

## GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO

March 18, 2010

Minutes

City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kelly, Bob Bell, Asel Kennedy, Joe Statler, David Bruffy, Don Spencer, Richard Warner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patty Lewis, Bill Byrne, Joe Fisher, Tom Konchesky

MPO Director: Bill Austin

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Bell moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2010; seconded by Mr. Statler, the motion carried unanimously.

### III. FINANCIAL REPORT-UPWP AMENDMENT

Mr. Kennedy reported a new system of reporting the number of checks written per month. Any Board Member having any new and/or additional suggestions of reporting should contact Mr. Austin. Mr. Bell moved to approval of the financial report; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Austin reported a minor overspending that would affect the reporting of Federal and State funding sources. A budget change has been requested.

### IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. The joint TTAC and Policy Board meeting was held to review DOH's proposal for the University Avenue corridor under consideration at this meeting;
2. Mr. Austin was included as a participant in a grant submitted to the National Governors Association concerning coordinating Land Use and Transportation. West Virginia was one of five states to win grants for this project. A core team has been put together consisting of WVDOH Director Planning and Administration Rob Pennington, Senator Unger and the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff. With the approval of Chairman Kelly, he attended a kick off meeting in Charleston and will be traveling to Alexandria, VA for three days for meetings. Mr. Kennedy noted that while it is good that planning and transportation are working together he has been told that County Commissions have no ability to grant or deny access to state highways. Mr. Kennedy was not sure that Mr. Austin's participation in this project would benefit the community. Mr. Austin explained that the process may result in a review of legislation that may impact a counties ability to act in regard to access management and in other planning issues. Mr. Spencer stated that he thought Mr. Austin's participation would be useful. Mr. Spencer

asked if Mr. Austin needed a motion recommending his participation in the project. Mr. Austin replied that a motion was not needed if it was the consensus of the Policy Board that he should work on the project. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Austin should participate in the process. Mr. Warner noted the fact that Mr. Austin has been asked to be part of the Core Team is a tribute to the job that he is doing.

3. An email was received from the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation noting that USDOT has adopted of the Complete Streets program;

4. There is no news on the reauthorization bill that reauthorizes spending levels for the next 9 months. Currently transportation is funded at its current level.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Bill Rice / Bakers Ridge Road. Commented that Mr. Keller stated land use management is an integral part of road construction. If we don't address the problem in Morgantown, we will be at the will of Charleston or the Federal Government. Also questioned how land use management and roadways will be intertwined.

#### **VI. MONONGALIA BLVD. BIKE LANE STATUS REPORT:**

A meeting was held with the State and the City of Morgantown and it was agreed to allow a bike lane on the climbing side of the Boulevard. There are still some things to work out, such as parking on Monongahela Blvd. for sporting and CAC events, where the bike lane will be. The City will work with WVU and the state to address that issue.

#### **VII. HIGHWAY TIP AMENDMENTS:**

The state has requested four TIP Amendments be made.

1. I-79 Bridge Deck Replacement Project that will replace bridge decking on I-79 bridges over Wades Run before the PA and Monongalia County line. Total cost is \$1,610,000 covered by Federal funds.

2. CO 59 / Van Voorhis Road. Resurface, widen in selected areas, and install gutter. Total cost is \$500,000 covered by Federal funds.

3. ACS Light System Project (various locations). Dynamic Signal System upgrade. Total cost is \$1,350,000; CMAQ \$1,060,000; Sponsor funds \$290,000.

4. WV 7 addition of through lanes between I-68 ramp. Total cost is \$350,000 covered by Federal Funds.

Mr. Austin noted that TIP amendments 3 and 4 are still under design. The CAC did request a better description of TIP 4. On the west side of Brookhaven Road, a right turn lane will be added to turn on to I-68 East; a thru right lane under the bridge to the west bound ramp. This would eliminate a slowdown of traffic in that area. Both the TTAC and CAC requested approval of the TIPS. Mr. Kennedy moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VII. MPO Prospectus.**

Mr. Austin reported this will be a descriptive administrative document which would describe work the MPO Staff may be able to accomplish with State and Federal matching funds. The

document has been provided to the State for their comments. Mr. Kennedy stated spreadsheets will be prepared using the codes in the prospectus. The draft of the UPWP was prepared using these codes.

## **VIII. REVIEW OF DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Austin stated major initiatives for the draft include;

- Hiring a full time assistant with GIS and modeling expertise.
- In addition an annual traffic count program will be created, with a projected 40 to 50 counts annually. This will include 10 to 15 vehicle classification counts and 10 to 15 counts for non-peak seasons to track traffic growth. The state's annual counts have no seasonal variations. The information will be shared for anyone requesting it;
- A travel time data base will also be created to trace how quickly a person moves;
- Preliminary design study for Grumbine Island Pedestrian project. WVU will pay the match for a consultant to do the study;
- Create an MPO wide inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facilities;
- Improve mapping for program development using the county data base;
- Develop and MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee;
- Develop a new Transportation Improvement Program. The current program will expire at the end of this fiscal year;
- Suggest with every new update the MPO's priorities be reevaluated and presented to the public;
- The Transportation Demand Management Study will not be completed this fiscal year and the State will be asked to carry over the allocated funds into next fiscal year's budget.

Mr. Warner added the draft does not include a reassessment for the LRTP. Several issues have developed that may speed up the LRTP. The plan will change due to the widening of the Mileground replacing the 705 Connector, so there is a need to look at how traffic will be handled with the Connector taken off the LRTP. The Mileground widening is on the fast track and the plan will need to accommodate that.

The DOH will be coming back for a meeting at the Airport in mid April to discuss the two alternatives given to them by the Board for the Mileground. Mr. Austin will advise of the date for the public meeting.

## **IV. UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD RECONFIGURATION ALTERNATIVES**

A work session was held with the TTAC and Policy Board to discuss the state's alternatives for University Avenue's reconfiguration. It is believed the project can be done within the existing University Avenue right of way. The DOH provided maps of the alternatives.

Alternative #1. Northbound - Two left turn lanes onto Beechurst Avenue and a right turn lane onto Fayette Street; Southbound – right turn lane from Beechurst Avenue to a left turn lane onto Fayette Street.

Alternative #2. Northbound – Left turn onto the Westover Bridge, a through lane, and a combination through right lane to continue north on University Avenue or turn onto Pleasant Street. Southbound – Right turn lane onto the Westover Bridge, a through lane and a left turn lane onto Pleasant Street.

The DOH performed a computer simulation of the two alternatives. The combined delay now in the am/pm peak periods is 390 seconds, (300 seconds in the pm peak, 88 seconds in am peak)

Alternative #1 those totals drop by 95 seconds; alternative #2 the total drops by 90 seconds.

Mr. Austin noted the key to remember that if Alternative #1 is implemented, if traffic is directed to Fayette or Foundry Streets to get into the intersection, it will be difficult to get to businesses on Pleasant Street, putting more impact on the downtown traffic. Alternative #2 keeps movement on Pleasant Street to southbound University Avenue. As such, Mr. Austin recommended Alternative #2.

Mr. Spencer requested that the northbound flow along University Avenue continue to be look at. The stacking area, northbound, will be lost. The function of the right lane on northbound section of University to Fayette Street intersection needs evaluated for a double arrow allowing some traffic to stack. Mr. Warner advised the state is looking at this issue. There will continue to be a great deal of monitoring with this project.

Mr. Kennedy moved to recommend Alternative #2; Mr. Statler seconded it. Mr. Warner noted that it was important for the design department to have the Board's approval at this evening's meeting. The motion unanimously passed.

## **X. POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING and TDM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

A meeting will be held Friday March 19, at the Airport in the Conference Room in the new building. Parsons Brinkerhoff will be attending.

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Spencer expressed his concerns with the possibility of a new school being built in the Mileground area. Believes another traffic light will be a problem.

Mr. Spencer asked if the MPO could be of any assistance with the WVU Pedestrian Bridge. Mr. Austin stated there may be a problem with funding on the Federal level.

Mr. Spencer asked if any time could be given by the MPO staff to perform modeling for the implementation of an inner loop with 705 and Rt. 7. Mr. Austin noted that he had asked URS to do this modeling and that they had found significant advantages to this connection, however there needs to be a cost effectiveness analysis done on the project.

Mr. Kennedy requested a committee be put together to review and address any problems that may exist with the MPO Bylaws. (Asel Kennedy, Don Spencer and David Bruffy)

Chairman Kelly requested that representatives of the City, the County and the State work to develop a contract for Mr. Austin. Chairman Kelly asked that Mayor Byrne or Don Spencer,

Perry Keller or Richard Warner, and Asel Kennedy or Bob Bell work to develop a contract for Mr. Austin.

Mr. Bell moved to adjourn at 8:15 PM.