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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
MMMPO Conference Room
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV
June 6, 2017, 1:30 PM

Members Present

Bill Austin, Rich Wood, Arlie Forman, Dave Bruffy, Chris Fletcher

Others Present

John Whitmore-City of Morgantown, Phillip Avis-City of Morgantown, Kendall Perkinson-DA Newspaper, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 1:30 PM. Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH staff is not able to attend this this due to family related issues.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the May meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Bruffy moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH requested that the MPO amend the TIP. The amendments include Mylan park bridge approach engineering project, construction project at the intersection of Goshen Rd and Smithtown Rd, I- 79 Corporal Thomas Bennett Memorial Bridge-Inspection, and resurfacing projects on CO 73, WV 100-Maidsville, Van Voorhis Rd, and WV 7. A map was included in the agenda showing the locations of requested projects. Mr. Fletcher noted that two projects were misnamed in the map. Mr. Austin noted that the error will be corrected. Mr. Fletcher asked the location of Mylan Park Bridge engineering project. Mr. Austin noted that the location of that project is not clear and the MPO will clarify the project location with the DOH. Mr. Bruffy moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments pending clarification of the Mylan Park Bridge project to the MPO's Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fletcher. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin noted that in addition to the TIP Amendments, the WV DOH requested several TIP Adjustment. The information of the adjustments are included in the agenda package. TIP Adjustment require no action from the Committee.

Mr. Austin then noted that the WV MPO Association is developing a way to improve the funding approval mechanism for non-controversial TIP projects in the state. Those non-controversial projects include bridge inspections and road repair projects.

Mr. Fletcher noted that it is frustrating that there are often delays in programmed TIP projects and that the project amendments requested by the DOH should be more consistent with the MPO's transportation plan.

4. Beechurst Avenue Study Status Report

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff has held a meeting with city staff, discussing the existing and forecasted land uses in the Beechurst corridor. The WVU professor working on the traffic microsimulation for the study also attended this meeting. Mr. Austin then noted that the MPO is seeking information on existing signal timing from the Charleston central office.

Mr. Bruffy noted that besides private vehicles and pedestrians, the traffic model should also consider the role of the PRT and bus services along the corridor in terms of their transportation capacity. Bus services should include both public transit and private transit offered by apartment rental companies. Mr. Fletcher concurred and noted that the Study should consider improving or maintaining of bus stops in the corridor, including the bus stop at the intersection Beechurst Ave and Hough St.

5. Ongoing Project Update

Mr. Austin noted that based on his communication with WV DOH staff, there is no major update on the status of ongoing DOH projects in the area.

6. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that there is an ongoing online petition opposing the WV DOH plan to put a roundabout at the intersection of University Ave and Collins Ferry Rd.

Mr. Bruffy noted several service improvements of the Mountain Line. The Mountain Line will increase the frequency of I-79 express service from Morgantown to Charleston. It will provide better accommodation to one-day business trip customers. There will be also be an increase of bus service to Pittsburgh airport. The extra stop at the airport will be at 2:00 PM. By the end of June, the MLTA will provide evening service to major local routes, including red line, purple line, and blue line. The evening route will be from 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM. By the middle of July, the Mountain Line will increase Weekend service on most routes in the area. Mr. Bruffy then noted that a major challenge of the Mountain Line is to provide desirable service to the western part of the County. The Mountain Line is looking for a way to solve the issue.

Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to the Mountain Line for the enhanced services to the community.

10. Meeting Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.