

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
JUNE 21, 2018 MINUTES

Members Present:

Chairman Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Vice Chairman Bill Kawecki-Mayor of Morgantown, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Ron Justice-WVU, Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County

MPO Director: Bill Austin

Members Absent:

Dominick Claudio-Star City, Councilperson Ryan Wallace -City of Morgantown, Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Kelly called the Policy Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Public Comment Period

Bill Rice, 1225 Baker Ridge Rd, noted that a bonding agency in New York City has rated A plus for the financial aspect of infrastructure in the Mon County and approved financing the MUB reservoir project. Mr. Rice noted that this news reinforced the idea that the community has the ability to improve its infrastructure.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Kelly noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Justice moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Bill Rice, the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the CAC had a quorum and recommended approval of action items to the Policy Board. Mr. Rice also noted that Mr. Abildso, a member of the CAC, recused himself from the discussion of pedestrian and bicycle plan RFP due to potential conflict of interests.

b. Finance Report

Mayor Lewis presented the Finance Report for May as the following:

-- Beginning balance in March \$19,912.22 with expenditures of \$19,814.11 and one deposit of \$ 22,224.42, leaving a balance of \$22,322.53 at the beginning of June.

Mayor Kawecki moved to accept the Finance Report as presented; seconded by Goodwin. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has received a request from West Virginia University for a letter of support to apply a grant for modernizing the PRT system. Mr. Justice moved to authorize the Chairman of

the Board to sign the letter of support; seconded by Commissioner Sikora. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin then noted that the MPO developed the scope of work for the Morgantown Industrial Part Study and will set up meetings with stakeholders to evaluate alternatives and assess its impact on the local traffic system.

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff will be in training in Charleston later this month and he will give a presentation to regional FHWA staff on MPO's function and operation in West Virginia.

Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Bruffy had been recognized as the 2018 manager of the year by the Community Transportation Association of America.

Mr. Austin noted that he will take vacation in the first week of July.

5. TIP Adoption

Mr. Austin noted that West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways, Mountain Line Transit, and West Virginia University have requested TIP Amendments. The amendments are: Mon Blvd from Patteson Dr to 8th Street lighting project, I-79/Chaplin Hill Rd interchange reconstruction project, and Mountain Line Transit funding increase under the Section 5370.

Mayor Kawecki moved to adopt the TIP amendments as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sean Sikora. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin noted that West Virginia University requested a TIP amendment for PRT modernization. Mr. Austin noted that the public comment period for the Amendment proposed by WVU will not expire until June 23. MPO staff recommended that the Policy Board authorize the Chairman and the Executive Director to approve the amendment after its public comment period, assuming that the MPO receives no negative comments from the public.

Mayor Kawecki moved to approve the authorization, seconded by Mr. Justice. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. Highway Performance Measures

Mr. Austin noted that the state has proposed targets for the federally mandated highway performance measures. Attached documentation includes correspondence from State Highway Engineer Aaron Gillespie on specific target of each measure, and an explanation of the goals of the program. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO staff recommends adoption of the State goals and that the MPO monitor practices for performance monitoring nationwide to determine if the MPO would like to adopt different standards in the future. Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC has recommended adoption of the Performance Measures. The CAC recommends that the Policy Board withhold adoption of it, pending the provision of more information on how the data is collected for the performance measures and how they will be reflected in the planning and programming process.

Chairman Kelly noted that the CAC's concerns on data collection is legitimate and it should be addressed in future assessment of the effectiveness of performance measures.

Mayor Kawecki moved to adopt the Performance Measures as presented; seconded by Mayor Lewis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan RFQ

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff has been working with WVDOH, WVU, the City of Morgantown and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Boards to develop a request for qualifications to develop a more comprehensive project. The draft request for qualifications developed for this study are included in the agenda package for review. The total cost of the study is expected to be between \$175,000 and \$200,000. Staff has been in touch with Granville, Westover, WVU and the City of Morgantown concerning the local match required for this Study. Each entity has expressed a willingness to consider providing a portion of the match. A possible funding formula is included in the agenda package for review. It is based on population dividing the required funding between these entities.

Mr. Austin noted that in the contract negotiation process, MPO may need to cut some proposed work from the proposed scope of work in order to keep the study cost under budgets. The consultants are expected to provide preliminary recommendations quickly. It is desirable to release the RFQ as early as possible to ensure hiring qualified consultants for this study.

Commissioner Sikora asked how the proposed cost will be weighted in the consulting firm selection process. Mr. Austin noted that cost will be one of the considerations, but it won't be a driving factor in the selection process.

Mayor Kawecki asked how the RFQ will be distributed. Mr. Austin noted that it will be advertised nationally, including American Planning Association, Institute of Transportation Engineers. It will also be advertised in the local and state newspapers as well as the MPO's website.

Mr. Justice moved to approve the release of the RFQ for the study; seconded by Commissioner Sikora. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Other Business

Mayor Kawecki asked about the status of Greenbag Rd and WV 7 intersection improvement project. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH is working with consultants to finalize the design of the intersection.

Mayor Kawecki also asked about the pedestrian project at the intersection of Spruce and Pleasant Street. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH is concerned that a crosswalk on the northern side of Spruce Street will cause the left turn vehicle traffic back up on Pleasant Street and block the High Street/Pleasant Street intersection. The DOH preliminary plan is to keep the current configuration at that intersection.

Commissioner Sikora asked about the Morgantown Industrial Park Access Study. He noted that the development of the Industrial Park is of regional importance and he expect the study can be completed in a timely fashion. Mr. Justice concurred and suggested that the MPO start the study process as early as practicable. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will start the planning process and traffic counts in the middle of August and evaluate alternatives. Mr. Austin then noted that major components of the study include projecting future land uses in the impact area and performing travel demand modeling on the basis of that land use information.

11. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.