



POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV
January 15, 2026, 6 PM

Members Present:

Chairman Russ Rogerson - Morgantown Area Partnership, Mike Kelly – Board of Education, Mayor Patricia Lewis - Town of Granville, Mark Downs – City of Morgantown, Tom Bloom - Monongalia County, Jeff Arnett – Monongalia County, Brian Carr, WVDOT – DOH, Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Steve Blinco, Recorder, Star City, Bob Lucci – Mayor of Westover, Jenny Selin - City of Morgantown City Council

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

MPO Director: Bill Austin, AICP

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 6:01 PM.

2. Public Comment

Matthew Cross, the Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Board for the City of Morgantown, CAC member, expressed his support for the RFQ For Greenbelt Complete Streets Project. He also thanked Mr. Austin for his great work over his years as Executive Director.

3. Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee recommended to keep Russ Rogerson as the Chair and Maria Smith as the Vice Chair.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the Election of Officers; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

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

5. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Austin stated there was not a quorum, but the CAC had a good discussion and supported the agenda items.

b. Finance

Mayor Lewis provided the financial report for the months of November and December. The beginning balance in November was \$48,48.52, there were 2 deposits totaling \$6800.09, with 22 disbursements totaling \$36,094.82, leaving the ending balance at \$20,193.79. This carried over into December with 2 deposits totaling \$26,689.35, and 20 disbursements totaling \$35,780.87, leaving the ending balance at \$11,102.27.

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

Mr. Austin added that due to the low balance at the end of December, the MPO used its line of credit in the amount of \$30,000.

c. Executive Director

Mr. Austin stated Morgantown will be hosting the Statewide WVAMPO Planning Conference in June.

Mr. Austin also stated he will be retiring come June 30th. This is why the UPWP only has the financial part, so his successor can develop their own plans.

The board expressed their thanks for Mr. Austin's 17 years with the MPO. There is a selection committee in place to search for the new Executive Director.

Mr. Austin stated there should be some improvements to the areas of Dorsey Ave that have been under construction. The gas company is still working on that section. He also mentioned there was a very successful public meeting for the Harmony Grove Interchange last Tuesday.

Commissioner Arnett asked if the work on Greenbag was related to the Dorsey Ave work or the Greenbag work. Mr. Austin clarified that was related to the gas work on Dorsey Ave.

Mr. Austin stated the contract for the University Ave / Collins Ferry roundabout should be completed this coming fall. He also stated the MPO has worked with Mountain Line to work on getting an accommodation for a vehicle turnaround at the warming shelter on West Run as part of the West Run project.

6. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin stated that the WVDOH is requesting the addition of new projects to the TIP, as the following:

Adding New Projects

SPRUCE ST +4. Federal ID: STBG0119589D, FFY 2026, ENG, Type of Work: Resurfacing, Funding Source: STBG 50-200K POP. Federal Funding: \$28,000. Total Funding: \$35,000.

SPRUCE ST +4. Federal ID: STBG0119590D, FFY 2027, CON, Type of Work: Resurfacing, Funding Source: STBG 50-200K POP. Federal Funding: \$1,200,000 Total Funding: \$1,500,000.

DUG HILL BRIDGE +1. Federal ID: STBG0119590D, FFY 2027, CON, Type of Work: Resurfacing, Funding Source: STBG 50-200K POP. Federal Funding: \$360,000 Total Funding: \$450,000.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the WVDOH TIP Amendments; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin also stated that they are Removing Obligated Projects as they now have funding.

SMITHTOWN ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNAL. Federal ID: HSIP0119501D, HSIP0119502D. Type of Work: Install Signal. Funding Source: HSIP. Total Cost (ROW and CON): \$3,800,000. I-79

EXIT 155 RAMPS TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL. Federal ID: CARB1924001D. Type of Work: Install Signal. Funding Source: CRP 50-200K POP. Total Cost (CON): \$750,000.

Commissioner Bloom expressed thanks for the funding for these two projects.

Mr. Austin stated that Mountain Line Transit Authority requested the TIP Transit Project for the four Federal Fiscal Years ended September 30, 2029, as the following:

FYY 2026 -2027

	Source	2026		2027	
		Federal	Local	Federal	Local
Operating Assistance(1)	5307 -	\$3,375,864	\$3,375,864	\$3,443,143	\$3,443,143
Federal 5311(f) Intercity (2)	5311	\$345,000	\$345,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Operating Assistance (3)	5310	\$98,000	\$24,500	\$98,000	\$24,500
Operating Assistance - Capital (4)	5307	\$250,000	\$62,500	\$250,000	\$62,500
Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (5)	5339	\$447,362	\$111,841	\$150,000	\$37,500
Revenue Roof Replacement (6)	5339	\$1,400,000	\$350,000		
Bus Rolling Stock replacement (7)	5339	\$500,000	\$340,000		

FYY 2028 -2029

	Source	2028		2029	
		Federal	Local	Federal	Local
Operating Assistance(1)	5307 -	\$3,443,143	\$3,443,143	\$3,443,143	\$3,443,143
Federal 5311(f) Intercity (2)	5311	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Operating Assistance (3)	5310	\$98,000	\$24,500	\$98,000	\$24,500
Operating Assistance - Capital (4)	5307	\$250,000	\$62,500	\$250,000	\$62,500
Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (5)	5339	\$150,000	\$37,500	\$150,000	\$37,500
Revenue Roof Replacement (6)	5339				
Bus Rolling Stock replacement (7)	5339				

- (1) Costs necessary to operate, maintain, and manage a public transportation system. Operating expenses usually include such costs as driver salaries, fuel, and items having a useful life of less than one year.
- (2) Regularly scheduled bus service for the general public that operates with
- (3) Mobility management is a capital project activity that consists of short-range planning and management activities and projects for improving coordination among public
- (4) 5307 Preventative Maintenance
- (5) For purchase of revenue producing
- (6) For Roof Replacement
- (7) For purchase of revenue producing

Ms. Selin moved to approve the MLTA Amendments; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. The motion passed unanimously.

7. RFQ For Greenbelt Complete Streets Project

Mr. Austin stated members could find the RFQ for the Greenbelt Complete Streets Study with the agenda. This document has been reviewed by the partners participating in the Greenbelt plan development. The partners include WVU, the WV Land Trust and the City of Morgantown. It is our intention to utilize the MPO’s on call consultant contract to implement this study after review by the Policy Board. Mr. Zhang and the Greenbelt group have been meeting once a week to develop this RFQ and conceptual locations for the Greenbelt. This group looked at the whole picture, and figured out the priority areas. The highest priority area is Suncrest and it is in the RFQ. This is the first study area for the whole Greenbelt, as this will be a project taken in many steps.

Mr. Downs moved to approve the Greenbelt Complete Streets RFQ; seconded by Commissioner Arnett. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Audit

Mr. Austin stated the Audit can be found in the Agenda Package. There were no findings or concerns found.

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

9. Stewartstown Road Point Marion Road Intersection Analysis (Informational)

Mr. Austin stated to find the Study in the agenda detailing the findings of the MPO Synchro model of the subject intersection. The MPO Policy Board has authorized the use of suballocated funds for this project. A TIP Amendment will be proposed in March for this project. Mr. Zhang has combined model techniques to figure out how to run a model in this complicated intersection. This study justifies why the Stewartstown Road Point Marion Road Intersection project is needed. The board was in agreement that this intersection is messy. Mr. Justice mentioned a property owner in the area had reached out to him with some ideas for improving this intersection and he would like to connect him with Mr. Austin and WVDOH. Mr. Austin stated that would be very helpful, but they are first working on the funding for the project.

10. FY 2026-2027 UPWP Development

Mr. Austin stated the Draft 2026 UPWP is included in the agenda. Staff welcomes Committee input into work items that should be completed in the upcoming fiscal year. This UPWP is a draft as Mr. Austin is retiring and would like to give the new Executive Director freedom to develop their own projects.

11. Other Business

Chair Rogerson pointed out the budget is included in the agenda package. He thanked Bill for his work and congratulated him on his retirement.

Ms. Selin asked the status of the intersection near Mineral Avenue. There is a new pool near this intersection, and she was curious how to improve the intersection. Mr. Austin stated Ella Belling has also inquired about this intersection as it connects to the Rail Trail. He stated this whole corridor is identified in the State's Vulnerable Road Users Plan. The State is hiring a consultant team to come look at this, but there have been some delays with staff changes. Mr. Downs mentioned community members would love a crosswalk at that intersection.

Commissioner Bloom asked about the sidewalks in Westover. Mr. Austin stated that the WVDOH got a RAISE grant to do the design portion in addition to grants Westover had. This was put on hold to coordinate. Mr. Austin will check back in with the state on this project. There will be some ongoing paving projects in this corridor that could help jumpstart the sidewalk projects.

Mr. Austin stated the town of Star City received a Safe Streets for All Grant, but turned the grant back to the FHWA.

12. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjured at 6:38pm.