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**MINUTES**

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

MMMPO Conference Room

243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV

March 8, 2018, 6 PM

**Members Present**

Bill Rice, Kyle Haugh, Matthew Cross, Ed Sneckenberger, Chip Wamsley, Christiaan Abildso

**Others Present**

Bill Austin-MMMPO, Jing Zhang-MMMPO, Jim Bissett-the Dominion Post

**1. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chairman Rice called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Rice noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Sneckenberger moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wamsley. 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 are related to the WV 7/I-79 new interchanges and construct project staring from 2021 to 2024. It is anticipated that the environmental work for the I-79 Access project may not be completed in time for the project to be included in the general obligation bonds to be issued in the next four years. It is assumed that if that work is completed in time, the project will be funded through the general obligation bonds as previously proposed by WVDOH.

Mr. Cross asked if the project will connect WV 7 to I-79. Mr. Austin noted that the project is recommended as a part of the I-79 Access Study and it will be a full interchange connecting WV 7 to I-79. Mr. Rice asked when the public involvement process of the I-79 access bridge project will be started. Mr. Austin noted the MPO is not directly involved in the NEPA process for this project. The WV DOH is drafting the scope of work for hiring a consulting firm to work on it. Currently, it is not clear when the public involvement process will take place. Mr. Austin also noted that various alternatives will be considered in the NEPA process and public input will constitute an important part of it.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the amendment does not specify the project stage for different years. Mr. Austin noted that the project process is not specified by year, because DOH may use funds that are available in each year for different types of works in the project. Mrs. Smith asked about the purpose of public meeting. Mr. Austin noted that the purpose will be identify a corridor with a buffer of approximately 2 miles. It is unlikely that the final alignment of the connecting road to the proposed bridge will follow Bakers Ridge Rd, because of the relatively high residential density in the Bakers Ridge Corridor.

Mr. Walmsley moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendment to the Policy Board as presented, seconded by Mr. Haugh. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Draft Unified Planning Work Program & 5. Update on Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. Austin noted that the agenda item 4 and 5 are closely related, and he suggested to combine these two items. The Committee agreed. Mr. Austin noted that the committee has reviewed the draft UPWP in the January meeting and since then, no substantial changes have been made. Aside from normal operations the draft UPWP includes: working with the Bike Board to update the regional bike plan; preparing an operational analysis at the intersection of Willey Street and Richwood Avenue for the City of Morgantown; developing a guidebook for working with the MPO; and developing an ongoing bicycle and pedestrian data collection program.

Mr. Austin noted that in responding to the recent pedestrian crashes near the WVU campus, the MPO is working with the DOH, the City of Morgantown, and WVU to establish a working group to improve the pedestrian safety in the area. The MPO will reconstruct the scope of work for the pedestrian safety plan update. The new work scope will have significant emphasis on public involvement and education programs for both pedestrians and motorists. Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH indicated that additional funding may be available to hire a consultant for the pedestrian study. Mr. Austin also noted that the MPO is preparing for pedestrian traffic counts and the map of count locations is included in the agenda package for review.

Mrs. Smith asked who will be the hiring agency of the consultant. She noted that in addition to WVU campus, the study should include pedestrian safety issues in the downtown and in the local neighborhoods. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that it has not been decided which agency will be the hiring agency. Sneckenberger suggested adding some locations to the pedestrian counts, including the Oakland St and University Ave intersection, and the University Ave and Patteson Dr intersection. Mr. Abildso noted that it is crucial to identify the causes of pedestrian crashes. He also noted that it might be helpful to look into the behaviors of motorists and pedestrians and to develop educational programs to promote pedestrian safety.

Mr. Cross moved to recommend approval of the UPWP to the Policy Board as presented, seconded by Mr. Haugh. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Other Business**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO Freight Advisory Committee meeting is on March 8, 2018. The manager of the Freight Planning SW Pennsylvania Commission will make a presentation on US Army Corp of Engineers Upper Ohio River System Study.

**7. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.