



## TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This meeting was held virtually at <https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin> and in-person at 243 High St (Court House), Room 026 in downtown Morgantown.

### Members Present:

Bill Austin (Chair), Kara Greathouse, Maria Smith, Andrew-Gast Bray, Brian Carr, Chase Lindsey (FHWA), Jason Stinespring, Jeremy Evans, Latina Mayle

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

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### 1. Call to Order

The TTAC meeting was held virtually and in person. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized. With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 1:03 PM. Members and those attending introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Ms. Smith moved to approve the meeting minutes with corrections; seconded by Mr. Gast-Bray. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

### 3. 2024 October TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin provided the TTAC with the October TIP Amendments.

MLTA requested adding bus facility roof replacement funding to FY 2025 with federal funding of \$1,360,000 and local funding of \$340,000. They are also funding increases for the Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement for FY 2025, FY 2027, and FY 2028.

WVDOH requested TIP amendments for two projects. They are:

1. Morgantown Industrial Park Access Road - moving FY 2025 construction phase to FY 2026 and moving from FY 2026 construction phase to FY 2027.
2. Harmony Grove I.C - moving from FY 2025 to FY 2028 with funding decreases.

Mr. Austin requested that the board vote on the two amendments separately.

### MLTA Amendment Request

#### FY2025

- Add Bus Facility Roof Replacement. Source: 5339. Federal funding: \$1,360,000. Local funding: \$340,000.
- Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (1). Source 5330. Federal funding increases from \$145,240 to \$445,189. Local funding increases from \$36,310 to \$111,297.

- Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (2). Source 5330. Federal funding increases from \$241,031 to \$1,400,000. Local funding increases from \$60,258 to \$350,000.

#### FY2027

- Operating Assistance - Capital. Source: 5307. Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500.

#### FY2028

- Operating Assistance - Capital. Source: 5307. Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500.

Mrs. Smith provided updates on these requests and said they were consistent with what MLTA needs. She stated this is how their projects are presented in the TIP. Mr. Austin stated that he and Mrs. will be discussing adjusting the amendment and adjustment policy for the TIP to make it a smoother process while still being transparent and involving the public. Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the MLTA Amendment Request; seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

### **WV DOH Amendments Request**

The following projects are requested to be amended to the MPO's TIP as non-groupable projects according to MPO's TIP policy.

- MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FY2026. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Type of Work: CONST NEW ROAD & BRIDGE. Phase: CON. Funding Source: STBG-FLEX. Federal Funding: \$10,000,000; Total Funding: \$10,000,000. Project Location Description: Connecting Morgantown Industrial Park to Don Knotts Blvd over Monongahela River. Action: move to FY 2027.
- HARMONY GROVE I/C. FY2025. Federal ID: NHPP0079109D. Type of Work: CONST NEW I/C. Phase: ENG. Funding Source: NHPP. Federal Funding: \$3,330,000; Total Funding: \$3,700,000. Project Location Description: River Rd near Master Graphics Rd (over I-79). Action: move to FY 2028; total funding decreases from \$3,700,000 to \$2,200,000; federal funding decreases from \$3,330,000 to \$1,760,000.
- MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FY2025. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Type of Work: CONST NEW ROAD & BRIDGE. Phase: CON. Funding Source: STBG-FLEX. Federal Funding: \$10,000,000; Total Funding: \$10,000,000. Project Location Description: Connecting Morgantown Industrial Park to Don Knotts Blvd over Monongahela River. Action: move to FY 2026.

Mr. Gast-Bray asked for clarification on the Industrial Park Projects. Mr. Austin clarified the first one is for construction and the funding is being rolled forward for those projects.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the WVDOH Amendments; seconded by Mr. Carr. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin reviewed the administrative adjustments for highway projects that include adding three projects. They are:

1. Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Morgantown +1 with total funding of \$100,000 (federal funding \$90,000). The project is on WV 705 from Mon Blvd to the Applebee intersection.

2. Decker's Creek trail restoration with total funding \$260,000 (federal funding \$208,000).
3. District project of 2025 D4 roadway departure + 3 district project with total funding \$1,026,904 (federal funding \$924,214).

In addition, there are 22 administrative adjustments for 22 highway projects. Most of these changes are fiscal year adjustments and funding changes. All of those projects are groupable projects according to the MPO's TIP policy. The MPO will have additional 26 highway projects removed from the TIP. These projects have either been completed or had funds obligated in the past fiscal year. Those projects won't be on the MPO's active highway TIP table, but their information will remain accessible in the MPO's archived TIP documents.

#### **4. Downtown Microsimulation Study Update**

Mr. Austin stated the project is moving forward and is currently in a 'black box phase.' The Steering Committee has met and the TTAC has been informed of the recommendations for the Downtown Microsimulation Study. Some of the alternatives include the closure of Grumbein's Island, one-way streets, and improvements to Willey Street. The consultants also want to look at better signal coordination. There are 5 individual recommendations, with the 6<sup>th</sup> being a combination of several recommendations. There may be preliminary results around January of 2025. Mr. Austin stated he will keep the TTAC updated.

#### **5. Don Knotts Bridge Update**

Mr. Austin stated this study is looking into enhanced access to the rail trail for the residents of 1<sup>st</sup> Ward. It would include a pedestrian bridge over Don Knotts Blvd. The MPO's on call consultants are working on this potential project. WVDOH has concerns about feasibility, so they are conducting a study to see if this is at all possible. One element they are looking into is an elevator. Ms. Smith asked who will take over the maintenance, and Mr. Austin answered saying that the City of Morgantown will maintain the bridge once constructed. This is a high priority for the City of Morgantown.

#### **6. Other Business**

Mr. Austin stated WVAMPO will be meeting soon to discuss TIP Administrative Adjustments, particularly for transit. Mr. Austin also attended the national AMPO Conference and they are talking about the upcoming Reauthorization Bill. The WVDOH is working on updating their STIP, and the MPO is keeping their TIP up to date and reviewing it to be ready for when the state makes changes. The Harmony Groove Interchange is also currently under review by DOH. Negotiations are ongoing with the County and FHWA Mega Grant for Exit 155.

Mr. Austin stated there was recently a meeting on Westover's RAISE Grant for Fairmont Rd. Mr. Austin and Mr. Stinespring were not able to attend, but Mr. Carr was present at the meeting. He stated it was a standard award meeting where they go over highlights, the schedule/timeline, and the typical agreement.

Mr. Gast-Bray provided an update from the County, stating there are a number of potential projects going on near/on Willowdale Rd. Developers are being sensitive to the area and planning for upgrades. There are also sensitive to the drainage issues of the area, and are coordinating with respective entities to make sure they develop properly.

Mr. Carr stated that WVDOH will be putting out more general grant information as soon as it comes out. He stated he is available for questions if entities are interested in applying for grants.

Mr. Austin stated MPO staff has been talking to consultants in regards to the Downtown Study, and the consultants stated they are updating the Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM). The MPO is looking into doing a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (minor) with updated information from the RTDM. This would be adopted in 2026. The TTAC should expect a schedule and plan for this minor update at the next meeting.

## **7. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:33pm.