



POLICY BOARD MEETING

April 1, 2021

This meeting was held virtually on  
<https://cityofmorgantown.my.webex.com/meet/cityofmorgantown>

**Members Present:**

Chair-Commissioner Tom Bloom, Vice-Chair Ron Justice – WVU, Treasure-Mayor Patricia Lewis, Commissioner Jeffery Arnett-Monongalia County, Recorder Steven Blinco-Star City, David Bruffy – Mountain Line Transit, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Councilperson Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County, Mr. Joe Statler,

**Members Absent**

Dave Harshbarger, Janice Goodwin

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin, AICP

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**1. Call to Order**

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the special Policy Board meeting was held as a teleconference. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized.

With a quorum present, Chairman Bloom called the meeting of the Policy Board to order at 5:39 PM.

Chairman Bloom noted that the MPO hold this meeting under its By-Law Article 5, Section 4. The special meeting is called by Mr. Justice, Commissioner Sikora, Commissioner Arnett, and himself.

**2. Public Comment**

No Public Comments.

**3. Consideration of MPO Priority List in regard to status of Interstate I-79 Exit 155 Modification Project-TIP Project Number U3317915450000 may go into Executive Session per WV §6-9A-4-b (9)**

Commissioner Bloom noted that meeting is to discuss the Interstate I-79 Exit 155 Modification Project and a letter to the DOH concerning the project.

Commissioner Sikora noted that the County Commission has been working with the DOH, Westridge Developer, and the consultant about interchange project on I-79. It has been noted that the State will decide the next round of the General Obligation Bond project very soon. To avoid missing the funding deadline, the MPO prepared a letter to the DOH addressing this status of the project. The letter

summarizes the MPO's understanding of project, clarifies the MPO's stands on projects, and requests clarification about project status and procedure from the DOH.

Mr. Statler moved to approve this letter and authorize the Executive Director send it to the DOH immediately; seconded by Mr. Justice.

Mr. Statler noted that it is important to get the project into the GO bound in time. Otherwise, the MMMPO is at risk of losing funding opportunities for this project.

Councilperson Selin asked about what things does the MPO need to do to move the project forward. Chairman Bloom noted that the letter requests a clarification from the DOH on that question.

Mr. Austin noted that the project is included in the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan for alternative funds, a category of projects recommended for funding outside of MPO's normal allocation of federal and state funds. It is different from other tiered projects in the MTP. It is important to make this distinction.

Mr. Justice noted that the purpose of this action is to ensure that the project will be fully considered for the next round of Roads to Prosperity Bound, and get the project programmed in time.

Mr. Kelly pointed out that the MMMPO is the nexus between the Division of Highways and the local community. It is a direct channel where local residents can use to express their concerns to the DOH.

Recorder Blinco noted that many people he knows, including students, use the intersection on a daily basis. The congestion and safety have been a continuing concern. He noted that the project will have major impact to this region.

Mr. Bruffy noted that he almost died in a crash at the intersection. The intersection poses real safety issues for its users. Safety improvement will help the Mountain Line provide better service to the west part of the County.

With no further discussion, the motion passed. Mr. Carr abstained.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is to finalize the contract with the consultant for the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Update. The consultant will start the public involvement very soon. The Policy Board members are welcome to join the steering committee for this project.

## **11. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned on 6:54 PM.