



MMMPO
Morgantown Monongalia
Metropolitan Planning Organization

NEWSLETTER

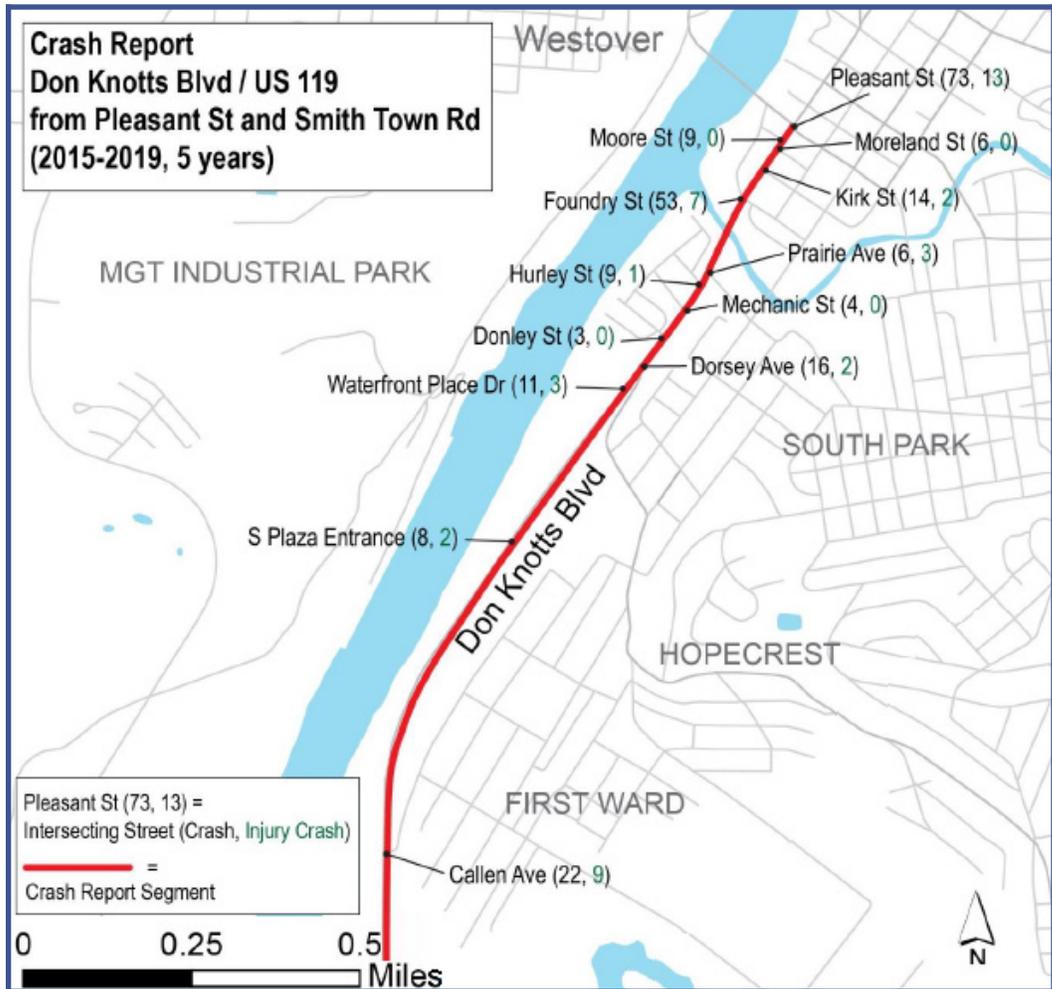
Spring, 2021

Ongoing Projects

Don Knotts Boulevard Study

The MMMPO Staff has recently received better access to the West Virginia Division of Highways (WV DOH) crash data base. The first use of this data base has been to look into identifying high volume corridors which may also have a large number of incidents. To this end MMMPO staff looked at the Don Knott's Boulevard corridor from Pleasant Street to SR 73. Don Knott's Boulevard has relatively high traffic volumes with approximately 21,600 vehicles per day traveling along the 2.1 mile long corridor.

The report identifies several high crash locations particularly at Pleasant Street, Greenbag Road, Smithtown Road (SR 43), and... (Continued on page 2)



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in transportation in the Monongalia County area. This newsletter is the second Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) newsletter. We hope to keep you up to date on transportation issues in the area and to inform you of opportunities to comment on proposed transportation projects.

We plan to issue these newsletters quarterly and more often as needed. Established in 2003, the MMMPO is the federally-designated transportation planning agency for Morgantown and Monongalia County, serving as a regional partnership with the West Virginia DOT, the local transit agency, local elected leadership, local government, the business community, and citizens. We welcome your feedback on our newsletter.

Morgantown Monongalia MPO

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Don Knotts Boulevard Study (Continued from page 1)

Foundry Street.

This report is to provide a planning level analysis of crash records on Don Knotts Blvd from 2015 to 2019. The segment analyzed is from the Pleasant St / Westover Bridge (US19) intersection to the Smithtown Rd (CR 73) / Grafton Rd (US119) intersection.

Crash data used in the analysis was provided by the WV DOT Division of Highways and the City of Morgantown. The city crash data was merged into the state crash data with duplicate records deleted.

Key findings identified in this report are:

- The subject segment of Don Knotts Blvd had total 364 recorded crashes from 2015-2019, with an average of 73 crashes per year. The crash rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (HMVMT) is 439.7 (State Average: 102), the injury rate per HMVMT is 95.2 (State Average: 28), and the fatality crash per HMVMT is 1.2. (State Average: 1.272)
- Intersections with a high number of crashes were the Pleasant St intersection, the Smithtown Rd intersection, the Greenbag Rd intersection, and the Foundry St intersection.
- The segment between the Prairie Ave intersection and the Callen Ave intersection had a higher injury-to-crash ratio than other segments in the corridor.
- There were three recorded non-motorist crashes on Don Knotts Blvd. Two of them at the Pleasant St intersection; one at the Kirk St intersection. They were all in the Morgantown Downtown area.
- There was one fatal vehicle crash during the report period. It was at the Smithtown Rd intersection. The intersection also has a high injury-to-crash ratio (26/59).
- Compared with other intersections, the Smithtown Rd intersection has a large number of single vehicle crashes and head-on crashes.
- A significant percentage of crashes (46%) at the Greenbag Rd intersection were rear-end crashes.
- There is no obvious trend for the number of crashes during the report period of 5 years.

Once finalized you can find this report on the MMMPO's website:

www.plantogether.org

West Virginia Long Rang Transportation Plan (WV LRTP)

The 2050 LRTP Multimodal Needs Assessment identifies and explains multimodal transportation capital, maintenance and operating investment needs instrumental to the transportation planning process led by West Virginia Department of Transportation. Addressing multimodal transportation needs is vital for meeting system efficiency, reliability, durability, and safety goals. For more information you can access the WVDOT's facebook page and the WVDOT's website: <https://bit.ly/3c2YSYJ>

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To virtually attend TTAC meetings or CAC meetings, use this link:

<https://morgantownmonongaliap-mo-my.webex.com/meet/baustin>

To attend a Policy Board meeting you can go to City of Morgantown Council Chambers at 389 Spruce Street or to attend virtually, you will need to access the agenda from the MMMPO's website.

Look for us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Youtube, and Tumblr

The Morgantown Monongalia MPO is committed to the value of equal opportunity, which ensures non-discrimination in the access to, the benefits of, and the opportunities to participate in the activities of our program.

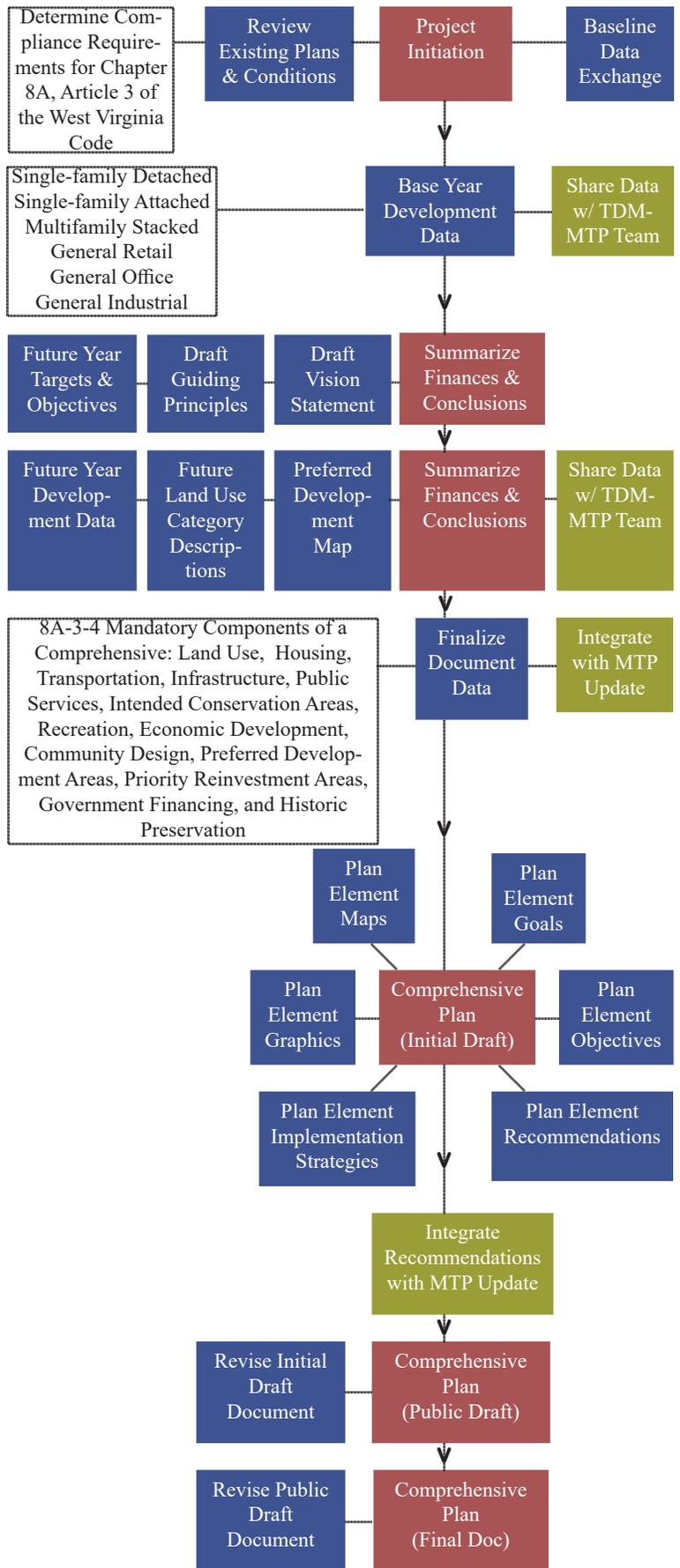
Updates

Comprehensive Plans & Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

The MMMPO is required by Federal Law to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan every five years. This effort is to update both the physical and transportation needs of the area’s transportation system as well as the community’s consensus on the area’s transportation priorities. The urban area’s municipalities and Monongalia County are required by state law to update their Comprehensive Plans every 10 years. In Monongalia County these cycles overlap every 10 years providing an opportunity to synchronize the area’s transportation plan and the comprehensive plans. Comprehensive plan updates include a review of the area’s current conditions for land use as well as to project where future growth is planned to go. These Comprehensive Plan elements are crucial for the development of an update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and therefore the MMMPO proposed that the consultant team for preparing the transportation plan update could be the same team developing the municipal and County comprehensive plans. Using the same consultants would allow the Comprehensive Plans and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to be synchronized creating a direct link between the area’s vision of the future and planned transportation infrastructure as well as cost savings for all entities. The MMMPO developed a Request for Qualifications for a consulting team to perform both the MTP Update as well as Comprehensive plans for the area’s jurisdictions. Stantec and a team of Comprehensive Plan consultants were selected to perform this work. The City of Morgantown and Monongalia County decided to use these consultants for their Comprehensive Plan updates to ensure the cohesion of all of these planning efforts. A 12 to 14 month planning time frame is anticipated, beginning in April 2021, with expected completion by June 2022. The work on these projects includes an extensive public involvement process, an update of the regional travel demand model, and the creation of a fiscally constrained transportation plan. This project is funded partially in the current fiscal year and it is included in the FY 2021-2022 UPWP. Stantec’s Project Work Plan can be found on:

plantogether.org

Monongalia County Comprehensive Plan Update - General Process Map



Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

The MMMPO Policy Board adopted the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2021-2022 includes a request for \$210,000 (80% Federal, 10% State, 10% Local) in additional funding for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update, a 2.75% cost of living increase for MMMPO staff, and two work items for Mountain Line Transit.

The work items for Mountain Line are a review of selected intersections where Mountain Line vehicles have to make left turns to identify any operational improvements that could facilitate the movement and improve safety, and a review of Mountain Line data to identifying heavily utilized locations heavily used by Mountain Line passengers that could use the sidewalk and or bus shelter improvement. A new TIP will be adopted later this year and the projects will be included in that document.

Mountain Line Transit Study

The Mountain Line Transit Authority has recently completed a short to medium-range transit plan. The Plan reviews Mountain Lines' current operations and makes recommendations for improvements. The executive summary of the study and the full plan are available on the MMMPO's website: www.plantgether.org



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) May Amendments

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WV DOH) has proposed amendments to the MMMPO's Transportation Improvement Program. The amendments will remove some bridge projects to a bridge bundle program developed by the WV DOH in receiving a BUILD grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Those bridge projects include the Westover Bridge project, Uffington I/C +1 project, the I-68 SB Ramp Bridge project, and USAC Daniel Mehringer Memorial Bridge NB & SB project.

In addition, the DOH requested deletion of Beechurst Ave at 6TH. The project is to be merged to the University Ave-Campus Dr project. The DOH also requested adjustment on the funding for the Van Voorhis Rd project and University Ave-Campus Dr project.

Also for your informations the following projects were moved into a bundle bridge project for the fund the state received.

Bridge Bundle Projects:

- 31-079/00-160.00 (NB): WADES RUN BRIDGE
- 31-079/00-160.00 (SB) WADES RUN BRIDGE
- 31-079/00-142.37 (SB) US Army Cpl. Daniel Frederick Mehringer Memorial Bridge
- 31-079/00-142.37 (NB) US Army Cpl. Daniel Frederick Mehringer Memorial Bridge
- 31-079/00-145.65 (NB) GOSHEN ROAD OVERPASS
- 31-079/00-145.65 (SB) GOSHEN ROAD OVERPASS
- 31-079/00-145.18 (NB) TOMS RUN OVERPASS
- 31-079/00-145.18 (SB) TOMS RUN OVERPASS
- 31-079/00-148.81 (NB) UFFINGTON INTERCHANGE
- 31-079/00-148.81 (SB) UFFINGTON INTERCHANGE
- 31-068/00-000.56 (SB) I-68 SB RAMP BRIDGE

These projects are to be included in the TIP as informational only. A new TIP will be adopted later this year and the projects will be included in that document.

Committees & Meetings

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Meeting

June 8th, 2021 at 1:30 pm:
August 10th, 2021 at 1:30 pm:

The TTAC is an advisory group for the Policy Board that provides recommendations on technical issues and planning efforts. The TTAC is made up of technical staff from the various agencies and local governments that participated in the MMMPO process. These meetings are held to make recommendations on items prior to consideration by the Policy Board. **Public participation is limited during these meetings.**

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

June 10th, 2021 at 6:00 pm:
August 12th, 2021 at 6:00 pm:

The CAC is an advisory group for the Policy Board that provides recommendations on community issues and concerns. The CAC is composed of citizens appointed by the Policy Board to represent the public interest in transportation decision-making.

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

This group will be revitalized as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.

Given the emphasis on freight in the FAST Act, the purpose of the MMMPO’s Freight Advisory Committee is to ensure that freight interests were represented in the MMMPO’s planning process. The Freight Advisory Committee consisted of representatives of the local trucking/freight industry.

For More Information

You can access our website at plantogether.org for more information on particular projects.

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<https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/-meet/baustin>.

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Ped/Bike Data Collection Committee Meeting

June 28th, 2021 at 6:00 pm:
July 26th, 2021 at 6:00 pm:
August 23th, 2021 at 6:00 pm:

The Pedestrian/Bicycle Data Collection Committee is an informational technical committee providing input for the development of the pedestrian and bicycle counting program appropriate for the MMMPO. The program will be an annual routine data collection effort included in the MMMPO’s Unified Planning Work Program. The committee provides input to the MMMPO’s staff to develop a handbook for collecting pedestrian and bicycle traffic data in the region. The handbook will standardize practices for collecting pedestrian and bicycle data in the MMMPO area. These techniques are to be used by local municipalities, as well as planing and engineering consultants.

Policy Board Meeting

June 17th, 2021 at 6:00 pm:
August 19th, 2021 at 6:00 pm:

The Policy Board is the decision-making body of the MMMPO. The Board is made up of elected and appointed officials from member local governments and major organizations in the Greater Morgantown region. The meeting allows the board to show the meetings live on public access television (Morgantown’s Channel 15, Adelphia). Rebroadcasts of meetings are available at the City of Morgantown website.

The Policy Board is responsible for preparing and approving the area’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the MMMPO’s Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The MTP plans for transportation infrastructure improvements 20 to 25 years in advance. The MTP includes the improvements needed to the area’s roadway network, public transportation infrastructure, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The TIP is the funding schedule for implementing transportation improvements in the area. If Federal Funds are to be used for a project, they must be approved by the Policy Board and be included in the MMMPO’s MTP and TIP. The UPWP is the work program for MMMPO Staff. Work included in the UPWP is funded by Federal, State, and local funds.

