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**MINUTES**

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

MMMPO Conference Room

243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV

March 6, 2018, 3 PM

**Members Present**

Bill Austin, Damien Davis, Rich Wood, Brian Carr, Donny Williams, Dave Bruffy

**Others Present**

John Whitmore-City of Morgantown, Chris Kinsey-WV DOH,

Alex Stockdale-City of Morgantown, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

**1. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Mr. Austin called the meeting of the TTAC to order at 3:00 PM.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**3. TIP Amendments**

Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH requested that the MPO amend the TIP. The amendments are related to the WV 7/I-79 new interchanges and construct project staring from 2021 to 2024. It is anticipated that the environmental work for the I-79 Access project may not be completed in time for the project to be included in the general obligation bonds to be issued in the next four years. It is assumed that if that work is completed in time, the project will be funded through the general obligation bonds as previously proposed by WVDOH. Mr. Wood moved to recommend approval of the TIP Amendments to the Policy Board as presented, seconded by Mr. Carr. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Draft Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Austin noted that the committee has reviewed the draft UPWP in the January meeting and since then, no substantial changes have been made. Aside from normal operations the draft UPWP includes: working with the Bike Board to update the regional bike plan; preparing an operational analysis at the intersection of Willey Street and Richwood Avenue for the City of Morgantown; developing a guidebook for working with the MPO; and developing an ongoing bicycle and pedestrian data collection program. Mr. Bruffy moved to recommend approval of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program to the Policy Board as presented, seconded by Mr. Williams. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Update on Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. Austin noted that in responding to the recent pedestrian crashes near the WVU campus, the MPO is working with the DOH, the City of Morgantown, and WVU to establish a working group to improve the pedestrian safety in the area. The MPO will reconstruct the scope of work for the pedestrian safety plan update. The new work scope will have significant emphasis on public involvement and education programs for both pedestrians and motorists. The MPO may possibly work with a consulting firm on this project. Mr. Austin also noted that the MPO is preparing for pedestrian traffic counts and the map of count locations is included in the agenda package for review.

Mr. Williams noted that there should be a data-driven process to identify the causes of pedestrian hazards and to adopt a holistic approach to improve pedestrian safety in the area. He suggested developing a toolbox for pedestrian safety that can also be used by the DOH in other areas of the state. Mr. Williams suggested identifying 3-5 demonstration projects to improve pedestrian safety in the area. Mr. Carr asked what kind of demonstration projects that Mr. Williams refers to. Mr. Williams noted that those projects could be focusing on immediate improvement at critical locations, such as lighting, warning signs, signal timing, restriping, and other innovative solutions to a particular location. He also noted that the secondary impact of a project should be closely considered, including traffic patterns and driving behavior.

Mr. Davis noted that it is critical to identify the causes of crashes and to develop countermeasure accordingly to prevent further incidents. Mr. Carr noted that highway projects should balance pedestrian accessibility and vehicle mobility. Mr. Bruffy noted that improving the access to bus stops and bus shelters will enhance the overall walking environment. He also noted that there are large number of bus passengers at the Morgantown motel at the US 119 and Smithtown Rd intersection.

Mr. Austin noted that the upcoming reconstruction project on Mileground Rd could provide an opportunity for such demonstration to improve pedestrian safety. He also point out the need to develop long term strategies to address pedestrian safety in the area and to include the whole community in the discussion. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will amend the current UPWP to include the expanded work on pedestrian safety initiatives.

**6. Other Business**

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO Freight Advisory Committee meeting is on March 8, 2018. The manager of the Freight Planning SW Pennsylvania Commission will make a presentation on US Army Corp of Engineers Upper Ohio River System Study.

**7. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM.