



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

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MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

MMMPO Conference Room
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV
June 19, 2019, 6:00 PM

Members Present

Bill Rice, Chip Wamsley, Christiaan Abildso, Maria Smith, Ed Sneckenberger

Others Present

Jing Zhang

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin, acting as the Chairman, called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:10 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mrs. Smith moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wamsley. 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 improving 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. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Abildso; With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin noted The West Virginia Department of Transportation has requested two TIP Amendments. They are the WV 43 Colonel Zackquill Morgan Bridge inspection project and Capernton Trail lighting project. The proposed TIP Amendments were not received in time for regular advertising 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 upon contingent on the completion of public comment period, in the same fashion as was done with the TIP Amendments in May. Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend tentative approval of the proposed amendments to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Abildso; With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin noted that WVDOH also requested three other TIP amendments with the two that are under consideration. However, those amendments are not as urgent since it is proposed that the work on those items will begin at a later date. MPO Staff has recommended that those items be considered at the August Policy Board meeting since properly advertising them will not delay implementation.

Mr. Austin noted TIP adjustments, including Decker Creek Trail project and the Beechurst Ave and Campus Drive intersection improvement project.

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. Abildso noted that the evaluation provides good information for comparing projects. He suggested using different sorting criteria to show the project ranking in different lists. Mr. Abildso moved to recommend approval of the performance measures to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Rice joined the meeting.

5. DRAFT WILLEY STREET/RICHWOOD AVENUE INTERSECTION STUDY

Mr. Austin noted that a draft report of Willey Street/Richwood Avenue Intersection Study is included in the agenda package. The study was requested by the City of Morgantown and was 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. Abildso noted that a key challenge for the development in the area is the ingress and egress of the current parking lot. In addition, the traffic impact of proposed alternatives to the Little General Store should be well considered in future development. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that those issues will be further addressed in the City's small area land-use plan for the area.

Mr. Abildso moved to recommend approval of the study report to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. 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 is 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 the seasonal factors. The 2019 traffic count report will be a complete report with peak period volumes available for analysis.

Mr. Abildso moved to recommend approval of the traffic count report to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

7. UPDATE ON BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN STUDY

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff attended in 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 Pattenon 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 the intersection improvements on University Ave near the Pizza Al's, the intersection improvements on University Ave and Falling Run Rd, and the 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 infrastructures will be provided to the City of Morgantown for preliminary review in September.

This is an informational item and requires no action from the Committee.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Rice noted that City of Morgantown is discussing its annexation plan. Some roads owned by the state will be transferred to the City, which might affect their maintenance. While the MPO does not take an official standing on this issue, the impact of such a change should be noted.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted he is aware that the DOH is proposing improvements on different segments of Van Voorhis Rd as opposed to what the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan recommended. He asked how the MPO intend to resolve this issue. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has scheduled a meeting with the Secretary of Transportation early next month to discuss the issue. The MPO will request the scope of the project be corrected.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.