



## TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY MEETING

November 9, 2022

This meeting was held virtually at  
<https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin>

### Members Present:

Bill Austin (Chair), Maria Smith, Andrew Gast-Bray, Kara Greathouse, Brian Carr, Rickie Yeager, Chelsea Beytas.

### Others Present: Jing Zhang

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### 1. Call to Order

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TTAC meeting was held virtually. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized.

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 1:00 PM.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package.

Mr. Austin noted that there is a misspelling of Mr. Gast-Bray's name. Mrs. Smith moved to approve the meeting minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Gast-Bray; with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### 3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the MMMPO has been awarded a Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to complete the design of the improvements identified in the MPO's Study of Greenbag Road and to study the feasibility of constructing a multi-purpose path parallel to Greenbag Road. The FHWA awarded the MMMPO the full \$4.2 million requested for this project. A copy of the letter confirming this award was included with the agenda packet.

Mr. Austin noted that the discussion with WV DOH is underway to decide if the MPO will be the direct recipient of this grant or if WV DOH will take the lead in administering the grant. Mr. Carr noted that this award is new to the WV DOH administration and currently it is not clear how this award can be programmed into the current STIP. Mrs. Greathouse encouraged close collaboration between the MPO and WV DOH on this matter.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend the TIP amendment to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Yeager. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Highway Safety Performance Measures**

Mr. Austin noted that included in the agenda package is a memorandum identifying the West Virginia Department of Transportation's progress toward meeting their safety goals and the safety goals they are proposing for the upcoming year. The MPO is required to annually adopt Highway Safety Performance Measures to track progress toward achieving safety goals for Congress.

Mr. Yeager moved to recommend approval of the safety performance measures to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Gast-Bray. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Draft FY 2023 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Austin noted that a draft meeting schedule for 2023 has been included in the agenda package. The schedule is being presented to the committee to identify any potential conflicts. If there are any conflicts, the MPO will adjust the schedule accordingly. Mrs. Smith asked to confirm that all meetings will start at 1:00 PM. Mr. Austin confirmed.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the 2023 meeting calendar as presented; Seconded by Mr. Carr. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Draft Process for evaluating proposed projects for Carbon Reduction and Surface Transportation Block Grant Funding**

Mr. Austin noted that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides for MPOs under 200,000 in population to potentially have the authority to allocate funding from the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG). The MPO staff prepared two memorandums on this topic. One memorandum identifies types of projects that can be funded through these programs and the percentage of the project cost that would be eligible through the programs. The second memorandum outlines a draft proposal review process for applicants who apply to the MPO for funding.

Mr. Gast-Bray pointed out some minor typos in the memos and noted that the application review process is well outlined. Mr. Yeager asked if applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will set a deadline for the first year. Depending on the response, the MPO will decide the best approach in the following years. Mr. Carr agreed and noted that setting a deadline will help the MPO better identify priority projects and use local matches. Mr. Carr emphasized the importance of providing good information to the community about the grant, especially regarding project eligibility. Mr. Austin noted that applicants will be encouraged to have pre-application meetings with MPO staff on the project requirement. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff will seek additional comments from the Citizens Advisory Committee and the MPO's Policy Board.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the project evaluation process to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Yeager. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Input on projects to be included in the FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff is beginning work to develop the MPO's work program for the upcoming year. One item the MPO is considering is a detailed traffic modeling study for downtown Morgantown as identified in the recently adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). As noted in the MTP issues to be addressed in this study include the evaluation of alternatives for Grumbein's Island,

downtown traffic operations including an evaluation of street pairs as well as the operation of the Don Knott's Boulevard on the Waterfront and Willey Street.

Mr. Austin noted that the UPWP can include items such as the development of a small area plan, working to coordinate efforts between various agencies and similar efforts, or the conduct of large studies using consultants. Mr. Austin welcomed the committee's input on the UPWP.

Mr. Carr noted that the downtown traffic study will be a major study addressing downtown traffic issues. He noted that the study can potentially use a combination of different funding sources. Different MPOs in the State have different timelines to update their UPWPs. The WV DOH will evaluate funding allocation across the State next spring.

Mr. Austin noted that the downtown traffic study has been a high priority for MPO as it will provide important information for developing the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district on Willey Street.

### **9. Other Business**

Mr. Austin noted that he has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Associations (AMPA)

Mr. Austin noted that Jessica Moberly left the MPO. The MPO is considering two qualified candidates to fill Jessica's position.

Mrs. Smith noted that the equipment provider for the Mountain Line Transit Authority equipment discontinued their supporting service on the fare-collection equipment currently being used on Mountain Line buses. The Mountain Line is looking for alternative fare-collection equipment.

Mr. Carr noted that the State is updating its State Freight Plan and the consultant may do an introduction about the plan update to MPOs across the state. Mr. Carr welcomed input from local communities on freight networks and freight facility development.

### **10. Meeting Adjournment**

The Meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM