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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
August 11, 2015
1:30 PM

Members Present

Fouad Shoukry-WV DOH, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Rich Wood-Monongalia County, Donny Williams-WV DOH, Arlie Forman-WVU, Bill Austin-MMMPO

Members Present

Damien Davis, Chris Fletcher, Ron Snyder, Clement Solomon, Dave Bruffy, James Meadows

Others Present

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

Mr. Austin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the June meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Wood moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Williams. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the Division of Highways has requested 19 projects for TIP Amendments. He briefly introduced the proposed projects. They are: Boyers Avenue/US 19 intersection improvement, Collins Ferry Road Resurface, Grafton-Morgantown Road Resurface, Harner/West Run Resurface, Van Voorhis Road Resurface, Indian Creek Road Resurface, Morgantown Bicycle Signs, I-68/Pierpont Road Interchange Improvements, River Road Resurface, Smithtown Road Resurface, Smithtown Road Resurface, University Ave Resurface, Collins Ferry Connector, Deckers Creek Trail Repairs, Foundry Street Linkage Trail, Morris Builders Bridge Replacement, Everettville Bridge Replacement, and Arnettsville Arch Bridge Replacement.

On the Boyers Ave/US 19 Intersection Improvement project, Mr. Shoukry noted that business owners in the Rivers Landing Shopping Center requested that DOH to improve the access to their properties from the intersection. He expects to extend the scope of work of this project and to modify the design in order to accommodate the request. Mr. Shoukry also noted that a traffic impact study may be needed to identify trip generation rates and turning movement patterns to that shopping center. Mr. Austin noted that he will contact the Star City Mayor to further identify the needs of the business owners in the shopping center.

On the Collins Ferry Connector project, Mr. Wood asked whether the project will include construction for parking spaces. He noted that adding parking lots on adjacent parcels requires land use permit from the County. Mr. Austin noted that he or Mr. Davis will contact Ella Belling to confirm the scope of this project.

On the Collins Ferry Road Resurface Project, Mr. Carr suggested that commuting patterns to the school and the employment center in that area should be considered during the construction period, as such to minimize the construction impact. Mr. Davis noted that the project team should ensure that this project will not overlap with the center turning lane construction near the new Suncrest elementary school.

On the Bicycle Signs projects, Mr. Carr suggested that the City and the WV DOH develop a maintenance plan for the proposed bicycle signs and pavement markings.

Mr. Davis noted that to complement the University Ave Resurfacing Project from Patteson Dr to the City's boundary, it is worthwhile to make comparable improvements on University Ave between 8th St to Patteson Dr. Asymmetric lane width should be considered to accommodate bicyclists.

Mr. Carr noted that the Committee should be aware that for some proposed projects, engineering phase and construction phase are in different fiscal year.

Mr. Wood moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Davis. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin then noted three administrative adjustments in the TIP Amendments. They are Walnut Street Streetscape, Patteson Drive Lighting, and Westover Park Loop. The administrative adjustments are information items and require no action from the Committee.

4. University Avenue Complete Streets Study and I-79 Access Study Updates

Mr. Austin noted that the University Ave Complete Streets Study has completed the first stage of public outreach, which includes steering a steering committee meeting, stakeholder interviews, and a project symposium. The study team is developing initial recommendations based on received input. The next phase of this project will include a design charrette and a steering committee meeting in September. The specific dates for these events are to be decided.

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study has completed processing Airsage's origin and destination data for use in the MPO's travel demand model. The study team is working on model

calibration and travel demand forecasting. Draft report of existing condition is under internal review by the project team.

5. Westover/Granville Pedestrian Study Demographics Chapter

Mr. Austin noted that the Westover/Granville Pedestrian Study is in the process of collecting data for existing conditions, including pedestrian facilities and social economic information in the study area. A draft report on demography analysis was included in the agenda package for review. Mr. Carr asked what sources were used in the analysis. Mr. Austin noted that the primary sources were American Community Surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

6. Status Report on Ongoing Projects-WVDOH

Mr. Carr noted that the Easton Hill portion of the Mileground reconstruction project has passed the NEPA environmental review process and moved forward to concept design. The design phase of this project was delayed due to a design error and staff changes in the DOH. Mr. Shoukry noted that this project is complicated and requires tremendous effort to create a plan that meets the needs from various stakeholders. Mr. Austin noted that the design team of this project should be aware that the MPO's Policy Board approved this project with the condition that the DOH will not construct a continuous two-way-left-turn lane on Mileground Rd from WV 705 to Hartman Run Rd. Mr. Austin noted that he hopes to review the concept design of this project in the near future.

7. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that Jing Zhang has submitted an abstract for a presentation in the 2016 International Conference on Transportation and Landuse hosted by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The presentation topic is on how to accommodate bicyclists through Highway Maintenance Projects. The proposal was accepted and the draft presentation will be due for final approval in February, 2016. Mr. Shoukry, Mr. Carr, and Mr. Williams are willing to help with this presentation. Mr. Austin then noted that Jing Zhang has been approved by the Transportation Professionals Certification Board to take the Professional Transportation Planner exam in October.

8. Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.