



POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV
October 17th, 2024, 6 PM

Members Present:

Chairman Joe Statler - Blacksville, Board Vice-Chairman Maria Smith- Mountain Line Transit Authority, Mike Kelly – Board of Education, Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Bill Kawecki – City of Morgantown, Sean Sikora – Monongalia County, Mayor Patricia Lewis - Town of Granville, Mayor Joe AbuGhannam - City of Morgantown, Russ Rogerson - Morgantown Area Partnership, Steve Blinco – Star City, Jenny Selin, City of Morgantown, Brian Carr, WVDOT - DOH, Bob Lucci - Mayor of Westover, Jeff Arnett - Monongalia County, Tom Bloom - Monongalia County

Others Present: Jing Zhang, Jackie Peate, Christiaan Abildso

MPO Director: Bill Austin, AICP

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Statler called the meeting of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) Policy Board to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

3. Approval of Minutes June 2024 & August 2024

Both sets of minutes were voted on simultaneously.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mayor Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Abildso, Chair of the CAC, provided a report for the board. He stated the CAC had unanimously voted to recommend the TIP Amendments. Mr. Abildso said they had previously asked for more detail in the amendments, and they are appreciative of the level of detail included. The board had a good discussion on upcoming projects. Mr. Abildso stated that MRTC is able to negotiate with the company that received the bid for the Industrial Park Bridge. Chair Statler asked about the attendance. Mr. Abildso stated there is good attendance and quorum. Mr. Austin stated there are a few seats open, but there is good participation. Ms. Selin requested to let them know what is available so there is representation on the board from around the county.

b. Finance

Mayor Lewis provided the Finance Committee Update. She provided the financial report for the month of August. The beginning balance in August was \$55,891.60, there were 3 deposits totaling \$58,128.44, 23 disbursements totaling \$56,516.55, leaving the ending balance at \$57,503.55. This carried over into September. In September there were 2 deposits totaling \$37,147.46, 17 disbursements totaling \$43,623.22, leaving the ending balance at \$51,027.79.

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Sikora. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Executive Director

Mr. Austin provided the board with his report.

He wanted to thank Ted Whitmore, Marsha Mays, and Donna Hardy for their work on WVDOH projects in the area. The Walnut Street pedestrian crossing has the design consultants selected and it will be moving forward. The Smithtown Road design study is ongoing and they expect to be in the engineering phase next summer. The Chestnut Road pedestrian improvement project is based on a previous study and is ongoing. They are selecting a consultant for the design of the project. The Mineral Avenue intersection project, identified in the Vulnerable Road Users analysis, is in the process of selecting a consultant for design. They are reviewing the final design recommendations on the Brookhaven Road project. There is a downtown rail trail project that the City of Morgantown and MRTC has been working on for a while. They had a Transportation Alternatives Grant for this, but as this project has been extended the grant money no longer covers the cost. Therefore, they will be requesting suballocated funds from the MPO.

Mr. Ausitn stated that WVDOH management has agreed to move forward with installing a temporary signal at Exit 155. There was a lot of discussion and review on this. The MPO has offered suballocated Carbon Reduction funds to aid this effort. Commissioner Bloom asked for a date on this project to install the temporary lights and Mr. Austin stated there is not a date yet. Commissioner Bloom and Mr. Blinco expressed frustration with how long this project has been drawn out, and are both upset at the process. The board was frustrated with the timeline of this project, and discussed how to effectively communicate the urgency of fixing this exit. Mr. Austin stated he has done everything in his power to communicate this concern to the WVDOH. After a discussion, the board agreed that Mr. Austin would send a follow up, relaying the discussion from this meeting to DOH management. This message will include appreciation for moving the project forward, a request for a timeline, and information on what is staling this project. Mr. Carr was called on to make a statement, and stated he did not have any further information.

Mr. Austin stated the MPO has been in discussion with Mayor Lucci regarding the sidewalk grants, and they are coordinating the multiple grants to make this project possible on Fairmont Road. This is supported by Mountain Line. Mayor Lucci asked if this would cause a delay, and Mr. Austin stated it would as the design needs to guarantee full connected network. Mrs. Smith asked how long it will take the study to begin, and Mr. Carr stated it depends and could take four months to a year in a half. Planning grants tend to move faster than capital grants. Chair Statler asked if this will delay the resurfacing of Fairmont Road, and Mr. Austin said it will not cause delays.

5. 2024 October TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin stated that the TIP Amendments below have been reviewed by the TTAC and CAC. Both bodies unanimously recommended adoption of the amendments by the Policy Board. Please note that there are also projects of interest being added to the TIP under the MPO's TIP Adjustment Policy they are also presented below. Less significant adjustments may be found in the additional memorandum provided in the email transmitting the agenda packet. The amendments and significant administrative changes are below:

Amendments

Mountain Line Transit Administration Amendment Request

FY2025

-Add Bus Facility Roof Replacement. Source: 5339. Federal funding: \$1,360,000. Local funding: \$340,000.

-Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (1). Source 5330. Federal funding increases from \$145,240 to \$445,189. Local funding increases from \$36,310 to \$111,297.

- Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement (2). Source 5330. Federal funding increases from \$241,031 to \$1,400,000. Local funding increases from \$60,258 to \$350,000. FY2027

- Operating Assistance - Capital. Source: 5307. Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500.

FY2028

-Operating Assistance - Capital. Source: 5307. Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the MLTA Amendment Request; seconded by Ms. Selin. The motion passed unanimously.

WV DOH Amendments Request

The following projects are requested to be amended to the MPO's TIP as non-groupable projects according to the MPO's TIP policy.

-MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK).

FY2026. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Type of Work: CONST NEW ROAD & BRIDGE. Phase: CON. Funding Source: STBG-FLEX. Federal Funding: \$10,000,000; Total Funding: \$10,000,000. Project Location Description: Connecting Morgantown Industrial Park to Don Knotts Blvd over Monongahela River. Action: move to FY 2027.

- **HARMONY GROVE 1/C.** FY2025. Federal ID: NHPP0079109D. Type of Work:

CONST NEW 1/C. Phase: ENG. Funding Source: NHPP. Federal Funding: \$3,330,000; Total Funding: \$3,700,000. Project Location Description: River Rd near Master Graphics Rd (over I-79). Action: move to FY 2028; total funding decreases from \$3,700,000 to \$2,200,000; federal funding decreases from \$3,330,000 to \$1,760,000.

-MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK).

FY2025. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Type of Work: CONST NEW ROAD & BRIDGE. Phase: CON. Funding Source: STBG-FLEX. Federal Funding: \$10,000,000; Total Funding: \$10,000,000. Project Location Description: Connecting Morgantown Industrial Park to Don Knotts Blvd over Monongahela River. Action: move to FY 2026

Mrs. Smtih moved to approve the WV DOH Amendments Request; seconded by Mr. Kelly. Commissioner Bloom voted against the request, with the remainder of the board voting for. The motion passed.

Mr. Austin reviewed some significant TIP adjustments. No action is required. Please note that there are also significant projects being added to the TIP under the MPO's TIP Adjustment Policy. Administrative adjustments to the TIP that are not new projects may be found in the memorandum attached to the Agenda. These projects do not require Board action. A description of the new projects may be found below:

-VULNERABLE ROAD USERS MORGANTOWN +1. FY2025. Federal ID: HSIP0705024D. Type of Work: SAFETY IMPROVEMENT. Phase: CON. Funding Source: HSIP. Federal Funding: \$90,000; Total Funding: \$100,000. Project Location Description: WV 705 from Mon Blvd to the Applebee intersection.

-VULNERABLE ROAD USERS MORGANTOWN +1. FY2025. Federal ID: HSIP0705023D. Type of Work: SAFETY IMPROVEMENT. Phase: ENG. Funding Source: HSIP. Federal Funding: \$45,000; Total Funding: \$50,000. Project Location Description: WV 705 from Mon Blvd to the Applebee intersection.

-DECKERS CREEK RAIL TRAIL RESTORATION. FY2026. Federal ID: TAP2023349D. Type of Work: TRAIL RESURFACE. Phase: CON. Funding Source: NRT. Federal Funding: \$208,000; Total Funding: \$260,000. Project Location Description: Not applicable.

6. Audit

Mr. Austin directed the Policy Board to find the MPO's Audit for FY 23-24 enclosed within the Agenda. The auditor had no findings. It is respectfully requested that the Policy Board accept the audit. Mayor Lewis stated she reviewed the Audit and also had no findings.

Mayor Lewis moved to approve the Audit; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.