



82 Hart Field Road Suite
Morgantown WV,

105
26505

www.plantgether.org

MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
January 13, 2013
1:30 PM

Members Present

Damien Davis-City of Morgantown, Terry Hough-City of Morgantown, Richard Wood-Monongalia County, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Jeff Meadows-Monongalia County Board of Education, Elwood Penn-WVDOH, Perry Keller-WVDOH, Fouad Shoukry-WVDOH, Jackie Marhefka-Morgantown Airport, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line

Others Present

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

Call to Order

Bill Austin called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM. He noted that the attendees had not met Mr. Meadows who is taking Mr. Shuetzner's place representing the Board of Education to the TTAC. He requested that the TTAC members introduce themselves so everyone would know each other.

Approval of the Minutes

After the introductions Mr. Austin noted that the Minutes of the November meeting had been included in the agenda packet. He asked for any corrections the Committee members might have to the Minutes. There being no corrections Mr. Austin then called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Ms. Hough moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Wood. The motion was unanimously approved.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin introduced the proposed amendments to the TIP. Mr. Austin stated that most of the proposed amendments are resurfacing projects which are outlined in the TTAC's Agenda packet including the map that was enclosed with it. He noted that the two most significant project

change was the addition of more funding for right of way acquisition on the Mileground +1 Project and the addition of a project for inspections and repairs of the PRT by WVU. He noted that DOH was requesting to increase the funding for right of way acquisition to just over \$11 million for the segment between Cheat Road (Point Marion Road) and Donna Avenue. Mr. Austin stated that this was necessary because the project as currently structured only had funding for the acquisition of Eastwood School the additional funding is required to acquire the right of way not associated with the school. He also noted that the WVU PRT Project is currently scheduled to be completed using University funds but that WVU is requesting that the Project be included in the TIP to allow public comment and to enhance the possibility that a portion of the funds could be reimbursable by the FTA.

After a short discussion Mr. Keller moved to recommend approval of the proposed TIP amendments to the MPO Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fletcher. The motion was unanimously approved.

Draft FY 2014-2015 Work Program

Mr. Austin noted that he had included a draft of the FY 2014-2015 Work Program in the agenda packet. He noted that as outlined at the last meeting the draft UPWP included preparation of studies for intersections and corridors included in LRTP Project 38, develop a plan for the improvement of Green Bag Road, collection of additional pedestrian data and the preparation of a study on the proper location of the third bridge across the Monongahela. Mr. Austin noted that the proposed study for the location of the bridge would require detail between a planning level study and a NEPA level study. He anticipated the cost of the Study to be \$250,000 spread over two fiscal years. Mr. Keller noted that the Study would develop a matrix evaluating the various alternatives examined to inform any future study for the implementation of the project.

Mr. Fletcher asked that the UPWP reflect that the Grant Avenue project may not be the appropriate bicycle/pedestrian project for MPO Staff to work on since the area is in transition with ongoing development. He asked that the language be changed to reflect a more generic bicycle/pedestrian project. He also asked that MPO staff work with City staff to determine a protocol for when MPO staff would be asked to assist in the evaluation of the transportation impacts of proposed development projects. Mr. Austin stated that he would be glad to work with City staff on this question.

After further discussion Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the draft TIP to the MPO Policy Board. Ms. Hough seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Fletcher then asked that future TIP amendments include how they relate to the recommendations of the LRTP. Mr. Austin stated that he would include this in future reports.

Draft Morgantown Monongalia County Bicycle Route Map

Mr. Austin then introduced the Draft Morgantown Monongalia County Bicycle Route Map. He stated that with his assistance Mr. Zhang and Mr. Davis have been working with a steering committee to develop an Urban Area Bicycle Plan. He stated that the draft route map that had been included in the agenda packet would be submitted to the public for their comment at a public meeting to be held January 30th at the City of Morgantown Public Safety Building. MPO staff is not requesting a recommendation on the Route Map at this meeting but presenting it to the TTAC for comment prior to release to the public. He stated that the purpose of the Route Map is to focus on creating a safe cycling network that would allow access to the entire community while focusing scarce resources on the most important facilities rather than requesting that the whole street network become bicycle friendly.

Mr. Shoukry asked for clarification on how the routes were evaluated. Mr. Zhang stated that the Routes were evaluated and the recommendations were made in accordance with the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials 2012 “Guidelines for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.” Mr. Shoukry asked if there were documentation that the proposed facilities met AASHTO’s requirements. Mr. Zhang stated that there is documentation of how these facilities were designated that will be shared in the final report.

Mr. Fletcher noted that he did not quite understand what the various designations on the Route Map stood for. Mr. Zhang shared a poster board that showed the cross sections for the various types of facilities designated on the map.

Ms. Hough expressed concern about the need to purchase right of way for the designated facilities. She was also curious if Mr. Zhang had looked at the existing right of way on the roads with proposed facilities. Mr. Zhang noted that he had examined the entire proposed route network and there would be only a small amount of right of way needed to implement the plan. He stated that he could document these locations. Ms. Hough also expressed concerns with the maintenance of any proposed facility.

Mr. Fletcher noted that funding is limited for these types of improvements and he would like to make sure that the City Manager is aware of these efforts. Mr. Austin stated that he would be certain to inform the City Manager of the development of this plan. Mr. Austin also stated that after the meeting MPO staff would provide the TTAC information on the type of facilities proposed in the plan and the areas where right of way acquisition would be required.

Three Month Accident Summary Report

After the conclusion of the discussion of the draft Bicycle Route Map, Mr. Austin introduced the Three Month Accident Summary Report which had been included in the agenda packet. He stated that staff had been trying to get accident information from MECCA 911 to supplement the data the MPO receives from the State. MECCA 911 provided the MPO with three months of data

that Mr. Zhang had evaluated for these purposes. He noted that Mr. Zhang had only been able to identify the location of about a third of the accidents MECCA 911 had reported and that therefore the data is not of much use. He also noted that the data did not include the accident type as well. He stated that the only real use that might be made of this data would be to identify corridors that require further investigation.

Mileground Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report

Mr. Austin then noted that at the previous meeting the TTAC had been provided with copies of the recently completed MPO Mileground Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report. At the last meeting the TTAC discussed this methodology and after a short discussion Mr. Clement had recommended that the pedestrian traffic estimate be adjusted to reflect the actual daily counts relationship to the average annual daily traffic. Mr. Austin stated that staff had looked into Mr. Clement's suggested methodology and determined that there was not enough data available to use it for this report. He did state that the report had been modified to more clearly identify the methodology in a footnote. He asked that the TTAC recommend the acceptance of the report to the MPO Policy Board. Mr. Keller moved to recommend the acceptance of the report, seconded by Mr. Bruffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Mr. Austin opened the floor for other business the group might bring forward. Mr. Fletcher noted that he believes that there is an issue at the new signal at Suburban Lanes. He believes that traffic passing in front of the signal in the parking lot may be inadvertently triggering the signal. He has frequently observed the signal stopping traffic on WV 705 for no apparent reason. He also stated that he believes that the Stewartstown Road/Stewart Street at the intersection with WV 705 may be getting a higher priority than is actually justified by the traffic. Mr. Shoukry stated that WVDOH may not currently have jurisdiction over the new signal but that he would relay both of these concerns to DOH traffic operations.

Mr. Keller noted that there have been discussions in Charleston concerning the allocation of Federal Funds to the States MPO's and that this may be an issue that comes forward in the future. He stated that to date there have been few problems funding the MPO's operations but that as a minimum apportionment state WV has a limited budget from the Federal government for MPO's and with the addition of a new MPO in Beckley and the designation of the Huntington MPO (KYOVA) as a Transportation Management Association (TMA) there are new considerations in evaluating the need for these funds. He stated that this will be a topic of discussion in the future.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO had received a request from DOH that we provide a letter in support of the five lane cross section on the center section of the Mileground +1 Project. He

DRAFT

noted that the MPO Policy Board had recommended that the center portion be four lanes with a median and that there should be a roundabout at Airport Boulevard. He stated that the issue will be forthcoming to the MPO probably at the March meeting. Mr. Bruffy asked if there any documentation provided to show why the MPO should change its recommendation. Mr. Keller stated that the DOH Traffic Operations had performed modeling suggesting that the roundabout would not work and that without the roundabout the median would not allow adequate access to the businesses along the facility. Mr. Austin stated that it was his understanding that Stantec (formerly known as ENTRANS) which performed the initial modeling on the project was doing a peer review on the Traffic Operations analysis which would be presented to the MPO for consideration.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.