



## POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown  
389 Spruce Street  
Morgantown, WV  
November 11, 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, Jeff Arnett – Monongalia County, Sean Sikora – Monongalia County Brian Carr, WVDOT – DOH, Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Steve Blinco, Recorder, Star City, Bob Lucci – Mayor of Westover

**Others Present:** Jing Zhang, Jackie Peate, Christiaan Abildso- CAC Chair

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin, AICP

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### **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 6:02 PM.

### **2. Public Comment**

No Public Comments.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Arnett moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Committee Reports**

#### *a. Citizens Advisory Committee*

Mr. Abildso stated their meeting last Thursday had a quorum and they unanimously recommended approval of the 2025 – 2055 MTP plan.

#### *b. Finance*

Mayor Lewis noted the beginning balance in August had a \$0.20 difference from the ending balance in July. It was a keying error and has been fixed.

Mayor Lewis provided the financial report for the months of August, September, and October. The beginning balance in August was \$77,154.66, there was 1 deposit totaling \$2,948.76, with 25

disbursements totaling \$43,676.92, leaving the ending balance at \$36,426.50. This carried over into September with 2 deposits totaling \$30,781.68, and 17 disbursements totaling \$29,028.85, leaving the ending balance at \$3,179.33. This carried over into October with 4 deposits totaling \$40,365.51, with 19 disbursements totaling \$29,056.32, leaving an ending balance of \$49,48.52.

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

*c. Executive Director*

Mr. Austin provided the Executive Director's report. He stated the Harmony Grove IJR has been submitted and the Federal Highway Administration has approved it. The NEPA process will be occurring in the Spring. The Exit 155 modification project is moving forward. Mr. Austin also noted that the bids have come in and WVDOH has found a qualified bidder for the temporary signals at Exit 155. Construction should be ongoing in the summer. WVDOH held a public meeting on Tuesday night for the Greenbag Rd design phase 2, with 95 people participating. While there was confusion on if the meeting was for Phase 1, there was support for Phase 2. It was a successful meeting. The MPO audit is underway and should be ready for the January meeting. He also noted he attended his last meeting as a member of the AMPO Board.

## **5. 2025-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Adoption**

Mr. Austin stated the MMMPO has been in the process of a minor update of the MTP since late spring of 2025. The Policy Board has reviewed the proposed changes to the MTP as this process has progressed including multiple presentations on the projects to be included in the revised Plan. The memorandum included in the agenda summarizes the primary recommendations and public involvement for the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. Project additions would include-

- Downtown Microsimulation Study Recommendations including: Closure of Grumbein's Island, Realignment of Willey Street to Snider Street, Coordination and optimization of the signal system including leading pedestrian intervals at crossings, Various intersection improvements, and Actions to reduce speed and improve Beechurst Avenue operations.
- Brookhaven Road Improvements- These improvements are proposed in advance of anticipated growth along Brookhaven Road in the vicinity of WV 7.
- Monongalia County Connectivity Improvements-These proposed projects were developed in coordination with Monongalia County Planning. The improvements identify anticipated opportunities for non-motorized improvements. It is anticipated that these projects will be implemented as part of the growth in the target area. The subject areas are identified as Ackerman Area, West Run Pedestrian improvements and Valley View area improvements.

The other changes include changes to the MPO's Priority List. Until the State decides a process, the MPO will continue to categorize Tier 1, but not rank them. Signal Timing Optimization in Morgantown Downtown Area, Snider Street Realignment, and Grumbein's Island Closure would become Tier 1. Point Marion Road/Stewartstown Road Intersection Project would be moved from Tier 1 to funded by MMMPO Suballocated Funds. Morgantown Downtown Area Intersection and Corridor Projects would be Tier 3.

Additional information on the Public Outreach process and the prioritization of projects may be found in memorandums included in the email transmitting the Policy Board Agenda for the November 20, 2025 Meeting.

MPO Staff is recommending approval of the plan, with authorization from the Policy Board for the Chair, Bill Austin, to make non-substantive technical corrections to the final documents as necessary. The TTAC and CAC recommend adoption of the new MTP.

Commissioner Sikora moved to approve the 2025 – 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); seconded by Ms. Smith.

Commissioner Sikora had a few questions about the priority list. He asked if everything on this list is fiscally constrained and what the ceiling is. Mr. Austin stated they are constrained and it is \$90 million. Commissioner Sikora had some questions about the movement of projects into Priority 1 and how it balanced fiscally. Mr. Austin stated it was not a one-to-one move, but some Priority 1 projects had been completed, opening more room.

Councilman AbuGhannam asked about the downtown signalization and if its for a specific intersection. Mr. Austin clarified it is for the whole downtown system.

Commissioner Bloom referenced the letter from WVU Student Body Government. They are in support of the closure of Grumbein’s Island, but have some concerns, one notably about access to the parking garage. Commissioner Bloom agreed with their concerns, stating those are why he cannot support this. One of the big concerns was there only being one north/south road once it is closed. Mr. Blinco agreed. Mr. Austin stated putting the project in Tier 1 is step one and these concerns will and need to be addressed. There needs to be a more in-dept study on downtown that includes traffic, and land use for the implementation of the project.

Mr. Carr had a concern with the Improvements on Beechurst Ave being Tier 3 with the rest of the Downtown Study Recommendations in Tier 1. He is worried this sequence will cause issues.

Chair Rodgerson said he sees this as the first step of many that is needed to move on and produce more in-dept projects.

After discussion, the motion passed 10 – 3.

## **6. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin stated these amendments are for the month of November. He noted that this item was not submitted in time to meet the regular requirements for public comment under the MPO’s Public Involvement Policy. The proposed amendment has been advertised and the public comment period ends on November 30th 2025. It is respectfully requested that the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to approve the TIP Amendments if there are no negative public comments received during the Public Comment period.

### Amendment Request

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (CONVERT AC). Federal ID: STBG2024025D. FFY 2026. Type of Work: CONST NEW ROAD & BRIDGE. Funding Source: STBGFLEX. Action: federal funding decreases from \$10,000,000 to \$5,200,000; total funding decreases

from \$10,000,000 to \$5,200,000. FFY moves from 2025 to 2026. The project is identified as a non-groupable project.

SABRATON TO CHEAT LAKE. Federal ID: NHPP0068223D. FFY 2026. Construction. Type of Work: RESURFACING. Funding Source: NHPP. Federal Funding: \$8,000,000. Total funding: \$10,000,000. Location Description: I-68 from Exit 4 at Sabraton to county boundary near Exit 15.

SABRATON TO CHEAT LAKE. Federal ID: NHPP0068222D. FFY 2026. Engineering. Type of Work: RESURFACING. Funding Source: NHPP. Federal Funding: \$60,000. Total funding: \$75,000. Location Description: I-68 from Exit 4 at Sabraton to county boundary near Exit 15.

CHEAT RD AND S PIERPONT RD TRAFFIC SIGNAL. Federal ID: CMAQ0857026D. FFY2026. Construction. Type of Work: SIGNALS. Funding Source: TAP. Federal Funding: \$440,000. Total funding: \$550,000. Location Description: Cheat Rd (CR857) and Old Cheat Rd Intersection (CR 73/12), southeast of Point Marion Rd and Cheat Rd intersection.

Mr. Kelly moved to allow Mr. Austin to approve the TIP Amendments if there are no negative public comments received during the Public Comment period; seconded by Commissioner Arnett. The motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Safety Performance Measures

Ms. Peate stated that the Safety Performance Management Measures regulation supports the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) which requires State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to set targets for 5 safety performance measures (Fatalities, Fatality Rate, Serious Injuries, Serious Injuries, and Non-Motorist Combined Fatalities and Serious Injuries). According to 23 CFR § 490.209, MPOs must establish safety performance targets within 180 days of the State DOT establishing and reporting targets in the State HSIP annual report. Part of the MPOs federal funds is utilized for these targets. The Safety Performance Measures include Fatalities, Fatality Rate, Serious Injuries, Serious Injuries, and Non-Motorist Combined Fatalities and Serious Injuries for both annual and five-year target goals. They are shown in the tables included in the memorandum. The last adopted values were from 2020-2024. The current adopted values for 2021-2025 are shown in the tables below, and they have been adjusted to reflect the actual performance of the system since that time. The MPO is asking the Policy Board to adopt the Morgantown area values and the State wide values.

Commissioner Bloom moved to adopt the Safety Performance Measurers; seconded by Councilman AbuGhannam. The motion passed unanimously.

## 8. 2026 Meeting Dates

Mr. Austin stated there is a Memorandum in the Agenda that informs the Advisory Committees of the 2026 Meeting Dates. The May TTAC meeting has been moved to Monday May 11th 2026 due to Primary Election Day.

## 9. List of Obligated Projects (Informational)

Mr. Austin stated these are all the projects that the state has obligated over the last year in our area. They are included in the agenda packet.

### **10. FY 2026-2027 UPWP Development**

Mr. Austin stated the MPO is asking for input on future projects as the MPO is making their budget for the next year.

He requested an Executive Session to discuss personal issues for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Smith moved to go into Executive Session; seconded by Mayor Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

### **11. Other Business**

Chair Rogerson selected officers for the Nominating Committee for officers of the Policy Board. He selected Maria Smith, Mayor Lewis, and himself on the committee. Commissioner Sikora moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

### **12. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjured at 6:49pm.