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## **MINUTES**

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee  
2016-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting  
MMMPO Conference Room  
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV  
March 7, 2017, 1:30 PM

### **Members Present**

Bill Austin, Rich Wood, Fouad Shoukry, Christ Fletcher, Brian Carr, Arlie Forman, Dave Bruffy

### **Others Present**

John Whitmore, Jing Zhang

### **1. Transportation Plan Update Steering Committee**

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> MTP Update Steering Committee Meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin suggested moving agenda items of the MTP Update Steering Committee to the TTAC meeting and adjourning the MTP Update Steering Committee meeting. The Committee agreed. Mr. Fletcher made a motion to adjourn the Steering Committee Meeting, seconded by Mr. Carr. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **2. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of TTAC to order at 1:40 PM.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the January 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.

#### **4. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin noted that WVU, Mountain Line, and the West Virginia Division of Highways have requested that the MPO amend the TIP. Mr. Carr described the WV DOH request, which included I-68 Morgantown-Maryland Lighting project, Decker's Creek Trail Repair projects, Morgantown Multi-use path projects, and several resurfacing projects in the Morgantown area.

Mr. Fletcher asked why the funding for the US 119 resurfacing project from Hornbeck Rd to Scott Ave is significantly higher than other resurfacing projects proposed for TIP Amendments. Mr. Carr noted that the higher cost may be a result of different construction materials and the condition of project area. Mr. Wood moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments proposed by the WV DOH to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Carr added that the Pleasant Streetscape Project, which was programmed in the TIP, have been moving forward despite an administrative delay.

Mr. Bruffy noted that the Mountain Line has requested a TIP amendment to reflect changes to Section 5307 funding to comply with the FAST ACT and to recognize the passage of the Transit Levy in Monongalia County. The funding will be used to upgrade and repair transit facilities including multi-model bus shelter projects and bus replacement. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments proposed by the MLTA to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Carr. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Forman noted that WVU has requested TIP amendments to reflect changes to the PRT portion of the TIP, due to new work needed on the PRT. The changes includes increasing federal funding and WVU match multiple fiscal years. Mr. Bruffy moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments proposed by WVU to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Carr. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **5. I-79 Access Study Adoption**

Mr. Austin noted that a brief summary of the report from the I-79 Access Study has been included in the agenda package. The summary includes the planning process, evaluation criteria and final recommendations. Mr. Fletcher noted that the proposed alternative from the study will have significant impact on future land use patterns in the area and he expects more input from the impacted neighborhood when the project gets into the engineering phase. Mr. Bruffy noted that the planning is thorough and informative. Mr. Bruffy moved to recommend approval of the I-79 Access Study to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **6. Update to Metropolitan Transportation Plan Adoption**

Mr. Austin noted that a copy of the MTP Update was included in the agenda package. Mr. Austin noted that the MTP Update includes review of goals and objectives, update of the projects status and project reprioritization, as well as environmental justice analysis. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has conduct a thorough public outreach process including a survey which received more than 700 responses.

Mr. Austin then noted that the recommended alternatives from the I-79 Access Study are major part of the update to the previous transportation plan. New projects proposed in the Plan include Smithtown Rd Improvement Project from Don Knotts Blvd to the I-79 Exit, Climbing lane extension project on I-79 in the vicinity of the Uffington Bridge for approximately 300 yards.

Mr. Wood noted that there have been significant weaving movements between I-79 from Exit 152 and Exit 155 since the new I-79 interchange was built to access the University Towncenter. Mr. Bruffy concurred and noted that an auxiliary lane on each sides should mitigate that problem. Mr. Carr suggested adding a

project to build auxiliary lanes on I-79 from Exit 152 and Exit 155 as a Tier 3 project in the MTP Update. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Austin noted that a priority table was included in the agenda package which shows all tier one projects proposed in the Update. Mr. Carr asked why moving Fairmont Rd/Holland Ave Improvements from Tier 3 to Tier 1. Mr. Austin noted that the project is combined with a project recommended by the pedestrian study the MPO conducted last year. The pedestrian study was a Tier one project in the previous Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Carr noted that it's helpful to document priority changes in the Plan Update.

Mr. Austin noted that MPO will conduct a study to identify projects for Beechurst Ave spot improvement. Mr. Austin noted that it will be a full operational study on Beechurst Ave from 8<sup>th</sup> to Foundry St. Mr. Fletcher noted that Beechurst Ave located in the core urban area of the Morgantown and there are many developments in the corridor. Changes on Beechurst Ave will have significant impact to adjacent land uses as well as transportation patterns.

Mr. Bruffy moved to recommend approval of the MTP Update to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Carr. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will conduct a complete update of the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan in 2021 with extensive public participation.

#### **7. 2017 Unified Planning Work Program Adoption**

Mr. Austin noted that the 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program for the MPO was included in the agenda package for review. The primary work includes the corridor study on Beechurst Ave Corridor and an update of the pedestrian plan prepared by the Morgantown Pedestrian Board in 2010. Mr. Carr noted that the FTA might impose some minor adjustments to the budget after their final review of the UPWP is completed. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the UPWP to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **8. Ongoing Project Update-WVDOH District Four**

Mr. Shoukry noted that the Van Voorhis Project will be completed this year, the Dent Run Project is in the Right-of-Way phase, and the district is working on the Brookhaven and WV 7 intersection project. He then noted that the design of Mon Blvd TWLTL project was 85% completed. The project will include utility relocations and draining improvements in the project area.

#### **9. Other Business**

No other business.

#### **10. Meeting Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.