



CITIZENS ADIVOSRY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 10, 2021

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

Members Present:

Christiaan Abildso, Chip Wamsley, Kelli LaNeve, Ed Sneckenberger, Matt Cross, Heather Britton, Tom Zeni.

Others Present: Bill Austin, Matthew Ridgeway, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the CAC meeting was held in person with teleconference option. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized.

With a quorum present, Chairman Abildso called the meeting of the CAC to order at 2:46 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Abildso noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Chairman Abildso noted that Star City was misspelled as Start City. Mr. Wamsley noted that his name was misspelled as Walmsley. Mr. Austin noted that MPO will correct the errors accordingly. Mr. Wamsley moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Sneckenberger.

3. WV 7-Mineral Avenue Preliminary Report

Mr. Austin noted that a preliminary report for the WV 7 – Mineral Avenue data collection is included in the agenda package. This report presents the results of staff's recent data effort on the subject intersection. The initial investigation does not identify the need for a traffic signal at the intersection, however it does identify that there are significant pedestrian volumes at the location. Staff is recommending that this data collection be repeated this fall when it is anticipated that traffic will be returning to patterns more resembling pre-pandemic levels.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the minutes of the last meeting mentioned that DOH did a study at the intersection two days ago and there was a concern that DOH might use outdated data. Mr. Austin noted that the study was a data collection done by the DOH. The DOH has been continually monitoring the traffic in that area.

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH will make a presentation in the Morgantown City Council Chamber about their recommendations on improving pedestrian and bicycle safety in the area.

Mr. Abildso noted that including a study area map in report will be helpful to people who are not familiar with that location.

Mr. Cross noted that some drivers are not used to the four-way intersection on WV 7 near the new Aldi. It might be helpful to install a warning sign about incoming traffic for the left-turn traffic from Hartman Run Rd.

Mr. Cross noted that the Morgantown Traffic Commission has designated the Carlisle Ave as a health street. He hopes it will encourage through traffic using the Richwood Ave and Darst St intersection, instead of using Carlisle Ave as a short cut.

This is an informational item. It requires no action from the Committee.

Mr. Abildso left the meeting. Mr. Cross assumed the role of Chairman for the committee.

4. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Austin noted that the consultant team had held initial meetings with stakeholders to discuss expectations for the project. The consultants are setting up the project website and collecting data from the MPO and the Mountain Line Transit. The public involvement will begin in this fall when WVU is in session.

Mr. Austin noted that the City of Morgantown is to enter into a contract with a consultant for its Comprehensive Plan updates. The Mon County is working with its consultant to engage stakeholders and to collect data for its Comprehensive Plan updates. Granville, and Westover have contracted with the Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic of the WVU Law School for their Comprehensive Plan updates. The MPO staff is coordinating with the consultants to develop a detailed work plan to proceed.

Mr. Cross asked if WVU will continue running the passenger coach buses to transport students between campus. He noted that the buses have impacted many local streets in the neighborhood. Mr. Austin noted that he will reach out to the WVU transportation to get an update on that issue.

5. Mountain Line Transit Study Update

Mr. Austin noted that the Mountain Line is working on a study to develop a universal transit and parking payment system for the region, which will include Mountain Line Transit, City of Morgantown Parking Authority, WVU parking and PRT. The study is an extension of the Strategic Transit Plan which was recently adopted. Mr. Austin noted that the Federal Transit Administration will feature it as a demonstration of this type of innovation for small communities nationwide.

Mr. Zeni noted that an intelligent parking system will benefit local business by providing convenience to its customers.

Mr. Cross asked if the Mountain Line is considering creating a major transit hub in the downtown area. He noted that there has been a new development underway near the Westover Bridge and Pleasant Street intersection.

Mr. Austin noted that a downtown transit terminal was not recommended in the transit plan. Instead, the plan recommended major transit stops in the downtown area.

6. Other Business

Mr. Cross expressed his appreciation that the DOH has removed the barrier on the shoulder of Mon Blvd. He noted that the sign of shoulder closed ahead is still at the intersection of 8th street and Mon Blvd. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH is planning to resurface the shoulder of that segment on Mon Blvd in the summer.