

**Morgantown Monongalia
Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board
March 21, 2019 minutes**

Members Present:

Chairman Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown Chairman, Vice-chair Joe Statler-Blacksville, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Mayor Bill Kawecki-City of Morgantown, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Ron Justice-WVU, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Sean Sikora-Monongalia County,

MPO Director: Bill Austin

Members Absent:

Dominick Claudio-Star City, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Councilperson Ryan Wallace -City of Morgantown

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comments

No public comments

3. Approval of Minutes-October, November, January

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes for the October, November, and January meetings are included in the agenda package. Mr. Kelly moved to accept the 2018 October minutes, seconded by Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed. Mayor Kawecki moved to accept the 2018 November minutes, seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed. Commissioner Bloom moved to accept the 2019 January minutes, seconded by Mr. Justice. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

4. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Bill Rice, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the CAC recommended approval of the requested TIP amendment but did not reach a consensus. The committee members encourage the DOH provide more information on the status of previously amended projects and more transparency for the process of selecting TIP projects. Mr. Kelly asked about the current status of CAC membership. Mr. Austin noted that there are five open positions. The position should be filled by representatives designated by the members of Policy Board.

Mr. Carr noted that the DOH would like to provide more information on project status and to educate the public about the project selecting process. Mr. Carr suggested to notify him the questions and concerns from the committee members, so he has time to find out the answers by reaching out to pertinent persons.

Chairman Selin noted that it would be helpful to be informed about the accomplishment of the last year and the expectation of following years. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that he will work with Mr. Carr to prepare a biannual report on major TIP projects in the area.

b. Finance Report

Mr. Austin noted that Treasurer Mayor Lewis is not able to attend the meeting tonight. Mayor Lewis informed Mr. Austin that she did review the finance statement included in the agenda package, and recommended approval of it.

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

c. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO held a steering committee meeting for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Study to identify goals and objectives. The meeting was very productive. Several policy board members attended that meeting. The next round of community outreach will be in late May. The online survey is still open and the online interactive map has received more than 400 comments.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is working with DOH to ensure that the scope of work for the Beechurst Ave project is consistent with the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Austin raised a concern that the scope of the Beechurst Ave Project has been limited to 8th to 6th Street. These cuts to the scope of work will make the project inadequate to address traffic issues it attempts to solve in the corridor. Commissioner Bloom agreed and noted that it is a serious concern of the community. Mr. Austin noted that he will send a letter with the Chairman's signature to DOH secretary to address this issue.

Mr. Austin noted that he will be out of office for three weeks from next Wednesday.

5. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that both the WV DOH and the Mountain Line Transit have requested TIP amendments. Mr. Austin briefly described the projects included in the WV DOH amendment. Mr. Kelly moved to approve the WV DOH TIP amendment as presented; seconded by Mr. Bruffy. Mr. Statler noted that the WV 7 resurfacing project is from Kings Run Rd to Buckeye Rd. The WV 7 in Kings Run Rd area has been recently repaved and in good condition. The WV 7 in Buckeye Rd area has been in poor conditions for a long period of time. Mr. Statler asked if it is possible to adjust the project scope to cover a section in poor conditions. Mr. Carr noted that a project like this usually come from district level and the scope is decided based on multiple considerations. A change of the scope of work probably will delay the project until next year. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Austin noted that WVDOT is working on the STIP, which includes a transit section. The DOT asked the Mountain to update its TIP meet the new STIP schedule. Mr. Bruffy noted that there are no significant changes, except for adding a grant from an emergency service funds. Mr. Kelly moved to approve the Mountain Line TIP amendment as presented; seconded by Mr. Justice. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Austin noted that the draft FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is included in the agenda package. It includes continuing the Bicycle and Pedestrian Study which should be completed by the fall of 2020. Staff will also need to perform additional work on performance measures as data for the State's performance measures becomes available. The draft UPWP also includes adding a part-time employee who may be shared with Monongalia County or they may work part-time for the MPO. The initial work for this employee would be website maintenance, social media outreach, the development of an ongoing newsletter, and data collection and aggregation. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the UPWP as presented; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

7. Draft Mountain Line Study RFQ

Mr. Austin noted that Mountain Line Transit has requested that the MPO assist in the preparation of a study of its operations. This Study is necessitated by the recent changes to Mountain Lines operations which speed up the implementation of Mountain Line's current Plan. Mr. Austin noted that the Study could benefit from the data collected for the ongoing pedestrian and bicycle study, including the equity analysis. Mr. Bruffy noted that the study aims at medium range plans for service update and facility investment, to capture the demand from the community. Mr. Justice moved to approve the Mountain Line Study RFQ as presented; seconded by Mr. Kelly, with no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

8. Update on Status of Bicycle and Pedestrian Study

Mr. Austin noted that this agenda item has been discussed during the director's report session.

9. Executive Session-Employment Matter per WV 6-9A-4-2a

Commissioner Bloom suggested moving the Executive Session after the Other Business section. Chairman Selin agreed and noted that the meeting proceed to the Other Business section.

10. Other Business

Mr. Statler asked if Mr. Austin received the Economic Impact Study report from the Business School of West Virginia University relating to the Morgantown Industrial Park. Mr. Austin noted that he received the report last night and forwarded to the Policy Board. Mr. Statler noted that the report provides valuable information about the potential impact of the industrial park extension and encouraging the Board looking into the report and developing strategies to improve the accessibility of the industrial park.

Mayor Kawecki asked how the Board intend to proceed with the report. Mr. Justice noted that specific actions will be decided after in-depth reading the report and more extensive discussion with stakeholders, including the industrial park owners. Mr. Justice noted that a key issue at this moment is to ensure the feasibility of building a new interchange to I-79 on River Rd.

Commissioner Bloom noted that there is a possibility to use FEMA funds for this project, depending on how the WV DOH could work with FEMA on the River Rd slide issue.

Commissioner Bloom moved to proceed into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Justice. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

11. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.