

**GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO**

**January 19, 2012**

**Minutes**

**City Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anthony Giambrone, Mike Kelly, Patty Lewis, Perry Keller, David Bruffy, Jim Manilla, Wes Nugent, Joe Statler

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bill Byrne, Asel Kennedy, Eldon Callen, Joe Fisher, Janice Goodwin

**MPO DIRECTOR:** Bill Austin

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Austin called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

**II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** On behalf of the nominating committee, Mr. Statler presented their recommendations for MPO Officers; David Bruffy/Chair; Joe Statler Co-Chairman; Mayor Patty Lewis/Treasurer. Mr. Giambrone then moved to elect those nominated by acclamation; seconded by Mr. Nugent. The motion unanimously passed.

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:05 pm, pursuant to WV Code 6-9a-4(9) and (12), the Policy Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. At 7:15 pm, the Policy Board returns to regular session. Mr. Statler, reporting on behalf of the Personnel Committee, advised the review for the MPO Director is a positive one and the committee recommended his contract be renewed.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:** (public hearing opened at 7:20)

**Bill Rice/1225 Baker's Ridge Road**-wished to thank Perry Keller for speaking to the CAC. Also commented there is an opportunity for the community to help the fracture in City Council with regard to Marcellus shale, and the smoking ban. Advised there will be a meeting regarding widening of the Mileground on January 24<sup>th</sup>; community should send a unified message to Charleston.

(public hearing closed at 7:25)

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Statler moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2011 as submitted; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**VI. FINANCIAL REPORT:** After discussing the report as presented, the balance as of December 31, 2011, is \$25,927.45; Mr. Giambrone moved to approve the financial report as submitted; seconded by Mr. Nugent. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed. Mr. Austin noted that the financial report now includes all information that was previously requested by Policy Board members.

## **VI: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**a. Update on LRTP and Comprehensive Plan:** Public meetings have been set to create a regional vision for the area; reaching out to Westover and Granville to participate in creating a vision for the entire city. Meetings will be held January 25, 2012 at South Middle School from 7 to 9 and again on January 26, 2012 from 7-9 at North Elementary. Policy Board members are welcome to attend. Information will be structured into a vision which will be given to the LRTP group. "Crossroads" is the name given to the planning effort.

Mr. Austin also noted that there will be a public meeting will be held on the Mileground Alternative at Easton Elemenatary on January 24, 2012 from 4 to 7.

**b. Update on GIS Effort:** A server with ortho-photography is now being shared with the MPO and County.

**c. Van Pool and TDM Efforts:** Mr. Austin noted a great deal of public response; 60 individuals wish to participate, and have been matched with their routes but there is a problem with anyone agreeing to sign for the van's responsibility. Work is presently being done with MountainLine and the DOH to reconfigure the incentive program. Ten to fifteen people have been referred to the Pittsburgh area for van pooling.

**d. TIP Prioritization Process:** Mr. Austin stated that this issue arose at the Citizens Advisory Committee. He then asked Mr. Keller to discuss this issue. Mr. Keller reported that the State is looking to refine their already methodical process for prioritizing project with the assistance of consultants. The idea is to make the process more transparent. Mr. Nugent asked if the LRTP folds into the Power 32 regional group (regional planning effort that includes 32 different counties from Maryland, Pennsylvania and WV). Mr. Austin stated our LRTP does in some ways although he has not seen a final product of the Power of 32 group.

**VIII. TIP AMENDMENTS:** Request for TIP to be amended to add:

**1. Main Street Granville** / sidewalk enhancement program for south side of Main Street from Rodgers to Everly Street;

**2. WVU PRT Towers HVAC Replacement;**

and projects to be removed (will now become 100% state funded)

**1. Daybrook Blacksville Road** – Resurfacing project;

**2. Westover / Star City Road** – Resurfacing project;

and Administrative changes made to:

**1. Dupont Road** – Slide repair project moved to FY 2013;

- 2. Mileground + 1** – Right of Way acquisition moved to FY2012;
- 3. Morgantown Airport Industrial Park Rd** – Moved to 2012;
- 4. West Run Road Improvement** Project moved to FY 2012;
- 5. Hartman Run Bridge Replacement** – Moved to 2014;
- 6. PRT High Voltage Cable Replacement** – Moved to 2012 and added budget increase;

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the changes/additions/corrections to the TIP as submitted; seconded by Mr. Giambrone. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**IV. DRAFT BUDGET:** Mr. Austin reported the largest budget item will be for the Comprehensive/LRTP effort in the amount of \$156,000, which is the same as budgeted last year; \$20,000 for purchasing software was removed; costs for radar based traffic counters included; funds included for study of a pedestrian corridor along University Avenue; funds for continued TDM efforts; funds for the development of a database to track travel time speeds of MountainLine vehicles. The entire budget amount requested is \$2000 less than last years budget. Mr. Nugent moved to accept the draft budget as submitted; seconded by Mr. Manilla; Mr. Statler moved to amend the motion to include raises for the MPO Director and Ass't Director. After discussion among the Policy Board members, the motion was amended to state that \$5,000 be added into the salary line item for potential raises for the Director and Ass't Director. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**X. DRAFT MPO CALENDAR:** CAC and TTAC approved the draft MPO calendar of meetings. Mr. Giambrone moved to accept the calendar as presented; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**XI. STATUS OF FEDERAL REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION:** Mr. Austin reported the Senate has proposed a two year reauthorization for transportation that includes \$3 billion worth of cuts in transportation spending. There is also a proposal to redefine MPO's into tiers. Those with populations under 200,000 would no longer qualify as an MPO. MPO staff will continue to monitor this legislation.

**XII. MPO SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP:** Mr. Austin reported that since the CAC and TTAC are both up and running, it may be beneficial to elect a chairman of each committee that would report to the Policy Board. It was also discussed that the MPO by-laws be reviewed Mr. Keller moved to form a committee to review the MPO by-laws; Mr. Manilla seconded it. Mr. Kelly, Mr. Nugent, Mr. Manilla and Mr. Austin will serve on that committee and recommend any changes to the Policy Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**XII: OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a.** Mr. Nugent, on behalf of the Morgantown Traffic Committee, thanked Mr. Austin and Ms. Williams for their presentation on Rt. 7;

**b.** Mr. Bruffy asked that the list of project priorities be shared with the Board prior to the next regularly scheduled MPO meeting;

**c.** Thanks were expressed to Joe Fisher for serving as Chairman and doing such a good job in leading us forward.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.