

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
MARCH 23, 2017 MINUTES

Members Present:

Chairman Ron Justice-WVU, Vice-Chairman Mike Kelly, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, , Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Mayor Herman Reid-Star City

Members Absent: Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Justice called the Policy Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Public Comment

No public comment

3. Approval of Minutes

a) November 2016

Chairman Justice noted that the minutes of the 2016 November meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mayor Shamberger moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

a) January

Chairman Justice noted that the minutes of January meeting were included in the agenda packet. Councilperson Selin moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Rice, the Chairman of the CAC, noted that the CAC unanimously recommended approval of the TIP amendments, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update, and the I-79 Access Study in the last CAC meeting. Mr. Rice also noted that he expects the MPO to continue to play a leading role in improving the transportation in the area.

a. Finance Report

Mayor Lewis presented the Finance Report for November and December as the following:

-- Beginning balance in January \$7,543.51 with expenditures of \$26,648.09 and one deposit of \$31,466.21, leaving a balance of \$12,364.63 at the beginning of December.

-- Beginning balance in February \$12,364.63 with expenditures of \$10,418.52, leaving a balance of \$1,946.11 at the beginning of December.

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the January and February Finance Report; seconded by Councilperson Nugent. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Executive Director

i. Bylaws Review

Mr. Austin noted that in the MTP Update process, the MPO established an ad-hoc freight advisory committee. Considering the increased emphasis on freight planning recent federal legislations, it is recommended that the MPO review its by-laws to add a freight advisory committee to the MPO's committee structure. The committee will review and provide advice on freight-related transportation issues in the region. Mr. Austin then noted that the MPO staff will conduct an administrative review on the changes in the MPO's funding mechanism as stipulated by recent federal regulations.

ii. Audit Selection Committee

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is to establish an audit selection committee to select an audit firm to conduct the audit for the MPO in the next three years. He will ask the Policy Board for committee members once he hears from the State Auditor's Office.

iii. WV Association of MPO's

Mr. Austin informed the Board that he has been elected president of the WV MPO Association and he will collaborate with colleagues around the state to provide better transportation planning service in the state. Chairman Justice congratulated Mr. Austin on this election.

Mr. Austin then noted that he will attend conferences in the end of May and in October to obtain professional education credits required by the AICP.

5. 2015-2016 Audit

Mr. Austin noted that the report of FY 2015-2016 Audit was included in the agenda package. There were no findings from the auditors. Mayor Shamberger moved to accept the Audit as presented; seconded by councilperson Selin. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that WVU, the Mountain Line, and the West Virginia Division of Highways have requested that the MPO amend the TIP. The amendments requested by DOH include I-68 Morgantown-Maryland Lighting project, Decker's Creek Trail Repair projects, Morgantown Multi-use path projects, and several resurfacing projects in the Morgantown area. Councilperson Selin moved to approve the TIP Amendments requested by DOH, seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilperson Nugent asked about the route of the multi-use path. Mr. Austin noted that DOH staff will collaborate with the city engineer to identify the appropriate alignment of the path in engineering phase.

Mr. Austin noted that Mountain Line has requested a TIP amendment to reflect changes to Section 5307 funding to comply with the FAST ACT and to recognize the passage of the Transit Levy in Monongalia County. Mr. Austin noted that the amendments will break out existing funding to various funding categories for upgrading and repairing transit facilities including multi-model bus shelter projects and bus replacement. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the TIP Amendments requested by the Mountain Line, seconded by Councilperson Nugent. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin then noted that WVU has requested TIP amendments to reflect changes to the PRT portion of the TIP, due to new work needed on the PRT. The changes includes increasing federal funding and WVU match multiple fiscal years. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the TIP Amendments requested by the Mountain Line, seconded by Councilperson Nugent. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. I-79 Access Study

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study has been completed. The alternative 12 has been identified as the most preferred alternative to provide additional access to I-79 from north part of the Morgantown urban area. Mr. Austin noted that the Study received a lot of public comments including letters from elementary school students. Mr. Austin noted that TTAC and CAC have unanimously recommended approval of the Study. Mr. Kelly moved to adopt the I-79 Access Study, seconded by Councilperson Selin. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved. Commissioner Bloom suggested that the MPO write a letter to the students to inform them about the adopted alternatives and to express appreciation for their participation. Mr. Austin agreed.

8. Update to Transportation Plan Adoption

Mr. Austin noted that a copy of the updated Metropolitan Transportation Plan was included in the agenda package. Mr. Austin noted that the MTP Update includes review of goals and objectives, update of the projects status and project reprioritization, as well as environmental justice analysis. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has conducted a thorough public outreach process including conducting a survey which received more than 700 responses.

Mr. Austin then noted that the recommended alternative from the I-79 Access Study is a major part of the Update. New projects proposed in the Update include Smithtown Rd Improvement Project from Don Knotts Blvd to the I-79 Exit, a climbing lane extension project on I-79 in the vicinity of the Uffington Bridge for approximately 300 yards, and an auxiliary lane project on I-79 from Exit 152 and Exit 155.

Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC, the CAC and the Freight advisory committee all unanimously recommended approval of the MTP Update to the Policy Board.

Commissioner Bloom asked about the improvements at the Grumbein's Island with \$3 million budget. Mr. Austin noted that it will be the improvements recommended by the University Ave Corridor Study, which include channeling pedestrian traffic by building plant barriers and installing pedestrian signals. WVU supported this alternative at the technical level. Mr. Austin noted that the Grumbein's Island has been ranked as the top concern for pedestrian safety in the public survey of the MTP Update. Councilperson Selin moved to approve of the MTP Update, seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion was approved. Commissioner Bloom abstained.

9. 2017 Unified Planning Work Program Adoption

Mr. Austin noted that the 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program for the MPO was included in the agenda package for review. The primary work includes the corridor study on Beechurst Ave and an update of the pedestrian plan prepared by the Morgantown Pedestrian Board in 2010. The MPO will begin the Beechurst Ave Corridor Study in April and conduct the pedestrian plan update from this fall to the next spring. Chairman Justice noted that local officials have met with the DOH and discussed the Beechurst Ave corridor improvements. He commended the DOH's commitment to improve this core corridor in the area. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve of the 2017 UPWP, seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

10. Other Business

Commissioner Bloom noted that county commissioners will meet with DOH staff to discuss the signage at the new interchange on I-79 next week.

11. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

