

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
JUNE 16, 2016 MINUTES

Members Present: Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Councilperson Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Elwood Penn -WV DOH, Randy Hudak-WVU, Mayor Dave Johnson-Westover

Members Absent: Chairman Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Vice Chairman Mayor Herman Reid-Star City, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Brian Carr-WVDOH, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

Without a quorum present, Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Citizens Advisory Committee Report

Bill Rice, the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the CAC recommended approval of the May TIP Amendments, UPWP Amendments, and the revised report of University Avenue Complete Street Study. Mr. Rice commended the dynamic discussion on the recommendations of the University Ave Complete Street Study in the last CAC meeting and encouraged more community participation to the transportation planning process.

Mr. Kelly joined the meeting. With a quorum present, Mayor Lewis called the meeting to proceed to the Public Comment section.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Lewis introduced the approval of the Minutes for the May Meeting. Mr. Kelly moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

5. Reports

a. Finance Report

Mayor Lewis presented the MPO's activities as the following:

-- Beginning balance in May \$21,818.13 with expenditures of \$17,026.51 and three deposits of \$31,948.31, leaving a balance of \$36,739.93 at the beginning of April.

Mr. Bruffy moved to accept the April and May Finance Report; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

b. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Austin noted that a meeting of WV MPO Association is scheduled to discuss potential ways to improve the transportation planning process in the State. The meeting will be facilitated by the Land Use Planning Clinic of WVU Law School. Mr. Austin then noted that MPO staff will meet representatives from WVU to discuss the Mon Blvd TWLTL project in next few weeks. Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to Mr. Penn for representing WV DOH at this meeting and noted that the WV DOH is undergoing personnel adjustment, which may result in light attendance of the WV DOH in the MPO meetings.

5. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the Division of Highways has requested a project for TIP Amendments. It is a slide repair and resurfacing project near the River Road and DuPont Road intersection. The project is on a primary truck route and the road may be partly closed during its construction. Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC and CAC recommended approval of this amendment.

Councilperson Selin moved to approve the proposed Amendment to the TIP, seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. MPO Traffic Count Report

Mr. Austin noted that a draft Traffic Count Report of 2016 is included in the agenda package for review. The report contains detailed information for each count station, including directional volume, peak hours, and 24 hour traffic volume by 15 minute interval. Mr. Austin noted that MPO prepares this detailed report every three years. This report will be posted on the MPO's website for public information. MPO Staff will request some locations for recount in this fall to insure the correctness of the data and to assess the traffic pattern changes near the new I-79 interchange area. Mr. Bruffy moved to accept the draft Traffic Count Report; seconded by Councilperson Selin. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. UPWP Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that changing conditions have prompted MPO staff to request that the MPO amend two line items in the FY 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program. The first one is to include an additional \$212,500 in the Consulting Services Line item to fulfill the MPO's contractual obligation to our consultants.

Mr. Austin noted that this is a reschedule of funding with no change in the total cost of the contractual service. He noted that the MPO has the local match required for this amendment to the UPWP.

The second line item change is to revise the Health Insurance line item. MPO Staff originally projected that PEIA premiums would increase by 3%. Current discussions in Charleston indicate that the premiums may increase by 12% or more. MPO Staff recommends that this line item be increased by \$2,000 to anticipate any changes to PEIA premiums that may come forward. This change will not require an increase in local matching funds. Mr. Bruffy moved to accept the UPWP Amendment; seconded by Councilperson Selin. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. University Avenue Complete Street Study Revision

Mr. Austin noted that the Policy Board requested MPO staff revise some parts of the Study to address comments received by the Policy Board. They are Grumbein's Island, the Loop area, and the Beverly Ave area. Mr. Austin noted that the project consultants have clarified the concerns on the proposed bicycle facility on University Ave from Oakland St to Riverview Dr and the cycling community agreed with the proposal. Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC and the CAC recommended approval of the revised report on the University Avenue Complete Street Study. Mr. Bruffy moved to accept the report of the University Avenue Complete Street Study; seconded by Mr. Kelly.

Councilperson Selin asked which agency will be responsible to conduct a study on the Beverly intersection. Mr. Austin noted that the City of Morgantown will be the primary agency to carry out that study. The study can be done in collaboration with the Sunnyside Up neighborhood association and the MPO. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

9. I-79 Access Study Update

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff met the consultant and DOH staff in Charleston to discuss preliminary findings from the traffic analysis on the alternatives identified in the I-79 Access Study. Mr. Bruffy noted that 11 scenarios are being considered, including two bridges at three locations over the Monongahela River. The study team is assessing the potential impact of each scenario on the community in terms of transportation, economy, environment, and neighborhood cohesive. Mr. Austin noted that context sensitive designs and environmental justice will play important roles in the evaluation process. It is expected a steering committee meeting will be held in July and the alternatives will be presented to the public in August.

10. Other Business

Mr. Bruffy noted that MLTA will begin to provide new services on August 8th, which will benefit areas such as Mylan Park, Westover, Morgantown Mall, and University Towncenter. The improvements will include higher frequency of service and extended operation time in both weekdays and weekend days. Mr. Bruffy noted that the goal is to make it more convenient for people using public transit instead of using private vehicles and he is pleased that the MLTA is able provide better service to community.

10. Other Business

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM