



243 High St. Room 110
Morgantown WV, 26505
www.plantgether.org

MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
MMMPO Conference Room
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV
Nov 7, 2018, 1:30 PM

Members Present

Bill Austin, Rich Wood, Brian Carr, Chris Fletcher, Damien Davis, Dave Bruffy, Bill Oliver

Others Present

John Whitmore, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 1:30 PM. Mr. Austin introduced Mr. Oliver of WVU and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Morgantown Industrial Park Access Project Priority

Mr. Austin noted that after sending out the meeting package to TTAC and CAC, MPO staff was contacted by a policy board member who requests that the MPO's tier one designated projects be amended to include the Morgantown Industrial Park Access Project. In order to meet federal guidelines, tier one projects have to be fiscally constrained. Including the Industrial Access project in the tier one category will require removing one or more projects from the current tier one list. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff has no recommendation on this issue.

Mr. Bruffy noted that the new interchange on I-79 in the West Ridge was successfully funded by alternative resources. It might be a better approach for the industrial park access project to pursue similar funding mechanism as the West Ridge interchange did. Mr. Wood noted that the industrial park access project is within the boundary of a TIF district. Mr. Fletcher noted that the access project is of tremendous value to local economic development and he has advocated for this project before. His concern is that amending the project as a tier 1 project at this point could undermine the MPO's 5-year planning process. Tier 1 projects should undergo a more comprehensive community involvement process. Mr. Carr agreed and noted that the access project does not have significant impact to the regional transportation system as other Tier 1 projects currently listed in the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The TTAC recommended that the industrial park access project be amended as a Tier 2 project in the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

4. MPO Meeting Calendar

Mr. Austin noted that the draft MMMPO meeting calendar for 2019 is enclosed in the agenda package. Mr. Wood noted that the West Virginia Day of 2019 will be on Thursday, June 20. The Policy Board meeting will be on the same date. Mr. Austin noted that he will move the Policy Board meeting of that month to June 27 to avoid potential conflicts.

5. Discussion of items for FY 2019-2020 Work Program

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff is preparing for the Unified Planning Working Program of FY 2019-2020 and asked TTAC members for items that should be included in the program. Mr. Bruffy noted that the Mountain Line Transit Authority is to develop a transit strategic plan. He suggested the MPO conduct an initial study to identify potential demand for transit services in the region. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is capable of conducting such a study and he will add this study in the draft UPWP of FY 2019-2020 for review in the January meeting.

5. Update on Status of Bicycle and Pedestrian Study

Mr. Austin noted that it is anticipated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Study will continue into the coming fiscal year and be completed by the fall of 2020. The MPO staff will oversee the planning process and participate in certain data collection tasks, such as sidewalk inventory. Mr. Austin noted that the consultants will conduct initial interviews with key stakeholders in December. The MPO is establishing a steering committee for the study, which will include DOH traffic operation staff and WVU facility planners.

7. WV DOH Update

Mr. Carr noted that the recently started TWLTL project on Mon Blvd should be completed in next few months, if the weather holds. The intersection improvement project on University Ave and Collins Ferry Rd will go for bid in January. Mr. Carr asked if any consultants had contacted the MPO to request traffic data. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has been communicating with consultants on several projects, including the West Run Rd project, the Van Voorhis Rd project, the Greenbag Rd project, and the Beechurst Rd study.

8. Other Business

Mr. Davis noted that there has been discussion about electric scooters in the city. The city is working with the pedestrian safety board and the bicycle board to identify appropriate approaches to accommodate electric scooter users. Mr. Davis suggested adding this topic in the ped and bike study. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that he will request the consultants to include this topic during their initial interviews with key stakeholders in December.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.