



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 8, 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, Logan Thornsley, Chip Wamsley, Tom 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. Austin called the meeting of the CAC to order at approximately 6:00 PM. Chair Abildso was not present, so Mr. Austin acted as Chair for this meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Recommendations from Downtown Microsimulation Study – Kimley Horn Associates

Mr. Austin went over the recommendations from Kimley Horn on the Downtown Microsimulation Study. Based on simulation results, stakeholder input, and the results of the evaluation process, the study team and steering committee recommended 2050 Build Alternative 7. Alternative 7 combined the most effective elements of individual scenarios into a comprehensive improvement strategy:

- Signal Optimization and Multimodal Improvements (Alternative 1)
- Grumbein's Island closure (Alternative 2)
- Realignment of US 119 to Snider Street (Alternative 4B)
- Intersection and Beechurst Avenue corridor Improvements (Alternative 5).

The next steps should include inclusion of Alternative 7 projects in the MPO's long-range transportation plan and coordination with city and state agencies for project development and funding.

Mr. Wamsley asked what would happen to the parking lots near Grumbein's Island, and Mr. Austin stated there are different access points. He also asked about the 119 realignments with Synder St and stated property acquisition could be difficult. Mr. Austin stated the Development Authority has already bought a lot of property in that area.

Mr. Cross asked about the timeline, to which Mr. Austin stated the goal is for this to be a 2050 project. Mr. Cross also asked about the 119 realignment and if it was a city or DOH project. It is a DOH project as it includes the Woodburn neighborhood. He asked if the bollards on Grumbein's island would be seasonal, and Mr. Austin stated they would not be. It could cause confusion and frustration for the public

and summer school students. Mr. Cross asked about the signalization option, as he just met with a WVDOH representative and they had a negative opinion on this option. Mr. Austin stated he will work on this and communicate with WVDOH. Mr. Cross stated he has talked to Damien Davis at the City of Morgantown about the tie in at University and Beechurst and asked about the timeline. Mr. Austin did not have any information, but we will check with Damien.

4. Preliminary Findings of Don Knotts Pedestrian Bridge Study

Mr. Austin discussed the preliminary findings of the Don Knotts Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study. A PDF of the design was included in the agenda. On April 3rd, 2025 a public meeting was held in the Train Depot in Hazel Ruby McQuain Park to discuss the potential Pedestrian Bridge over Don Knotts Boulevard and Pedestrian Safety in Morgantown. This public meeting included MMMPO Staff, Kimley Horn Staff, and City of Morgantown Staff. On April 11th, 2025 MMMPO Staff met with some residents in the First Ward neighborhood who had concerns about safety with the potential bridge. On April 19th, 2025 MMMPO Staff attended the Touch the Earth Festival and presented the potential Pedestrian Bridge design. More comments were received at this event. Comments received were mainly positive and supportive, but concerns included concerns about cost, maintenance, and safety (connecting rail trail to a neighborhood). Mr. Austin also noted this is a Tier 1 Project.

Mr. Cross stated there were a handful of negative comments about this potential bridge, and asked if the path on the hill could include lighting. Mr. Austin stated this is one of the possible solutions. Mr. Austin reminded the board this is very preliminary and there are many different options that will be based on different funding sources.

5. May TIP Adjustments

Mr. Austin reviewed TIP administrative adjustments. He additionally reviewed the TIP process to Logan Thornsley as he is a new member. These do not need action, and are an informational item.

Administrative Adjustment WV DOH Highway Project

New Project

HOLLAND AVE, FFY 2025; Federal ID: NHPP0019610D; Phase: Engineering and Construction. Type of Work: RESURFACE. Federal funding \$1,800,000; total funding \$2,250,000.

I-68 - SABRATON I/C & PIERPONT I/C LIGHTING RENOVATION, FFY 2026; Federal ID: NHPP0068219D; Phase: Construction. Type of Work: LIGHTING. Federal funding \$3,200,000; total funding \$4,000,000. Location: I-68 Exit 4 Sabraton Interchange and Exit 7 Pierpont Interchange.

WVU CAMPUS CONNECTOR PATH, FFY 2026; Federal ID: TAP2021465D; Phase: Engineering. (Federal ID: TAP2022114D, Phase: Construction). Type of Work: CONST TRAIL. Federal funding \$240,000; total funding \$300,000. Location: Between WVU Evansdale Campus and Grant Ave.

UNIVERSITY AVE TRAFFIC SIGNALS, FFY 2026; Federal ID: NHPP0019596D; Phase: Construction. Type of Work: SIGNALS. Federal funding \$513,600; total funding \$642,000. Location: University Ave and Fayette St.

Funding Change

JOSEPH C BARTOLO MEMORIAL BRIDGE, FFY 2025; Federal ID: HWI0019589D; Phase: Construction. Type of Work: BRIDGE REPAIR. Federal funding \$3,800,000; total funding \$4,750,000.

Location: I Morgantown-Westover Bridge. Action: increase Federal funding from \$2,800,000 to \$3,800,000; total Funding from \$3,500,000 to \$4,750,000.

SMITHTOWN ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNAL, FFY 2025; Federal ID: HSIP0119502D; Phase: Construction. Type of Work: INSTALL SIGNAL. Federal funding \$3,700,000; total funding \$3,700,000. Location: I Morgantown-Westover Bridge. Action: increase Federal funding from \$1,200,000 to \$3,700,000; total Funding from \$1,200,000 to \$3,700,000.
FFY Change

VRU MORGANTOWN +1, FFY 2026; Federal ID: HSIP0705024D; Phase: Construction. Type of Work: SAFETY IMPROVEMENT. Federal funding \$ \$90,000; total funding \$100,000. Location: W 705 from Mon Blvd to Applebee Intersection. Action: Move FFY from 2025 to 2026

Mr. Cross asked about the Smithtown layout. Mr. Austin said he has seen it, and the layout should help slow down traffic. Mr. Cross also asked about the placement for the sidewalk on Holland Ave, and Mr. Austin did not have any more details. He also asked about the campus connection path, and Mr. Austin stated it was still under construction. Mr. Cross additionally asked about the University Ave/Fayette pedestrian signal, Mr. Austin did not have any updates.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.