



TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING

May 11, 2022

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

**Members Present:**

Bill Austin (Chair), Andrew Gast-Bray, Michael Dougherty, Jeremy Evans, Brian Carr, Drew Gatlin, Rickie Yeager

**Others Present:** Jessica Moberly, Jing Zhang

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**1. Call to Order**

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the TTAC meeting was held virtually. 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. Mr. Gast-Bray pointed out some typos in the minutes. Mr. Yeager moved to the approve the meeting minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Dougherty; with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin stated that the WV DOH has requested one TIP Amendment. The amendment is for the Cheat Lake – Coopers Rock resurfacing project, to increase federal funding from \$5,800,000 to \$7,500,000, with the total funding increase from \$5,800,000 to \$7,500,000. The project is 100% federally funded.

Mr. Carr noted that the project could be an administrative adjustment since it is a groupable project. The cost does not exceed 10 million dollars, and it is not a regionally significant project.

Mr. Austin noted that the project has been advertised as an amendment because it has a 5% increase of the total cost. The MPO will need to update the TIP Administrative Adjustment Policy to reflect the changes made for groupable projects.

Mr. Gatlin inquired about the Morgantown airport streetscape ADA sidewalk project. Mr. Carr stated that he did not have additional information on the project at this time. He will update MPO staff when more information becomes available.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Gatlin. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

Mr. Austin stated that an Executive Summary of the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan was included in the agenda package. Also attached was a table which displayed the public response comments to the draft document that had been submitted at that time. Mr. Austin noted that there are no substantial comments against the adoption of the Plan. Mr. Austin specified that the full version of the MTP may be found on the MMMPO's website. It is requested that the TTAC recommend adoption of the draft 2022 Transportation Plan to the Policy Board.

Mr. Yeager noted that there are some public concerns on the roundabout proposal at the Van Voorhis intersection on WV 705. Mr. Austin expressed that the proposals are conceptual ideas from the consultants for improvement of the intersection. They will be evaluated in subsequent studies with higher detail.

Mr. Gatlin noted that the draft document misnamed the Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board and the Morgantown Bicycle Board. He also expressed that in terms of the amount of project funding, the spending plan does not closely reflect the priority for non-motorized transportation at policy level. Mr. Austin stated that some roadway project costs are significantly higher than pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects. Mr. Austin conveyed that the DOH transportation safety team has been proactively developing projects to improve pedestrian safety in the area. Currently, the project under discussion is the pedestrian crossing on WV 7 at the intersection of Mineral Ave.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend adoption of the MTP update to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Yeager. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Draft Public Involvement Policy**

Mr. Austin stated that a draft copy of the updated Public Involvement Policy (PIP) was included in the agenda package. This is the first draft of the policy to be presented to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff will revise the draft per the TTAC's and CAC's recommendations and then submit it to the Policy Board for review and approval. It is anticipated that the updated PIP will be submitted to the MPO's Policy Board for adoption in June. Mr. Austin expressed that MPO staff will add language to emphasize that the Mountain Line Transit Authority relies on the MPO's TIP process for their TIP process.

Mr. Dougherty noted that the draft document has some misplaced page breaks. He also noted the importance of having a variety of media outreach, including TV stations, internet, and traditional print and broadcast media.

Mr. Gatlin recommended considering using third-party mediator to facilitate public meetings that have controversial topics. Mr. Dougherty concurred.

Mr. Austin stated the MPO staff will formulate a method of tracking the participation of minority and underrepresented populations in the planning process.

## 6. Other Business

Mr. Austin asked for the committee's input on planning studies that could be done internally by the MPO in the next fiscal year. Mr. Carr noted that the proposed Harmony Grove interchange is an area of interest and could be a good candidate for such a study. Mr. Austin stated the FHWA recently created the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Policy Board is interested in applying for an RCP grant.

Mr. Carr shared a map for the Morgantown airport sidewalk project, showing the locations of proposed sidewalks in the airport areas. He noted that the project is currently in the engineering phase.

Mr. Gatlin inquired if the recent study on integrated transit fare collection considers eliminating fare for PRT users. Mr. Evans noted that there is currently no plan to eliminate PRT fares. Suggestions have been made to streamline the payment system for more convenience, replacing the PRT's coin payment method.