

**MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
November 21, 2013 Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Chairman Joe Statler-Blacksville Brian Carr-WVDOH, Councilman Anthony Giambrone-Star City, Councilman Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Councilperson-Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Randy Hudak-West Virginia University, Mike Kelly-Board of Education

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Mayor Jennifer Selin

**MPO DIRECTOR:** Bill Austin

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** With a quorum present, Chairman Statler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chairman Statler noted that Mr. Kawecki as an alternate for the City of Morgantown is filling in for Mayor Selin. Chairman Statler also noted that Commissioner Callen had planned to attend the meeting however he is not well and therefore unable to attend.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** After the introductions Chairman Statler introduced the Minutes of the last meeting. Ms. Shamberger moved to accept the August minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Giambrone. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:** Chairman Statler asked Mr. Austin to present Mayor Lewis' Finance report in her absences. On behalf of Mayor Lewis Mr. Austin presented the MPO's October activities as follows:

-Beginning balance \$5359.60 with expenditures of \$19,781.84 and deposits of \$34,224.90 leaving a balance of \$19,802.66.

Mr. Austin noted that Mayor Lewis recommended approval of the Finance Report.

Mr. Giambrone moved for approval of the financial report; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mr. Rice, Chair of the CAC, reported that the CAC had reviewed the proposed TIP Amendments and commented that the CAC hoped that there would be funding coming to replace the funding Mountain Line is losing with these amendments.

Mr. Rice also noted that some of the CAC members had some concerns with the inclusion of the proposed study to determine the location of a new bridge to cross the Monongahela River. Mr. Rice stated that the Committee members were concerned that the proposed Study would distract from studies for other needed improvements in the area.

**VI. DIRECTORS REPORT:**

- a. Van pool project-Mr. Austin noted that there are now billboards advertizing the vanpools across the area. We also now have two van pools participating in the program both going to Clarksburg from Morgantown.
- b. Bicycle Plan-Mr. Austin stated that staff has been working to develop an urban area bicycle plan including a recent public meeting at Marilla Park to gather input on areas that could use improvement and potential routes to be included in the Plan. Mr. Austin stated that it is anticipated that the Plan will be presented to the MPO Policy Board in March.
- c. Monongalia County Day-Mr. Austin stated that he and Chairman Statler have been working with the Chamber of Commerce on Monongalia County Day in Charleston which is planned for January 9<sup>th</sup>. He stated that while there will be several agencies from the area represented all of the agencies have been asked to address transportation as one of their concerns. Mr. Austin also noted that January 9<sup>th</sup> is the West Virginians for Better Transportation, Transportation Day in the Capital.
- d. West Virginia MPO Association-Mr. Austin noted that the Directors of the eight MPO's across the State have met and agreed to form an MPO Association. He stated that they have agreed on a set of bylaws and the first formal meeting will be held in Morgantown at the Airport on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Statler encourage MPO Policy Board members to attend the meeting.

#### **VIII. TIP AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO had received several TIP Amendments from Mountain Line. Mr. Austin stated that the TIP Amendments were needed because of the changes the most recent Federal transportation funding bill known as MAP 21 had made to the transit funding pots of money. Mr. Austin noted that MAP 21 had ended Federal Transit Administration Section 5317 and Section 5316 funding categories and replaced them with Section 5307 Funding. It is not currently clear whether or not the State will consider Mountain Line eligible to receive replacement funding under this category.

Mr. Austin said that the proposed TIP Amendment adding approximately \$25,000 to the Section 5317 funds in FY 2014 represented Mountain Lines portion of the funds in that program which have been unspent up until this time. The remaining TIP Amendments for the future years are the elimination of those programs from Mountain Lines budget due to the new legislation. Mr. Austin noted that both the TTAC and CAC had recommended approval of the TIP Amendments.

Chairman Statler noted that Mr. Bruffy would have been at the meeting except he needed to be at a conflicting meeting on Transit funding. After a short discussion Mr. Kelly moved approval of the TIP Amendments, seconded by Mr. Giambrone. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **X. FY 2014-2015 MPO Work Program**

Chairman Statler then asked Mr. Austin to discuss the Projects to be included in the MPO's Work Program for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Austin stated that a list of projects for the upcoming Fiscal Year had been included in the Policy Board's agenda. Mr. Austin stated that he was asking for the MPO's Committee's to comment on the proposed work before he drafts a work program. Mr. Austin said that

in addition to the MPO staff normal activities including staff support to the various boards and work on the Vanpool and transportation finance issues, staff is proposing to include ongoing bicycle and pedestrian planning activities, the preparation of intersection and corridor studies for projects included in the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Bridge Location Study referenced by Mr. Rice. Mr. Austin said that Mr. Rice had correctly reported that some of the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee had expressed concerns that the MPO staff would be distracted from the intersection and corridor studies the LRTP calls for by the Bridge Location Study. Mr. Austin said that he felt that both projects need to get underway and that the Bridge Study would be primarily conducted by a consultant and therefore it would not be too much of a distraction from the other work the MPO needs to get done. After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Policy Board that Mr. Austin should draft the Work Program as previously identified. Chairman Statler asked Mr. Austin to provide the Policy Board with the attendance of the CAC and TTAC meetings as part of his report on their recommendations.

#### **X. Meeting Calendar and Administrative Activities:**

Chairman Statler noted that the MPO needs to address normal administrative activities at this time of year. He noted that Mr. Austin had included a draft calendar in the Agenda packet. He asked Board Members if they had any conflicts with the proposed meeting schedule. There being no objections it was the consensus of the Policy Board that the draft calendar was approved.

Chairman Statler also noted that under the Bylaws the Policy Board is required to elect officers at the January meeting. He stated that he would like to appoint a committee to nominate the officers. Chairman Statler asked Mr. Nugent, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Kawecki if they would serve on the nominating committee. Mr. Kawecki noted that he was an alternate to the Board. Chairman Statler stated that would not disqualify him from serving on the nominating committee. Mr. Kawecki stated that he would serve on the nominating committee. Mr. Nugent and Mr. Kelly agreed to serve on the Committee as well.

Chairman Statler then stated that Board also needs to conduct the Executive Directors Annual Review. He stated that Mr. Austin would be sending out the Review form by email shortly. He asked that the Policy Board return completed reviews by hard copy or email to him. He will summarize the reviews and share them with the other officers, Vice-Chair Giambone, and Mayor Lewis the Treasurer. They will then make a recommendation to the Board for Mr. Austin's review which will be held in Executive Session at the next meeting.

#### **XI. Other Business**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.