



TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 7th, 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), Andrew Gast-Bray, Maria Smith, Kara Greathouse, Michael Dougherty, Brian Carr, Jeremy Evans

Rickie Yeager, Damien Davis, Latina Mayle, Jason Stinespring

Others Present: Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang

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 1:02 PM.

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 as presented; seconded by Mr. Dougherty. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

3. 2024 May TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin stated the 2024 May TIP Amendments are as follows:

West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (WV DOH) has requested the following TIP amendments:

Funding Change

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AUTH AC). FFY 2024. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds reduce from \$57,600,000 to \$20,000,000.

STAR CITY I/C IMPROVEMENT. FFY 2029 Federal ID: NHPP0079156D. Construction Phase. ACTION: Federal funds increase from \$0 to \$59,400,000.

Add New Project

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2025. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2026. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2027. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2029. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$7,600,000.

Mr. Austin stated the Administrative Adjustments are as follows:

BROCKWAY AVE. Federal ID: STP0007305D. FYY 2024. Construction Phase. Increase Federal funds from \$800,000 to \$1,680,000; total funds from \$640,000 to \$2,100,000

UNIVERSITY AVE BRIDGE. Federal ID: HWI0119547D. FYY 2024. Construction Phase. ACTION: Total funds from \$500,000 to \$900,000. Federal funds from \$ 400,00 to \$720,000

Mr. Carr commented on the amendments stating the amendments will possibly continue to change, but the projects will continue and be constructed.

Mr. Austin has gotten a lot of feedback and questions from the Policy Board about the Star City Exit (Exit 55).

Ms. Smith asked about funding change on MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AUTH AC). FFY 2024. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Mr. Austin explained that this as an accounting tactic, not a major change. The amount of money has not changed, but they are spreading out the money as the project moves along. Ms. Smith also asked about details of Star City Exit, Mr. Austin does not have exact details and suggested reaching out to WVDOH.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of TIP Amendments; seconded by Mr. Dougherty. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Downtown Microsimulation Study Update

Mr. Austin provided an update on the Downtown Microsimulation Study. There was a Steering Committee meeting April 30th. This meeting presented the data that has been collected and helped familiarize the Steering Committee with the model they will be using. Also, AECOM will be a secondary consulting firm that will double check Kimley-Horn's to make sure it is accurate. The Steering Committee will meet at the end of June with the calibrated model, and Kimely-Horn will be asking for input. They will begin to consider changes to downtown traffic flow for improvements.

Mr. Dougherty asked if study will help with light synchronization. Mr. Austin said this is one of the alternatives that will be looked at to help improve traffic flow.

Mr. Austin stated that traffic engineering division in Charleston is involved, and that WVDOH is on board and aware of this study. Donna Hardy, PE, Assistant Director of Traffic Engineering for WVDOH is on the Steering Committee.

This was an informational item.

5. Community Garden Project Update

Ms. Peate provided an update on the Community Garden Project. She stated the Steering Committee had met on April 29th to score the four applicants. The Steering Committee members are Bill Austin and Andrew Gast-Bray from the MPO, and Rickie Yeager and Katherine Millete from the City of Morgantown.

Based on the scoring and after consultation with the Policy Board Chairman, the MPO is moving forward with the recommendation of the Steering Committee to fund West Virginia Garden Collaborative and Scott's Run Settlement House. They will be awarded the full amount requested. The Steering Committee came to the consensus to award Chris White's Community Garden on the condition that he provides further documentation of the organization that runs the garden, and provides information about volunteers. Mr. White did provide this information to the Steering Committee, so they are moving forward with funding the garden. Joanna's Jarden was an incomplete application and will not be awarded funds.

MPO Staff is currently drafting an agreement for the applicants receiving the grant money. This agreement will state that they will run their gardens as presented and explain the reimbursement process. There is a second agreement being drafted for the reimbursement of these funds to the MPO from the state.

Mr. Austin said funds are obligated and are out there, and Greenbag Rd project is moving on, but we need to finalize an agreement. Mr. Carr said to not go ahead until draft agreement is finished. The MPO will wait for funds to be secured before awarding money.

Ms. Smith asked is WV Garden Collaborative is an existing organization. Ms. Peate stated that is. Ms. Smith also asked about this organization hiring someone. Staff clarified that this will not be part of funds.

Mr. Austin stated that as soon as the MPO can get funds secured from the State, recipients will be notified and this project will begin.

This was an informational item.

6. Other Business

Mr. Evans stated he sent the MPO a TIP amendment for WVU. Mr. Austin stated he missed the advertising deadline, and that it will be advertised properly and presented at June meetings.

Mr. Carr mentioned some federal grants are open for the state. He also mentioned the WVAMPO conference is coming up.

Mr. Dougherty said they are shutting down ramps on 152, and asked if the timeline really needs to be that long. Mr. Austin explained they are staging shut downs to only affect on ramp at a time.

Mr. Austin stated staff has been working on a signage project and study for MLTA routes downtown. Ms. Smith talked about how this project will help increase visibility of routes and standardize their single. This current system is flag down, not stops.

7. Meeting Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm.