. Project Location Description: River Rd near Master Graphics Rd (over I-79). Action: move to FY 2028; total funding decreases from \$3,700,000 to \$2,200,000; federal funding decreases from \$3,330,000 to \$1,760,000.
- MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FY2025. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Type of Work: CONST NEW ROAD & BRIDGE. Phase: CON. Funding Source: STBG-FLEX. Federal Funding: \$10,000,000; Total Funding: \$10,000,000. Project Location Description: Connecting Morgantown Industrial Park to Don Knotts Blvd over Monongahela River. Action: move to FY 2026.

Mr. Venable moved to recommend approval of the WVDOH Amendments Request; seconded by Mr. Zeni.

Mr. Zeni and Mr. Abildso had questions about funds being moved around for construction, which Mr. Austin clarified this is a standard adjustment that does not change the use of funds.

Mr. Venable raised concern that the public may be upset with the Harmony Groove amendment, and Mr. Austin clarified the timeline is still the same and construction will possibly start in 2025. Mr. Venable said more clarification in these updates would be appreciated. Mr. Abildso asked about the engineering phase for this project. Mr. Austin stated there is just a shifting in funding, not the timeline of work itself.

Mr. Abildso also stated he would appreciate more clarification on these amendments. Mr. Venable stated those working on the project should be cautious as they move forward with things like the environment.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin reviewed the administrative adjustments for highway projects that include adding three projects. They are:

1. Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Morgantown +1 with total funding of \$100,000 (federal funding \$90,000). The project is on WV 705 from Mon Blvd to the Applebee intersection.
2. Decker's Creek trail restoration with total funding \$260,000 (federal funding \$208,000).
3. District project of 2025 D4 roadway departure + 3 district project with total funding \$1,026,904 (federal funding \$924,214).

In addition, there are 22 administrative adjustments for 22 highway projects. Most of these changes are fiscal year adjustments and funding changes. All of those projects are groupable projects according to the MPO's TIP policy. The MPO will have an additional 26 highway projects removed from the TIP. These projects have either been completed or had funds obligated in the past fiscal year. Those projects won't be on the MPO's active highway TIP table, but their information will remain accessible in the MPO's archived TIP documents.

Mr. Cross asked about lighting on the Rail Trail, and Mr. Austin clarified there was a shortfall on funding and the MRTC will be requesting allocated STBG Funds in order to complete the project. Mr. Cross also asked about the Greenbag Road Path, and Mr. Austin said this project had been folded back into the main one. Mr. Cross wanted to state his thanks for WVDOH for their work on water retention on Burroughs St. and Walnut St.

4. Downtown Microsimulation Study Update

Mr. Austin stated the project is moving forward and is currently in a 'black box phase.' The Steering Committee has met and the CAC has been informed of the recommendations for the Downtown Microsimulation Study. Some of the alternatives include the closure of Grumbein's Island, one-way streets, and improvements to Willey Street. The consultants also want to look at better signal coordination. There are 5 individual recommendations, with the 6th being a combination of several recommendations. The consultants are finding via using the Regional Travel Demand Model and the small area study that relocating traffic from Willey St. to Snider St. helps reduce traffic. Mr. Zeni asked when there may be preliminary results, and Mr. Austin stated it would be around January of 2025. Mr. Cross asked if this includes the new Richwood project, and Mr. Austin stated it does. Mr. Zeni also asked if people will actually adhere to these changes, and if the model can correctly interpret it. Mr. Austin clarified that all the data available has been put into the model and has a standard interpretation of this. Mr. Cross mentioned the WVU Safety Walk, and noticed many pedestrians crossing Campus Dr. He hopes this study will help improve pedestrian safety. Mr. Austin stated he will keep the CAC updated as he receives new information.

5. Don Knotts Bridge Update

Mr. Austin stated this study is looking into enhanced access to the rail trail for the residents of 1st Ward. It would include a pedestrian bridge over Don Knotts Blvd. The MPO's on call consultants are working on

this potential project. Two consultants have received this project, and only one has submitted. Mr. Ausitn expects the second consultant to submit by tomorrow. WVDOH has concerns about feasibility, so they are conducting a study to see if this is at all possible. One element they are looking into is an elevator. The City of Morgantown will take over maintenance once construction is complete.

Mr. Cross stated this area is a zoned as B2 (residential and commercial), and this bridge would be great for the local economy.

6. Other Business

Mr. Cross talked about Joseph C. Barlow Bridge (Morgantown-Westover Bridge) accident.

Ms. LaNeve mentioned they are ending the free rides on Don Knotts, but they are looking into providing homeless individuals rides to services they may need.

Mr. Abildso asked about pedestrian improvements around Scott Ave as it is a big safety concern and many pedestrians use that area. A sidewalk may be helpful for safety issues.

Mr. Venable mentioned the new airline, United, at the Morgantown Airport and how they may affect freight travel, and how some in Pittsburgh were not aware of this change. He also raised concern about truck parking in the state/county. He sits on SW Pennsylvania Freight and can have discussing with truck drivers in the area. There is a limited amount of truck stops, and with the anticipated increase with the Industrial Park project, this is something to keep in mind. Truck traffic may become very backed up and cause additional issues for the surrounding areas and the truck drivers themselves. Mr. Ausitn stated the state has been working on a state wide freight plan. Mr. Venable briefly mentioned a how a passenger rail from Columbus, OH and Pittsburgh, PA is in the talks. The rail trail in that area could be converted back into a rail way. Mr. Venable noted Senator Capito's efforts for infrastructure in the area.

Mr. Abildso discussed how the winning bid for the Industrial Park bridge was cheaper than expected. The proposed plan would close the trail for up to two years for construction, but the MRTTC has the ability negotiate. These negotiations should be happening soon. He asked about resurfacing on the Westover-Morgantown bridge and if he could suggest improvements for cyclists.

Mr. Austin stated he attended the National AMPO Conference in Salt Lake City and they are gearing up for the next reauthorizations bill in 2 year and they are working on lobbying for that issue. He mentioned the upcoming election will have an impact on legislation. Star City is putting in an application for City Streets for all and will be coordinating with the MPO. Mr. Austin also mentioned DOH applied for a planning grant on behalf of the City of Westover with input from the MPO for the safety and pedestrian improvements on Fairmont Rd. They were successful in getting the grant. The CAC agreed that the area around Fairmont Rd is in need of sidewalks and improvements.

7. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.