

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
JUNE 18, 2015 MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Joe Statler-Blacksville, Randy Hudak-WVU, Elwood Penn-WVDOH, Councilperson Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown.

Members Absent: Anthony Giambrone-Star City, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Councilperson Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Major Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County.

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Reports

A. Citizens Advisory Committee

Bill Rice, the Chairman of the MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), noted that the CAC had a quorum at the June meeting and has recommended approval of the proposed TIP Amendment for Caperton Rail Trail Connector at the Rivers Landing Shopping Center in Star City. He then noted that Frank Gmeindl, a member of the CAC designated by the City of Morgantown, intended to have his membership replaced by Chip Wamsley, the Chairmen of Morgantown Municipal Bicycle Board. Mr. Rice also noted that there has been rising concern with potholes in the streets. He noted that road maintenance is important, but it may be out of the MPO's purview.

Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Gmeindl was one of three CAC members appointed by the City of Morgantown representing the city interests. It is unclear whether the City appointed Mr. Gmeindl, Chairman of the Bike Board as representing the Bike Board or himself. Mr. Austin then noted that the primary function of the MPO is regional transportation planning. The MPO is capable of facilitating the communication with the DOH on roadway maintenance issues, but does not have the authority to directly develop maintenance projects or addressing roadway maintenance deficiencies at specific locations.

Mr. Kelly asked if the CAC member is a yearly appointment. Mr. Austin noted that the appointment is continuing until it is revoked or changed by the Policy Board members.

B. Financial Report

Chairman Nugent asked Mayor Lewis to present the finance report. Mayor Lewis presented the MPO's May activities as follows:

-Beginning balance in May \$19,645.90 with expenditures of \$17,823.15 and two deposits totaling \$294.27, leaving a balance of \$2,117.02 at the beginning of June. Mr. Statler moved for approval of the financial report as presented; second by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

C. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff is working with consultants and stakeholders on the I-79 Access Study and the University Ave Corridor Complete Street Study. He then noted that in the next week, the consultant will hold a public meeting at the WVU Erikson Alumni Center and a walk-about along University Ave to gather public input on how to improve the University Ave Corridor. Mr. Austin then noted that Mr. Zhang has been certified as a League Cycling Instructor by the League of American Bicyclists. In the next fiscal year, Mr. Zhang will seek to be a certified Professional Transportation Planner through the Institute of Traffic Engineers.

Councilperson Kawecky asked how far the walk-about on University Ave will go. Mr. Austin noted that the walk-about will start at the WVU Mountainlair and the length is at the discretion of the event participants.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Nugent then introduced the approval of the Minutes. Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes as submitted; second by Mayor Lewis. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

5. TIP Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that the Division of Highways has requested a TIP Amendment. The project is to add pedestrian access between Caperton Rail Trail and the Rivers Landing Shopping Center in Star City. Mr. Austin noted that this project will enable residents of Star City living in the Coliseum area to access Caperton Trail without crossing Monongahela Blvd. The TTAC and CAC unanimously recommended approval for this TIP Amendment. Mr. Kelly moved to approve the TIP Amendment as presented; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. Mr. Statler asked about the State match for funding this project. Mr. Penn noted that this project is funded through Transportation Enhancement Grant and the City will be responsible for 10 percent of the cost for this project. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. MPO Traffic Count Report

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO 2015 Traffic Count Report was included in the agenda package for this meeting. Mr. Austin noted that this report includes 72 count locations with counts in April, 2015. It also include reported crash locations in 2014. Besides presenting the data, the MPO staff adopted an analytical approach in explaining the volume variations between years. The MPO will request recounts at four locations in the coming fall. Mr. Austin then noted that this is a concise version of traffic report and the MPO will apply this format to future concise traffic reports. The MPO will produce a comprehensive version of traffic report every three years. The comprehensive version will include time period and directional volume information at each count station.

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the traffic report as presented; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. Mr. Statler asked how the average daily volume was obtained. Mr. Austin noted that to estimate the average daily volume, seasonal adjustment factors were applied to the traffic volume detected during the 48 hours count period. Mr. Statler suggested that events and incidents occurred during the count period be identified and documented in the data collection process. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

7. University Avenue Complete Streets Study and I-79 Access Study Updates

Mr. Austin noted that the University Ave Complete Street Study is in the process of gathering public opinion and developing preliminary improvement strategies for the study area. The I-79 Access Study is at the stage of incorporating AirSage data to the MPO's Travel Demand Model. The Access Study will significantly improve the MPO's Travel Demand Model by using updated origin and destination data.

8. Creation of A Committee to Revise the MPO's Public Involvement Policy

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is proactively seek improvements on its public outreach practice. As suggested by Policy Board members, the MPO staff is revising the MPO's public involvement policies. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is to form a committee to review and make recommendations on updating those policies. One member from the TTAC and one member from the CAC agreed to join the Committee. Mr. Austin asked if any policy board member is willing to serve on this committee. Chairman Nugent noted that he is willing to serve on the committee.

9. Resolution Letter to Appreciate Anthony Giambrone for His Service and Leadership

Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Giambrone did not seek reelection in the next election circle and will leave the MPO Policy Board. A draft resolution has been prepared by the MPO to appreciate Mr. Giambrone's leadership and service to the MPO and the community. Mr. Bruffy moved to accept the resolution as presented; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

10. Other Business

Mr. Bruffy noted that the sidewalk construction near the Mountain Line Bus Terminal in Westover has been completed. He also noted that the Park-and-Ride facility near the I-68 Cheat Lake exit began to serve customers commuting from the Cheat Lake area. Mr. Bruffy appreciated WV DOH for these two projects.

Chairman Nugent expressed appreciation to Delegate Joe Statler for serving on the MPO's Policy Board.

11. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.