

GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO

December 10, 2009

MPO Office

5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bruffy, Bill Byrne, Asel Kennedy, Mike Kelly, Patty Lewis, Bob Bell, Don Spencer, Joe Fisher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Perry Keller, Janice Goodwin, Joe Statler, Tom Konchesky

MPO Director: Bill Austin

I. Call to Order. Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

II. Public Comment. None

III. Director's Report. Mr. Austin thanked those in attendance. He also referenced the recent editorial in the Dominion Post dealing with the TDM Study. After the editorial ran, Mr. Austin met with the editorial editor of the Dominion Post and explained what type of study would be done and how it would benefit the Morgantown area. After the study was explained, Mr. Austin felt the editor was more receptive of the project and would be supportive of it in the future. Mr. Austin also stated he would be meeting with the editorial board to further explain the study after the January MPO meeting.

Mr. Austin also stated there were six national firms who have expressed interest in the study. (Wilbur Smith & Associates, Cambridge Systematics, URS, STV, Lochner, and Parsons Brinckerhoff. Mr. Austin said that these are all national firms that should be able to perform the work.

Project Prioritization. Mr. Austin advised the Policy Board that the state as part of the stimulus package, may propose widening the Mileground instead of constructing the 705 Connector. He also stated it is important, that when the state is considering funding projects that the MPO's priorities be clearly stated so that all alternatives are looked considered. Mr. Kennedy stated a concern with prioritizing projects before the MPO knows what funds may be allocated for a project. After discussion about how the priorities should be handled, Mr. Fisher then suggested tasking the TAC to prioritize projects from 0-5 million; 5 to 10 million and above 10 million. The Policy Board agreed with this recommendation and asked Mr. Austin to work with the TTAC on prioritizing the projects in this manner.

Mr. Austin then mentioned that he is in the process of developing the Unified Planning Work Program for the upcoming fiscal year. He suggested that the MPO prepare an operational study and perhaps hiring a consulting team to look at specific problem areas that need to be addressed. Mr. Byrne suggested that a line item be set in the new budget for additional staff to assist the MPO Director or that there be a line on item for this type of alternatives analysis that Mr. Austin could utilize to have the work performed.

Mr. Austin will be attending a meeting dealing with the Statewide Transportation Plan to discuss issues with the Highway Administration. Mr. Kennedy stated he is concerned that the local MPO

is not made aware of any projects first. Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. Austin to advise the State it is important that this MPO be made aware of their intentions before they happen.

Mr. Austin will also be following up with the Traffic Operation Director on the Dynamic Signal System and determine where they are in that process.

Mr. Kennedy believes that it may be necessary to contact the offices of the Governor and Paul Mattox if Mr. Austin can't get the answers we are looking for.

Mr. Austin stated he believes the lines of communication are being opened. He has had a number of discussions with Mr. Mattox and Secretary Pennington, but he is quickly discovering that different issues are handled by a number of separate departments. He believes that the operations and construction units in DOH will be much harder to convince that the MPO needs to be taken seriously. The Planning and Administration units and Public Transportation Division of DOT are very positive about the MPO's place in the project development process.

Granville Stimulus Project TIP Amendment. After the resolution for Granville was read by Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Byrne moved for approval; Mr. Kelly seconded it. The motion unanimously passed. Mrs. Lewis noted that there needs to be a change in the resolution stating the matching funds would be coming from the Town of Granville.

Mike Kelly moved to adjourn at 6:20 PM; Mr. Fisher seconded it. The motion unanimously passed.