



243 High St. Room 110  
Morgantown WV, 26505  
[www.plantgether.org](http://www.plantgether.org)

## MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee  
MMMPO Conference Room  
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV  
January 10, 2019, 6 PM

### **Members Present**

Bill Rice (Chair), Christiaan Abildso, Maria Smith, Matt Cross, Chip Wamsley, Heather Britton

### **Others Present**

Edward Hawkins-Commissioner, Sean Sikora-Commissioner, Jennifer Selin-Councilperson, Christopher Britton, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

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

With a quorum present, Chairman Rice called the meeting to order.

### **2. Public Comment Period Metropolitan Transportation Plan Tier One Project List Amendment**

Chairman Rice noted that this section is an advertised period for public comment on the Morgantown Industrial Park Access Study. Chairman Rice encouraged committee members to attend a transportation forum in House Chamber of the State Capital Building in Charleston next Tuesday. Commissioner Sikora and Commissioner Hawkins were present during the public comment portion.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Rice noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Abildso noted that the minute should be corrected to show that he had voted against the industrial park amendment to the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan Tier 1 Project List. Mr. Abildso moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Draft FY 2019-2020 Work Program**

Mr. Austin noted that the draft FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was enclosed in the agenda package. The draft UPWP includes continuing the Bicycle and Pedestrian Study which should be completed by the fall of 2020. Staff will also need to perform additional work on performance measures as data to evaluate the State's performance measures becomes more available. The draft UPWP includes adding a part-time employee who may be shared with Monongalia County. The initial work anticipated for this employee would be website maintenance, social media outreach, the development of an ongoing newsletter, and data collection and aggregation. Mr. Austin noted that the part-time employee will help to free up Jing Zhang's time so he can more focus on transportation planning related tasks.

This is an informational item and requires no formal action from the committee.

#### **5. HSIP Performance Measures**

Mr. Austin noted that a memorandum on the WVDOH Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measures is included in the agenda package. The measures developed for 2019 and 2020 used the same methodology and metrics to develop new targets for performance of the West Virginia roadway network as last year. Policy Board adopt the metrics shown on the attached memorandum.

Mr. Cross asked if public education for pedestrian safety is considered in the measurement. Mr. Austin noted that the proposed measures are engineering related. While there is no measurement for safety education, some safety education programs could impact safety-related measures.

Mrs. Smith noted that performance measures for transit will be separate from the HSIP performance measure. Mr. Austin concurred and noted that the MPO will work the Mountain Line and FTA on that matter.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the proposed HSIP performance measures to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Abildso. Mr. Abildso noted that the transportation system is very unique in the state. He suggested that the MPO consider adding measures relating to model-shared and sidewalk connectivity in the future. Mr. Austin noted that the ongoing bicycle-pedestrian study will provide recommendation for those type of measures.

#### **6. Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan Performance Measures**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has the option to adopt State goals as well as developing our own goals. The MPO must also adopt performance management in the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In order to be in compliance with Federal Requirement the MTP fiscally constrained priority projects, our Tier One Projects, should reflect how the proposed projects address the MPO's adopted performance measures.

Mr. Austin noted that this agenda item is to start a conversation on how to refine the MTP performance measures. This is an informational item and requires no formal action from the committee.

## **7. Update on Status of Bicycle and Pedestrian Study**

Mr. Austin noted that the next steering committee for the study will be held on February the 5<sup>th</sup>. The consultant is outreaching out to the city, WVU Student Government Association and other stakeholders for interview and data collection. Mr. Cross expressed his appreciation to the DOH for installing street lights on Patteson Dr. Mr. Abildso asked if the steering committee is only for committee members. Mr. Austin noted that it is an open meeting and the public are encouraged to come to the meeting.

## **8. Other Business**

Chairman Rice encouraged the committee members to participate in public meetings and forums to advocate for better transportation facilities in the area. Monongalia-Preston County Day will be held on January 23 in Charleston, and the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee meeting will be held Next Monday.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff is involved in preliminary investigation and engineering studies on several projects, including the Van Voorhis Rd project, the Greenbag Rd project, the I-79 bypass project, and the Beechurst Ave project. He noted that the Greenbag Rd improvement will include installing sidewalk from Mississippi St to the Mall on Greenbag Rd. Traffic study on Van Voorhis Rd is to be reviewed tomorrow, and the project is considering building sidewalk from Killarney Dr to the top of the hill.

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH is developing the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Federal regulations require that the state must to have an adopted and approved STIP by October 1, 2019 to be eligible for further federal funding after that date. Mr. Austin noted that he is working with the DOH to develop a public involvement plan for STIP. The DOH is expected to hold STIP public meeting in Morgantown in the March-May time frame.

Mr. Abildso suggested that the STIP information by posted online be in a true PDF format which allows digital search, instead of a PDF that is generated from photos. Mr. Abildso also suggested that the MPO develop a policy for amending projects to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MTP is very important to the community, a formal procedure for project amendment to the plan should be specified in the MPO's policy. Mr. Austin agreed that noted that the MPO staff will revisit the MPO's public involvement policy on this matter.

## **9. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.