

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
OCTOBER 20, 2016 MINUTES

Members Present:

Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Randy Hudak-WVU, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Councilperson Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line,

Members Absent: Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Chairman Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Vice Chairman Mayor Herman Reid-Star City, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County,

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Austin then introduced the election of interim chairman for this meeting. Mr. Kelly moved to elect Councilperson Nugent as the interim chairman; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Councilperson Nugent introduced the approval of the Minutes for the August meeting. Mr. Bruffy moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

4. Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Rice, the Chairmen of the CAC, is not able to attend this Policy Board meeting. Mr. Austin noted that the last CAC meeting has a good turnout. Agenda items on the meeting were informational. No formal action was made by the Committee.

b. Finance Report

Mayor Lewis was not able to attend this meeting. Mr. Austin read the finance report prepared by Mayor Lewis as the following:

-- Beginning balance in August \$19,686.33 with expenditures of \$19,316.70 and two deposits of \$309.32, leaving a balance of \$860.95 at the beginning of July.

-- Beginning balance in September \$860.95 with expenditures of \$39,228.37 and three deposits of \$68,416.90, leaving a balance of \$30,049.48 at the beginning of August.

Mr. Mayor Shamberger moved to accept the August and September Finance Report; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

i. I-79 Access Study Update

Mr. Austin noted that MPO will hold a public meeting at the Marilla Park Recreation Center from 4 pm to 7 pm on Oct 26th. The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the goals and objectives and projects listed in the current plan. The meeting notice has been advertised on newspapers and published by various media channels. Mr. Austin then noted that two pages of the public meeting material were included in the agenda package, showing the planning process and the result of a primary analysis on the survey responses by Oct. 4. Mr. Austin noted that it is very encouraging that the MPO has received more than 600 hundred survey responses. Mr. Austin then noted that the recommendation from the I-79 Access Study will be a major update in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

ii. MPO Office Move

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has officially moved from the Airport to the Courthouse. He expressed his appreciation to the County staff for their great assistance with the move. He also noted that the the new office location will be convenient for the MPO staff to work with other county and city staff.

iii. Travel Activities

Mr. Austin noted that he traveled quite a bit several traveling in the last two months, including to the West Virginia Planning Conference, FHWA Every Date Counts Initiative Conference, and a FHWA single day event on Connecting Communities. Mr. Austin noted that he had learned that the TIGER grant application for Greenbag Rd was rated as highly recommended and had reached the final stage of the selection process. Unfortunately, the Greenbag Rd application was not selected for funding at this time.

Councilperson Nugent asked if the application can be re-submitted next year for consideration. Mr. Austin noted that it can. The application may need to be modified to meet new requirements next year.

5. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH has requested two TIP Amendments. They are both trail map update and printing projects. One is for the North Central Rail Trail; and the other is for Mon River Trail Map. The TTAC and CAC respectfully recommended approval of this TIP Amendment to the MPO's Policy

Board. Mr. Bruffy moved to approve the proposed TIP Amendment, seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. I-79 Access Study Update

Mr. Elliott Hair, a consultant on the I-79 Access Study, briefed the Policy Board on the status of the I-79 Access Study. He noted that during the public meeting on Oct 11, the Study team received comments on the identified alternatives from the community. The Alternative 2, 10, and 12 received the most positive comments. Mr. Hair then noted that the report on alternative evaluation has been posted on the project website. He distributed the evaluation matrix to the Policy Board members. The matrix was used to assess the impact of each alternative,

Mr. Carr noted that it will be helpful that MPO provide updated information of the preferred alternative to the WV DOH and get support from them. Mr. Austin concurred.

Commissioner Bloom asked how the project proposed by this study will be financed. Mr. Austin noted that the project will be included in the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan and be recommended for federal and state funding through Transportation Improvement Program. The project may be implemented by phases. It will also be eligible for other alternative funding sources including the local bill.

7. Other Business

Mr. Kelly moved to open a public comment session. The Board approved the motion by acclamation.

Mr. Falley, a student of WVU, asked about the role of the MPO and its Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO serves as a regional partnership in transportation planning among the WV DOT, local transportation related entities, and local elected leadership. It has the authority to plan, prioritize, and recommend transportation projects for federal and state funding. The main purpose of the MTP update is to identify major regionally beneficial transportation projects which can be targeted for federal funding in the next 28 years.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM