



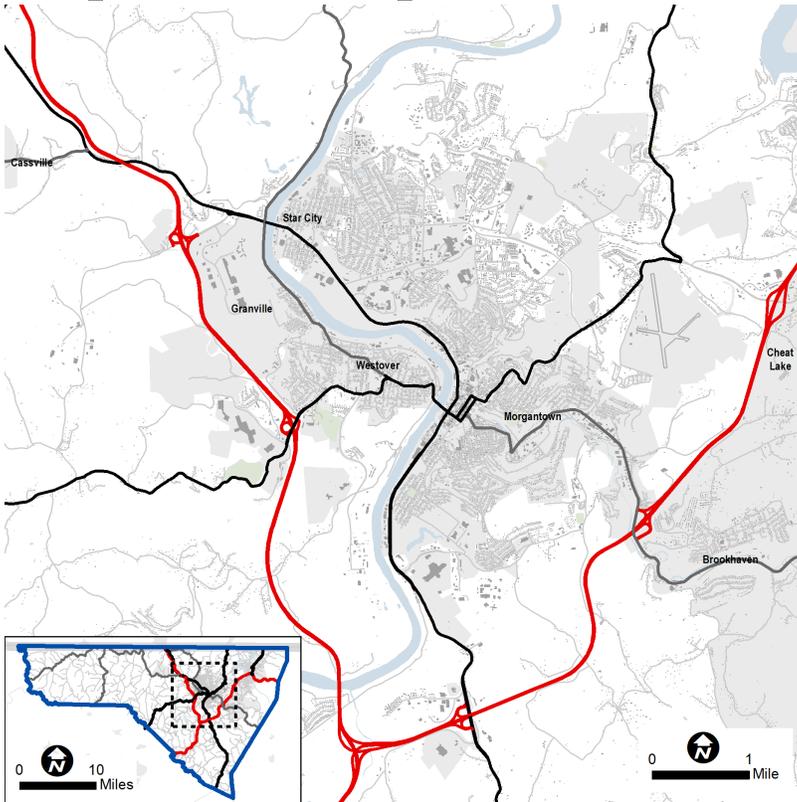
MMMPO
Morgantown Monongalia
Metropolitan Planning Organization

NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2021

Ongoing Projects

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)



The MMMPO has hired the engineering firm Stantec to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as required by Federal statute every five years. The project includes making the adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Transit Plan integral parts of the MTP as well as to conduct an in-depth review of the roadway portion of the plan. Stantec recently held Virtual Public Symposiums on August 26th, 2021 as part of the public involvement in the development of the plan to assist in identifying the MMMPO's priorities. Stantec also has a freight survey for stakeholders. In addition to the public outreach efforts Stantec has been reviewing existing transportation plans and projecting future needs. Please keep up with this important process by visiting our web page www.planttogether.org or getting on our email list by contacting jshuey@planttogether.org

We need your input so the MTP will reflect your concerns. Improving safety and planning for future improvements are primary objectives of this regional plan. Please visit the plan's webpage to take the transportation survey and visit the interactive map: <https://www.mmmpo2050.com/>

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in transportation in the Monongalia County area.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up to date on transportation issues in our area and to inform you of opportunities to comment on proposed transportation projects.

We welcome your feedback on our newsletter!

Help us plan the future of Monongalia County!

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Ongoing Projects

Greenbag Road Project

The current engineering design for the Greenbag Road project includes two roundabouts. One is at Dorsey Ave and the other is at Mississippi Street. The WVDOH is waiting for the Federal Highway Administration final approval for the proposal. The project is expected to be cleared to proceed soon.

University Avenue and Collins Ferry Road project

The University Avenue and Collins Ferry Road project is in the final portion of right-of-way acquisition phase which is expected to be complete any time now. Work to construct the project will begin once this final hurdle is complete.

Van Voorhis Road Project

The WVDOH has finished the engineering design for the Van Voorhis Rd and moved to the right-of-way phase of this project. The Van Voorhis Project corridor is from the intersection with West Run Road to the Burroughs Street intersection. The project will install sidewalks on one side of the road the length of the project, bring the lane width of Van Voorhis Road to a standard width and install turning bays at selected locations. A map of the proposed improvements can be found on the MMMPO’s website under studies and plans. The WVDOH previously worked on drainage issues on Van Voorhis in collaboration with the Morgantown Utility Board (MUB). This project should enhance that work.

You can look at the Van Voohris Environmental Study by going to: tinyurl.com/VanVoohrisRD

West Run project

WVDOH has finished the engineering design for the West Run project and has begun the right-of-way phase.

Beechurst Ave project

The WVDOH is working with the City of Morgantown and WVU on the boundary adjustment for impacted parcel along the corridor. The engineering design is being finalized. Work on this project should begin next year.

Mileground project

The WVDOH legal staff is finalizing the aquisition of the last parcels of right-of-way for this widening project. This process should be completed shortly. In the meantime, the Morgantown Utility Board (MUB) has started utility relocation for its sewage lines near Easton Hill.

Congratulations to Our Director!

Bill Austin has resumed the role of Chairman of the WV Association of MPOs, after the previous chair left the position.

Mr. Austin is also serving as a Policy Committee member for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO). The role provides opportunities to influence national transportation policies and legislation. The position requires attendance of the national conference in October this year.

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

To virtually attend Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meetings or citizens advisory committee meetings, use this link:

<https://morgantownmonongaliaampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin>

To attend a Policy Board meeting you will need to access the agenda from the MMMPO’s website.

Look for us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
Help us plan the future of Monongalia County!

Updates

Mountain Line Transit Study Update

Mountain Line is working with consultants to identify opportunities to develop a coordinated fare collection system in the area. The Mountain Line staff will meet with consultant to discuss potential proposals. The study is an extension of the previously adopted Mountain Line Transit Study and is funded separately by a federal AIM grant. The Mountain Line will meet staff of Federal Transit Administration to discuss the project, as the project is expected to set a national example for an integrated transit fare collection system.



Exit 155 on I-79 Interchange project

The project is in its initial stage, the DOH has committed to funding the project under other federal funding categories. It will be proceeded as a design-bid-build project. The MMMPO staff had requested information from the developer about the project and provided technical support to facilitate the project development. The MMMPO has policies for improving connectivity between the eastern part and the western part of the region for all users. Federal regulations also require provision of pedestrian and bicycle facilities as appropriate to any transportation project. The I-79 Exit 155 project will improve access to the school in the Mylan Park area. It will also improve the safety of school buses traveling through the Exit 155 to the Monongalia County school bus hub during non-pick-up and non-drop-off time.

Mineral Ave./WV 7 Intersection data collection

MMMPO staff conducted data collection in the Mineral Ave/WV 7 Intersection area. The data collected include pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle turning movement. DOH is encouraged to adopt a more holistic approach to improve the corridor.

Committees & Meetings

Ped/Bike Data Collection Committee Meeting

October 25, 2021, 6:00 pm:

The Pedestrian/Bicycle Data Collection Committee is a 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 for the MMMPO's staff to develop a handbook for collecting pedestrian and bicycle traffic data in the region.

The handbook will identify standard practices for collecting pedestrian and bicycle data in the MMMPO area to be used by local municipalities, as well as planning and engineering consultants. **Data can only tell us part of the story, we need your help to understand on-the-ground issues.**

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

October 14th, 2021, 6:00 pm:

The CAC is an advisory group for the Policy Board that provides recommendations on community issues and concerns. The CAC meets prior to the Policy Board to review items on the Policy Board Agenda. The CAC is composed of citizens appointed by the Policy Board to represent the public interest in transportation decision-making. **You can join the meeting to help us better understand the issues that are most important to you.**

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Meeting

October 9th, 2021, 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. The TTAC meets prior to the Policy Board. These meetings are held to make recommendations on items prior to consideration by the Policy Board. **We are evaluating all modes of transportation within and around Monongalia County, and need your input.**

Policy Board Meeting

October 21st, 2021, 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, Transportation Improvement Program, and the MMMPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The MTP plans for transportation infrastructure improvements 20 to 25 years in advance. The MTP include 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.

For More Information

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