

**GREATER MORGANTOWN MPO**  
**Minutes December 2, 2010 City Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Kelly, Bill Byrne, Asel Kennedy, Don Spencer, Joe Fisher, Joe Statler, David Bruffy, Anthony Giambrone, Perry Keller

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bob Bell, Charlie Byrer, Janice Goodwin, Patty Lewis

**MPO Director:** Bill Austin

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mike Kelly called the meeting or order at 7:00 PM. He also welcomed Anthony Giambrone, the new member representing Star City.

**2. APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Mr. Kennedy moved to approve the minutes of the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Fisher asked for clarification and correction of the second sentence of paragraph 1. Mr. Austin stated that he had discussed the needed clarification with Mr. Keller who was speaking in that paragraph and Mr. Fisher and that he would make the needed clarification. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion including the clarification by Mr. Austin made by Mr. Kennedy. The motion unanimously passed.

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Kennedy reported a balance of \$42,000 as of the end of November, 2010. The State still has to be billed for the Director's last month's salary and the MPO's other bills. Mr. Statler moved for approval of the financial report as submitted; Mr. Byrne seconded it. The motion unanimously passed.

**4. ADMINISTRATIVE Items:**

**A. Executive Director's Contract.** Mr. Austin stated that the director's contract was prepared by an MPO committee consisting of Mike Kelly, Bill Byrne, Asel Kennedy and Don Spencer. The contract addresses employment issues, base line salary, terms for dismissal, etc. Mr. Keller moved for approval of the contract; seconded by Mr. Fisher. The motion unanimously passed. Mr. Statler asked that the MPO Board go into Executive Session at the next regularly scheduled meeting to evaluate the Director, since this has not yet been done.

Mr. Kelly stated that he was pleased that Mr. Austin felt there was no reason for an Executive Session to discuss his contract. He feels that Mr. Austin is committed to an open process at the MPO.

**B. Personnel Policy.** The policy was reviewed by the above mentioned committee as well as the MPO Attorney. The policy, which is based on that of MountainLine, outlines the powers of the Executive Director, benefits, disciplinary policy, etc. Mr. Bruffy believes for the size of the organization it is a good policy. Mr. Keller moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Statler. The motion unanimously passed.

**C. MPO Employee Benefits.** Mr. Austin stated that this issue, as well as the other administrative items presented tonight, are a result the move to create the MPO as a stand-alone organization recommended by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Spencer at an earlier meeting. Staff examined various benefit packages, and has recommended that PERS is the package best suited for the MPO's needs. This policy reduces the total cost of benefits for the MPO's employees and increases side benefits with the exception of retirement which is anticipated to stay the same as is currently provided under the auspices of the County. An additional nice retirement benefit is also provided if and employee chooses to contribute to it. Mr. Keller moved to approve the benefits package; Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried. Mr. Austin then read a resolution into the record for the MPO's participation in PERS. Mr. Bruffy moved to approve the resolution; Mr. Statler seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

## **5. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin gave a short description of the Amendments requiring action:

**A.** Resurfacing of Mon Boulevard from Evansdale to south of Boyers Avenue. Cost is \$500,000. Mr. Austin explained the DOH is concerned with the possibility of another harsh winter this year and that the segment proposed for resurfacing may suffer the same type of damage experienced on Patteson Ave. last winter. They scheduled this resurfacing in anticipation of that prospect;

**B.** Airport Business Park Access Project. Mr. Austin stated that Mr. Reinke was here to discuss this project and the Chaplin Hill Project if the MPO needed additional information.

**C.** Chaplin Hill Business Park;

**D.** County 15 resurfacing from the Marion County Line North. Mr. Austin stated that appears to be a normal rural resurfacing project. He will obtain and pass on further information about this Project if the Board desires it;

**E.** PRT – WVU Summer Work Program. Will cover repair of the power supply, bridge repair and boiler replacement;

**F.** Mountain Line Transit Project. Mr. Bruffy explained that Mountain Line had applied for a \$3.5 million grant. However Mountain Line received the \$1.5 million grant before the MPO Board. The primary items proposed to be funded by this grant were to be Solar power panels that feed the and the purchase of electric vehicles. There is not sufficient funding to purchase electric busses, with this first grant. The grant will be done in phases, the first phase being solar panels for the power plant that will provide enough electricity to operate the Mountain Line Administrative facility and to sell electricity on the grid. However, the initial phase of the project will be to only

sell electricity to avoid the complications of having to modify whether the facility's infrastructure will be generating energy for the grid or acquiring energy from the grid. Mr. Bruffy did note that Mountain Lines project points out that solar power generation is not limited to sunny climates but that it can also be generated in temperate climates like ours.

Mr. Kennedy moved to approve all six TIP Amendments; seconded by Mr. Byrne. The motion unanimously passed.

**6. Transportation Demand Management Program** Mr. Austin advised that the state had generously suggested that a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant may be available start up a van pooling program in the area. WVU, WVUH, Mylan and Mon General have all shown positive interest in the van pooling program. As presented to the Board for Approval the grant will subsidize the first 4 months of the program for up to thirty van pools. The programs immediate focus will on the 705 corridor with the employers listed above however, the public will also be invited to participate in the program. VPSI will provide the vans. The grant, application totaling \$50,000 includes \$8000 for marketing and \$42,000 to start up the van pools. The MPO has already budgeted funds for a person to coordinate the van pooling program with the employers and VPSI in the Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Keller explained that the State receives CMAQ grant funds from the FHWA for areas of non attainment for certain types of pollutants and part of the grant is not allocated to any specific area. Although Morgantown is not in non attainment, CMAQ dollars may be spent in non attainment areas. The state has chosen to allow Morgantown to apply as if they were a non attainment area. The funds could be used other purposes, such as signal systems and turn lanes.

Mr. Spencer moved for approval, especially since Morgantown is near non attainment, the use of this grant may assist Morgantown in that area; Mr. Bruffy seconded it. Mr. Statler questioned where the funds would come from once the grant money runs out. Mr. Austin stated four months will be funded. Mr. Bruffy stated the idea is to get people to try it since it a less expensive alternative. Hopefully they will want to continue to use it. Mr. Kennedy stated that if the program is successful, Mountain Line may pick it up.

Mr. Bruffy also stated that if the program is successful it may be converted to a fixed route for commuters. Mr. Austin noted that commuters spend approximately \$600/month for commuting. Van pooling would cost approximately \$225 or less per month. Mr. Austin also stated the TDM study included a person to coordinate this program with VPSI and the major employers who would be participating.

Mr. Bryne questioned where the capital would come for the purchase of the vans. Mr. Austin stated the fee to pay for the van is paid by the van users in a one month contract to be signed with the van pool provider. VPSI is a national chain, they also provide service for the FBI Center in Clarksburg. Mr. Byrne stated that this service

may help Morgantown keep from becoming a non attainment area. The motion unanimously passed.

**7. 2011 CALENDAR.** The draft for the 2011 calendar was reviewed by the MPO Board. Mr. Byrne moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Statler. The motion unanimously carried.

## **8. MPO CONFERENCE**

Mr. Austin advised the conference held at the Hotel Morgan was attended by over 100 participants and was very successful. A local engineering company sponsored a reception for attendees. The Morgantown Bicycle Board conducted a tour of the bike and pedestrian paths; a bus ride of the area was given by MountainLine. Mr. Austin thanked David Bruffy for presenting and the assistance given by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Mr. Keller stated attendees will receive an email survey to evaluate the conference.

A meeting was held in Charleston with all other MPO Directors to discuss various items. One of their concerns has been how the TIP Process is handled. Mr. Austin is working with a group to develop a format to standardize the TIP Amendment process with better definitions as to when MPO's can process TIP Amendments and the type of information MPO's need to process Amendments. It is hoped that this will regularize the processing of TIP Amendments and reduce the number of times an MPO will have to consider amendments.

Mr. Austin also attended the National Governor's Association Meeting where legislative items, including how to better do corridor protection, were discussed.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kelly thanked everyone involved for their volunteerism and wished everyone a happy holiday. Mr. Byrne moved to adjourn at 8:00 PM, seconded by Mr. Kennedy. The motion unanimously carried.