



243 High St. Room 110
Morgantown WV, 26505
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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
MMMPO Conference Room
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV
March 5, 2019, 1:30 PM

Members Present

Bill Austin, Damien Davis, Dave Bruffy, John Whitmore, Chris Fletcher, Bill Oliver

Others Present

Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Bruffy moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Davis. 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 TTAC at the last meeting. Since then MPO staff has made some minor changes on 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 requirements. 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 the evaluation method is not to prioritize the MTP projects, but to provide complementary information on the project's impact to the established performance measures.

Mr. Bruffy move to recommend approval of the performance measures evaluation to the MPO's Policy Board, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. 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. Bruffy noted that Tier One Project List is critically important to the MPO's long range planning, reflecting value and priority of the community. An amendment to add a project to the list should avoid making an impression that the amendment circumvents the MPO's planning process. A super majority, if not unanimity, of the MPO's Policy Board should be required to adopt any MTP amendment.

Mr. Fletcher agreed and noted that the process for MTP update has a multi-month public involvement period, in which projects are thoroughly vetted, and the MTP is updated in every 5 years, a relatively short period of time, compared with its planning horizon of 40 years. For these reasons, any project of significant community interest is supposed to be included in the MTP. Amendment for emerging projects outside of the MTP's formal process should be limited, unless it is to deal with the occurrence of unforeseeable events which will significantly impact the community's transportation system.

Mr. Austin noted that he will revise the draft language of the policy amendment to include that 1) the public must be allowed, a minimum of 45, instead of 30, day comment period and a minimum of two public meetings on the proposed new project and projects proposed to be impacted by the proposed change to the Tier One List; and 2) A supermajority vote of the MPO's Policy Board is required to approve any amendment to the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Mr. Bruffy moved to recommend approval of the draft public involvement policy amendment with modifications; seconded by Mr. Fletcher. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Update on Bicycle and Pedestrian Study

Mr. Austin noted that pedestrian and bicycle study consultant will hold community meetings in the next two weeks to solicit community input on proposed infrastructure improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

Mr. Austin noted that he is working a quick actions group to identify locations for immediate pedestrian safety improvements. The group consists of representatives from WVU, DOH, the City of Morgantown, and the Monongalia County.

Three locations have been selected by this group demonstration projects: the intersection of University Ave and Falling Run Rd, the section on University Ave near Pizza Al's, and the intersection of Campus Dr and Grant Ave. Measures to be taken at those locations include flashing signals, high visibility crosswalks, enhanced pavement, and lighting.

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.

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. Davis moved to recommend provisional approval of the proposed amendments to the Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Fletcher. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.