

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
JANUARY 19, 2017 MINUTES

Members Present:

Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Vice Chairman Mayor Herman Reid-Star City, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Ron Justice-WVU, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County

Members Absent: Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Vice Chairman Reid called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He then welcomed Mr. Justice and Commissioner Sikora.

2 Executive Session per WV 6-9A-4-2a

Vice Chairman Reid called for a motion to go into the executive session for a personnel matter under WV Code 6-9A-4. Mr. Kelly moved the motion; seconded by Mr. Justice. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

The meeting moved to the Executive Session

Mr. Bruffy moved to go out of the executive session. Vice Chairman Reid expressed his appreciation to Mr. Austin for his service to the Board and the community.

3 Election of Officers

Mr. Austin noted that according to the MPO's bylaws, the MPO Policy Board elects new officers at the first MPO meeting of a calendar year. Mr. Bruffy, the chairman of Officer Nominating Committee, noted that the committee had recommended Mr. Justice as the new Chairman for the MPO Policy Board, Mr. Kelly as the Vice-Chairman for the MPO Policy Board, and Mayor Lewis as the Treasurer for the MPO Policy Board.

Mr. Justice moved to accept the nominations; seconded by Mr. Kelly. There being no further nominations. The Board elected Mr. Justice Chairman, Mr. Kelly Vice Chairmen and Mayor Lewis Treasure by acclamation. Mr. Justice then took the gavel.

With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

4 Public Comment

No public comment

5 Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Bill Rice, the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the committee reviewed the reports of Metropolitan Transportation Transportation Update including project update and prioritization. The committee supports the proposed changes. Mr. Rice then noted that the committee reviewed and agreed on the draft 2017 Unified Planning Work Program and recommended that the Policy Board approve the Resolution supporting the continued operation of the locks along the Monongahela River.

Mr. Rice then discussed the collaboration between the MUB and West Virginia DOH and the MPO's role to bring positive changes to the community under the new state administration and legislation.

b. Finance Committee

Mayor Lewis presented the Finance Report for November and December as the following:

-- Beginning balance in November \$12,925.09 with expenditures of \$37,980.11 and three deposits of \$34,818.67, leaving a balance of \$9,763.65 at the beginning of December.

-- Beginning balance in December \$9,763.65 with expenditures of \$17,706.96 and two deposits of \$15,486.82, leaving a balance of \$7,543.51 at the beginning of December.

Mayor Shamberger moved to accept the November and December Finance Report; seconded by Councilperson Nugent. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Executive Director

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff have conducted a community survey for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update and recommended changes to the projects identified in the 2013 Long Range Transportation Plan. MPO staff also proposed a reprioritization of those projects based on project status, evaluation criteria, and community input. Mr. Austin then noted that the Community Survey Report and the Project Update and Prioritization Report are presented to the Policy Board for comments. The Steering Committee of the MTP Update has reviewed and approved the reports.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has established an ad hoc Freight Committee as part of the transportation plan update process. The Committee's first meeting was January 11th. The freight committee reviewed and agreed on the proposed project update and prioritization.

MPO staff will present the information on Metropolitan Transportation Plan update during the I-79 Access Study Update public meeting at the Mountaineer Station from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on January 26. The information will also be presented to the public at the Mountain Line Transit Authority

administration building in Westover on February 9, 2017. Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bruffy for providing venue of this event.

6. Resolution for Upper Monongahela River Association

Mr. Austin noted that during the Freight Committee on January 11, Mr. Barry Pally representing the Upper Monongahela River Association stated that US Army Corp of Engineers is performing a study of the operation of the locks along the Monongahela River that could end in the closure of the locks. He requested that the Committee consider recommending a resolution requesting the Corp to maintain or increase staffing of the West Virginia locks on the Monongahela River. The ad hoc Freight Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that the Policy Board approve the Resolution supporting the continued operation of the locks along the Monongahela River. Mayor Reid moved approval of the resolution; seconded by Councilperson Selin

7. Resolution Recognizing Eldon Callen

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff prepared a resolution recognizing the dedication and leadership of Mr. Eldon Callen. Mr. Austin read the resolution. The Policy Board approved this resolution by acclamation.

8. Draft 2017 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Austin noted that the draft 2017 Unified Planning Work Program was enclosed in the agenda package. This is an opportunity of comment on the draft UPWP. Mr. Austin noted that in addition to the normal work program including the annual traffic counts, TIP processing, and other administrative tasks, Staff is proposing to perform two studies during the upcoming year. One is an update of the Pedestrian Plan prepared by the Morgantown Pedestrian Board in 2010. The other is an operational study for the Beechurst Avenue corridor from 8th Street to the Waterfront development. Staff may be able to partner with WVU Faculty to have even more sophisticated modeling performed as part of this Study.

Mr. Austin then noted that the proposed budget includes a 2% cost of living increase for the Executive Director. It also includes a 2% cost of living increase and a 2% merit increase for the MPO's Planner

The draft UPWP will be brought to the Policy board for adoption in March.

9. I-79 Access Study Update

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study has completed alternative evaluation. The consultants will present the preferred alternatives to the community at the Mountaineer Station from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on January 26. Recommended cross-sections for road improvements will also be presented at the meeting.

10. Other Business

No other business

11. Meeting Adjournment

Chairman Justice adjourned the meeting at 6:46 PM.