



## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 8th, 2024

This meeting was held virtually at <https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin> and in person at 243 High St (Court House), Room 026 in downtown Morgantown.

**Members Present:** Christiaan Abildso (Chairman), Chip Wamsley, Wallace Venable, Matthew Cross, Kelli LaNeve, Thomas Zeni, Heather Morgan

**Others Present:** Bill Austin, Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang

---

### 1. Call to Order

The CAC meeting was held virtually and in person. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized. With a quorum present, Mr. Abildso called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:00 PM.

### 2. 2024 August TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin stated the 2024 August TIP Amendments requested by the West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (WV DOH) are as follows:

#### *TIP Amendments*

GREENBAG ROAD (GO BOND 4). FFY 2025. Construction Phase. Type of Work: improve I/S & widen. Federal ID: NFA2317022D. Total funding increase from \$16,000,000 to \$21,350,000. Federal funding remains at \$0.

Mountain Line Transit Authority (MLTA) has requested the following TIP amendments:

#### FFY 2024

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,434,495 to \$3,401,120. Local funding decreases from \$3,434,495 to \$3,401,120

Capital Assistance - Operating assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$250,000 to \$200,000. Local funding decreases from \$62,500 to \$50,000

All federal and local funding for Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5307 and 5339 are decreased to \$0.

#### FFY 2025

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5339 (1): Federal funding increases from \$0 to \$145,240. Local funding increases from \$0 to \$36,310. 2

Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5339 (2): Federal funding increases from \$0 to \$241,031. Local funding increases from \$0 to \$60,258.

Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5339 (3): Federal funding increases from \$0 to \$1,400,000. Local funding increases from \$0 to \$350,000.

#### FFY 2026

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864. Local funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864.

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

Capital Assistance - Operating assistance 5307: Federal funding increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Local funding increases from \$50,000 to \$62,500

#### FFY 2027

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864. Local funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864.

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

#### FFY 2028

Operating Assistance 5307: Federal funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864. Local funding decreases from \$3,401,120 to \$3,357,864.

Federal 5311(f) Intercity: Federal funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300. Local funding decreases from \$350,000 to \$270,300.

Mr. Zeni moved to vote on all the amendments at once; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zeni moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendments; seconded by Ms. Morgan. The motion passed unanimously.

#### *TIP Administrative Adjustments*

New Project

- DUNKARD AVE RESURFACE. FFY 2025. Construction Phase. Type of Work: resurface. Federal ID: STBG0100163D. Total funding: \$2,250,000; federal funding: \$1,800,000.

- US MARINE SERGEANT DAVID PAUL MCCORD MEM BR. FFY 2028. Engineering Phase. Type of Work: design study-replacement. Federal ID: HWI0007325D. Total funding: \$450,000; federal funding: \$400,000.

- CHESTNUT RIDGE PEDESTRIAN MORGANTOWN. FFY 2024. Construction Phase. Type of work: pedestrian improvements. Federal ID: HSIP0705022D. Total funding: \$2,000,000; federal funding: \$1,800,000. 3

#### Funding Change

- INTERSTATE 68 OVERPASS. FFY 2025. Construction Phase. Type of Work: bridge renovation. Federal ID: NHPP0119514D. Total funding increase from \$4,500,000 to \$6,900,000; federal funding increase from \$3,600,000 to \$5,520,000.

- UNIVERSITY AVE BRIDGE. FFY 2024. Right – Of – Way Phase. Type of Work bridge repair. Federal ID: NHPP0119546D. Decrease federal funding from \$10,000 to \$0; decrease federal funding from \$8,000 to \$0.

Move the following project from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025

- JOSEPH C BARTOLO MEMORIAL BRIDGE. Federal ID: HWI0019589D

- BROOKHAVEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. Federal ID: CMAQ0007263D

- I-79 LIGHTING. Federal ID: STBG0079084D

Move the following project from FFY 2026 to FFY 2024

- BROOKHAVEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. Federal ID: CMAQ0007264D

The Administrative Adjustments are an informational item.

Mr. Zeni asked about the two Brookhaven Road improvements, and if they two separate projects. Mr. Austin stated that they are the same project, one adjustment is for design/planning one is for construction.

Mr. Abildso asked about the projects from FFY 2026 to 2024, and if this is this a typo. Zhang verified this is correct, but staff will look into it.

He also asked where these projects are located. Mr. Austin stated that DOH does not map the new projects and that staff will update our TIP map. Mr. Abildso is asking for more details and if this can be passed along to the DOH. The CAC Board expressed frustration with funds being moved around with little detail. Mr. Austin stated that the state lost their TIP personal, and they are training a new person. Staff will work on providing more information as they can.

### **3. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Study**

Mr. Austin stated that a draft of this study has previously been reviewed by the TTAC and the CAC. Since that review it has received comments from the public and been modified. He asked the board to please review the Study. The only change was adding methodology paragraph. It is respectfully requested that the CAC recommend adoption of this Study to the MPO Policy Board.

Mr. Zeni asked if EV charging is for government vehicles or public. Mr. Austin said it is for all vehicles. He also stated the document lists about potential funding sources.

Mr. Venable made a comment about getting local communities and corporations to amend their building code applications to ask about including EV charging stations. He thinks it would be a good idea to get the conversation started. Mr. Austin stated this idea can be passed along to the County Planning Director and City of Morgantown Planning Director.

Mr. Austin stated that this is just to get ahead of the curve. There is no active policy on EVs currently.

Mr. Venable moved to recommend approval of the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Study to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study Scope of Work**

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan recommends a pedestrian bridge over Don Knott's Boulevard in the vicinity of the waterfront as a Tier One Project. Discussions with WVDOH have indicated that there is a concern that the construction of the proposed pedestrian bridge is not feasible or unaffordable. This Study is to determine the constructability and cost of the proposed bridge as well as to finalize the location of the proposed bridge. It is anticipated that this Study will be conducted utilizing the MPO's on-call consulting contract. The MPO would appreciate the CAC's review of this scope of work and a recommendation of approval of the Scope to the MPO's Policy Board.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study Scope of Work to the Policy Board; seconded by Ms. Morgan. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cross asked about the land near this potential pedestrian bridge, and how there was discussion of rezoning this area from industrial about two years ago. He stated this may help create more commercial activity.

### **5. University Avenue Pedestrian Safety Scope of Work**

Mr. Austin stated that the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program for the fiscal year that began July 1, includes a study of pedestrian safety on University Avenue from Patteson Drive to Boyers Avenue. He asked the board to review the attached scope of work. Mr. Austin stated he is still looking into if the MPO wants Staff to complete this study, or to use the on-call consultant. If appropriate, the MPO would appreciate the CAC's recommendation to approve the Scope to the MPO Policy Board. Mr. Austin also stated Star City has reached out to him about Safe Streets Gants, which may be useful.

Mr. Zeni asked about if the potential of the work being internal versus external, and he asked if there was an advantage of having a pair of fresh eyes (external) looking at the area.

Ms. Morgan asked about the PACE campus and if these projects will be connected. Mr. Austin stated the consultant has reached out to him, and they are interested in getting many grants and potentially working together. Ms. Morgan stated that PACE is a wonderful housing opportunity.

Mr. Cross asked about changes to St. Francis Highschool in Star City and if this will be included in the impact. Mr. Austin has not heard about this, but the study will examine the area around the school.

Ms. Morgan moved to recommend approval of the University Avenue Pedestrian Safety Scope of Work to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Downtown Microsimulation Study

Mr. Austin stated that the Steering Committee met on August 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss alternative options. Kimley Horn presented for the TTAC, going over the Existing Conditions Model Calibration Update, Future No-Build Conditions Model Status, the process to identify scenarios, and recommended scenarios and discussion to finalize list. This is an informational item.

The important question is which alternatives will be chosen to be modeled.

Kimley-Horn wants to make sure this project is efficient and long lasting. The recommended modeling scenario options are as follows:

1. Signal timing optimization and corridor coordination, and bicycle and ped safety and access improvements.
  - a. The CAC discussed multiple signal timing options around the downtown area, and which cycles would be most effective. Mr. Austin clarified the district is the one controlling the timing of signals.
2. Grumbein's Island closure.
  - a. The consultant provided plans for where the traffic would be re-directed. Mr. Abildso mentioned coordinating with MLTA. The busses could still have access to pick up students and professors, but the road would be closed to other traffic. Ms. Smith is on the TTAC and is aware of the suggestions.
3. One-way street conversions.
  - a. Spruce, Pleasant, High, and Walnut Street would change to two ways instead of one-way streets.
4. Willey Street improvements (capacity, realignment, or both).
  - a. The Steering Committee wants the consultants to look at Snider Street for this option because of the Right of Way issues. This is important also due to the Richwood development. Mr. Cross mentioned the steep grade in this area, and Mr. Austin stated while it is steep, it is like others in the area.
5. Intersection improvements and Beechurst corridor improvements from Campus Drive to 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Pedestrian access would be included in these improvements. The CAC mentioned the potential of banning left turns from 8<sup>th</sup> Street onto Beechurst.
6. Combined Grumbein's Island, Willey Street, and one-way conversion.
  - a. The CAC noted this would be a rather large change.

7. 'Wild Card' or 'Ultimate Condition.'
  - a. This option is open for other ideas and combinations of suggestions. Mr. Cross suggested a seasonal Grumbein's Island closure as another option.

The CAC discussed the listed scenarios, with Mr. Austin clarifying some questions, and will continue to provide feedback for the Steering Committee. MPO Staff will keep the committees updated as more information comes out.

### **7. Other Business**

Mr. Cross asked about the roundabout on Collins Ferry. Mr. Austin stated that it is going out for a bid at the end of September. Mr. Cross also asked about Van Voorhis Road timeline, and Mr. Austin does not know the exact schedule but the project is moving forward.

Mr. Austin updated the CAC on the Smithtown Road design project. The first preliminary meeting was 8/8/24. The design is moving forward and construction may start in about a year.

Mr. Abildso asked about some Rail Trail funding in relation to the Industrial Park Bridge. Mr. Ausitn said he would need to talk to WVDOH.

### **8. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.