

**MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2015 MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chairman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Brian Carr-WVDOH, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Joe Statler-Blacksville, Randy Hudak-WVU, Mayor Herman Reid -Star City

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin

**1. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Nugent introduced the approval of the October Policy Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Callen noted that the word “chair” was misspelled as “char” in the first page of the minutes, and “Chaplin Hill Rd” was misspelled as “Capitol Hill Rd”. Mayor Shamberger noted that the minutes incorrectly show that she attended the October meeting. She noted that Councilperson Bill Kawecki attended that meeting in her place. Commissioner Callen moved to approve the minutes with corrections; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**4. Committee Reports**

A. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Rice, the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that he was absent at the November CAC meeting. He then noted that the committee was updated with ongoing MPO’s studies and projects. The CAC recommended approval of the public involvement policy and 2016 meeting schedule to the MPO’s Policy Board. Mr. Rice then noted that the Van Voorhis Drainage project is moving forward to the DOH for site design and he expects that the property issue will be appropriately addressed. Mr. Rice also noted that Collins Ferry Rd resurfacing project will be coordinated with the project installing a left-turn lane in front of the newly constructed Suncrest elementary school.

B. Financial Report

Mayor Lewis reported the MPO’s October financial activity as the following:

-Beginning balance in October \$10,313.11 with expenditures of \$57,774.31 and three deposits totaling \$79,180.94, leaving a balance of 31,719.74 at the beginning of November. Commissioner Callen moved

for approval of the financial report as presented; second by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

### **C. Executive Directors Report**

#### **1. Ongoing Studies-I 79 Access, University Avenue, Ped Study**

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study has held the first steering committee. The consultant has presented the findings from existing condition analysis to the committee members and documented the committee's concerns on transportation issues in the area. Mr. Austin also noted that the consultant has provided the MPO with an enhanced travel demand model which is capable of calculating peak-period volume on major arterials in the areas and a transit component. The traffic model will be used in the next LRTP update.

Mr. Austin then noted that the consultant will hold a public meeting for this study on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Mountain Line Transit Authority Administrative Building in Westover. The purpose of this meeting is to present analysis findings to the public and solicit community input on transportation issues and concerns.

Mr. Austin noted that the consultant for the University Ave Complete Streets Study has made initial recommendations to improve the University Ave Corridor. Recommendations are based on the public inputs and existing condition analysis. Recommendations include alternatives at Grumbein's Island, various cross-section plans at different segment on University Ave, location of transit stops, and spot improvements in the corridor. Recommendations will be reviewed by the steering committee and the public in the November-January time frame.

Mr. Austin noted that the Westover-Granville Pedestrian Study has held two public meetings. One in the MLTA Westover Transit Terminal and one in the Granville City Hall. There was only a sparse turnout for these meetings. In addition to public meetings, the MPO received 22 completed copies of the mail-back post card survey. MPO staff will use findings from the public involvements, the Steering Committee's direction, and technical analysis to identify potential improvement projects. Identified projects will be evaluated in the next stage of this study.

Mr. Austin noted that the Delegate Kurcaba and Delegate Statler have discussed an amendment to increase truck weight limits on the interstate highways in the Morgantown area with Congressman McKinley. The proposal was rejected in the House. Councilperson Selin asked how similar issues were solved in other regions. Mr. Austin noted that most regions adopted policies that grandfathered preexisting truck routes into new highway systems. Commissioner Callen asked how bridges on the interstate highways will be impacted if heavier trucks are allowed. Mr. Carr noted that increased truck weight limits may accelerate the deterioration of affected bridge in a long term. Mr. Kelly noted that it is worthwhile to broaden the perspectives on this issue and to consider assisting truck industry maintain and increase economic gains without hauling extra weight on highways. Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH is currently conducting a freight planning study, which provides an opportunity to solve freight issues in a comprehensive way. Mr. Austin encouraged the board members and the public to provide input and comments for that study.

## **5. Acceptance of Audit**

Chairman Nugent noted that the MPO's audit was included in the meeting's agenda package. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO's Auditor has submitted the audit for FY 2014-2015 with no findings or adjustments to the MPO's records. Major Lewis moved to accept the audit as presented; seconded by Commissioner Callen. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

## **6. Adoption of Public Involvement Policy**

Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to the members of the committee on updating the MPO's public involvement policy. Mr. Austin noted that there have not been any substantive comments on the content of the draft policy. Mr. Austin noted that the Mountain Line Transit Authority will also use this as their public involvement policy. Mr. Austin then noted that MPO staff will analyze the demographics within the MPO's boundary and determine if it is needed to develop a separate policy addressing Title 6 and Environmental Justice issues in the MPO's area.

Councilperson Selin suggested an addition to the policy. The amendment is to add the word "local" before the word "state" and "federal" at the very last sentence on page 2. The sentence then reads "as possible all public involvement activities should be coordinated with ongoing local, State and Federal activities". Mr. Bruffy expressed his appreciation that transit is integrated into this policy. Commissioner Callen moved to adopt the draft public involvement policy as presented and to develop a separate policy for Title 6 and Environmental Justice issues if needed. Seconded by Councilperson Selin. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

## **7. Approval of Draft 2016 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Austin noted that a draft calendar of MPO meetings for 2016 was included in this meeting's agenda package. It is anticipated that the only two meeting will need to deviate from the normal schedule. Those meetings are the May and November TTAC meetings. Commissioner Callen moved to accept the draft 2016 meeting calendar as presented, seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

## **8 Input on MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-2017**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff is developing the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-2017. In addition to administrative function items, MPO staff is proposing that the MPO perform the update of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan as the primary in-house work program. Tasks will include soliciting public input on project priorities, improving freight planning, updating project status, and updating MPO's travel demand model.

Councilperson Selin asked what type of projects that the MPO can conduct. Mr. Austin noted that in general, MPO staff is capable of doing projects identified in the LRTP, including intersection studies, corridor studies, transit studies, and pedestrian and bicycle studies.

Mr. Bruffy asked what type planning the MPO can do for the airport area, which is one of the fast growing areas in the region. Mr. Austin noted the MPO staff can conduct traffic impact studies and

accessibility studies. Airport planning is of a specialized infrastructure planning field and is beyond the MPO's current capacity.

Commissioner Callen asked about the feasibility of providing water taxi in the Morgantown area. Mr. Austin noted that water surface transportation planning is not conventionally within MPO's purview, although some MPOs, cooperated with port authority, do carry out studies on transportation service on water surface.

### **9. Appointment of Officer Nominating Committee and notice of Director Review**

Chairman Nugent noted that as specified in the MPO's By Laws the Policy Board is to elect new officers during the first business meeting of the year. The MPO staff will be sending out an evaluation form to each Policy Board member by email within the next week. Chairman Nugent encouraged board members to send him the completed evaluation form by December 31. Three board members volunteered to join the Office Nominating Committee. They are Councilperson Selin, Mr. Bruffy, and Mr. Kelly.

### **10. Other Business**

No other business

### **11. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.