

**MORGANTOWN MORGANTOWN
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
May 16, 2013 Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Chairman Joe Statler-Blacksville, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Perry Keller-WVDOH, Councilman Anthony Giambrone-Star City, Mayor Jim Manilla-City of Morgantown, Mike Kelly-Monongalia County Board of Education, Randy Hudak-WVU,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Bill Byrne-City of Morgantown, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville

MPO DIRECTOR: Bill Austin

I. CALL TO ORDER: With a quorum present, Mr. Statler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Giambrone moved to accept the March minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Rice, Chair of the CAC, reported he was unable to attend the last CAC meeting. Mr. Austin presented the CAC Report and advised the CAC reviewed all MPO Agenda items and had no comments. They voted unanimously to recommend approval of the TIP amendments.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT: Mrs. Lewis was unable to make the meeting, but did send a memorandum reviewing and recommending approval of the March and April financial reports, as follows:

March - Beginning balance \$11,145.00; deposits of \$124.62; expenditures of \$10,370.45 leaving an ending balance of \$890.17.

April - Beginning balance of \$890.17; deposits of \$72,968.52; expenditures of \$62,152.78 leaving in ending balance of \$11,705.91.

Mr. Kelly moved for approval of both financial reports; seconded by Mr. Keller. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

VI. DIRECTORS REPORT:

- a. Mr. Austin attended an American Planning Association conference in Chicago and is anxious to begin implementation of what was learned;
- b. Policy Board will consider adopting an updated TIP. The 30 day review period for the draft TIP will begin May 17 2013;
- c. Policy Board will discuss a proposal Dr. Nichols will be presenting this evening;
- d. Will address the Hartman Run Road Bridge issue;
- e. Met with the Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Finance Group to discuss local funding issues;
- f. Presented new member Randy Hudak, replacing Joseph Fisher for WVU.

VII. TIP AMENDMENTS:

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH and Mountain Line had requested the following revisions for the region's FY 2012-2014 TIP.

1. Bowers Lane at Mon Fayette Expressway park and ride – right of way, engineering, construction;
2. Dump truck purchase for Mon River Trail Conservancy;
3. Replace expansion joints at Uffington Bridge;
4. Walnut Street Crosswalk
5. Dunkard Avenue Sidewalk construction. Mr. Kelly asked if the sidewalk would be constructed on one or both sides of the road. Mr. Keller responded that he was not sure but that he would check on it.
6. New interchange at I-79/Chaplin Hill Road; no state or federal funds will be used. Mr. Keller noted that State money will be fronted for this project. The TIF will not have generated enough money up front for the project so funds will be fronted to the project with an agreement that they will be paid back; waiting on an interpretation to determine if the TIP needs to be amended to reflect that or an adjustment may be made. State and Federal monies will finance the construction and then be reimbursed through the TIF. Mr. Keller stated a required Interchange Justification Report will soon be completed. Phase one of this report looks at engineering and operational feasibility; the second phase is environmental. Both phases should be completed at the same time. Mr. Callen noted he spoke with Marvin Murphy and it was his intent to move quickly on this project. He also stated he didn't want the process bogged down thru the MPO. Mr. Statler stated the MPO has been supportive of this project and in no way would bog down the process. Mr. Keller stated this project couldn't move forward if not in the LRTP.
7. After the discussion Mr. Austin then noted that there were also technical amendments for Mountain Line included in the proposed TIP amendments.

Mr. Keller then moved that all TIP amendments be approved; seconded by Mr. Callen. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

VIII. 2040 LRTP ADOPTION:

Mr. Austin noted the LRTP project list was adopted in December 2012. The amendment will include all planning strategies outlined in the LRTP; will be a multi modal LRTP to accommodate growth in our area. It is projected that there will be an additional 40,000 people will be living in Morgantown/Monongalia county between now and 2040. The LRTP will put all policies in place to work with the DOH, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian organizations. The LRTP has been reviewed by both the TAC and CAC and they recommend approval. Mr. Keller moved to adopt the 2040 LRTP; seconded by Mr. Giambrone. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

IV. PRESENTATION BY DR. NICHOLS:

Dr. Nichols' presentation covered two potential changes to the 705 Corridor at the intersection with Burroughs St. including a possible "Triangabout" for that area and another alternative including the addition of turn lanes. Dr. Nichols stated that the purpose of his presentation is to discern whether both alternatives presented should move forward for further evaluation. Discussion from the Policy Board covered:

- a. making sure property and business owners in that area be contacted and the same presentation be shown to them
- b. Safe passage for pedestrians;
- c. Consideration to emergency vehicles;
- d. Making sure the new hotel be considered;
- e. Roundabout for this particular area would be more expensive; signalized intersection with more traffic lanes is not a long term solution;

Mr. Statler stated this issue will need further study. Mr. Callen moved that both alternatives be considered for this evaluation? Mr. Kelly seconded it. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

X. Other Business

Mr. Callen stated the County Commission has been discussing the Hartman Run Bridge. He stated that the Commission believes this bridge is a safety risk. To that end, the Commission will spend \$19,000 for a bridge inspection. Based on the results, it may be possible to close down the bridge before fall. Senator Beach has contacted the DOH to set up a meeting. Mr. Callen would also want the City and MPO involved. It doesn't matter what has transpired in the past, all parties need to start from this day forward to make the bridge safe.

Mr. Statler advised the MPO voted to support federal monies being spent for the bridge repair, that is all the MPO can do. Mr. Callen noted this is an immediate issue and the MPO needs to work with everyone. Mr. Statler stated, again, the MPO did take a stand approving the use of Federal funds for the Project. However, it appears there have been no local funds available to provide the match needed for construction to begin. He would be happy to attend any meeting and assist with whatever could be done. Mr. Austin stated it was hopeful the meeting date would be set by May 22, 2013. Mr. Bloom hoped the inspection would be done by that date.

Mr. Keller stated that DOT has had a Draft agreement since 2009 or 2010 that provides monies from Federal Off System Bridge funds which can be used for this project. Normally Federal funds could not be used for off system bridge replacements; and the 80% maximum share have been made available in the TIP to replace, engineer and purchase additional rights of way; the DOH has been anxious to help with this project. Mr. Callen advised he reviewed the entire Commission file on the bridge; he stated there was no evidence that DOH had any money for the repair of the bridge, now the DOH is saying they do have the money. Mr. Keller advised correspondence was sent to the County Administrator, in April 2013, advising that 80% of the funds needed were available. He also noted that the State has already performed the design work needed to construct the bridge and that the project may move forward once the required match is found. Mr. Manilla then called for a point of order.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Giambrone asked the MPO to look at the traffic light at Boyers Avenue and University Avenue.

Mr. Statler recommended a presentation be given to the MPO on the synchronized lights at 705. Dr. Nichols gave some update on its progress. The system is having a problem with detection. There were many failures within the system. When the manufacturer was contacted, they advised the sensors were faulty. They will be replaced, at no cost, by the end of summer at which time the system should be in full

operation. Mr. Austin will be advised when the system is complete, he will then schedule a presentation.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.