



## POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown  
389 Spruce Street  
Morgantown, WV  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6 PM

### Members Present:

Vice Chair Maria Smith – Mountain Line Transit Authority, Mike Kelly – Board of Education, Tom Bloom - Monongalia County, Mayor Bob Lucci – City of Westover, Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Steve Blinco – Star City, Bill Kawecki – City of Morgantown, Sean Sikora – Monongalia County, Mayor Patricia Lewis - Town of Granville, Joe AbuGhannam - City of Morgantown, Russ Rogerson - Morgantown Area Partnership, Bill Kawecki, City of Morgantown City Council

**Others Present:** Jing Zhang, Jackie Peate

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin, AICP

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### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Vice Chair Smith called the meeting of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) Policy Board to order at 6:03 PM.

### 2. Public Comment

Mary Ann Folz addressed the Greenbag Road roundabouts. She stated she met with many truck drivers, and they expressed they would not use alternative routes and were not comfortable with the roundabouts. Ms. Folz mentioned they were concerned about how the alternative routes would cost more money and take more time. She had done the math and the additional cost would be around \$3000 a year, and it would add three weeks of travel time. She encouraged the Board to look at other options. Ms. Folz stated that yes, the voters did vote for Roads to Prosperity, but at the time it was proposed as turning lanes not a roundabout.

Craig Walker introduced himself and wanted to hear more information about the roads near the Industrial Park, as he is invested in the area.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the minutes passed unanimously.

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### *a. Citizens Advisory Committee*

Mr. Austin reported on behalf of the CAC. The agenda items have been reviewed by the CAC, and they recommend approval of the PRT TIP Amendments.

##### *b. Finance*

Mayor Lewis provided the Finance Committee Update. She provided the financial report for the month of May. The beginning balance in May was \$106,621.96, there was 1 deposit totaling \$2,617.06, 21 disbursements totaling \$55,727.26, leaving the ending balance at \$53,511.76.

Mr. Arnett moved to approve the Financial Report; seconded by Mr. Kelly.

##### *c. Executive Director*

Mr. Austin congratulated the City of Westover on receiving the RAISE Grant for their roads and thanked the WVDOH for their help. He provided an update on the EV Study, stating the draft plan has been publicized for public input. The first virtual open house did not have any participants, but there is a second open house coming up. If no one shows, Staff will find another way to provide the public with an opportunity for feedback. Commissioner Bloom asked about an odd email he received about EV charging stations, and Mr. Austin stated he is not aware or part of this email. This study is simply an inventory of what is currently available. He also updated the board that the Beechurst project should be completed by the end of July.

Mr. Austin addressed the public comment about Greenbag Road. He stated there was a meeting with truck drivers at the beginning of this process and they expressed willingness to take alternative routes as the current roads are in bad condition with difficult turns. He also stated roundabouts are a safer option compared to turn signals.

Mr. Austin stated he will out of office next week on vacation and will be attending an AMPO Board of Directors meeting July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia.

#### 5. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin stated that the West Virginia Department of Transportation has requested that the MPO Policy Board amend the Transportation Improvement Program to include the following amendments for the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT):

##### TIP Amendment

FFY 2024 - Preventative Maintenance, Infrastructure Rehabilitation/Renovation; Source FFY 20 State of Good Repair-Section 5337. Federal Funds change from \$1,202,245 to \$887,577. Total funds change from \$1,503,745 to \$1,107,577.

FFY 2024 - Preventative Maintenance, Infrastructure Rehabilitation/Renovation; Source FFY 21 State of Good Repair-Section 5337. Federal Funds change from \$1,202,245 to \$786,748. Total funds change from \$1,503,745 to \$988,748.

FFY 2025 - Preventative Maintenance, Infrastructure Rehabilitation/Renovation; Source FFY 22 State of Good Repair-Section 5337. Federal Funds change from \$1,202,245 to \$1,209,121. Total funds change from \$1,503,745 to \$1,514,121.

FFY 2025 - New funding source. Infrastructure Rehabilitation/Renovation; Source FFY 24 Community Project Funds. Federal Funds \$6,400,000. Total funds \$8,000,000.

These amendments are requested to reflect the actual funding from the Federal Transit administration available for WVU's PRT. The TTAC and CAC both unanimously recommend approval of the amendments.

Mayor Luci moved to approve the TIP Amendments; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

In addition to the TIP amendments WVDOH has made the following administrative adjustments.

#### Administrative Adjustments

EXIT 152 NB & SB RAMPS (AC PAYBACK). FY2024. Federal ID: NHPP0793287DTC. Construction. Total dollar cost changes from \$1,200,000 to \$840,733. Federal dollar cost changes from \$1,200,000 to \$840,733.

BURROUGH ST. FY2024. Federal ID: STP0592002D. Construction. Split the project into BURROUGH ST (AC PAYBACK) and BURROUGH ST (AUTH AC). For BURROUGH ST (AC PAYBACK), total dollar cost \$897,062; federal dollar cost: \$217,649. For BURROUGH ST (AUTH AC), total dollar cost \$0; federal dollar cost \$500,000.

GREENBAG MULTI-USE PATH STUDY. FY2024. Federal ID: TAP2024036D. Engineering. Total dollar cost change from \$1,000,000 to \$0. Federal dollar cost change from \$800,000 to \$0. GREENBAG ROAD. FY2024. Federal ID: STBG0857024D. Engineering. Total dollar cost change from \$3,200,000 to \$4,200,000. Federal dollar cost change from \$2,560,000 to \$4,200,000

JOSEPH C BARTOLO MEMORIAL BRIDGE. FY2024. Federal ID: NHPP0019587D. Engineering. Total dollar cost changes from \$250,000 to \$338,583. Total federal dollar cost changes from \$200,000 to \$270,351.

Add: I-68 EXIT 7 RAMPS. FY2024. Federal ID: NHPP0068213D. Engineering. Total dollar cost \$50,000. Total federal dollar cost \$45,000.

The Greenbag Road adjustments are the result of a comment from the FHWA stating that breaking the grant into two projects suggested by WVDOH for the implementation of the MPO's RAISE grant was not appropriate. FHWA stated that the grant should be implemented as one project.

These Adjustments do not require action by the Policy Board.

Commissioner Sikora addressed the tabled TIP Amendment for Exit 155. At the May meeting Chairman Statler appointed a committee to discuss the TIP Amendment with WVDOH to ensure that this project will be constructed more quickly than the proposed TIP amendment indicated. The committee consisting of Mr. Blinco, Mr. Justice, Mr. Rogerson, Commissioner Sikora, Chairman Statler and Mr. Austin met with Deputy Secretary Keller and senior staff to discuss this item. WVDOH expressed support for constructing this project quickly. It was indicated that once an agreement with WVDOH/FHWA to implement the project is in place the TIP will be adjusted accordingly. This commitment is supported by a letter from Secretary Wriston to the County Commission stating WVDOH will represent the County to FHWA for the \$54.32 million INFRA grant. The grant has very tight deadlines. The reconstruction of the interchange is vital to the grant and has to move forward with it. MMMPO Staff is working to get the Agreement(s) in place quickly. Staff will work with appointed committee and keep the Policy Board informed on this process.

Mr. Kelly asked about the timing, and Commissioner Sikora mentioned it was a tight timeline but they are working with the developer and moving forward. Mr. Justice added this change would allow for more and better development such as trail connectors. He expressed the need to move this forward, and how to connect this project to others in the area. Commissioner Sikora additionally expressed support.

Commissioner Bloom moved to un-table the TIP Amendment for Exit 155; seconded by Mr. Blinco. Commissioner Sikora pointed out that Commissioner Bloom has provided support for developing this area. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Justice then moved to approve the TIP Amendment for Exit 155; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. Without further discussion; the motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Electric Charging Study Update**

This update was provided during the Executive Director's report.

## **7. Downtown Microsimulation Study Update**

Mr. Austin provided an update on the Downtown Microsimulation Study. The Steering Committee met last week and the Committee looked at a preliminary problem statement to move forward with. They are focusing on multi-modal and safety. Various items and alternatives will be looked at. There was a public map that Kimley Horn created that has had many members of the public submit comments. Kimley Horn is incorporating the public feedback and Steering Committee feedback into their alternative solutions. At the next meeting in four to six weeks these alternatives will be reviewed. There will be a robust public involvement process. Mr. Kawecky stated he was impressed at the consideration given to pedestrians and bicyclists in this study. Ms. Smith asked when the next meeting will be, and Mr. Austin stated it will be in four to six weeks for feedback and analysis. Kimley Horn has developed the baseline model and AECOM is validating this existing network modeling.

## **8. Other Business**

Mr. Kelly congratulated the City of Morgantown on hosting The Great Race. He stated it was a very successful event. The Board discussed bringing this event back next year.

Mr. Kawecki asked about the TIP amendment for the Walnut St. bridge, and if it was possible to petition for a sidewalk. Mr. Austin stated it was a contract for re-decking, and considering the width of the bridge an additional sidewalk may be tricky. Mr. Kawecki mentioned the bridge did used to have sidewalk on both sides. Mr. Ausitn stated he will pass this comment along.

Commissioner Bloom stated that WVDOH is working on the bridge above I-e68. He gave a shoutout to Steven Harris who provided him with information on the bridge. It is a deck overlay project, and there will always be one lane open.

Mr. Blinco brought up political signs, and how some need to come down as the primaries are over and it can cause sight issues.

## **9. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.