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MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
June 9, 2016
6:00 PM

Members Present

Bill Rice (Chair), Matt Cross, Ed Sneckenberger, Chip Wamsley, Maria Smith, Christiaan Abildso

Members Absent

Joe Patten, Chris Azzaro, Charles Renner

Others Present

Darin Glitz, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

Mr. Rice, the Chairmen of the Citizens Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Rice noted that the minutes of the November meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Abildso moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Sneckenberger. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the Division of Highways has requested a project for TIP Amendments. It is a slide repairing and resurfacing project near the River Road and DuPont Road intersection. Mr. Abildso asked if this project is located on a primary truck route. Chairman Rice noted that the project street has been heavily used by commercial trucks. Mr. Abildso suggested that rerouting the truck traffic may be more cost-effective than fixing the problem. Mr. Sneckenberger moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no further discussion, the motion was approved with Mr. Abildso voting no.

4. MPO Traffic Count Report

Mr. Austin noted that a draft Traffic Count Report of 2016 is included in the agenda package for review. The report contains detailed information for each count station, including directional volume, peak hours, and 24 hour traffic volume by 15 minute interval. MPO Staff will request 10 locations for recount in this fall to insure the correctness of the data. Mr. Abildso moved to accept the draft Traffic Count Report; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

5. UPWP Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that changing conditions have prompted MPO staff to request that the MPO amend two line items in the FY 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program. The first one is to include an additional \$212,500 in the Consulting Services Line item to fulfill the MPO's contractual obligation to our consultants.

Mr. Austin noted that it is a rescheduling of funding originally programed in the FY 2014-2015 UPWP with no change in the total cost of the contractual service. He noted that the MPO has the local match required for this amendment to the UPWP, no additional match will be required.

The second line item change is to revise the Health Insurance line item. MPO Staff originally projected that PEIA premiums would increase by 3%. Current discussions in Charleston indicate that the premiums may increase by 12% or more. MPO Staff recommends that this line item be increased by \$2,000 to anticipate any changes to PEIA premiums that may come forward. This change will not require an increase in local matching funds. Mr. Sneckenberger moved to recommend approval of the UPWP Amendment to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Abildso. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

6. University Avenue Complete Streets Study Revision

Mr. Austin noted that the Policy Board requested MPO staff revise some parts of the Study to address comments received by the Policy Board. Mr. Austin then described each change that was made in the draft report since the last Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Glitz noted that the since there is no supporting data or analysis to justify the proposed changes on Beverly Ave and the Beverly Ave/University Ave intersection, the report should drop its recommendations in the Beverly Ave area, particularly the recommendation of converting Beverly Ave into a one-way street. Mr. Austin noted that the consultant of the study has conducted a preliminary engineering assessment in the Beverly Ave area, including LOS/delay analysis under existing condition and an assessment of the topography, and has made recommendations based on those findings. Mr. Austin then noted that the proposal is not conclusive or final. Its implementation would be dependent on the findings of future traffic studies addressing the issue at the Beverly Ave/3rd Street/University Ave intersection. Chairman Rice noted that the MPO is primarily a policy decision making body and the study is to provide the concept of one alternative. The final design is at the discretion of the City.

Mr. Abildso moved to recommend adoption of the report to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. I-79 Access Study Update

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff have met the consultant and DOH staff in Charleston and discussed preliminary findings from the traffic analysis on the alternatives identified in the Study. Considered alternatives include bridges crossing at various locations over Mon Blvd and a new interchange on I-79. The modeling information will be presented for public review. Stakeholder's meeting, steering committee meeting, and public meeting will be held in July and August.

8. Status Report on ongoing projects

Mr. Austin noted that Campus Drive project is delayed. The project at the intersection of Mileground Rd and Cheat Rd will be constructed next summer. The intersection will be closed for 3 weeks during its construction. Mr. Austin then noted that the DOH has adopted an alternative to improve the intersection of WV 7 and Greenbag Rd. The construction is scheduled in Oct, 2017. The DOH is also developing a corridor plan to improve the operation on WV 7 in the Sabraton area, including a right turn lane at the WV 7/Hartman Run Rd.

Chairman Rice noted that Mr. Austin will do a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce on the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Chairman Rice noted that the county commission is developing a bill to increase property tax for infrastructure improvements. He commended the effective coordination among different entities in the County.

11. Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 7: 11 PM.