

**GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO
Policy Board Meeting Minutes March 21, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anthony Giambrone, Mike Kelly, Patricia Lewis, David Bruffy, Perry Keller, Joe Statler, Joe Fisher, Jim Manilla

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Byrne, Wes Nugent, Eldon Callen, Janice Goodwin

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Statler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:

a. CAC Chair, Bill Rice, reported his committee expressed concerns regarding TIP Amendment for the WV7/CO 857 (Greenbag Road) Intersection Improvement. The committee had no problem with the engineering aspect of the TIP Amendments but felt there should be no right of way acquisition or construction considered until the engineering aspect is complete. There is concern with the projects proximity to the Rail Trail; there is no automatic stoppage of traffic. Ingress and egress may have a negative effect on the Rail Trail. Consideration of a round about at this intersection should wait until it is determined how the round about on the Mileground will function. Mr. Keller noted that this is in the preliminary stages and it will have to be studied to see if pedestrians can be accommodated. Engineering will determine the right of way purchase. Mr. Statler asked if there is a study looking into how this would help truck traffic. Mr. Keller had no information but noted updates would be given through the TAC. He will make sure the District is aware of the questions and concerns regarding the Rail Trail.

Mr. Bruffy questioned whether not approving right of way acquisition would affect anything. Mr. Keller noted the TAC recommended the project move forward in its entirety; the CAC recommended only the engineering.

b. The CAC also requested the Policy Board write a letter to the Board of Education encouraging parents at the new school not to drive their children but use bus transpiration. Mr. Kelly stated he would take this message to the School Board. He advised seven buses will be going to the school; 1 from the Mileground; 2 from Willey Street with the remaining four going down Stewartstown Road. He also advised flagmen and police officers will be helping with traffic during the construction period. Mr. Bruffy also noted Mountain Line will also be coordinating their bus times to assist.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Giambrone moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting with changes; (add Bill Byrne as Member Absent) seconded by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

5. FINANCE REPORT:

Mrs. Lewis reported a beginning balance for January of \$8001.89, three deposits of \$43,889.75, disbursements of \$39,211.38 leaving an ending balance as of January 30 of \$12,680.26. Check 8324 for \$1000 was for a legal issue with respect to an employee and was approved as a legal expense. Beginning balance for February of \$12,680.26, deposits totaling \$33,612.35, disbursements of \$35,147.61 leaving an ending balance as of February 28 of \$11,145.00. Mr. Kelly moved for approval, seconded by Mr. Keller. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Vanpool RFP. Mr. Austin noted the selection committee reviewed the final proposals and recommended that both nationally recognized firms be eligible for CMAQ funds. The CMAQ funds are used as a start up incentive for vanpools, the funds will not be received by a provider unless the vanpool is started. More information on the firms will be reported at the May meeting. Mr. Statler asked if there was an interest expressed in the program. Mr. Austin noted there has always been interest but the problem has been getting someone to be the driver. The program will be structured to assist with this problem.

b. Legislative Activities. – Mr. Austin is working with the State and DOH to support AARP – Statewide Complete Streets Legislation. Will report on how this program will work statewide. Also working on legislation for local funding of transportation initiatives. A draft of ideas will be presented to the City, County Commission and the Chamber of Commerce's transportation committee for feedback. Also working to see if it can get included into the Governor's blue ribbon initiative.

c. Operational Changes to WV 705 and Update on Downtown Study. Mr. Austin reported there is consideration for a traffic signal on 705 at the entrance to Suburban Lanes. Dr. Nichols is working on the modeling and DOH will present a report on how the traffic signals will work through this area at the May meeting. Mr. Statler asked why consideration of this signal was not brought before the MPO Board. Things of this nature should be funneled through the MPO and the TAC/CAC. Mr. Bruffy noted this may be done through private funding, but as a courtesy the MPO should be made aware regardless of the final determination. Mr. Austin noted MPO Staff expressed concern with the pedestrian trail down the side of the hill and that consideration should be given to a pedestrian phase at the signal. The progress on the Downtown Study has been held up to deal with the issues on 705. It is anticipated that Dr. Nichols will discuss the Downtown Study at either the May or June meeting.

d. Training Activities. Mr. Austin will be at an APA conference April 14th thru 16th.

7. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS:

The Policy Board voted on the following TIP amendments:

a. I-79/1-68 Interchange Engineering Lighting Project - FY 2013 and I-79/I-68 Interchange Construct Lighting Project – FY 2014

Mr. Fisher moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion the motion unanimously passed.

b. I-68 Install Payment Markings I-68/I-79 Interchange to Maryland State Line

Mr. Fisher moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Giambrone. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Monongalia County Urban Mass Transit Authority GPS for "Talking Buses". Mr. Keller moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Manilla. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

d. Monongalia County Urban Mass Transit Authority Accessibility Improvements (Sidewalk installation). Mr. Manilla moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Giambrone. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

e. WV7/CO 857 Greenbag Road Intersection Improvement Engineering. Mr. Keller moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

f. WV7/CO 857 Greenbag Road Intersection Improvement Right of Way. Mr. Bruffy moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Keller. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

g. FY 2014 WV7/CO 857 Construct Intersection Improvement (potential round about). General discussion on the motion was that in light of the CAC concerns, the design and right of way acquisition on this TIP will move forward. Mr. Keller will ask the District Engineer to attend the next MPO meeting for discussion. He also noted the TAC's concerns were alleviated by Mr. Radabaugh who sits on that committee. Construction drawings will be made available in order that anyone wishing to see them may do so. Mr. Keller moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. The motion unanimously passed.

8. DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:

Mr. Austin noted a draft of the program will be reviewed with the City and County Commission to discuss and review major initiatives and prioritizing.

a. Develop urban area wide bike plan (and public involvement);

b. Work to reinvigorate the Vanpool program;

c. Continue to locate state and local funding sources for the LRTP;

d. Continue the Traffic Count Program;

- e. Code accident data;
- f. continue pedestrian counts in selected areas;
- g. Continue any ongoing committee work;
- h. budget for the MPO is \$240,000; down from \$370,00 last year because of no LRTP update;

Mr. Keller noted a signed certification of the planning process is to be included in the UPWP.

Mr. Bruffy moved for approval of the Draft UPWP; seconded by Mr. Kelly; With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

West Run Study Presentation

Chairman Statler then called on Mr. Zhang to make a presentation on the status of the West Run Corridor.

Other Business

After Mr. Zhang's presentation Mr. Statler called for other business. Mr. Fisher noted that he will be retiring from the University April 5th and this will be his last Policy Board Meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the progress the MPO has made since its inception. Mr. Austin, stated that Mr. Fisher had informed him of his impending departure and he had prepared a Resolution for the Policy Board's consideration. Mr. Austin read the following Resolution:

Resolution of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Whereas, Joe Fisher, has shown great dedication and interest in improving transportation in the City of Morgantown and Monongalia County; and
Whereas Mr. Fisher's dedication and determination has improved planning for future facilities as well helped to improve existing transportation facilities and enhance alternative forms of transportation for all residents of the area; and**

**Whereas Mr. Fisher is now leaving the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board;
Be it hereby resolved that:**

Mr. Joe Fisher is recognized for high achievement and dedication to improving transportation for all citizens of Morgantown and Monongalia County.

Resolved this 21st day of March 2013.

Upon completion of the Resolution Mr. Kelly moved approval of the Resolution seconded by Mr. Giambrone. The motion was approved by acclimation.

Mr. Austin then noted that he had been remiss in preparing a Resolution for Mr. Kennedy upon the occasion of his retirement he asked the Policy Board to consider the following Resolution.

Resolution of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization

Whereas, Asel Kennedy, has shown great dedication and interest in improving transportation in the City of Morgantown and Monongalia County; and

Whereas Mr. Kennedy's dedication and determination has helped planning for future facilities as well having helped to improve existing transportation facilities for all residents of the area; and

**Whereas Mr. Kennedy has left the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board;
Be it hereby resolved that:**

Mr. Asel Kennedy is recognized for high achievement and dedication to improving transportation for all citizens of Morgantown and Monongalia County.

Resolved this 21st day of March 2013.

Upon completion of the reading of the Resolution Mr. Giambrone moved approval of the Resolution seconded by Mr. Bruffy. The motion was approved by acclimation.

Chairman Statler then noted that he would like the MPO to consider joining the Chamber of Commerce. He stated that he felt that being a member could provide the MPO with good guidance on the desires of the business community. He asked that Mr. Austin report back to the Policy Board at the May meeting on the cost of joining the Chamber and on whether or not it is a reimbursable expense.

Adjournment

There being no further business Chairman Statler adjourned the meeting at 8:25.