



82 Hart Field Road Suite 105
Morgantown WV, 26505
www.plantgether.org

MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
Oct 13, 2016
6:00 PM

Members Present

Bill Rice (Chair), Ed Sneckenberger, Charles Renner, Ed Sneckenberger, Chip Wamsley, Maria Smith, Christiaan Abildso

Members Absent

Joe Patten, Darin Glitz, Matt Cross

Others Present

Heather Britton, Christopher Britton, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

Mr. Rice, the Chairmen of the Citizens Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Rice noted that the minutes of the August meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Sneckenberger moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Abildso. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. TIP Adjustment Informational Item

Mr. Austin introduced the items that the Division of Highways requested for TIP Adjustments. These are informational items and require no action from the committee. They are: Beechurst/Campus Drive Intersection Realignment Project, Foundry Street Linkage Trail Project, Star City Trail Connector Project, and University Avenue Intersection Improvement project.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked about the status of the project on the Beechurst/Campus intersection. Mr. Austin noted that the project is undergoing some difficulties because of utility and drainage issues. The DOH is collaborating with WVU in dealing with these challenges. Mr. Sneckenberger asked if the intersection will be reconstructed as a T intersection with a driveway to the University's parking lot. Mr.

Austin noted that that was the original proposal from the university, but it is not moving forward. Chairman Rice asked about the status of University Ave and Collins Ferry Rd project. Mr. Austin noted that although no formal decision has been made, the DOH prefers the Alternative IV, which has the best traffic operation in all direction with adequate accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists. Mr. Abildso asked if the Star City Trail Connector is the one that connects Collins Ferry Rd and the trail. Mr. Austin noted that it is so.

4. I-79 Access Study Update

Chairman Rice noted the consultants for the I-79 Access Study held a public meeting at the Mountaineer Station on Oct 11th. The meeting had a good turnout. Mr. Austin then briefly introduced the background and the process of this process and described alternatives that were identified as most desirable. The report will be posted online by the next week. Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the meeting was informative and was good communication with community members. Mr. Sneckenberger asked if formal cost and benefit analysis has been conducted. Mr. Austin noted that the consultants conducted an evaluation analysis through a matrix which shows the impact of each alternative. Formal cost and benefit analysis will be conducted after options are identified.

Mr. Austin then noted that the Study is expected to be wrapped up in January and it will be considered for adoption as a part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. Mr. Abildso asked what type of cross section will be considered. Mr. Austin noted that it depends on the context of the neighborhoods. Adopted alternatives will fully consider cross sections that have minimum impact to the existing neighborhood and adequate accommodation for non-motorized transportation. Mrs. Britton asked if reversible lanes will be considered. Mr. Austin noted that in general the DOH is not inclined to use reversible lanes due to its relatively high maintenance and operational costs.

5. Update on Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has received 564 completed surveys by Oct 4. It is very encouraging to have so many survey responses from the community. Mr. Zhang then briefed the CAC on the findings of the survey responses. Mr. Austin noted that a public meeting will be held at Marilla Park from 4 pm to 7 pm on Oct 26th. The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the goals and objectives and projects listed in the current plan.

6. Project Update WV DOH

Mr. Austin noted that the district operations engineer was not able to attend the TTAC meeting this week, and the MPO did not receive any formal update on the WV DOH at this time. Chairman Rice noted that the MUB is working with the WV DOH on the Van Voorhis Rd project. The project will continue over the winter. Mr. Renner noted that building a truck climbing lane on I-79 in the Westover area may considerably improve the traffic flow. Mr. Austin noted that the newly adopted FAST Act has a strong emphasis on freight planning. The project can be a good Freight-oriented project for grant application under the new legislation.

7. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that he had learned that the TIGER grant application for Greenbag Rd was rated as highly recommended and had reached the final stage of the selection process. Unfortunately, the Greenbag Rd application was not selected for funding at this time.

Chairmen Rice noted that the Chamber of Commerce has selected a new president and the Transportation Committee will meet in next few weeks to discuss potential transportation improvements that are to be funded by the 2 or 3 percent of general sale tax increase in the County. Mr. Abildso asked how the projects will be prioritized. Mr. Austin noted that they will largely be consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Some projects may be added to address special concerns.

11. Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 6: 43 PM.