



TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY MEETING

March 8, 2022

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

Members Present:

Bill Austin (Chair), Andrew Gast-Bray, Michael Dougherty, Jason Workman, Maria Smith, Brian Carr

Others Present: Timothy Tresohlavy, Jessica Moberly, Jing Zhang

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. Gast-Bray moved to the approve the meeting minutes; seconded by Mrs. Smith; with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH and WVU have requested TIP Amendments. The DOH requested increase of fundings for I-79 Bridge Rehabilitation with federal funds from \$40,139,040 to \$63,270,000. The increase is due to a more accurate estimation on the project cost at the engineering phase of the project.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendments to the Policy Board; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin noted that West Virginia University requested to utilize the funds totaling \$1,674,325.00 for SGR activities that will improve and maintain PRT vehicles, stations, and guideway infrastructure.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendments to the Policy Board. Mr. Dougherty seconded, with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. 2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Austin noted that very little has been changed in the document since the committee review last time.

At the last Policy Board meeting the Policy Board requested that the MPO look at additional cost of living allowance pay increases over and above the 3 percent originally proposed. The draft document enclosed includes tables for 3%, 4% and 5% cost of living allowances for MPO staff. None of these proposed pay increases necessitate a significant increase in the budget. To keep the total budget the same the MPO proposes a decrease of \$4,000 in the *Consulting Services* line item and approximately \$1,000 decrease in *Travel Expenses*.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend the approval of the proposed UPWP without comments on the cost-of-living items; seconded by Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Carr noted that DOH has undergone some administrative adjustments on budgetary operation, including eliminating contingency funds. He noted that there is no guarantee that DOH will allocate the exact same amount as requested in the UPWP.

Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Tresohlavý of Stantec Consulting did a presentation about the status of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.

Mr. Gast-Bray expressed his appreciation that the plan is well organized and written. He noted three things to improve the draft plan. First, adding some graphic features to make it easier to navigate through the appendix. Second, providing a sample calculation of the prioritization score and explaining how the conversion is made from the evaluation matrix to the project score. Third, providing some language describing the interaction between the proposed transportation improvements and future land use development.

Mrs. Smith noted that the transit part is somehow disconnected from other recommendations. She noted that Mountain Line expects to identify opportunities to improve transit related infrastructure such as bus pullouts, queue-jump lanes, and right-turn pockets. Mrs. Smith noted that Mountain Line is exploring the possibility for a micro-transit program with a 6-month pilot period. The project will enhance transit service in the rural area within the county.

Mr. Tresohlavý noted that he will augment the transit portion in the draft and work on the refinement of transit recommendations.

Mr. Gast-Bray suggested connecting transit improvements with land use in terms of key modes and multimodal developments.

Mr. Carr expressed his concerns that some high priority projects in the previous plan, such as the industrial park access project, are not taken into high priority in the draft document.

Mr. Dougherty noted that the industrial park access project will help alleviate the traffic pressure on Fairmont Road in Westover as well supporting economic development in the park.

Mr. Austin noted that the steering committee will discuss the project prioritization before the Policy Board meeting next week.

6. Update on Transit Study

Mr. Austin noted that Mountain Line Transit has been working with the Morgantown Parking Authority and WVU to develop a consolidated fare system for the region. Currently, the team has completed the technical assessment, including identifying potential vendors and funding opportunities.

7. Other Business

Jing Zhang of the MPO did a presentation introducing an online transportation project information portal he developed. The portal is to help planners manage and share the transportation project information with the public, and to make it easier for the public to provide input on the MPO's transportation projects.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 PM.