



## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 13, 2025

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:** Wallace Venable, Matthew Cross, Heather Morgan, Kelli LaNeve, Matt Ridgway, Logan Thornsley

**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. Austin called the meeting of the CAC to order at approximately 6:00 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 Ms. Morgan. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. UPWP 2025-2026

Mr. Austin stated the UPWP for 2025-2026 could be found in the agenda package. The initial draft of the UPWP was presented to the MPO's committees at their January meeting. The work proposed in the draft UPWP is essentially the same as previously discussed the two primary work items for the upcoming fiscal year are the completion of the ongoing Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update and a study identifying the feasibility of the Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition's conceptual Greenbelt Plan. There have been minor changes to the amount of funding for various items since the committee's initial review in January but no significant change in the total amount of funding proposed for the MPO's operations. It is proposed that Staff get a 3% cost of living allowance increase as discussed in January.

Mr. Cross asked about the Greenbelt Study, as the Complete Streets website has been taken down and that would be the main funding. Mr. Austin said the system is being reworked to review DEI and Equity but it should still be available for this project. Mr. Cross asked for clarification on the 'new interchange' mentioned in the UPWP, and Mr. Austin clarified it was referring to Harmony Grove.

Mr. Venable moved to approve the UPWP 2025-2026; seconded by Ms. Morgan. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Crash Report 2019-2023

Mr. Austin stated the draft Crash Report for 2019-2023 can be found in the agenda package. Staff stated that the purpose of this crash report is to comprehensively document regional crash trends, crash locations, and crash types in the Morgantown-Monongalia County metropolitan area. This analysis will support the development of the MPO's 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update, providing insight into areas that need improve transportation safety. The report will be shared with the public

throughout the update process, and the findings will be incorporated into the recommendations for the MTP update. MPO Staff will utilize these findings and the supporting data in future projects when needed. These findings will be made available to other agencies in the area. There are many heat maps included in this report which help identify hotspots. There was new information in this data set, such as accidents under the influence and accidents in the dark. Pages 24-25 have a list of recommendations for areas that need safety improvements. We appreciate any comments you may have on the report that may help improve it. Staff requests that the Committee's recommend adoption of the crash report to the MPO Policy Board.

Mr. Venable asked if this document was public, and Mr. Austin stated it was and can be found on our website in the agenda. He also asked if the 'snowy and dark conditions' data overlapped. Staff will investigate this. Mr. Venable pointed out there was a crash point reported on I-79, and asked if it was supposed to be on Blue Horizon Rd. Staff double checked the coordinates, and it was in the correct place on the interstate.

Mr. Venable moved to approve the Crash Report 2019-2023; seconded by Mr. Cross. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Work Program**

Mr. Austin stated Staff would appreciate the Committees review of the outline of work to be performed as part of the MTP update. It should be noted that a good portion of this work has already begun. There will be milestones and updates provided to the CAC as this process moves forward. Staff will make sure MLTA is incorporated appropriately.

Mr. Cross had a few questions. First, he asked about the Board of Education on Brookhaven Rd and if a new school will be going in there. Staff will be talking to a Board of Education member about the proposed project and will be doing an estimated of trip generation by proposed land use for the property. Mr. Cross also asked about Valley View Ave improvements. Staff stated the State's Vulnerable Road Users Plan is developing plans for improvements in the area, as is the county. The MPO study will coordinate with the state's Vulnerable Road User Plan. Mr. Cross also asked about Meadowridge Dr., and Mr. Austin stated this was put in at the request of the County to improve connectiveness near Suncrest Town Center.

Mr. Ridgway asked about Van Voorhis/West Run projects. Mr. Austin stated they are moving forward with construction. He also asked about the bridge on Don Knott's, and Mr. Austin stated this area was not currently under construction.

Ms. Morgan asked about the development on Northwestern Ave and if there will be sidewalks. This area is included in the general area of improvements for the MTP. Staff recalled sidewalks from the preliminary plans from the developer. The plans are available in the County Planning Office.

### **6. University Ave Ped Study Update**

Staff noted WVDOH crash data to select this area to study, and they will be going out for pedestrian crossing data collection after Spring Break. This area is along University Avenue in Star City to identify potential safety updates.

### **7. Community Garden Update**

Mr. Austin stated Westover had to withdraw from the Community Garden grant. Funds were secured late from WVDOH, so it resulted in them withdrawing due to a staffing issue. Scott's Run Settlement House

and Chris White are still on board to begin gardens this growing year. Staff will be re-advertising for the remaining funds. There were other applications the first round, but they did not quality.

### **8. Other Business**

Mr. Austin stated he attended Mon County Day with MAP and met with Secretary Rumbaugh. This meeting went very well and they discussed updates to the TIP/STIP process. WVDOH will be re-examining large projects. He also met with Secretary Rumbaugh this morning along with FHWA and DOH Staff. DOH is reviewing TIP policies and procedures and looking to be more transparent and create a more stable flow in operating procedures. Mr. Austin stated Charleston and the local district have differing priorities sometimes, and the Secretary and his staff are working to smooth this out.

Mr. Venable stated he went to the Upper Mon River Association and people were wanting to know about the powerline that will run from Ft. Martin to DC. They have questions about the route and how this will impact Monongalia County. Staff will keep the board updated as they receive information.

Ms. Morgan asked about the traffic light and signal on 705 and if it will be adjusted for traffic flow. Staff stated we send this comment to DOH for an answer.

Mr. Cross stated he has a Suncrest Neighborhood meeting coming up, and many want to know the timeline for the Collins Ferry Roundabout. Mr. Austin said it will be about a yearlong project once started. Traffic may be difficult when construction begins. Mr. Cross asked if there will be pedestrian accommodations at the roundabout, and Mr. Austin stated there will be pedestrian accommodations.

### **9. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.