



MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

MMMPO Conference Room 243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV

March 12, 2019, 1:30 PM

Members Present

Bill Rice (Chair), Heather Briton, Matt Cross, Maria Smith, Chip Wamsley, Bill Austin

Others Present

Jessica Shuey, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Rice called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Introduction of New Employee

Mr. Austin introduced Jessica Shuey as the MPO's new employee to the CAC. Mr. Austin noted that Ms. Shuey's primary duty is public involvement including website maintenance and preparing newsletter for the MPO. It is a shared position with the county. CAC members welcomed Ms. Shuey.

4. Draft TIP

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO needs to adopt a new TIP at the March meeting to be fully coordinated with the newly adopted State Transportation Improvement Program. A copy of the draft TIP is included in the agenda package. The revised TIP does not reflect significant changes to the existing projects, except that several completed projects were removed from the tables. The MPO made the revised TIP table available to the public in mid-January to meet the requirements of the MPO's Public Involvement Policy. To date the draft TIP has received no public comments.

Mr. Austin noted that the TIP includes two tables listing the same projects. The first table identifies the projects by project names. The second table shows the projects by the date that they were included in the TIP and the date (if any) funds have been obligated to projects.

Mr. Rice noted that adjusted table format will help the public better track the development of TIP projects.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the revised TIP to the Policy Board with the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Cross. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

5. Draft Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Austin noted that the draft FY 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program is enclosed in the agenda package. The primary new initiative in the UPWP is the beginning of the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to reflect an updated regional travel demand model, a new effort to identify the community's goals and objectives and to incorporate the results of the ongoing transit study and the recently adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan into the Highway element of the MTP. The UPWP includes a 2% increase of MPO staff salary to keep up with the cost of living.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will coordinate with the County and municipalities in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update process. He noted that it will be more effective to integrate the public involvement process of the MTP updates for the MPO and that of the comprehensive plan update for the county and municipalities.

Mr. Wamsley moved to recommend approval of the draft UPWP to the Policy Board; seconded by Mrs. Smith. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO Policy Board adopted the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in November. As the Board had concerns about some projects in the Plan, the MPO's consultants held a session for the Board to review projects and to develop implementation guidelines. The guidelines set the priority for the policy board in implementing the bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Mr. Austin noted that the TTAC raised a concern that the negative score for on-street bicycle facilities in the safety priority table could incorrectly imply that those bicycle facilities are not safe. The TTAC recommended to change the "safety priority" to "corridor improvement initiatives" to avoid potential misleading implications.

Mr. Cross asked if it is the final version of the plan. Mr. Austin noted that it will be an amendment to the previously adopted plan.

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has been working with the Pedestrian Safety Group to implement a series of short-term pedestrian safety improvement projects. The group will use the plan to identify locations for immediate pedestrian safety improvement. As a project initiated by the group, MPO staff will work with the City of Morgantown on the pedestrian safety improvement project at the law school intersection on University Ave.

Mrs. Smith moved to recommend approval of the amendment to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

7. 2019 Traffic Count Report

Mr. Austin noted that a copy of the MPO's most recent traffic count report was enclosed in the agenda package. Mr. Austin noted that the report includes directional volumes, peak period factors, and percent change in traffic for the one year and three-year time periods.

Mrs. Smith noted that there are several locations experiencing sharp traffic volume decrease. Mr. Austin agreed and noted that major decrease occurred in the Beechurst Ave corridor, University Ave corridor, and WV 705 corridor. Major causes include the opening of new interchanges on I-79, the changes of WVU class schedule and locations, and the development in the Westridge and Mylan Park areas.

Mr. Rice moved to recommend approval of the draft traffic count report to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

8. Update on Mountain Line Transit Study

Mr. Austin noted that the study consultant has held the first session of public involvement. Public meetings were held at the Mountaineer Station and the Evansdale Crossing. A large number of WVU students participated in the events. Mr. Austin noted that the consultant team is currently conducting an online survey for the study. The survey link has been posted on both Mountain Line Transit website and the MPO's website.

Mr. Austin noted that the on-site survey in public meetings showed that transit users are satisfied with the exiting service, while they also made suggestions to expand transit service in the area. Mrs. Smith noted that Mountain Line received a lot of feedback on how to improve the Mountain Line's mobile app.

Mr. Cross asked if Mountain Line will open up bus service on Evansdale Dr. Mrs. Smith noted that this has to be decided by WVU.

9. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that the DOH is working with Mon Power on utility issues with the Greenbag Rd/WV 7 intersection improvement project. The project is expected to start construction in the next few weeks.

Mr. Austin noted that the Mileground project is clearing right-of-way issues with utility companies. Mr. Cross asked about the final design of the project. Mr. Austin noted that it will be four lanes with a two-

way-left-turn-lane. The center turning lane will extend to the intersection of the North Point Plaza on Mileground.

Mr. Rice noted that he will move to the state of New York in July and will not be able to service in this committee. Committee members express their gratitude to Chairman Rice for his leadership over the past decade.

10. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM