



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 12, 2020

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

Members Present:

Christiaan Abildso (Chair), Matt Cross, Maria Smith, Chip Wamsley, Ed Sneckenberger, Heather Britton,

Other Present: Kelli LaNeve, Jared Mazezka, Ednilson Bernardes, Jamie Summerlin, Jim Yeater, Bill Austin Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

Mr. Austin noted that due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the CAC meeting is being held as a teleconference. 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. Mrs. Smith noted that the minutes have a mistake in Mr. Sneckenberger's statement on the Holland Ave project. The word "without" should be deleted. Mr. Sneckenberger moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Abildso noted that there are several attendees from the public. Mr. Abildso suspended the meeting and invited the attendees to speak. Mr. Bernardes noted that it is his first time attending MPO's meetings and he looks forward to learning more about the planning process.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH has proposed two Transportation Improvement Program amendments. The amendments will delete the two projects on Van Voorhis Rd which were incorrectly programmed in their scope of work. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH did not request the removal of these projects at the time they programmed the correct segment from West Run to Burroughs Street.

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

4. 2021 Calendar

Mr. Austin noted that the draft 2021 calendar for the committee meetings is included in the agenda package for review. Mr. Wamsley noted that there are two meetings scheduled on January 14th. Mr. Austin noted that he will correct the error. Mrs. Britton moved to recommend approval of the 2021 Calendar as corrected to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Review of summary for MTP Update/Comp Plan RFQ

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO performed a comprehensive update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan in 2013. Since State Law requires that comprehensive plans be updated every 10 years, Monongalia County and the County's municipalities are required to update their Comprehensive plans very soon. MPO staff has proposed that the County and the County's municipalities join together to achieve greater economies of scale for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update and the required comprehensive plan updates. The primary way cost savings could be realized is by utilizing a unified public involvement process that would tie together the development of the MTP and each municipality's comprehensive plans. This process would allow each jurisdiction to develop its comprehensive plan while having those needs addressed in the MPO's urban area-wide transportation plan.

Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC recommended getting the project underway more quickly to allow sufficient time to develop draft land use plans. The MPO will release the RFQ and start the consultant selection process in early January. Mr. Austin noted that the county and municipalities will participate in the consultant selection process.

Mr. Abildso suggested adding an RFQ scoring factor to evaluate elements such as multi-modal share, active transportation, and community health impact. Mr. Austin noted that those elements can be included in the innovation criteria.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted that engaging neighborhood associations will be key to the success of the project. Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the RFQ should clarify that the term of the long transportation plan is now renamed as the metropolitan transportation plan. Mr. Cross agreed and asked about the role of the pedestrian and bicycle plan in the MTP update. Mr. Austin noted that the pedestrian and bicycle plan will be better integrated as a part of the MTP.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the draft RFQ to the Policy Board; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

6. Request for additional work items for the FY 2021-2022 UPWP

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff will be preparing a draft UPWP for FY 2021- 2022 in January. Staff requests committee's input on potential studies that the committee would like the MPO staff to perform in the next fiscal year. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will conduct a traffic study at the intersection of Mineral Ave and Earl Core Rd. The study is requested by the City of Morgantown and will analyze both motor vehicle traffics and non-motorized traffic.

Mr. Austin noted that TTAC recommended that the MPO develop an ongoing data collection process for pedestrians and bicyclists in the area. The Mountain Line also suggested using transit data to identify locations where improvement in pedestrian accessibility is needed, especially for those with disabilities.

Mr. Cross noted that pedestrian counts are needed along the University Ave corridor to monitor pedestrian traffic between the two campuses. Mr. Abildso agreed and noted that the University Ave corridor should be a primary focus for improving pedestrian safety.

Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the Suncrest neighborhood hopes that DOH will install a crosswalk on University Ave at the intersection of Junior Ave. The neighborhood thinks it is unsafe for pedestrians to cross University Ave at that location. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH has concerns about installing crosswalks at unsignalized intersections. The crosswalk could lead to negligent pedestrian crossings.

Mrs. Smith suggested that the MPO conduct a study to identify intersections with unsafe left-turns for Mountain Line buses. The study will help the Mountain Line improve those locations when the opportunity arises.

7. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH has extended the comment period for the Greenbag Rd study. The MPO provided the public with proper information about the project's decision-making process and worked with the county and city officials to clarify the community's stand on the project.

8. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.