



POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV
August 14, 2025, 6 PM

Members Present:

Chairman Russ Rogerson - Morgantown Area Partnership, Board Vice-Chairman, Maria Smith-Mountain Line Transit Authority, Mike Kelly – Board of Education, Mayor Patricia Lewis - Town of Granville, Mark Downs – City of Morgantown, Mayor Joe AbuGhannam - City of Morgantown, Tom Bloom - Monongalia County, Brian Carr, WVDOT – DOH, Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Jenny Selin - City of Morgantown, Steve Blinco, Recorder, Star City

Others Present: Jing Zhang, Jackie Peate, Michael Dodd- WVDOH, Kerri Wagner- WVDOH, Christiaan Abildso- CAC Chair

MPO Director: Bill Austin, AICP

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Rogerson called the meeting of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) Policy Board to order at 6:01 PM.

2. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Abildso provided the board with an update of the last CAC meeting. He stated there was a quorum and a good discussion on the MTP development. Mr. Abildso passed along Matt Cross's comment of thanking the City of Morgantown and other contributing entities for their work on ADA ramps.

b. Finance

Mayor Lewis provided the financial report for the months of May, June, and July. The beginning balance in May was \$54,323.76, there were 2 deposits totaling \$46,627.52, 22 disbursements totaling \$58,592.28, leaving the ending balance at \$42,358.63. This carried over into June with 2 deposits totaling \$37,728.44, 24 disbursements totaling \$61,133.36, leaving the ending balance at \$18,953.71. This carried over into July with 6 deposits totaling \$138,287.82, 21 disbursements totaling \$80,087.07, leaving the ending balance at \$77,154.46.

Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the Financial Report; seconded by Mr. Justice. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kelly stated he was pleased with how the MPO used the line of credit. Mr. Austin stated it also allowed them to end the financial year properly.

c. Executive Director

Mr. Austin provided the board with his report. The Exit 155 temporary signal has been designed and is preparing for an October letting. The Greenbag Rd design study is in the process of being finalized. A public meeting will be scheduled soon. The 73 and Don Knots Blvd signal design is finished and is going into letting next year. The West Run / Van Voorhis projects are projected to be completed in Spring of 2027. The University / Collins Ferry roundabout project is anticipated to be completed around August of 2026. The MPO has reimbursed the ongoing community garden projects about half of the available funds. The community gardens have been in communication with the MPO and there has been good process. The Harmony Grove Intersection justification report is in the process of being submitted to the FHWA. The City of Morgantown has been in communication with DOH about the Pedestrian Bridge, and DOH has accepted the project. He will be out of office the next two weeks on vacation, then will be in town for a week, then will be out of town for the National AMPO conference.

Mr. Kelly asked if the contractors for these various projects could communicate with the Board of Education as sometimes these cause delays and barriers for school busses. Mr. Austin will pass this on, and will ask the district construction manager to be in contact with them.

Commissioner Bloom asked about the paving going on at Dorsey near Greenbag Rd. There has been a lot of frustration with this paving, and he wanted to clarify that this paving is not related to the MPO's Greenbag Rd project. This was a normal maintenance issue/update. Mr. Austin will reach out to the district to find out more information.

5. Resolution of Recognition

Chair Rogerson welcomed Mark Downs to the Board. Mr. Downs is replacing Bill Kawecky and Mr. Austin will be presenting a Resolution of Recognition for Mr. Kawecky.

Mr. Austin thanked Mr. Kawecky for all his dedication and hard work during this 12 years on the Policy Board. Chair Rogerson the resolution as seen below.

“WHEREAS, Councilman Bill Kawecky, has shown great dedication and interest in improving transportation in the City of Morgantown and Monongalia County; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Kawecky's dedication and determination has improved planning for future facilities as well as helped to improve existing transportation facilities and enhance alternative forms of transportation for all residents of the area; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Kawecky has now left the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Mr. Bill Kawecky is recognized for high achievement and dedication to improving transportation for all citizens of Morgantown and Monongalia County. Resolved this 21st day of August 2025.”

Mr. Justice moved to approve the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Joe-AbuGhannam. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Blinco stated Mr. Kawecky helped him when he first began on the Policy Board and that he was a great mentor.

Ms. Selin stated she admired his dedication and hard work during his time on the board.

6. 2025 – 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Development Update

Ms. Peate provided an overview of the update of the MTP. The MPO has initiated the update of its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for 2025–2055. The key objectives of this update are to validate the continued relevance of projects currently included in the MTP, incorporate new projects based on community needs, and review and confirm project priorities and tier classifications. To support this effort, we have launched a project website: www.plantgether.org/2055mtp. The site contains the plan development schedule, public surveys, project maps, proposed subarea improvements, and other related materials.

Work for the MTP update includes crash data from 2019–2023. This data has been an integral part of the analysis done by staff, and the work validates the recommendations for corridor improvements previously identified in the transportation plan.

The Draft Recommended Subarea Improvements include Downtown Morgantown Traffic Study, Brookhaven Rd Area Improvements, Subarea Conceptual Connections for Mon County, and Star City / University Ave Pedestrian Facility Improvements. Draft visuals of these recommendations are attached to this memorandum. These visuals may be changed/updated during the MTP update process.

The improvements in Downtown Morgantown based on the Downtown Microsimulation Traffic Study suggested were:

1. Signal timing optimization and corridor coordination, and bicycle and pedestrian safety and access improvements
2. Grumbein's island closure
3. One-way street conversions
4. Willey Street improvements (capacity, realignment, or both)
5. Intersection improvements and Beechurst corridor improvements from campus to 8th
6. Combined Grumbein's Island, Willey Street, and one-way conversion
7. Combined Grumbein's Island, Willey Street, and Intersection Improvements.

The recommendations are identified as Scenario 7 in the Downtown Microsimulation study. It is a combination of Scenario 1 (Signal optimization and multimodal improvements), Scenario 2 (Grumbein's Island closure), Scenario 4B (Realignment of US 119 to Snider Street), and Scenario 5 (Intersection Improvements). Scenario 7 can be phased as standalone projects. Scenario 3, the one-way street conversions, was recommended to not be carried forward.

MPO Staff has analyzed the Brookhaven Rd Area due to ongoing land use development as recognized by the public. The improvements suggested will help accommodate the increase in traffic. Some of the recommended upgrades include the rebuild of the installation a traffic signal at the Earl Core Rd intersection, adding turn lanes and improving curb radii at key intersections, lighting improvements, upgrading stormwater infrastructure, and installing guardrails at strategic locations to reduce the risk of crashes (especially single-vehicle crashes).

Three specific subareas within Monongalia County have been identified by Monongalia County Planning as priorities for improving multimodal transportation connectivity. These areas were selected based on

their potential to enhance regional mobility, support planned growth, and address local transportation challenges.

1. West Run Rd - Riddle Ave - Area Conceptual Connection Improvements
2. Ackerman Area Conceptual Connection Improvements
3. Valley View Conceptual Ped/Bike Network

The planning for these subareas was developed in close collaboration with Monongalia County Planning, ensuring strong alignment with the County's land use vision and infrastructure goals. To support this effort, MPO staff utilized the County's GIS database and conducted field visits to analyze property boundaries, terrain conditions, and existing roadway infrastructure.

Star City / University Ave Pedestrian Facility Improvements were studied as budgeted in the FY 2024-2025 UPWP. Recommendations include sidewalk improvements, a potential new sidewalk near the Glass Factory and Storybook Daycare, Bicycle Blvd Treatment on Low Stress Bicycle Routes, and a Bus Stop Shelter. A long-horizon project for this area would be Reconfiguring University Avenue (Broadway Avenue to glass factory building). This long-horizon project aims to comprehensively transform University Avenue into a safe, inviting, and vibrant corridor by creating a downtown-feeling streetscape. This work should be complementary to Star City's Safe Streets for All Grant. Star City officials are aware of this project and recommendation.

The MPO is asking the community for public review and comment on these potential subarea improvements. There was a public meeting on August 19th at Mountain Line Transit Terminal that had 19 people show up. The MPO thanked Mountain Line for hosting this public meeting- it was a successful meeting. The next meeting will on Thursday September 11th from 4-7 at the City of Morgantown City Hall.

Mr. Carr asked if these meetings could add these public meetings to the WVAMPO calendar. Mr. Austin will add it. Commissioner Bloom asked about the potential of Grumbein's Island and what the new route would be. Mr. Austin stated the specific design is found in the report by Kimley-Horn. He said that traffic signals would help in the re-routing from the closure of Grumbine's Island. Commissioner Bloom raised concern about how the traffic would be re-routed. He will not support closing the island and just putting the traffic onto Beechurst. Mr. Austin explained the modeling shows it is possible to close the island, and with the reconfiguration of Wiley Steet plus signal optimization, it works. He stated the MPO will create a workshop and public meeting with the Kimley-Horn to discuss this plan in detail. Mr. Downs mentioned making Downtown more of a destination instead of a passthrough. The board agreed they would like to see a plan where people can still access the downtown businesses.

7. Other Business

Ms. Peate gave a brief update of the Community Gardens, showing pictures of the gardens from the Spring MPO newsletter. The grant recipients have been communicative and working well with the MPO. Many of them have active garden beds and are producing produce.

8. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjured at 6:46pm.