

## GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO

January 21, 2009

Minutes

City Council Chambers

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Bell, Perry Keller, Mike Kelly, Dave Bruffy, Don Spencer, Charles Bryer; Joe Statler(arrived at 7:20 PM).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Asel Kennedy, Tom Konchesky, Bill Byrne, Janice Goodwin, Patty Lewis

### I. ATTENDANCE and APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Bill Austin called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. It was noted a quorum was present with six members. According to the MPO bylaws, any member that is absent for two consecutive meetings is not counted as being necessary in determining how many members are necessary for a quorum. Mr. Austin noted that one member had been absent for two meetings and that therefore a quorum would be calculated from eleven members instead of twelve making a quorum as specified in the By-laws six members (Fifty percent plus one.)

**A. Approval of Minutes.** Mr. Bell moved to approve the minutes from October 15, 2009 and December 10, 2009 as submitted; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion unanimously carried.

### II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Nominating committee chair Mr. Bruffy presented the 2010 slate of officers. Mike Kelly, President; Joe Statler, Vice President; Asel Kennedy Treasurer. It should be noted that Asel Kennedy will now have the authority to sign MPO checks on invoices presented for payment. Mr. Austin then opened the election for any other nominations. There being none, Mr. Bruffy moved the nominations be closed; seconded by Mr. Bell. The slate of officers was unanimously approved and Mr. Kelly took over the meeting as Chair.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

**A. Guests –** Jason Foster, Dee Begley, Kelly Kees, Kevin Sullivan, Fouad Skoukry, (all of WVU DOH) Bill Rice, John Gaddis

### IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

#### A. Correspondence

Mr. Austin advised three enhancement grant applications had been received.

- a. Morgantown High Street
- b. Westover – Sidewalks from Dunkard Avenue to Granville;
- c. Granville – Completing the sidewalks on Main Street

## **B. MPO Operational Report**

Mr. Austin advised six consulting firms are interested in performing the TDM study, and two firms have been selected for interviews. Though interviews have not yet been arranged to date. He has asked the Policy Board for the Selection Committee to have permission to negotiate with the preferred firm so that a contract may be presented at the next MPO meeting. Mr. Bruffy moved that the Selection Committee be authorized to enter into negotiations for the TDM project study; Mr. Bell seconded it. The motion unanimously carried.

## **C. Mon Boulevard Striping**

The DOH and City of Morgantown are still conducting internal discussions for the project. Once those discussions are completed, Mr. Austin will set up a meeting with them. He also stated he has received feedback from the Bicycle Board that will also need factored in.

## **D. Dynamic Signal System Study**

The DOH will have a consultant contact the MPO as to how the signal system operational study will be performed prior to installation of the new system. They have advised they will be utilizing the FHWA standard signal system instead of the one initially discussed that is used in England. This change has set the project back. The DOH hopes to begin the installation of the signal system early next year.

## **V. SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT:**

Mr. Bell reported an opening balance of \$63,116.80; 35 checks were written from October 16, 2009 to January 21, 2010; 5 deposits were made, leaving an ending balance of \$40,623.52

## **VI. WVDOT REPORT:**

**A. State** – Mr. Keller presented a project for the Policy Board to consider so that it may get into the design schedule. It is a 1.18 mile resurfacing project from US 119 to the I-68 off ramp. He noted that District 4 gave this project top priority with the MPO area. Total cost of the project is \$825,000, \$660,000 of which is federal funds. A TIP amendment is required since federal funds are involved. Mr. Austin noted an unscheduled meeting would be needed so that the Board may vote on the TIP amendment to allow DOH to get the project out on schedule. He will survey the members to determine if a special meeting will be set or if a phone meeting could be done. He suggested a February MPO meeting so the TDM study could also be given. Mr. Austin and Mr. Keller will coordinate the best way to proceed.

Mr. Keller also stated that the FHWA allows the grouping of projects for maintenance and/or upkeep to be included in a TIP. It would eliminate the need for emergency meetings, money for advertising, etc. if every MPO TIP that calls for resurfacing had projects grouped they could proceed without calling emergency meetings, expending funds for advertising, etc.

**B. Local** - Mr. Keller advised the only other project of significance to report on was WV 43 at the Pennsylvania State Line, Mon Fayette Expressway, Toll Collection Equipment. Cost of the project is \$3.5 million. It will be done with state funds so no TIP amendment is needed.

## **VII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TTAC** – A full quorum was present for the meeting. Their discussions are reflected in the agenda memo.

**CAC** – Meeting was held on January 14, 2010. Two agenda items, WV 705 Connector and MPO Project Prioritization, were discussed.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS** – Items were covered under the Director's Report.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. WV 705 Connector Alternatives**

Jason Foster of the DOH Engineering Division presented a power point presentation for the 705 Connector Alternatives. He reported that since the original study the 705 Corridor has been developed (except for the WVU Farms property). They have proposed additional alternates referred to as Alternative 3, Alternative 5 and Alternatives 6a and 6b.

Alternative 3 – Construct a four lane controlled access facility on a new location that would minimize the need to acquire rights of way at a cost of \$60 million, depending on the alternative chosen. The proposed alignment is south of the alignment on the original LRTP due to development.

Alternative 5 – Construct a “one way circle” using the existing rights of way consisting of The Mileground, WV 857, Meadow Drive, Stewartstown Road and WV 705. Cost for this project would be approximately \$39 million. (if this alternative is considered, the LRTP would have to be amended).

Alternative 6a – Upgrade the Mileground to four lanes with a center turn lane, once to the 705 and Rt 119 intersection there would be a traffic signal or round about. Continuing down the Mileground with a four or five lane upgrade at the Hartman Run Road. At that intersection would be a traffic signal or round about.

Alternative 6b – Construct round abouts at the primary intersections that would allow the use of four lanes with barriers to prevent left hand turns.

Mr. Foster stated the DOH has concerns with Alternative 5 and they lean toward the Alternative 6a and 6b. Mr. Austin said that the TAC supported 6a and 6b while the CAC preferred Alternative 3, but if it was too costly they would support 6a and 6b. They also wanted the DOH to consider an innerloop connector. The DOH advised they looked into that possibility but it is too expensive.

After discussion Mr. Statler moved that the DOH proceed with the 6a/6b study, and if possible, including Stewartstown Road into the study; Mr. Bruffy seconded it. Mr. Spencer then asked to amend the motion to include Complete Streets concept. Mr. Bruffy and Mr. Kelly advised that the Complete Streets concept is already a Board policy. Mr. Spencer then withdrew his amendment. The motion unanimously passed.

## **B. MPO Project Prioritization**

The TAC prioritized projects in three tiers, those projects over \$10 million; those between \$5 million and \$10 million; and those that are less than \$5 million.

### **TIER ONE** (proposed) (Over \$10 million)

1. 705 Connector/Mileground Widening
2. Falling Run Corridor
3. Beechurst Avenue Widening
4. WV 705/Hartman Connector

After review and discussion, Mr. Spencer moved that #2 Falling Run Corridor and #3 Beechurst Avenue Widening be reversed; Mr. Bruffy seconded it. The motion unanimously passed.

### **TIER ONE**

1. 705 Connector/Mileground Widening
2. Beechurst Avenue Widening
3. Falling Run Corridor
4. WV 705/Hartman Connector

### **TIER TWO**(proposed) \$5 million to \$10 million

1. University Beechurst TSM
2. US 19/Westover (I-79-West)
3. Widen West Run Road
4. Widen Greenbag Road

Mr. Statler moved that Tier Two remain the same as is, except #3 Widen West Run and #4 Widen Greenbag Road be ranked equally; Mr. Spencer seconded it. The motion unanimously passed.

### **TIER THREE** (proposed) under \$5 million

1. University Grade Separation/Grumbine Island
2. Van Voorhis TSM
3. Collins Ferry TSM
4. Osage Road/Chaplin Road
5. Pineview Dr/Riddle Ave.

Mr. Austin stated the CAC recommended removing #1 and move all the others up. After discussion, Mr. Spencer moved to move #1 to #5 and move all others up, and, a conceptual design be developed in detail to allow for further discussion of the project of Grumbine Island; Mr. Statler seconded it. The motion unanimously carried.

### **TIER THREE**

1. Van Voorhis TSM

2. Collins Ferry TSM
3. Osage Road/Chaplin Road
4. Pineview Dr/Riddle Ave
5. University Grade Separation/Grumbine Island

### **C. Upcoming MPO Work Program**

Mr. Austin advised he is in the process of developing a new work program for the new fiscal year. He is also looking into hiring an intern with a strong technical background. He is also interested in creating an annual traffic count program for use in traffic modeling and the evaluation of new development. In addition, he has a company designing a new website to include all MPO information on the website. At the present time, he is not satisfied with the company providing updating the site. A draft budget will be presented at the March meeting. He asked for input from the Policy Board on items they would like included in the Work Program prior to March so he may include them in the budget.

Mr. Bell moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm, seconded by Mr. Keller. The motion unanimously carried.