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## **MINUTES**

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Meeting  
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room  
Oct 13, 2015  
1:30 PM

### **Members Present**

Fouad Shoukry-WV DOH, Elwood Penn-WV DOH, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Damien Davis-City of Morgantown, Chris Fletcher-City of Morgantown, Rich Wood-Monongalia County, Arlie Forman-WVU, Dave Bruffy-MLTA, Bill Austin-MMMPO

### **Members Absent**

Ron Snyder, Clement Solomon, James Meadows, Donny Williams,

### **Others Present**

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

### **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Austin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

### **2. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the August meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Austin noted that the “members absent” was mistakenly typed as “member present”. He noted that the mistake will be corrected in the final version. Mr. Wood moved to approve the minutes with the suggested correction. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **3. TIP Amendment**

Mr. Austin noted that the Division of Highways has requested a TIP Amendment at Klondike Hill Road (CO 15), a resurface project for a distance of 2.4 miles. Mr. Carr noted that the project starts from the County boundary but the map associated with the TIP Amendment was not showing that. Mr. Austin noted that the map will be corrected for the Policy Board Meeting next week. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the amendment to the MPO Policy Board. The motion

was unanimously approved. Mr. Austin noted that there are 19 administrative adjustments, in addition to the TIP Amendment WVDOH has requested. The administrative adjustments are informational and require no committee action.

#### **4. Comments on Draft Public Involvement Policy**

Mr. Austin noted that a draft public involvement policy is provided for the committee's review. This draft policy has been reviewed by the ad-hoc committee that agreed to work on the Policy and advertised for adoption by the MPO Policy Board at the November meeting. Mr. Penn asked if the Title 6 requirement is addressed in this policy. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff discussed this issue with FHWA. It has been decided that the MMMPO will develop a separate policy to address the requirements of Title VI which will be incorporated into this document when adopted. This is noted in the draft policy.

#### **5. Update on MPO Projects in draft State Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH is updating the Statewide TIP (STIP). The STIP outlines projects programming from 2016 to 2021. Four projects on the MPO's LRTP Tier 1 list were selected for funding in the draft STIP. The selected projects are: 1) Beechurst Avenue Spot Improvements, 2) West Run Widening, 3) Greenbag Road, and 4) Van Voorhis Road Widening. Mr. Carr noted that the scope of work of the Beechurst Ave Spot improvements may be adjusted to reflect currently roads conditions in that corridor. Mr. Austin noted that the scope of the selected projects will be reviewed and refined as needed. Mr. Carr also noted that bridge replacement projects may be impacted during the shift of funding priorities.

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH will host a public hear for the draft STIP on November 2 from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Mountain Line Transit Terminal in Westover and encouraged interested parties to attend this event. The public can also make comments online. The web page link to the draft STIP is provided on the MPO's website.

#### **6. Pedestrian Study, University Avenue Complete Streets Study and I-79 Access Study Updates**

Mr. Austin noted that the Westover/Granville Pedestrian Study has completed with census analysis, sidewalk assessment, transit ridership analysis, and relevant GIS data preparation. The first steering committee meeting will be held on Oct 13, following the TTAC meeting. The steering committee was updated with project status and decided the date and location for the first public meeting of the study. The purpose of this meeting is to identify pedestrian facility improvements needed in the study area. Mr. Austin also noted that pedestrian facility improvements will be focused on state owned roads in the Westover area.

Mr. Austin noted that the University Ave Complete Street Study will host a steering committee meeting on Oct 29 at the City of Morgantown Council Chamber. The steering committee will review preliminary recommendations made by the study team and reach an initial consensus on the strategies and alternatives to improve the University Ave corridor.

Mr. Austin then noted that the I-79 Access Study will host the first steering committee meeting on Oct 28 at the second floor of Morgantown Municipal Airport Terminal. The project team will make a presentation on existing conditions and engage the steering committee members to identify current and potential transportation issues.

## **7. Status Report on Mountain Line Transit Study**

Mr. Bruffy noted that the Mountain Line Transit Authority is conducting a route efficiency study to optimize the transit system network and operations. As a response to a potential decrease of federal funding in the future, the study will provide recommendations on equipment purchase, transit route, service schedule, fare adjustment, and other transit related issues.

Mr. Carr asked what type of fare change will be considered. Mr. Bruffy noted that the fare change will be decided in combination with route adjustment. Currently, the rural routes are operating less efficiently than routes serving the core urban areas.

## **8. Other Business**

Mr. Shoukry noted that WVU, and WV DOH have reached an informal agreement on the design layout for the TWLTL on Mon Blvd between Boyers Ave and Patteson Dr. Mr. Carr noted that the project may not fully eligible for currently HSIP grant; once the layout is decided, WV DOH will consider to identify other funding sources for this project.

Mr. Shoukry also noted that there is safety concern caused by the newly installed left-turn lane at the intersection of Fine Art Dr on Patteson Dr. Apparently, it is difficult for eastbound vehicles on Patteson Dr to turn left into Baldwin St without encroaching the dedicated left-turn lane for eastbound vehicles making left turns into Fine Art Dr. Mr. Shoukry noted that solving this problem require collaboration among WV DOH, the City, and WVU.

Mr. Bruffy asked about the status of the Cheat Lake Park-and-Ride project. Mr. Shoukry noted that WV DOH has corrected a construction error on the ramp and the project will be complete and open to public at the end of this month.

Mr. Penn noted that the State DOT is conducting a freight transportation plan and encouraged community's input from the Morgantown area.

Mr. Shoukry noted that improvements are needed at the intersection of CR 73 and US 119, where a fatality occurred recently. The intersection is dangerous due to its high traffic speed, limited sight distance, significant slopes, and sharp turning movements.

Mr. Fletcher noted that the infill development on the corner of Pleasant Street and University Ave has moved forward. The layout of this development will consider the rail trail location and PRT infrastructure.

## **9. Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 2: 45 PM.