

**GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO**  
**January 17, 2013 7:00PM City Council Chambers**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Janice Goodwin, Eldon Callen

**MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Bill Austin

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Austin at 7:00 PM.

**2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The Nominating Committee, Mr. Fisher, chair and Mike Kelly, reported their slate of officers for 2013-2014.

Chair – Joe Statler

Vice Chair – Anthony Giambrone

Treasurer – Patty Lewis

The floor was opened for any additional nominees. Mr. Bruffy moved to close the nominations; seconded by Mr. Nugent. The nomination of the new slate of officers was unanimously passed. Mr. Statler thanked Mr. Bruffy for his service.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Keller noted that on page 3, the minutes should reflect it is "not an adoption of the LRTP; adoption of the projects prioritized in tiers was approved. Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mrs. Lewis reported a beginning December balance of \$13,366.53; three deposits totaling \$33,379.83; disbursements of \$38,744.47 leaving an ending balance of \$8,001.89. Mr. Fisher moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Giambrone. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**a. Bill Rice / 1225 Bakers Ridge Road.** Suggested that reports by the chairs of the TAC and CAC become a regular agenda item. Would like to see the committee chairs, or their designees, present updates on their actions. Mr. Austin stated as chair of the TAC he normally reports the recommendations of both groups, but sees no problem in making this an agenda item.

## **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**a. MPO Staffing.** Mr. Austin met with Mr. Manilla and Mr. Callen to discuss the budget and develop a draft. This fiscal year's proposed budget of \$240,000 is \$130,000 less than last years. Contribution for the City and County is \$12,000 each. Will present the UPWP for adoption at the March meeting.

**b.** Proposing to add Mr. Zhang full time employee rather than as a contract employee. There are funds for him to be paid in the current year's budget;

**c.** Mr. Austin stated that he is working in an advisor capacity along with Mr. Keller on the Connecting Communities Initiative, which is advocating for intermodal transportation statewide. The effort is currently headed by an at large member of the Charleston City Council.

## **7. TIP AMENDMENTS:**

**a. WVU PRT Control System Replacement.** The current control system for the PRT has been in place since 1975. WVU is planning to replace the PRT control system at a cost of \$36 million using WVU funding. This TIP Amendment will allow WVU to seek reimbursement of these funds from the Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Bruffy moved to amend the TIP to include the WVU PRT Control System Replacement; Mr. Fisher seconded it. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**b. Monongahela Blvd. Center Turn Lane.** Mr. Austin stated that an email from Bryan Radabaugh, District Design Engineer, had been included along with the agenda answering questions that were a concern to the Policy Board at the last meeting. Mr. Austin then asked Mr. Keller, to discuss the Division of Highways response to the MPO's concerns on this Project. Mr. Keller explained that this project is being done with safety money, which are funds

approved by the Federal Government for safety, and, as such, must meet certain criteria. He explained that sidewalks, raised median and other amenities that were suggested cannot be paid for with safety funds. A bike lane may be able to be accommodated on the climbing side. (Mr. Fisher suggested Mr. Austin adopt the TAC recommendations regarding bike lanes into a letter to be sent to Secretary Mattox and other DOH officials as appropriate.

Mr. Austin noted the TAC recommended approval of the proposed TIP Amendment while the CAC considered a motion which recommended against approval. They felt the accommodations were not in accord with the MPO's Complete Streets Policy. While the proposed project is satisfactory for cyclists it was not recognized as being acceptable for pedestrians. A vote on the motion resulted in a tie (3-3) and failed.

Mr. Kelly moved to amend the TIP to include the Mon Blvd. center turning lane; seconded by Mr. Manilla. Mr. Statler expressed concern that if the project is not done the way we may want it done, it will certainly cost more money to redo at a later time. Mr. Austin stated in-depth corridor plans have not yet been developed; it is still possible to come up with cross sections and let the DOH know our recommendations. Mr. Keller stated that with limited funds at both the State and Federal level, the DOH would look for local funding assistance. Mr. Manilla suggested talking with WVU to try to work something out. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

#### **8. VANPOOL RFP:**

Mr. Austin stated the vanpool effort has been dormant and is looking to revive it. There are \$50,000 in CMAQ funds available to encourage the creation of vanpools. It is his recommendation that the MPO issue an RFP to recruit van pool providers to the area. The RFP has been reviewed with WVU, Mr. Keller and Mon General Health Systems. The RFP doesn't obligate any funds but gets qualified firms in line to be eligible for the funds. Mr. Fisher moved to proceed with the RFP; seconded by Mr. Giambone. Mr. Statler asked if this program has any promise since it's been two years with no results. If it isn't working, or isn't going to work, we may need to think about pulling the plug on the idea. Mr. Austin stated initially 60 people had signed up, but no one was willing to take responsibility for the van. It took Pittsburgh almost five years to get their vanpool program up and running but certainly if the program does not move forward we can pull the plug on the effort. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**9. URBAN AREA SIGNALIZATION:**

A presentation was given on signalization by Andrew Nichols.

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW/EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board went into executive session for the Director's annual review at 8:25PM. The Board was back in session at 8:35 PM. The Board unanimously decided they are very satisfied with the Director.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM