

GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO
March 17, 2011 **Minutes** **City Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Bryer, Asel Kennedy, Joe Statler, Anthony Giambrone, Mike Kelly, Perry Keller, David Bruffy, Joe Fisher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patty Lewis, Janice Goodwin, Bill Byrne, Don Spencer, Eldon Callen

MPO DIRECTOR: Bill Austin

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of February 2011 as submitted; seconded by Mr. Bryer. The motion unanimously carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

4. FINANCE REPORT: The financial report, presented in the packet for review, was received.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Danielle Williams was introduced as the new full time assistant to the MPO Director/TDM Coordinator;

b. A van pooling meeting was held with many of the major employers in the 705 Corridor (WVU, WVU Hospital, Monongalia General, Mylan and Nettle) and VPIS. Employee information meetings will be scheduled with WVU and Mon General at the end of April/beginning of May; then van pool coordinating meetings will be scheduled. CMAC information will be forthcoming. Nettle will be refining their federal guidelines for van pooling;

c. Downtown traffic study anticipated completion date is the week of April 11th, the MPO Traffic Count Program will also be done during that same time period;

d. Mr. Austin asked for suggestions the MPO can do in the Unified Planning Work Program. Part of the UPWP will include updating the LRTP and any ongoing TDM work;

e. The Grumbein Island pedestrian counts were begun in March and there will be a Steering Committee Meeting April 1.

f. Mr. Austin will be speaking to the Suncrest Neighborhood Association later this month to discuss transportation projects in the area;

g. The MPO staff will be attending the American Planning Association's joint two day conference (with MPO's from West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland) which will be held in Cumberland, MD.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

a. Resolution Designating ICMA Trustee of Retirement Funds. Trustee of retirement funds was the last item needed in order for the MPO to be a stand alone organization. Mr. Austin asked that the document be included in the Minutes of the meeting by reference. Mr. Austin is also requesting he be authorized to execute the necessary documents for the trusteeship. Mr. Bruffy noted this is a dedicated contribution fund. Mr. Keller moved to accept the resolution; Mr. Bruffy seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

b. MUB Participating as a member of TTAC. MUB is presently working on its GIS Data Base and believed that joining the TTAC would be of benefit to them. Mr. Kennedy moved that Mr. Austin formally invite MUB to participate on the TTAC; Mr. Statler seconded it. The motion unanimously carried;

c. Executive Director Authorized to Sign Checks. Mr. Kennedy moved that Mr. Austin be authorized to co-sign checks with the Treasurer; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Kennedy noted that no bank actually requires two signatures. Mr. Fisher stated he believed it was a good idea to have two signatures whether or not it was required.

7. FY 2012-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. The TIP includes all programs thru 2011-2012 and any informational programs. This will "clean out" any old and/or completed projects. It will also include the MPO's transportation priority list. Mr. Austin also noted that the TIP had been submitted for 30 days public comment. The document also includes Mountain Line's anticipated funding for the next three years. He also noted that this document will need to be amended at the next meeting to present the funding for the WVU's PRT projects. Mr. Austin noted the 705 Connector Project's name has been changed to the Mileground Plus One project. Mr. Statler moved to accept the 2012-2014 TIP; Mr. Kelly seconded it. The motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Keller presented an update on the Mileground Plus One project stating it is moving forward and discussions with the business owners have been taking place. The DOH is listening to their concerns. He stated there is no hard and fast decision made regarding the final project design. The DOH is looking at a hybrid of the original recommendation; a signalized intersection may be considered at the Airport Road intersection due to a grade change at Hartman Run Road and Easton Hill.

The business owners want the center turn lane to remain. To do that would mean shrinking the right of way. The proposed road is now 12 feet wide; may look at a 10 or 11 foot road which would reserve some of the right of way. Mr. Keller stated the public wants a better idea of what property is being taken. The DOH will provide

that information in the form of a public hearing to show what the five lane road will look like compared to a four lane road with a median.

Mr. Statler asked that the design be finalized quickly. Mr. Keller stated if a round about is located at the 705/Mileground/Willey Street, the realignment of the road will not significantly change.

Mr. Keller stated the business owners would be agreeable to a five lane road if it meant the center turn lane would remain. If there was no center lane, they feel their businesses would be adversely affected. They would be willing to give up more property if it meant the center turn lane could remain. Mr. Keller will keep the Board apprised every step of the way.

8. MPO/STAR CITY/MORGANTOWN RFQ. Mr. Austin has been working with the City's Director of Development Services and Star City officials to develop a request for qualifications for their comprehensive plan. Westover has also been contacted and expressed interest, but have not committed. Representatives of MountainLine, WVU and the municipalities, along with Mr. Austin, will develop a full scope of work.

Mr. Kennedy noted that any funding will be in next year's UPWP and we cannot obligate ourselves if we have no funds available. He also questioned why this is being done now. Mr. Austin stated the LRTP was last updated in 2007, and it needs to be updated every five years. Mr. Keller explained that all state MPO's were advised that, based on last year's funds, they would be given the same amount of funding. Mr. Kelly moved to proceed with the RFQ. Mr. Giambrone seconded it. The motion unanimously carried.

9. DYNAMIC SIGNALIZATION SYSTEM. Mr. Austin stated the study is moving forward; The Beechurst reconfiguration project is scheduled for construction to begin on May 16 with the project to be completed by August 26. The Beechurst portion of the dynamic signals project will be implemented immediately after the restriping project is completed. He stated the CAC is concerned about the new traffic signal at the intermodel location.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REVIEW. Mr. Austin advised that there was one outstanding issue concerning the Executive Director's review at the last Executive Session. Mr. Kennedy stated the issue was moot and no further discussion was needed. Mr. Statler moved to conclude the review of the Executive Director; Mr. Bryer seconded it. The motion unanimously carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS: None

12. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Statler. The motion unanimously carried.

The next MPO meeting will be held May 19, 2011.