



## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2020

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

### **Members Present:**

Christiaan Abildso (Chair), Matt Cross, Ed Sneckenberger, Chip Wamsley, Tom Zeni, Kelli LaNeve, Matthew Ridgway

**Other Present:** Bill Austin, Jing Zhang, Jessica Shuey

---

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

Mr. Austin noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CAC meeting is being held as a teleconference via WebEx. 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 6:00 PM.

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

Chairman Abildso noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Sneckenberger moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was passed. Mr. Zeni abstained. Mr. Zeni was not present during the last CAC meeting.

### **3. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin noted that the West Virginia Division of Highways has proposed three TIP amendments. The first amendment is to delete the Decker Creek Landslide Repair project, which is superseded by Deckers Creek Trail Undercut Repair project. The second amendment is to add the information of Highway Planning and Research for the MMMPO's operation to the MMMPO's TIP. Mr. Austin noted that federal regulation does not require that the highway planning and research funds be shown in the TIP. The WVDOH is adding this information for transparency purposes. The third amendment is to increase the funding for the right-of-way phase of the Van Voorhis Rd project associated with installation of sidewalk and drainage. Mr. Austin noted that the WVDOH will install sidewalks throughout the entire length of the project.

Mr. Cross asked about the location of sidewalks and crosswalks in the Van Voorhis Rd project. Mr. Austin noted that the sidewalks will cover the whole length of the project. Crosswalk will be installed at appropriate locations. Detailed locations are included in the project report, which is available on the WVDOH's website.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked about the drainage design near the Killarney Dr Street on Van Voorhis Rd. Mr. Austin noted that the WCDOH did a drainage project in that area. It improved the drainage condition of that segment on Van Voorhis Rd. Current project will mainly focus on paving and sidewalks.

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

#### **4. First Review of the Draft FY 2021-2022 UPWP**

Mr. Austin noted that the primary items on the UPWP are a request for \$200,000 in additional funding for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. The project will include extensive public involvement and regional travel demand model update. It will also include the public involvement portion of the comprehensive plan update for the local municipalities. The MTP update will integrate the recently adopted pedestrian and bicycle master plan, as well as the Mountain Line mid-term strategy plan that is expected to be adopted later this summer. Mr. Austin noted that the MMMPO staff will perform two studies for Mountain Line Transit. The UPWP also includes a proposed 2.75% cost of living increase for MMMPO staff.

Mr. Cross expressed his appreciation to the congestion management strategies included in the UPWP. He noted that the WVDOH's recent optimization of signal circles and synchronization improved traffic flows on major corridors in the area. Mr. Cross also noted that the proposed Mountain Line study will also help improve pedestrian safety at intersections. Mr. Cross asked about the releasing time for the MMMPO's Newsletter and how it will be distributed. Mr. Austin noted that the Newsletter will be released in a few weeks and will be distributed through the MMMPO's email list, as well as to all committee members.

Chairman Abildso expressed his appreciation to the WVDOH on virtual meetings for the Van Voorhis projects and Greenbag Rd. He noted that the WVDOH's full report on the public comments is helpful to build public confidence in the project development process.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked about pedestrian and bicycle count project. Mr. Austin noted that the MMMPO will establish a committee to develop a pedestrian and bicycle count program as a part of the MMMPO's UPWP.

Mr. Sneckenberger asked if the funding for hiring consultants is separated from the funding for the MMMPO's normal operation. Mr. Austin noted that the funding for staff and office are proportioned to the local population, which is separated from the transportation planning funding used for hiring consultants.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the word "Medical" is misspelled as "Medicare" in the document. Mr. Austin noted that he will correct that error.

Mr. Abildso asked about developing a process to coordinate crash data collection in the area. Mr. Austin noted that the MMMPO uses the WVDOH's data to prepare crash reports as requested. The crash data collection process has been standardized by the WVDOH in accordance with national practice. Mr. Abildso noted that crash data is helpful in grant application for safety improvement.

This is the first review of this document. It requires no actions from the committee in this meeting.

## **6. Other Business**

Mr. Cross noted that there is a new residential development on the Richwood Ave near East Prospect St. The development will impact the intersection improvement in the Richwood Ave triangle area in the future.

Mr. Ridgeway noted that the WVU development authority is purchasing properties adjacent to the campus to implement infrastructure improvements identified in the University master plan.

## **8. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.