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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
August 5, 2014
1:30 PM

Members Present

Richard wood-Monongalia County, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line Transit, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Elwood Penn, WV DOH, Fouad Shoukry-WV DOH. Damien Davis-City of Morgantown.

Others Present

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

I. Call to Order

Bill Austin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the Minutes of the May meeting had been included in the agenda packet. Mr. Austin called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Wood moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin asked Mr. Carr to introduce the TIP amendment proposed by WV DOH. Mr. Carr noted that WV DOH is requesting a project for street light installation on Patteson Drive from the intersection of Monongahela Blvd to University Ave in FY 2014-2015. This TIP amendment includes engineering, right of way, and construction phases. He further stated that since the engineering phase has not begun, more detailed information about this project may not be available at this moment. He encouraged the TTAC to identify any questions that might be brought up in the following Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Austin stated that he assumes that this project will coordinate with WVU in regard to the Evansdale Campus Master Plan and comply with ADA standard. Mr. Davis commented that issues, such as right-of-way acquisition and flood plan problems, may exist at some locations on the project site. He then asked if city will be responsible for maintaining the proposed street lights. Mr. Carr responded that the State will be responsible for those lights. Mr. Wood moved to recommend approval of this TIP amendment to the

MPO Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Davis. Without further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin then noted that information about the TIP administrative adjustments has been included in this meeting's agenda package. Adjustments require no recommendation from the TTAC. Those adjustments include: Moving the Granville-Bertha Hill Slide Correction TIP from 2014 to 2015. Moving WV 7/CR 857 Intersection Improvement TIP from 2014 to 2015. Moving Monongahela Blvd two way left turn lane TIP from 2013 to 2016. Increasing the budget of West Run Widening Construction TIP from \$100,000 to \$300,000 and moving this project from 2013 to 2014. Increasing budget of West Run Widening Construction TIP from \$1,000,000 to \$2,160,000 and moving this project from 2014 to 2015.

IV. Update on Status of Proposed I-79 Access Study

Mr. Austin noted that the City of Morgantown has provided match funding for the proposed I-79 access study, but the County declined to provide match funding for this study. Due to insufficient funding, currently this study is on hold.

Mr. Bruffy stated that the Mountain Line Transit Authority may consider providing the match funding for this study, if the study incorporates more considerations on improvements for transit operation, such as dedicated transit route/lanes, transit shelters, bus pull-off lanes, and sidewalk. Mr. Austin added that this can be done. Mr. Wood asked about the proposed schedule of this study. Mr. Austin noted that given sufficient funding, the RFQ was scheduled to be released by now and the study is planned for two fiscal years. Mr. Austin then noted that he will discuss the funding strategy suggested by Mr. Bruffy with the MPO chairman and Policy Board members and rewrite the scope of work in study's RFQ to reflect changes made for transit considerations.

V. Status of Greenbag Road Corridor Study

Mr. Austin noted that Jing Zhang is working on the Greenbag Rd Corridor Study and the status report for this study is included in the agenda package. Accomplished items are available for review by committee members. He also noted that Mr. Shoukry and MPO staff has conducted a field assessment on Greenbag Rd shortly before this meeting. He then mentioned that Tom Laurita from the Chamber of Commerce agreed to join the steering committee of this study, representing the trucking industry in the Morgantown area. Mr. Zhang then introduced the website of this study to the TTAC.

Mr. Austin commented that this study aims to improve Greenbag Rd for motor vehicles, pedestrian, bicyclists, transit users, and particularly to make it attractive to trucks. It is intended that improvements on Greenbag Rd is constructive in solving the downtown truck traffic issue.

VI. MPO Operations Status Report

Mr. Austin noted that he attended two conference in previous weeks. The first was the Ohio Transportation Planning Conference, focusing on developing performance measure. The second was the Transportation Research Board Conference for Small-medium Size MPOs featuring coordination between land-use regulation and transportation planning practice.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that Ella Belling from the Mon River Trails Conservancy received grants for three small portable infrared counters, which are capable of counting pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and the MPO is considering providing local match funding for these devices using the MPO's UPWP data collection funds. Mr. Austin commented that this provides an opportunity to collect data for pedestrian and bicyclist traffic modeling use and for project justification. Mr. Carr and Mr. Penn concurred with Mr. Austin's opinion. Mr.

Penn asked the MPO to hold off on funding the counter while he researched other potential funding sources.

Mr. Bruffy mentioned that the bus shelter at the intersection of University Ave Ave and Law School Dr has been run over twice and the people from the WVU law school have been complaining about this bus shelter blocking the vision of westbound traffic. He suggested a study of the feasibility of installing a northbound exclusive left-turn lane to law school at that intersection and of improving the intersection of University Ave and 8th St. Mr. Austin commented that both intersections are included on the University Ave Corridor Improvement Program recommended in the 2040 LRTP and that it could be beneficial to conduct a preliminary study to document the existing condition in that location. Mr. Austin noted that this work can be scheduled into MPO's staff work program.

Mr. Penn noted that the WV DOH Planning Division will be hosting its annual 2014 Planning Conference on October 7-9, 2014, at the Blennerhassett Hotel located at Parkersburg, WV. Mr. Austin commented that it could be useful to provide a session exclusively for MPO policy board members in the Planning Conference. Mr. Wood concurred with Mr. Austin's opinion.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.