



## MINUTES

### MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

MMMPO Conference Room 243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV

May 14, 2020, 6:00 PM

#### Members Present

Heather Briton, Matt Cross, Maria Smith, Ed Sneckenberger, Christiaan Abildso, Bill Austin

#### Others Present

Jessica Shuey, Jing Zhang

#### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:10 PM. Mr. Austin noted that due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the CAC meeting was held as a teleconference. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Cross moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the word "service" on page 4 should be changed to "serve". With no further discussion, the motion was approved.

#### 3. TIP Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that the WVDOH has requested the following TIP amendments. The DOH requested deleting the Deckers Creek Landslide Repair from FYY 2020 and adding the Cheat Road Resurface project, Campus Drive Widening project, and the I-79 Uffington Bridge Substructure Repair project to FYY 2020.

Mr. Austin noted that the Uffington Bridge project was accidentally left off from the original memo sent to the committee for review, but the project was duly advertised in the newspaper and on the MPO's website.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked about the funding for the right-of-way phase of the Uffington Bridge project. Mr. Austin noted that it is most likely a contingency for potential access easement. Mr. Abildso asked for

the location for the Deckers Creek Landslide Repair. Mr. Austin noted that the portion of the trail under consideration is located in the Sabraton area. Mr. Cross asked about the location of the campus project. Mr. Austin noted that it is near the intersection of the Campus Dr and Beechurst Ave, and includes Beechurst to Fayette St.

Mrs. Smith moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment to the Policy Board; seconded by Ms. Britton. Mr. Abildso noted that he hopes more project information for the TIP amendments request will be available to the committee. After further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Coordinate Human Services Transit Plan**

Mr. Austin noted that an updated Coordinated Human Service Transit Plan was included with the agenda package. The Local human services transportation providers are required to update their Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan approximately every four years. The West Virginia Department of Transportation Public Transit Division has this task performed for each agency in the State through a consulting contract.

Mr. Austin noted that the draft Plan establishes goals and objectives for Mountain Line and the MMMPO to maintain and grow our human services transportation as well as alternative forms of transportation including the Van Pool program. The plan assessed local transportation needs and outlined goals and objectives for transportation service providers. Mr. Cross noted that the plan identified a shortage of drivers. He asked if Mountain Line could hire veterans as bus drivers. Mrs. Smith noted that many drivers are inclined to drive commercial vehicles for companies which offer more competitive salaries.

Mr. Abildso moved to recommend approval of the plan to the MMMPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **5. Update on Mountain Line Transit Study**

Mr. Austin noted that the study team held several meetings and work sessions to evaluate the demography and current transit service in the region. He noted that the team is waiting to confirm the next phases of public participation.

Mr. Austin noted that Mountain Line is applying for a grant, which will enable the MPO to amend the scope of the study to include identifying the use of modern technologies for transit service. Mrs. Smith noted that the Mountain Line is interested in assessing the potential use of transit pass which is valid for all transit service in the area including those operated by WVU.

#### **6. Update on Ongoing projects-WVDOH**

Mr. Austin noted that the Mileground project has cleared right-of-way issues with utility companies. There are still a number of parcels going through the legal process. He noted that WVDOH has to secure all of the right-of-way before it can start the construction.

#### **7. Other business:**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff is working with Dr. Lauri Andress on an AARP grant application for enhancing public participation for the underserved population in the area. Mr. Austin then noted that MMMPO staff is working on updating the MMMPO's Public Involvement Policy, adding virtual public involvement elements and enhanced graphics.

The staff is also developing a MMMPO style book. Mr. Austin noted that Ms. Shuey has added a chat function on the MMMPO's website to facilitate virtual public participation and enhanced the overall performance of MMMPO's website.

Mr. Cross asked if the sidewalk project on 8<sup>th</sup> St is funded by the TIF. Mr. Austin noted that it is funded by the TIF. He noted that the city is seeking a COVID19 grant to fund sidewalk projects on University Ave which will decrease pedestrian density on sidewalks when transit services are pending due to the pandemic.

Mr. Austin noted that the CAC needs to elect a new Chair in the June Meeting. Mr. Cross asked if the committee can also elect a vice-chair, who will preside the meeting when the Chair is absent. Mr. Austin noted that it will be under the committee's discretion.

## **10. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.