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## **MINUTES**

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee  
MMMPO Conference Room  
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV  
August 10, 2017, 6:00 PM

### **Members Present**

Bill Rice, Bill Austin, Charles Renner, Maria Smith, Matt Cross, Christiaan Abildso, Chip Wamsley, Ed Sneckenberger,

### **Others Present**

Heather Britton, Kelli LaNeve member, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

### **1. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chairman Rice called the meeting of CAC to order at 6:05 PM.

### **2. Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Rice noted that the minutes of the July meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Abildso moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **3. Designation of Proposed Freight Routes**

Mr. Austin noted that in response to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act passed by Congress last year, the FHWA has been developing a National Highway Freight Network (NHFN). The purpose of this freight network is to qualify freight corridors for additional funding under programs in the FAST Act. West Virginia DOH is developing the WV State Freight network as part of the NHFN, and has asked the MPO to identify local freight network routes. Staff has reviewed the criteria for the designation of these network and previous public comments and is proposing to add WV 43, CR 857 and WV 7 as Critical Urban Freight Corridors, totaling approximately 9 miles in the Morgantown urban area. The maps included in the agenda package shows the proposed freight network in the Morgantown urban area and the overall freight network throughout the state.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO's TTAC unanimously recommended approval of the proposal to the Policy Board. The MPO's Freight Advisory Committee also recommended approval. The Freight Advisory Committee also recommended that the Morgantown Industrial Park be included as a critical destination in

the network and that the entirety of WV 7 from Beechurst to I-68 be considered in future network designation. Mr. Austin noted that the network routes can be adjusted on an annual basis.

Matt Cross asked about the possibility of increasing the weight limits on interstate highways in the area. Mr. Austin noted that it would be difficult to increase the weight limits on the interstate in this case. Many instances of weight limits increase on interstate in other areas are grandfathered in, based on previous road use conditions. Mr. Renner moved to recommend approval of the proposed critical urban freight network to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Proposed TIP Process and Meeting Schedule Changes**

Mr. Austin noted that the WVDOH has been working with the West Virginia MPO Association to develop a process to expedite the approval of non-controversial and routine projects. These projects can include items such as bridge inspections, emergency repairs, and similar issues. The Association has come to a preliminary agreement for this process, known as "groupable projects." Under this process the DOH would approve projects in certain categories such as bridge inspections, and then notify the MPO to add them to the TIP and to announce the addition of these projects at the next Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO Association and MMMPO Staff have been in agreement with this process for most items except there has been concern about Transportation Alternatives and the pavement management programs. MPO Staff and Policy Board members receive the most public inquiry to projects in these categories. The MPO Association and WVDOH have worked out an agreement on these projects whereby MPOs would provide input into the Transportation Alternatives Program and the maintenance program at the beginning of the project selection process for these and the other programs to be included in "groupable projects" is included in the agenda packet.

The MPO staff recommend to authorize the Executive Director and the Policy Board Chairman to approve the "groupable projects" procedure for use in the TIP upon receiving the final written agreement. The TTAC approved the recommendation and suggest adding an elected official to the committee. The TTAC also expressed concerns on the selection process of maintenance projects and recommended that pedestrian and bicycle project not be included in the groupable project category. Mr. Abildso noted that the proposed TIP process may limit the input of the MPO to some projects of great impact to the community. He suggested that the sub-committee on this issue include a member from the TTAC and a member from the CAC. Chairman Rice noted that there should be a well written agreement between the MPO and the DOH to specify the TIP process.

Mr. Abildso moved a motion to authorize a committee of the MPO to finalize the agreement with the WV DOH on the proposed TIP process. The Committee should include the Chairman of the MPO's Policy Board, the Executive Director, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and a member of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. The TIP process should have special emphasis on strong MPO consultation on projects related to Transportation Alternative Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **5. Interim Traffic Count Report**

Mr. Austin noted that MPO's interim traffic count report for this year were enclosed in the agenda package. Several locations will be recounted to verify their accuracy. The final traffic count report will be prepared after the completion of the annual count program this fall. No action is required on this item.

## **6. Beechurst Avenue Study Status Report**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will hold the Steering Committee meeting for this study Tuesday afternoon. Currently, the study team has completed data collection and developed a base model. The Steering Committee will look at several preliminary alternatives. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has adjusted the schedule of the study is moving forward with a few weeks behind the original schedule.

The Steering Committee met earlier this week. They reviewed basic traffic simulation model and several preliminary alternatives. A technical subcommittee of the study will meet again next week to discuss specifics improvements at major intersections and segments within the corridor.

## **7. Update on Performance Measure Requirements**

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff is working with the state, Mountain Line Transit, and WVU to develop performance measure for PRT and Transit programs. He noted that he went to a training provided by FHWA in Raleigh. Managing performance measure will be one of the major tasks of the MPO.

## **8. Ongoing Project Update**

Mr. Austin noted the WV DOH will complete resurfacing projects on Van Voorhis Rd in the next few months. The Mileground and Cheat Rd intersection at Eastern Hill is scheduled to re-open to the public tomorrow. Mr. Austin noted that he made a presentation to Star City about the project at the University Ave and Collins Ferry intersection. He noted that some parking lots will be eliminated, and some business access adjacent to the intersection will be limited to right-in and right-out.

## **9. Meeting Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.