



TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY MEETING

November 9, 2021

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

Members Present:

Bill Austin (Chair), Andrew Gast-Bray, Latina Mayle, Michael Dougherty, Rickie Yeager, Damien Davis, Jason Workman, Brian Carr, Josh Brown, Jeremy Evans

Others Present: Jing Zhang

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 1:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the August and October meetings were included in the agenda package. Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Gast-Bray pointed out editorial errors in the August meeting minutes. MPO staff will make the corrections accordingly. Mr. Gast-Bray moved to approve the August meeting minutes with suggested corrections; seconded by Mr. Yeager. With no discussion, the motion passed. Mr. Davis abstained because he did not attend the August meeting.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to the approve the October meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Carr; with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Adoption of TIP

Mr. Austin noted that the draft Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2022-2026 was included in the agenda package. The draft TIP includes all of the projects from the previous TIP with the exception of the I-79 Access Project. Mr. Austin noted that the Policy Board has been informed of the removal of this project by email and it was noted in public at the October Policy Board meeting. The draft TIP has been duly advertised to the public according to the requirements of the MPO's Public Involvement Policy.

Mr. Dougherty asked about the removal of the I-79 Access Project. Mr. Carr noted that the project is associated with the conceptual plan of a northern bypass connecting the Van Voorhis Rd and West Run Rd area to I-79 through a new bridge on Monongahela River. The DOH conducted a preliminary engineering study which shows that the estimated cost of the project ranges from \$200 million to \$250

million. Due to the anticipated high cost of the project, the DOH decided drop the project from the TIP at the moment.

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

4. Transit Asset Management Performance Measures

Mr. Austin noted that the WV Division of Public Transit is requesting that the MPO adopt the State's Transit Asset Management Performance Measures targets for 2022-2024. The performance measures target table is enclosed in the agenda package. Mr. Yeager moved to recommend adoption of the transit performance measures target to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Davis. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Draft 2022 Calendar

Mr. Austin noted that the draft calendar for 2022 is enclosed in the agenda package. Mr. Austin noted that the January TTAC meeting will be in the first week of the month to avoid the Primary Election Day in the second week. Mr. Carr noted that the TTAC meeting date in November should be moved to November 1st, to avoid the Election Day on December 8th. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that the calendar will be modified accordingly. Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend adoption of the 2022 Calendar to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Davis. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Mineral Avenue Pedestrian Study

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff has completed the Mineral Avenue pedestrian study. The study collected pedestrian and bicycle data at the WV7 and Decker's Creek Blvd intersection and the Hartman Run and WV 7 intersection. It also collected vehicle turning movement counts at the two intersections. Mr. Austin noted that the amount of pedestrian traffic observed in the study area did justify the pedestrian treatments recommended by the Alta Bicycle and Pedestrian Study. The analysis did not indicate that a signal was warranted at the intersection of WV7 and Decker's Creek Blvd.

Mr. Carr suggested including the preliminary design proposed by the pedestrian and bicycle study in the final report. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that the recommended design will be included in the final report for Policy Board review.

Mr. Gast-Bray moved to recommend adoption of the study report to the Policy Board with suggested modifications; seconded by Mr. Dougherty. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

7. Status of Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Austin noted that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update is moving forward with community input on freight transportation, growth areas, and a series of focus group discussions. Mr. Gast-Bray noted that the next round of public involvement could highlight the discussion on the impact of freight travel in the region. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that it can be one of the major focus topics in the upcoming public outreach event. This is an informational item. No action is needed on this item.

8. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff is preparing the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2022. He welcomed the Committee's input on the work items for the MPO staff in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Carr noted that the new transportation bill is expected to be signed into law by the Congress. He will share the DOH's insights about the bill in the coming months.

Mr. Workman noted that the FHWA will start to work on the ruling passed down from the transportation bill and provide more information on its provisions early next year.

Mr. Brown noted that the DOH is moving forward on the Willey St project with preliminary designs on the crosswalks proposed by the former State Secretary of Transportation. More information about the project will soon be available.

Mr. Dougherty noted that the City of Westover is working with its consultant on the city's comprehensive plan update. The process has slowed down a little bit due to some operational delay.

Mrs. Mayle noted that the Town of Granville is moving forward on its Comprehensive Plan update with a slight delay on its consulting team side as well.

Mr. Evans noted that the WVU transportation is developing some concepts on how the PRT system can best benefit the community in the further.

Mr. Austin noted that Mountain Line Transit is working with the City of Morgantown and WVU on a study to assess the feasibility of an integrated parking/transit payment system in the area. The consultant is waiting on the feedback from service vendors. He will inform the WVU and the City once more information is available about the study.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.