

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

Members Present:

Vice-chair Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Mayor Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Ron Justice-WVU, Councilperson Ryan Wallace -City of Morgantown, Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County

MPO Director: Bill Austin

Members Absent:

Chairperson Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville. Dominick Claudio-Star City, Delegate Joe Statler-Blacksville, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Vice-Chair Selin called the Policy Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Public Comment Period

No public comment

3. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Selin 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 Mayor Kawecki. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Bill Rice, Chairman of the CAC, noted that the CAC recommended approval of the TIP amendment and supported the draft scope of work for the pedestrian and bicycle plan. Mr. Rice noted that the committee has a quorum at every meeting and committee members are well connected with the community. He noted that the committee has several membership position open and he urged the Policy Board to appointed appropriate representatives to the committee.

b. Finance Report

Mr. Austin noted that Treasurer Mayor Lewis is not able to attend this meeting. Mr. Austin read a financial report written by Mayor Lewis as follows:

-- Beginning balance in June \$22,321.63 with expenditures of \$24,675.73 and two deposits of \$2,197.06, leaving a balance of \$-157.04 at the beginning of July.

-- Beginning balance in July \$-265.94 with expenditures of \$28,397.68 and three deposits of \$57402.11, leaving a balance of \$28,738.49 at the beginning of August.

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

c. Executive Directors Report

i. Status of Morgantown Industrial Park Study

Mr. Austin noted that the first steering committee of Morgantown Industrial Park study was held earlier today. Committee members reviewed alternatives to enhance access to the park and the information estimating future land use changes. The MPO has scheduled a traffic count for this study in the last week of August. Once we receive the data from the counts, the MPO staff will assess the traffic impact of identified alternatives using the travel demand model. It is expected that a draft report of the study will be presented to the Board for review in the October meeting.

ii. Citizens Advisory Committee Membership

Mr. Austin noted that the Citizen Advisory Committee currently has four membership vacancies and he requested agencies consider appointing representatives to the committee.

iii. Upcoming travel

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff will be traveling to Kansas City to attend the TRB Tools of the Trade Conference for Small and Middle-sized MPOs. Jing Zhang will attend national Walk/Bike/Place conference in September as a board member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals.

5. TIP Amendments.

Mr. Austin noted that the West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways has requested two TIP Amendments. Both amendments are related to the works on WV 43 at Milepost 2.06. TTAC and CAC both reviewed and recommended approval of the amendments. Mr. Justice moved to adopt the TIP amendments as presented, seconded by Mayor Kawecki. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed. Councilperson Wallace asked if the inspection projects include any repair work. Mr. Austin noted that they do not. They are in-depth inspection projects conducted every 4 or 5 years.

6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Consultant Selection

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff released the request for qualifications for consultants to perform the development of an updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the urban area. The MPO received 5 responses all from reputable firms for the conduct of the study. The Consultant Selection Committee reviewed and scored the proposals, and selected 3 firms for further interview.

Mr. Austin requested that the Policy Board authorize Chairman Kelly and the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with the selected consultant, and, if acceptable to the funding agencies, enter into the contract on behalf of the MPO for this Study with the selected consultant.

Mayor Kawecki asked about the criteria to be used in the consultant selection process. Mr. Austin noted that the past success rate of plan implementation from consultants is a key criteria in the selecting process. Mr. Carr suggested that the Board set a top-limit on the cost of the study. Mayor Kawecki noted that setting a limit to the cost may cause disadvantages to the MPO in the negotiation project.

Mr. Justice made a motion that the MPO Policy Board authorize the Chairman and the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with the selected firm and enter into the contract contingent upon the approval from the funding agencies after review of the budget. Seconded by Mayor Kawecki. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

7. Ongoing Project Update-WVDOH

Mr. Carr noted that the DOH will conduct several Preliminary Investigation Engineering (PIE) studies in the Morgantown area in the next few months, including West Run Widening, Van Voorhis Widening, Beechurst Avenue Spot Improvements, and Greenbag Road. The DOH is expected to give notice of proceed to all these study in very near future.

Mr. Justice asked about the Mileground project. Mr. Carr noted that the project has completed construction on the Easton Hill section. The middle section of the project, which is from Donna Ave to the WV 705 roundabout, is in the right-of-way process. Mayor Kawecki asked about the status of the Beechurst Ave study. Mr. Carr noted that the study is one of the DOH's ongoing PIE studies. The DOH has approved its scope of work and is ready to proceed with this study.

Councilperson Wallace asked if the Mileground Project has cleared with FAA regulations near the Easton Hill. Mr. Carr noted that the project has not yet completed with FAA review process. Councilperson Wallace then asked how the project will impact the right-of-way of Northpointe Plaza. Mr. Carr noted that there is no significant right-of-way impact to the plaza. Vice-chair Selin asked about the repaving project on WV 705. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH District Office will finalize the contract for the project by September or October.

Mr. Austin noted that the Transportation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has been acting as the MPO's Policy Advisory Committee. The committee prepared a letter to transmit to potential federal office holders, specifying regional priority for transportation infrastructure improvements. The priority projects are Greenbag Rd, CR 73, and the Monongahela Lock. Mr. Austin noted that the committee requests the Policy Board permission to use the MPO logo on the letter. Mr. Justice made a motion to approve using the MPO's logo on the letter, seconded by Councilperson Wallace. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Vice-Chair Selin suspended the rules of the meeting to allow Mr. Rice to comment. Mr. Rice noted that the Board should clarify the scope of the Greenbag Rd Project mentioned in the letter. Mr. Austin noted that it is from Decker Creek Blvd to the four-lane section near the Mountaineer Mall on Greenbag Rd.

8. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that the next board meeting will be on October 18th.

Councilperson Wallace noted that the City of Morgantown is working with WVU on a Blue Zone project to promote public health and well-being. He then briefly introduced the project and its potential benefits to the community. Mr. Justice noted that the upcoming MPO's pedestrian and bicycle plan will provide valuable input to this initiative.

11. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.