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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
Oct 11, 2016
1:30 PM

Members Present

Damien Davis-City of Morgantown, Dave Bruffy-MLTA, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Rich Wood-Monongalia County Planning, Chris Fletcher-City of Morgantown, Clement Solomon-WVU, Brian Carr-WV DOH

Members Absent

Ron Snyder, James Meadows, Donny Williams, Scott Wright, Chandra Inglis Smith, , Arlie Forman, Fouad Shoukry-WV DOH

Others Present

Whitmore, John-City of Morgantown, Heather Britton, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

Mr. Austin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the August meeting were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Fletcher noted a mistake in the minutes. The “minutes of March” should be corrected as the “minutes of August. Mr. Fletcher then moved to approve the minutes with the correction; seconded by Mr. Davis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. TIP Adjustment Informational Item

Mr. Austin introduced the items that the Division of Highways requested for TIP Adjustments. Mr. Wood asked the location of the Foundry Street Linkage Trail project. Mr. Davis noted that it is near the new Sheetz gas station at the University Ave/Foundry St intersection. Mr. Austin noted that this is an informational item only and no action was taken on these adjustments. Mr. Austin then noted that the Policy Board will review the TIP Amendments that the DOH requested in August, since the August Amendments had not been appropriately included in the agenda of the August Policy Board.

4. I-79 Access Study Update

Mr. Austin noted the consultants for the I-79 Access Study Update project will hold a public meeting at the Mountaineer Station from 4 pm to 7 pm today. 14 alternatives and a evaluation matrix will be presented to the public. Mr. Austin then introduced the alternatives that were identified as most desirable. Mr. Austin then noted that those alternatives will significantly improve the transportation network in the area. They also include some cost-effective projects that have a low impact on the neighborhoods.

Mr. Carr noted that this study is daunting task in term of the potential cost of the projects that the study is to recommend. Mr. Carr then noted that the proposed improvements should be seen as long term solutions to the transportation problems in this region. Mr. Austin noted that the study documents the process of developing the projects of significant impact and is preparing for the purpose and need statements required by the NEPA process. Mr. Wood noted that the study has explored various possibilities to improve the transportation system in the area. The process has been comprehensive and deliberate. Mr. Bruffy concurred and also noted that the evaluation process was thorough.

Mr. Austin noted that the Study is expected to be wrapped up in January and it will be considered for adoption as a part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update.

5. Update on Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Zhang noted that the MPO has received 564 completed surveys by Oct 4. The MPO staff has prepared a memo documenting the results of preliminary analysis on the survey statistics. The survey will be closed by November 1. At that time, MPO staff will conduct a full analysis. A public meeting will be held at the Marilla Park from 4 pm to 7 pm on Oct 26th, 2016.

Mr. Austin noted that it is very encouraging to have so many survey responses from the community. Mr. Solomon suggested sending him a link for the online survey, so he can share it through a WVU twitter account. Mr. Fletcher noted that it will also be helpful to re-cycle this information on city's social media. Mr. Austin noted that the newly adopted FAST Act has emphasis on freight planning and the MPO is seeking input from the freight industry as well. Mr. Fletcher noted that he may forward some contacts of the truck companies the the area.

6. Project Update WV DOH

Mr. Carr noted that the district operation engineer was not able to attend this meeting and he does not have any specific update on a particular project. Mr. Carr noted that it will be helpful that he could learn from the committee on what project the committee is interested. So he can find more information about those projects in advance.

Mr. Austin noted that he saw Mr. Shoukry at the state planning conference and was informed of the status of two projects. The DOH is looking for addition funding for the TWLTL project on Mon Blvd. For the intersection improvement project at Dents Run Blvd and WV 100, the DOH intends to realign the WV 100 towards to southeast corner of the intersection area to minimize right-of-way purchase.

7. Other Business

Mr. Davis asked about the traffic count tubes that have been placed on the streets in the Morgantown downtown area. Mr. Austin noted that it may be collecting data for the downtown signal system upgrade.

Mr. Austin noted that he has prepared a letter commending Mr. Shoukry for left-turn project on the I-68 Exit 7 EB ramp.

Mr. Davis noted that the City has submitted the Intent to Apply of TAP grant for two projects. They are a sidewalk project on Collin Ferry Rd from Aspen St to the New Suncrest primary School and a pedestrian signal crossing project on US 119 near Aldi. Mr. Austin noted that this project is of high priority in the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Mr. Austin noted that Morgantown Bicycle Board had submitted a TAP grant application for a multipath project on the north side of WV 705 from the Mileground roundabout to Stewartstown Rd. The DOH management has contacted him about this project. DOH was under the impression that a sidewalk at that section of WV 705 was to be built as a part of the last phase of the Mileground Reconstruction project. Mr. Austin noted that he informed them that the sidewalk was not included in the scope of work of the last phase of the Mileground project.

Mr. Fletcher noted that based on a decision made by the WV Supreme Court, VFW Property Redevelopment can proceed. The city won't release building permit of any kind unless WV DOH approves the access plan for that development.

Mr. Austin noted that he had learned that the TIGER grant application for Greenbag Rd was rated as highly recommended and had reached the final stage of the selection process. Unfortunately, the Greenbag Rd application was not selected for funding at this time.

9. Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 2: 22 PM.