



MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

MMMPO Conference Room 243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV

June 11, 2020, 6:00 PM

Members Present

Matt Cross, Maria Smith, Christiaan Abildso, Bill Austin, Chip Wamsley, Ed Sneckenberger

Others Present

Jessica Shuey, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Austin noted that due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the CAC meeting was held as a teleconference. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Sneckenberger sent him an email noticing an error regarding the hiring of veterans as drivers of the Mountain line bus. Mrs. Smith noted that the Mountain Line has been actively looking out for qualified veterans to serve as drivers. Mr. Wamsley moved to approve the minutes as noted; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no further discussion, the motion was approved.

3. TIP Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that the WVDOH has requested the following TIP amendments. The amendments include Mason-Dixon Hwy Slide repair projects, Little Indian Creek Rd slide repair project, Bertha Hill Rd Slide repair projects, Kingwood Pike slide repair project, River Rd slide repair project, Westover bridge repair project, I-79 Exit 146 SB exit ramp project, I-79 Exit 155 Ramps resurface project, I-68 Exit 7 ramp repair project, I-68 Resurface project (Cheat Lake – Coopers Rock), and I-79 Welcome Center improvement project. Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC reviewed the proposed projects and unanimously recommended approval to the Policy Board.

Mr. Abildso moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendment; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was approved.

4. Election of Officers

Mr. Cross nominated Mr. Abildso for the position of CAC Chairman. Mr. Abildso asked about the required time commitment for the position. Mr. Austin noted that the Chair has in the past attended the Policy Board meeting and reported to the board. Mr. Abildso noted that he is willing to serve in this position.

Mr. Austin made a motion to elect Mr. Abildso for the CAC Chairman. The motion passed by acclamation.

5. Presentation on proposed Public Involvement Policy Amendment-Jessica Shuey

Mrs. Shuey made a presentation on the proposed Public Involvement Policy Amendment. Mrs. Shuey noted that the proposed policy has been restructured with a clearer format and enhanced graphics. It added virtual public involvement elements to keep up with the best public involvement practice in transportation planning. The proposal does not have any material changes on the content in the policy.

Mrs. Smith noted that the proposed policy looks good and asked if it will be printed. Mr. Austin noted that both hard copies and digital copies will be distributed to the community.

Mr. Cross suggested that the document could be placed on the second floor of the downtown library to provide an easy access to the information for people using computers in the library. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that it is the MPO's policy to make documents available in public libraries.

6. Presentation on Transportation improvement Program Online Database-Jing Zhang

Mr. Zhang made a presentation on the development of web project search application for the MPO's TIP. The application will allow the public to search the MPO's TIP project database via various search criteria such as fiscal year, phases, jurisdiction, funding source, and scope of improvement. Chairman Abildso noted that a publicly searchable database will greatly improve the accessibility of project information to the public.

7. Update on Mountain Line's Transit Study

Mr. Austin noted that he will have a phone call with the transit study consultant on the 17th, one day before the Policy Board meeting in this month. He will then have more updated information about the study. Mrs. Smith briefly introduced the existing condition analysis, including demographics, economies, facilities, route performance and accessibility.

8. Other Business

Mr. Cross asked about the status of the MPO's Pedestrian Bicycle Plan after its adoption by the policy board. Mr. Austin noted the MPO is to formally pass the plan to municipalities and will work with the community to implement the recommended projects. He noted that many projects in the plan can be implemented in an expedited way as they require no right-of-way purchase and extensive environmental studies. Mr. Austin noted that local funding for those projects is expected to be limited, since municipal

income has been drastically reduced due to the COVID19 pandemic. The MPO is not currently aggressively pushing the implementation of the projects in the plan.

10. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.