



MMMPO 2023 Summer Newsletter

2023 MPO COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Next MPO Policy Board

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Time: 6 PM, EST

Next Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Time: 6 PM, EST

Next Technical Advisory Committee

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Time: 1 PM, EST

Policy Advisory Committee

Meets Monthly as

Morgantown Area Partnership

Transportation Committee

How to attend

The MPO Policy Board meets at the Monongalia County Board of Education and the meeting is broadcasted on our YouTube channel.

Meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee are held at the MPO's conference room at 243 High Street, Morgantown. The meetings are accessible virtually on: morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin

MMMPO UPDATES AND NEWS

Mileground Road Update:

The Mileground Road widening project has been ongoing since 2019. Work to widen the 1.08-mile section of road was paid for through Gov. Jim Justice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity program. It serves as a major access road to two hospitals and West Virginia University's football stadium. The five lanes are now open to traffic, and it is expected to be fully completed in the fall as student return to WVU's campus. This widening project should eliminate traffic congestion for the community.

Need to report road repairs? Below is contact information for Monongalia County:

Citizen's Request For Assistance - Marion and Monongalia Counties

Tonya Clemente

Phone: 304-326-0109

Email: Tonya.S.Clemente@wv.gov

MPO STAFF UPDATE: JACKIE PEATE

Jackie Peate has recently joined the MPO staff as a full-time Planner I, in a joint position shared with the MMMPO and the Monongalia County Planning Commission. She holds a Masters of Public Administration in Urban Affairs and Planning from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

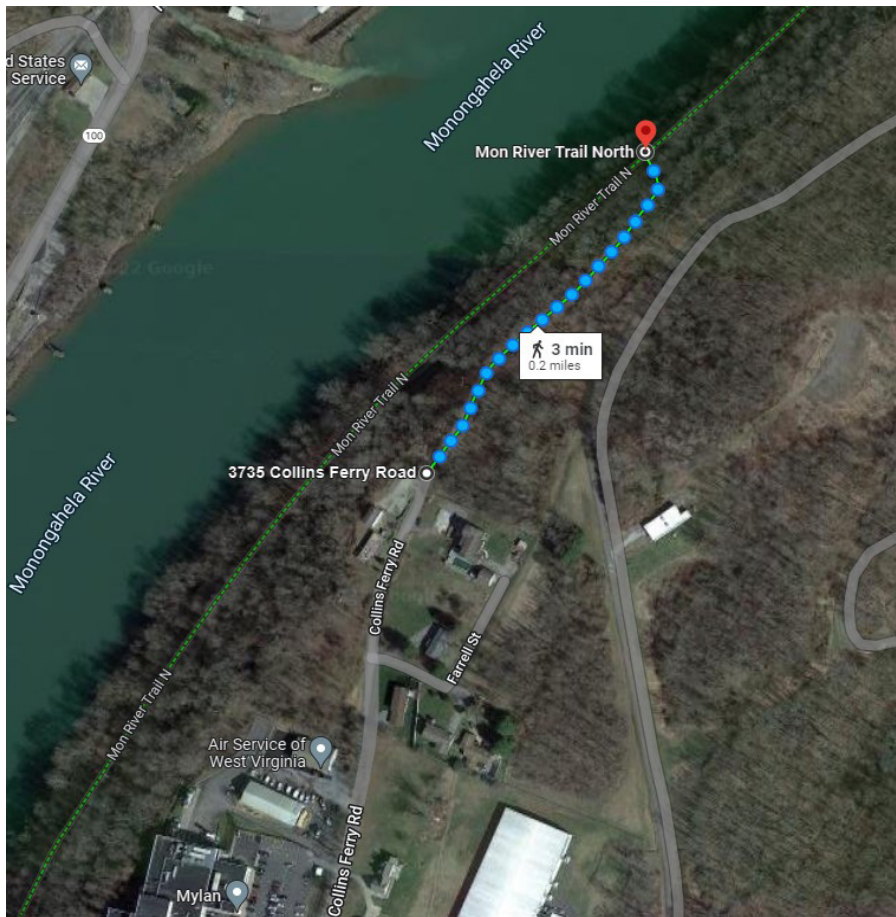
PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **MON RIVER TRAILS CONSERVANCY**

The Mon River Trails Conservancy is a non-profit that since 1991, has constructed, managed, and maintained the Mon River and Deckers Creek Rail-Trails for walking, running, cycling, and cross-country skiing. Ella Belling provided the MMMPO with agency updates:



Collins Ferry Connector

You can now enjoy this walk/bike connection to and from the Suncrest and Collin Ferry Road neighborhoods down to the Mon River Rail-Trail near mile 4.5. The Mon River Trails Conservancy will still be working on additional features over the next month, and we plan to wait until those are complete before hosting a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate this new neighborhood-trail connector. Stay tuned for the announcement date for the ribbon-cutting! The Collins Ferry Connector, which is less than a quarter mile, has a steep descent to the Mon River Rail-Trail. In West Virginia style, the ferry road was built into a mountain; it has narrow pinch points and steep banks. The newly compacted stone surface makes that journey much easier, but please go slow and stay alert. If biking, check your brakes at the top. Please share the trail with others; those coming down should yield to those coming up. The Collins Ferry Connector was once a section of the Pennsylvania, Morgantown, to Beverly Turnpike, which was constructed between 1836 and 1853 by the state of Virginia, and was later deeded to West Virginia when it became a state. As a wagon trail, it has a steeper slope than you usually experience on rail-trails. The Collins Ferry Connector project is partially funded by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration’s Recreational Trails Program administered by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways. There have been many that have touched this project in the last 20+ years! Thank you to all that have worked to make this vision into a reality.



PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **CITY OF MORGANTOWN**

Drew Gatlin, a City Staff Engineer, shared several city updates with the MPO. The Traffic Commission is now at full capacity for the first time in a decade and has recently elected a new Chair and Vice Chair. The City of Morgantown is actively exploring neighborhood traffic calming programs and planning in-person pop-up events.



The city's annual Paving Program has been awarded to Parrotta Paving and is expected to commence soon. Additional ongoing projects include pavement assessment and the implementation of the Pedestrian Safety Plan.

PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **CITY OF MORGANTOWN- PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BOARD**

The Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board, led by Matthew Cross, advocates for a pedestrian-friendly environment throughout the City. Their last meeting was held on June 26th, and the next one is scheduled for the last Monday of August at 4:30 pm. These meetings are open to the public, and you can find the Microsoft Teams link on the city's website.



The Board is currently preparing for the return of students in the fall and hopes that WVU will promote walking and biking for first-year students and the general student body.

PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE: **MOUNTAIN LINE TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MLTA)**



Mountain Line is a publicly supported and funded transportation system serving Monongalia County. Kelli LaNeve from Mountain Line has provided the MMMPO with an agency update regarding their Vanpools.

Currently, there is one subsidized vanpool operational, and the Vanpool Program has received an additional \$20,000 in funding. The CMAQ subsidy provides this van's riders \$200 per month for 10 months. The goal of this program is to establish a total of 10 new vanpools to facilitate efficient transportation.

For more information on Vanpools or to sign up contact:

Kelli LaNeve
Mobility Coordinator- Mountain Line Transit
(304) 296-3680
laneve@busride.org

ABOUT THE MMMPO

The Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) was established in 2003 to be the areas transportation planning agency for the Morgantown, West Virginia urban area. Any urban area with a population greater than 50,000 citizens is required by Federal Statute to form a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The two main functions of an MPO are developing a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and ensure that the use of federal funds for transportation projects aligns with the goals of the MTP.

Policy Board Officers:

Michael Kelly, Mon County

B.O.E

Board Chairman

Joe Statler

Board Vice-Chairman

Mayor Patricia Lewis,

Grainville

Board Treasurer

Bill Austin

Secretary, Executive Director

Policy Board Members:

Monongalia County Commission:

Jefferey Arnett

Tom Bloom

Sean Sikora

City of Morgantown City Council:

Jenny Selin

Bill Kawecki

Joe Abu-Ghannam

West Virginia University- Ron Justice

Star City- Steve Blinco, Recorder

City of Westover- Mayor Bob Lucci

Mountain Line Transit Authority- Maria Smith

West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways- Brian Carr

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the MMMPO strives to provide equal access to all members of the public at our public meetings and hearings. If you require mobility assistance, sign language interpretation, or interpretation in a foreign language, please contact us at least 4 business days prior to the scheduled meeting or hearing. Our contact information is as follows:

Jing Zhang/Jackie Peate

planning@plantogether.org

304-291-9671

The MMMPO is committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate and be heard at our public meetings and hearings.

Our Partners

