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**MINUTES**

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

MMMPO Conference Room

243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV

January 9, 2018, 3 PM

**Members Present**

Bill Austin, Bob Edwards, Rich Wood, Brian Carr, Chris Fletcher, Damien Davis

**Others Present**

Matt Skiles-WV DOH Jing Zhang-MMMPO

**1. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 3:00 PM.

Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Skiles will update the committee on the status of the US 119 and CR 73 intersection improvement project. Mr. Skiles noted that the WV DOH has been working with consultants to conduct a traffic operation and safety study at the US 119/CR 73 intersection. The study recommended short-medium term improvements with an estimated cost of $600,000. Recommendations include intersection lighting, traffic signal installation, minor road realignment, roadway widening, and access management. Long term recommendations include major roadway realignment to solve the geometry issues, which requires a lot of earth works and right of way acquisition. Mr. Skiles noted that the DOH intends to program this project in the near future. Mr. Austin noted that it could be beneficial to coordinate this project with the improvement at the intersection of Greenbag Rd and Don Knotts Blvd. Mr. Austin suggested that the consultant for the study might do a presentation to the MPO’s Policy Board in March.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**3. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH requested that the MPO amend the TIP. The amendments include: WV 7 Blacksville resurfacing project from east of Monongalia county line for a distance of 2.71 miles, the WV 705 resurface project from Monongahela Boulevard to Stewartstown Road, the BOPARC trail equipment purchase, and the Deckers Creek trail slide correction project. Mr. Austin noted that Mountain Line Transit Authority requested that the MPO amend the TIP for bus purchase under the FTA Section 5339 [Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program](https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/bus-bus-facilities-infrastructure-investment-program).

Mr. Wood moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments to the Policy Board as presented, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measures**

Mr. Austin noted that federal legislation requires that the States and the MPO adopt performance measures to ensure that transportation investment is meeting state, local and national goals. Accordingly, WVDOH has recently adopted the state safety goals identified in a memorandum sent out with the agenda packet. It is anticipated that the MPO will be working on adopting additional performance measures throughout 2018. One comment received from a MPO Committee member was that the MPO may wish to include crash incidents as part of future performance measures since fatalities and injuries are at least partly mitigated by vehicle technology and crashes can be influenced by roadway design. Mr. Fletcher agreed on the importance of measuring number of incidents and noted that the crash incident measurement should be consistent among all MPOs in the state.

Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend adoption of these performance measures to the MPO Policy Board, seconded by Davis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Traffic Count Report**

Mr. Austin noted that the 2017 Traffic Count Report was enclosed with the agenda packet.

The MPO split the counts between the spring and the fall of 2017 to develop regional seasonal factors. The report is complete, in spite the read for some count locations to be verified. Mr. Austin noted that a lot of changes in the counts overtime are due to the new interchange on I-79 and recent improvements on the Mileground. The MPO will use the format of this report as a basic template for future annual traffic count reports. Mr. Fletcher moved to accept the traffic count report, seconded by Mr. Davis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Beechurst Avenue Study**

Mr. Austin noted that WVDOT have moved the Beechurst Avenue Spot Improvement project to quick implementation due to the “Roads to Prosperity” bond referendum. The DOH has selected a consultant to perform a “Preliminary Investigation and Engineering Study” (PIE) for this project. The MPO is to close this project in the work program by finishing the alternative analysis and transmitting the study documents to the consultant. The MPO will work with the consultant on public involvement for this study. Mr. Fletcher noted that the MPO’s steering committee for the study could provide valuable input to the DOH’s PIE project. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend to the MPO Policy Board that they consider this project closed for MPO staff; seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**7. Prospectus Update**

Mr. Austin noted that an updated Prospectus was included in the agenda packet. The Prospectus describes the work that the MPO is eligible to perform. It also outlines the primary and secondary responsibilities of member agencies. Mr. Austin noted that the previous prospectus was adopted in 2013. The update includes the following changes: Changing the name of the MPO’s Plan from “Long Range Transportation Plan” to “Metropolitan Transportation Plan” (MTP); updating the MTP Planning Factors the MPO is required to consider in the transportation planning process to match the most recent Federal requirements; updating graphics; and adding a Line Item for Performance Measurement Planning. Mr. Wood moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Davis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**8. Draft FY 2018-2019 UPWP**

Mr. Austin noted that the draft UPWP was included in the agenda packet. Aside from normal operations the draft UPWP includes the following initiatives: working with the Bike Board to update the regional bike plan; preparing an operational analysis including recommending improvements to the intersection of Willey Street and Richwood Avenue for the City of Morgantown; and developing a guidebook for working with the MPO. As recommended in the MTP, the MPO will also develop an ongoing bicycle and pedestrian data collection program. This document is to be brought forward to this committee for recommendation of adoption to the Policy Board in March.

**9. Other Business**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will develop a memorandum of understanding with West Virginia University on the PRT. The university needs to develop a transit asset management plan required by the FAST Act.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will update the MPO’s Transportation Improvement Program in March or May. He expects that the groupable project process will be included in the document.

Mr. Fletcher noted that the traffic lights near the North Elementary School on WV 705 have been out of coordination for a long time. A better coordinated signal network on WV 705 could greatly improve its traffic efficiency. He suggested that that the MPO follow up with the DOH on this issue.

**10. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM.