



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

MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
Jan 5, 2016
1:30 PM

Members Present

Damien Davis-City of Morgantown, Chris Fletcher-City of Morgantown
Chandra Inglis Smith-FHWA, Clement Solomon-WVU, Fouad Shoukry-WV DOH
Brian Carr-WV DOH, Dave Bruffy-MLTA, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Rich Wood-Monongalia County
Planning

Members Absent

Ron Snyder, James Meadows, Donny Williams

Others Present

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

Mr. Austin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the November meeting were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Draft TIP

Mr. Austin noted that the draft 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program was included in the agenda package. In addition to the standard highway and transit project lists, staff identified low income and non-English speaking communities within the MPO's area and how the TIP project affects them. The project table added a new column to describe goals and objectives associated with each project. Mr. Austin noted that the draft TIP was duly advertised under the MPO's Public Involvement Policy. Mr. Austin then noted that there are four projects added to this draft TIP. They are: Greenbag Rd Improvement Project, Van Voorhis Widening Project, Beechurst Ave Widening and Spot Improvement Project, and West Run

Widening Project. He noted that these are high priority projects in the MPO's LRTP. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the draft TIP to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Solomon asked if the MPO is required to prepare a separate Title VI policy. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will study the population composition of the urban area and determine the necessity to develop a separate policy to satisfy Title VI requirements. Mr. Wood noted that local income population appears to concentrate in certain census blocks where students live. Mr. Bruffy noted that the MLTA will adjust its service to meet the requirement from Title VI policies.

4. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH has requested two projects for the TIP Amendments. They are two resurfacing projects. One is an I-79 project; and the other is on CO 73 Smithtown Road. Mr. Davis noted that the amount of funding for the CO 70 project seems not sufficient to cover the whole project length. Mr. Carr noted that it is likely that those projects are spot improvements. Mr. Wood noted that the segment of CO 73 addressed in the project needs substantial improvements. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the proposed TIP Amendments to the MPO's Policy Board Seconded by Mr. Wood.

5. Draft MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-17

Mr. Austin noted that the major task for the MPO staff during FY 2016-17 is to update the MPO's LRTP, including updating MPO's Model, revisiting LRTP's goals and objectives, and assessing project recommendations. Mrs. Smith noted that from 2017, most MPOs in West Virginia, including Morgantown Monongalia MPO, will be required to update their LRTP for every four years. Mr. Austin then noted that the budget for FY 2016-17 is generally consistent with the previous year, except for two areas of significant increase. One is the potential increase of health insurance cost; the other is the salary increase for Jing Zhang, who has been promoted to be a MPO's Transportation Planner II.

6. Update on Project Status

Granville Westover Pedestrian Study

Mr. Austin noted that the Study has completed data collection, existing condition analysis, and the first round of community input and MPO staff is in the process of drafting recommendations for the committee's review. Mr. Zhang noted that initial recommendations will include 14 projects to improve walkability and connectivity in the study area.

I-79 Access Study

Mr. Austin noted the I-79 Access Study is in the process of identifying concerns and problems based on existing traffic condition and community input. He then noted that the ultimate goal of this study is to identify the purpose and need for a potential project in this region to reduce traffic congestions and improve mobility. Mr. Austin noted the the steering committee of this study will meet on January 19th to explore potential alternatives to address identified traffic issues. The potential alternatives will include no-build scenario, TMA management option, as well as bridges at 6 locations. Mr. Austin noted that MPO has recently received more than 200 letters, the majority of which voiced oppositions to the construction of a potential bridge in the Arboretum area. He noted that such opinion will be considered by the steering committee. Mr. Carr noted that there is a misperception from the public that the study is a bridge study. In fact, the study is a comprehensive traffic study to explore potential alternatives to improve the regional transportation network.

University Avenue Complete Streets Study

Mr. Austin noted that the consultant is expected to provide refined recommendations for the steering committee's review in next few weeks. After that, projects recommended in this plan will be presented to the public for comments.

7. Other Business

Mr. Shoukry asked if WVU is currently maintaining University Ave in the Grumbein's Island area. Mr. Solomon noted that the University is maintaining that section of University Ave, including sidewalks and lightening. He also noted that the University does not own that segment on University Ave. It remains a state route. Mr. Fletcher noted that the City of Morgantown also maintains that section for snow removing and debris cleaning. Mr. Carr noted it is necessary to establish an agreement among WV DOH, WVU, and the City of Morgantown, to clarify the ownership and maintenance issues. Mr. Bruffy noted that he expects that the proposed redesign of the Grumbein's Island will improve the safety and efficiency of transit service.

Mr. Bruffy noted that MLTA is developing a plan to adjust its service due to anticipated funding deficiency. Currently, MLTA is seeking community input for that issue.

Mr. Bruffy also noted that the MLTA will host a ribbon cutting ceremony this afternoon at Cheat Lake Park-and-Ride Parking lot.

9. Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 2: 36 PM.