



243 High St. Room 110
Morgantown WV, 26505
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MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee
MMMPO Conference Room
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV
May 9, 2019, 6 PM

Members Present

Bill Rice (Chair), Christiaan Abildso, Maria Smith, Matt Cross, Chip Wamsley

Others Present

Bill Austin, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Rice called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Rice noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Abildso moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Performance Measures

Mr. Austin noted that a draft of the MPO's planned performance measures was provided to the CAC at the last meeting. Since then MPO staff has made some minor changes to the evaluation method. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO must adopt the performance measures, including the impact evaluation methodology, at the May meeting to satisfy federal regulation requirement. Mr. Jing Zhang, the MPO's Transportation Planner II, made a brief presentation on the proposed methodology for evaluating the MPO's performance measures. Mr. Austin noted that the same evaluation method will apply to the MPO's TIP projects.

Mr. Abildso noted one thing to watch out in future evaluation is the balance of weight between motor vehicles and non-motorized transportation. Mr. Abildso asked how the impact values were decided. Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff made professional judgement based on traffic volumes, transportation network, and existing infrastructure deficiency.

Mr. Abildso move to recommend approval of the performance measures evaluation to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Draft Public Involvement Policy Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that a recent proposal to amend the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan raised the issue of refining the MPO's Public Involvement Policy. Two matters were identified during the discussion of this issue. The first is to make sure that the members of the MPO's Committees are aware of any public meetings associated with proposed projects or changes to the MPO's MTP and TIP. The second is to identify the process needed to amend the MPO's MTP, particularly the fiscally constrained Tier One Project List. Mr. Austin then outlined the draft language for the Public Involvement Policy Amendment.

Mr. Austin noted that in addition to the proposed changes made by MPO staff, the TTAC recommended that two-third of votes from the MPO's Policy Board should be required to amend the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and that the public comment period should extend to 45 days from 30 days.

Mr. Abildso noted that the planning process should ensure a fair protection for projects identified through the formal planning process. It should also prevent capricious projects by setting qualifications for projects to be even considered for MTP amendment in the first place.

Mrs. Smith agreed and noted that the planning process should avoid arbitrary decisions made under political influence. She noted that the process should provide sufficient time to allow a full deliberation on the merits of a project that is proposed to be amended into the MPO's Tier One Project List. Mrs. Smith also noted that a non-MTP project should be required to be amended to a MTP's non-tier-one project list before the project can be considered for amending to the MTP's tier one project list.

Mr. Austin agreed and noted that he will pass this comment to the Policy Board. Mr. Austin then noted that to be considered as a project for amendment to the MPO's MTP, a project has to be proposed by a Policy Board member or one of the MPO's committees. Mr. Austin also noted that he will revise the policy amendment to state that any project must be on one of the lower tiers of the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, prior to being considered as a Tier One Project.

Mr. Austin pointed out that such a change falls out of the scope of Public Involvement Policies; and a review of the MPO's planning policy, and further bylaw, might be necessary.

Mr. Abildso move to recommend approval of the Public Involvement Policy Amendments with modifications as discussed; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Update on Bicycle and Pedestrian Study

Mr. Austin noted the consultant of the pedestrian and bicycle study will hold community meeting on May 20th at the Marilla Park, to solicit community input on proposed infrastructure improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

6. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that the WV Local Technical Assistance Program will hold the 2019 Pedestrian Safety Symposium and Summit in Morgantown from June 11 to 13. MPO Staff will participate in this event. CAC members are also invited to attend this meeting.

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH proposed TIP amendments. The information of the amendments is included in the agenda package for review. The MPO will run the advertisement for these amendments on Friday. The MPO's Policy Board will consider provisional approval of the amendments upon completion of the required public comment period, assuming that the MPO receive no significant public comment relating to proposed amendments. If significant public comment is received, the amendments will be re-presented to the Policy Board for further discussion.

Mr. Austin noted that the proposed TIP amendments are: 1) the Morgantown Pedestrian Improvement Design Study on WV 705; 2) the I-79 Access Preliminary Investigation and Environmental Study; 3) I-79 Halleck Rd Overpass Construction; 4) Caperton Trail Drainage Construction; and 5) a modification on the I-79 Star City Interchange Improvement.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendments for FY 2019; seconded by Mr. Abildso. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Abildso moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendments for FY 2020; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

The CAC took no action on the I-79 Star City Interchange Improvements Project.

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH will hold a public meeting for the Van Voorhis Rd Project at Eastwood Elementary School on May 13 from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Mr. Abildso expressed his concern that no alternative facility is provided for pedestrians during the sidewalk repair work on WV 705. Pedestrians with disability would be forced to use the traffic lanes at locations under construction. Mr. Austin noted that he would relate this concern to WV DOH.

7. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.