



243 HIGH STREET, COURTHOUSE, ROOM 110
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 26505

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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

MMMPO Conference Room
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV
June 18, 2019, 1:30 PM

Members Present

Bill Austin, Andrew Gast-Bray, Brian Carr, John Whitmore, Chris Fletcher, Bill Oliver

Others Present

Jing Zhang

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 1:30 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Whitmore pointed out an error in the minutes. The minutes mistakenly show that he was present in the March meeting. Mr. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Carr. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Mr. Austin noted that West Virginia University has requested a TIP Amendment for the MPRT Modernization Program. The amendment is for upgrading the PRT's power system to improve its efficiency and reliability by using battery powered vehicles. The West Virginia University MPRT TIP Amendment is in anticipation of submitting a BUILD grant application to the United States Department of Transportation. The proposed amendment has been duly advertised as required by the MPO's Public Involvement Policy.

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

Mr. Austin noted The West Virginia Department of Transportation has requested two TIP Amendments. They are WV 43 Colonel Zackquill Morgan Bridge improvement projects and a Caperton Trail lighting project. The proposed TIP Amendments were not received in time for regular advertisement under the MPO's Public Involvement Policy. However, WVDOH needs to authorize this work quickly and therefore MPO Staff is proposing that the MPO Policy Board tentatively approve these projects contingent upon the completion of public comment period, in the same fashion as was done with the TIP Amendments in May. If the MPO receives substantive negative comments against the proposed amendments, the amendments will be presented to the MPO's Policy Board for further review at the next board meeting.

Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend tentative approval of the proposed amendments to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Whitmore; With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

4. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mr. Austin noted that MPO needs to evaluate how the projects in its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) address the State's and the MPO's performance measures. In the last month, the methodology for evaluating project impacts on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan was presented to, and adopted by, the committees and the Policy Board. The same methodology is utilized for the TIP. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff will be working with the MPO's committees to evaluate this methodology so we may improve it for adoption next year.

Mr. Gast-Bray noted that it might be helpful to separate maintenance projects from capacity improvement projects in the MPO's TIP. Mr. Carr noted that the WV DOH is to implementing a groupable project policy to address this issue. The policy will allow the DOH to move certain projects in a more efficient and seamless fashion. Mr. Fletcher emphasized the importance of local input to maintenance projects which could potentially open up opportunities to address community concerns.

Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend adoption of the proposed evaluation methods of performance measures to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Oliver; With no further discussion, the motion passed with Mr. Gast-Bray abstaining.

5. DRAFT WILLEY STREET/RICHWOOD AVENUE INTERSECTION STUDY

Mr. Austin noted that a draft of the Willey Street/Richwood Avenue Intersection Study was included in the agenda package. The study was requested by the City of Morgantown and is in the MPO's FY18-19 Unified Planning Work Program. The draft Study has been reviewed with the Woodburn Neighborhood Association and the technical work has been completed.

Mr. Fletcher expressed his appreciation to the MPO for conducting this study. The neighborhood has had positive feedback about the study. Mr. Fletcher pointed out an error in the graphics in the report. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff will immediately correct the error.

Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend adoption of the study report to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Whitmore; With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. DRAFT 2018 TRAFFIC COUNT REPORT

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO's draft 2018 Traffic Count Report was included in the meeting package. This document was delayed by the need to analyze the 2018 count data and an urgent project that came up unexpectedly. Traffic counts in this report were taken during both the spring and fall of 2018 so we may prepare localized seasonal factors for the urban area. It is anticipated that the traffic counts performed during 2019 will provide us with enough data to complete calculating seasonal factors for the area. The 2019 traffic count report will be a complete report with peak period volumes available for analysis.

Mr. Gast-Bray asked what type of seasonal factors does the MPO intend to develop. Mr. Austin noted that they will be factors distinguishing the spring and fall. Mr. Gast-Bray asked if cell-phone based traffic data were used. Mr. Austin noted that the cell-phone based traffic data was used in the development for MPO's Travel Demand Model.

Mr. Fletcher noted that there is a systemwide decline of traffic. Mr. Austin noted that the decline might be caused by the re-arrangement of WVU class locations and changing traffic pattern due to new developments in the area. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend adoption of the traffic report to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Carr; With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

7. UPDATE ON BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN STUDY

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff attended a two-day pedestrian safety summit hosted by WV LTAP. A wide range of entities participated the summit, including WV DOH, City of Morgantown, and Mon County. The group conducted a safety audit on Patteson Dr from University Ave to Mon Blvd and identified measures to improve pedestrian safety along the corridor, which include installing mid-block crossing, reducing traffic speed, and access management.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is working with a pedestrian safety group to address immediate pedestrian safety concerns in the area. Three rapid response projects were identified, which are intersection improvements on University Ave near the Pizza Al's, intersection improvements on University Ave and Falling Run Rd, and intersection improvements on Campus Dr and Grant Ave.

It is expected that the consultant will complete the study in October. A capital improvement plan for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure will be provided to the City of Morgantown for preliminary review in September.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fletcher noted that there has been a concern about the removal of the raised median on Mon Blvd in front of the WVU Coliseum. Mr. Austin noted that it is because of the need for more right-of-way for the new sidewalks on the northern side of the road.

Mr. Fletcher noted that the City will soon conduct technical review on a subdivision near Van Voorhis Rd. Mr. Fletcher also noted that the City of Morgantown is working with the Mountain Line to install three bus shelters in the downtown area.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.