



POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV
August 15th, 2024, 6 PM

Members Present:

Mike Kelly – Board of Education, Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Bill Kawecki – City of Morgantown, Sean Sikora – Monongalia County, Mayor Patricia Lewis - Town of Granville, Mayor Joe AbuGhannam - City of Morgantown, Russ Rogerson - Morgantown Area Partnership, Steve Blinco – Star City (Zoom), Jenny Selin, City of Morgantown City Council (Zoom), Brian Carr, West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (Zoom)

Others Present: Jing Zhang, Jackie Peate

MPO Director: Bill Austin, AICP

1. Call to Order

With the Chair and Vice Chair absent, Mr. Justice moved to select Mr. Kelly as the Interim Chair; seconded by Mayor Abu-Ghannam. The motion passed unanimously.

With a quorum present, Interim Chair Kelly called the meeting of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) Policy Board to order at 6:04 PM.

2. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

3. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Austin reported on behalf of the CAC. The agenda items have been reviewed by the CAC, and they recommend approval of the TIP Amendments, and following agenda items. Mr. Abildso passed along concern to Mr. Austin about the some of the bids for the Industrial Bridge that suggest using the Rail Trail for construction.

b. Finance

Mayor Lewis provided the Finance Committee Update. She provided the financial report for the month of June. The beginning balance in June was \$53,511.76, there were 3 deposits totaling \$25,229.22, 21 disbursements totaling \$43,118.27, leaving the ending balance at \$35,622.71. This carried over into July. In July there were 4 deposits totaling \$94,607.75, 23 disbursements totaling \$74,338.08, leaving the ending balance at \$55,891.66.

Commissioner Sikora moved to approve the Financial Report; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Executive Director

Mr. Austin provided an update for the board. They have been busy coordinating a contract for Exit 155. Mr. Austin attended a meeting on the WV Infrastructure Hub. This is a central Hub for grant information, and he has passed along to entities in the area. Star City is working on a grant application for Safe Streets for All. The MMMPO will be coordinating with them. He let the board know he will be travelling to Salt Lake City for the national AMPO conference.

4. 2024 August TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin stated the 2024 August TIP Amendments requested by the West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (WV DOH) are as follows:

TIP Amendments

GREENBAG ROAD (GO BOND 4). FFY 2025. Construction Phase. Type of Work: improve I/S & widen. Federal ID: NFA2317022D. Total funding increase from \$16,000,000 to \$21,350,000. Federal funding remains at \$0.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the WVDOH TIP Amendments; seconded by Mayor Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Mountain Line Transit Authority (MLTA) has requested the following TIP amendments. Ms. Smith reviewed the information for the board. They are refining their budgets. Mr. Austin mentioned that the definition of administrative adjustments versus amendments may be adjusted, and he is working with Ms. Smith on this policy. This would avoid having minor amendments on the agenda, but still allow them to be available to the public.

FFY 2024

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,434,495 to \$3,401,120. Local funding decreases from \$3,434,495 to \$3,401,120

Capital Assistance - Operating assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$250,000 to \$200,000. Local funding decreases from \$62,500 to \$50,000

All federal and local funding for Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5307 and 5339 are decreased to \$0.

FFY 2025

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5339 (1): Federal funding increases from \$0 to \$145,240. Local funding increases from \$0 to \$36,310. 2

Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5339 (2): Federal funding increases from \$0 to \$241,031. Local funding increases from \$0 to \$60,258.

Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5339 (3): Federal funding increases from \$0 to \$1,400,000. Local funding increases from \$0 to \$350,000.

FFY 2026

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864. Local funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864.

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

Capital Assistance - Operating assistance 5307: Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500 F

FFY 2027

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864. Local funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864.

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

FFY 2028

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864. Local funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864.

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the MLTA TIP Amendments; seconded by Commissioner Sikora. The motion passed unanimously.

TIP Administrative Adjustments

New Project

- DUNKARD AVE RESURFACE. FFY 2025. Construction Phase. Type of Work: resurface. Federal ID: STBG0100163D. Total funding: \$2,250,000; federal funding: \$1,800,000.

- US MARINE SERGEANT DAVID PAUL MCCORD MEM BR. FFY 2028. Engineering Phase. Type of Work: design study-replacement. Federal ID: HWI0007325D. Total funding: \$450,000; federal funding: \$400,000.

- CHESTNUT RIDGE PEDESTRIAN MORGANTOWN. FFY 2024. Construction Phase. Type of work: pedestrian improvements. Federal ID: HSIP0705022D. Total funding: \$2,000,000; federal funding: \$1,800,000. 3

Funding Change

- INTERSTATE 68 OVERPASS. FFY 2025. Construction Phase. Type of Work: bridge renovation. Federal ID: NHPP0119514D. Total funding increase from \$4,500,000 to \$6,900,000; federal funding increase from \$3,600,000 to \$5,520,000.

- UNIVERSITY AVE BRIDGE. FFY 2024. Right – Of – Way Phase. Type of Work bridge repair. Federal ID: NHPP0119546D. Decrease federal funding from \$10,000 to \$0; decrease federal funding from \$8,000 to \$0.

Move the following project from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025

- JOSEPH C BARTOLO MEMORIAL BRIDGE. Federal ID: HWI0019589D

- BROOKHAVEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. Federal ID: CMAQ0007263D

- I-79 LIGHTING. Federal ID: STBG0079084D

Move the following project from FFY 2026 to FFY 2024

- BROOKHAVEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. Federal ID: CMAQ0007264D

The Administrative Adjustments are an informational item.

5. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Study

Mr. Austin stated that a draft of this study has previously been reviewed by the TTAC and the CAC, and been before the Policy Board twice. Since that review it has received comments from the public and been modified. This study review's potential locations that would need charging stations and lists funding sources for entities. Staff created an online survey and hosted to Virtual Open Houses. There was some feedback from these events. The TTAC and CAC both recommended approval of the document. It is respectfully requested that Policy Board adopt the Study.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Study; seconded by Commissioner Sikora. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kelly stated there are electric school busses in the county, and they may be receiving more, and they have their own charging system.

6. Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study Scope of Work

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan recommends a pedestrian bridge over Don Knott's Boulevard in the vicinity of the waterfront as a Tier One Project. Discussions with WVDOH have indicated that there is a concern that the construction of the proposed pedestrian bridge is not feasible or unaffordable. This Study is to determine the constructability and cost of the proposed bridge as well as to finalize the location of the proposed bridge. It is anticipated that this Study will be conducted utilizing the MPO's on-call consulting contract. This was reviewed by the TTAC and CAC.

Commissioner Arnett moved to approve the Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study; seconded by Mr. Justice.

Mr. Justice asked who pays for the study. Mr. Austin stated it is budgeted for in the MPO budget.

Ms. Selin asked Mr. Austin for some further explanation. She stated there should be a good way to deal with the topography issue at hand. This is a huge area that does not have access to the trail, and she appreciates the study.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. University Avenue Pedestrian Safety Scope of Work

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program for the fiscal year that began July 1, includes a study of pedestrian safety on University Avenue from Patteson Drive to Boyers Avenue. This work would include pedestrian counts to identify need areas. Mr. Austin is considering if this work should be done internally or externally. He asked the board to review the attached scope of work, and so if they decide to use the on-call consultant, it will be approved.

Commissioner Arnett moved to approve the University Avenue Pedestrian Safety Scope of Work; seconded by Mr. Justice. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Business

Meeting minutes were not included in this agenda, but will carry over and be voted on at the next Policy Board meeting in October.

Ms. Selin raised concern about how some of the bids for the Industrial Bridge may potentially suggest using the Rail Trail for construction. She suggested that the Policy Board voice support against this. Mr. Austin stated this was just a conversation handed over from Mr. Abildso, and he has no concrete information on this. If or when this information comes out in writing, he suggested the board go ahead with Ms. Selin's suggestion of voicing support to protect the rail trail as it is a community asset. Mr. Kawecki asked for clarification on this matter. Mr. Austin stated nothing is set in stone, and this information is not concrete. He will provide the board with more clarity as more information comes out. Commissioner Sikora asked what stage the project is in, and Mr. Austin stated the bids just came in for the bridge and are being reviewed by WVDOH. Mr. Carr did not have any further information on this topic, and suggested looking for future press releases regarding the matter. Mr. Austin will call WVDOH for clarification.

Mayor AbuGhannam expressed congratulations to Mayor Lewis for winning Mayor of the Year.

Mr. Blinco asked about Exit 155 lights. Mr. Austin stated he has been inquiring about this issue, and will be following up on it. He will keep the board updated.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.