



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 15, 2020

This meeting was held virtually on
<https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin>

Members Present:

Christiaan Abildso (Chair), Matt Cross, Maria Smith, Ralph Mullins, Chip Wamsley, Ed Sneckenberger, Heather Britton, Bill Austin

Other Present: Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

Mr. Austin noted that due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the CAC meeting was held as a teleconference. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized.

With a quorum present, Chairman Abildso called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:03 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Abildso noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Sneckenberger sent an email to the committee about his comments on TIP projects and he noted grammatical errors in the minutes. Mrs. Maria moved to approve the draft minutes with proposed corrections, seconded by Mr. Sneckenberger.

Mr. Wamsley moved to approve the minutes as noted; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no further discussion, the motion was approved. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

3. Mountain Line Transit Study Scope of Work Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that the Mountain Line Transit received an Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) grant from the FTA to identify unified fare collection mechanisms that could potentially work in the region. Mountain Line proposed an amendment the scope work of the current transit study to include this additional work funded by the AIM grant.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked if the scope of work of the grant can fit into the original study. Mr. Austin noted that the proposed work will be an expansion of the original scope of work.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the proposed scope of work amendment to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Cross. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

4. TIP Aendments

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH proposed several projects for TIP amendments. The projects include Fairchance Rd resurfacing project, Daybrook Rd resurfacing project, Pedlar Run-Hagans Rd resurfacing project, Burroughs St ADA ramp installation project, I-79 Westover Bridge rehabilitation project, Holland Ave APA ramp installation project, and University Ave APA ramp installation project.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the University Ave project is about 1 mile long but its cost is about \$1.5 million. Mr. Austin noted that the project probably includes drainage fixes in addition to ramp installation.

Mr. Cross asked if the University Ave project will begin its construction after the roundabout project on Collins Ferry Ave intersection is completed. Mr. Austin noted the University Ave ramp project will come after the Collins Ferry intersection project.

Mr. Mullins asked if the DOH would consider removing the bricks beneath the asphalt on Holland Ave. He noted that the bricks under the Holland Ave has been continuously causing the potholes on Holland Ave. Resurfacing the road with removing the bricks will not fundamentally solve the problem. Mr. Austin noted trhat the DOH representative on TTAC raised this issue in the last meeting. There are some environmental concerns on this issue. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH should be working with the city to identify an appropriate approach to address this issue.

Mr. Cross noted that the turning radius of intersection on Buroughs St are small. Trucks often encroach on sidewalk when making turns at intersections. Mr. Cross suggested DOH considering modifying the intersection curb for a larger turning radius to ensure pedestrian safety at intersections.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the sidewalk on Burroughs St is narrow. The DOH should be considering widening the sidewalk to ADA stand in addition to ramp installation. Mr. Sneckenberger noted that some project names are misleading and the DOH should provide better project information for TIP amendment.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has been urging the DOH to provide a definition of the groupable project and that these naming issues are part of that discussion. He noted that it will improve the TIP amendment process for both the MPO and the DOH.

Mr. Austin noted that the Mountain Line Transit requested TIP amendment to add FY 2021 the Accelerating Innovative Mobility Funding. Mr. Austin noted that the fund is used to expand the scope of the ongoing transit study for coordinated fare and fee collection.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the proposed TIP amendment to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Mullins. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Performance Measures

a. Highway Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Austin noted that State's are required to adopt goals for these Performance measures to document progress in achieving national goals. The MPO are asked to adopt the Highway Safety goals. Mr. Austin read the goals identified by the WV DOH.

Chairman Abidlso asked about the punishment if the DOH fails to accomplish those identified goals. Mr. Austin noted that if the goals are met, the FHWA can force the state to re-orient its funding scheme focusing on areas where the goals were not met.

Chairman Abidlso noted that the vehicle safety goals use fatality and serious injury rates as their performance metrics. He noted that they are not reliable metrics to assess the road safety, since vehicle

design and advancing safety technology could largely impact the fatality and serious injury rates rather than roadway design does. He noted that crash rates per miles traveled is a more reliable indicator of highway safety. Mr. Austin noted that those metrics are based on national practice. The MPO could develop more appropriate local performance measures.

Mrs. Britton moved to recommend approval of the Highway Safety Performance Measures to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

b. Transit Asset Management Performance Measure

Mr. Austin noted that similar to the requirements put on states for the maintenance of bridges, transit providers are to develop performance measures and goals for the maintenance of their infrastructure and equipment. For the purposes of these measures, the WVDOT Division of Public Transit works with the transit systems around the state to develop the performance measures and target goals for the state's public transportation providers. Mr. Austin read the identified goals for 2021.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the Transit Asset Management Performance Measure to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Cross. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

c. Transit Safety Performance Targets

Mr. Austin noted that as part of the same legislation that mandates the Highway Performance Measures, the Federal Transit Administration is required to mandate that State and local transit agencies adopt Safety performance measures to ensure that Federal funding is meeting goals for efficiency and safety. Mr. Austin noted that Mountain Line's performance measures for the Public Transportation Safety Plan is included in the agenda package.

This is an informational item. No action is required from the committee.

6. Discussion of upcoming Transportation Plan Update and Comprehensive Plans

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is preparing to update the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. MPO Staff is proposing that the area's municipalities as well as Monongalia County update their comprehensive plans in conjunction with MTP Update, in a single effort that would develop updated land use for use in the MPO's regional travel demand model. These comprehensive plans as well as the Comprehensive Plans for Westover, Granville and Monongalia County are all due for an update in 2022. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO would use transportation planning funds to supplement the local funds for public involvement in the development of the Comprehensive plans. It will more efficiently develop all of the plans.

Mr. Austin noted that the scope of work for the updates consists of three stage, including 1) comprehensive plan update; 2) travel demand model updates; and 3) project prioritization. The recently adopted regional bicycle and pedestrian plan and the ongoing Mountain Line short and medium range strategic plan will be integrated into the plan update. Mr. Mullins noted that he likes this idea and is looking forward to working with the MPO on this matter.

7. Other Business

Mr. Cross noted that as the WVU shut down PRT service because of the pandemic, more students are walking on the University Ave. He noted that the whole University Ave corridor should continue to be a

focus of pedestrian safety improvement. Mr. Austin noted that the city is to start construction of the sidewalks on 8th St. The project includes pedestrian safety improvement at the 8th and University Ave intersection.

Chairman Abildso noted that the virtual public meetings held by the DOH for the Van Voorhis Rd Project and Greenbag Rd were very helpful. He asked how the DOH handles the comments submitted through the virtual meetings. Mr. Austin noted that the project manager will review the comments and the FHWA will also review it to evaluate potential environmental impact. The decision will not necessarily go in favor of the majority of submitted comments, but concerns and opinions are noted in the environmental assessment document.

8. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.