

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
MARCH 17, 2016 MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Vice Chairman Mayor Herman Reid-Star City, Randy Hudak-WVU, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Brian Carr-WVDOH, Joe Statler-Blacksville

Members Absent: Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Councilperson Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

No public comment

5. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Callen introduced the approval of the Minutes for the December Meeting. Mayor Shamberger moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Councilperson Selin. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Bill Rice, the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the CAC recommended approval of the March TIP Amendments and recommended adoption of the draft UPWP to the MPO Policy Board. The CAC also reviewed the draft Title VI Plan and recommended its release for public comments. Mr. Rice then noted that Maria Smith from the Mountain Line thoroughly explained the importance of transit levy in the May Primary Election. He then commended Jing Zhang's representation of the MPO and the West Virginia cycling community in the 2016 National Bike Summit.

b. Finance Report

Chairman Callen asked Mayor Lewis to present the finance report. Mayor Lewis presented the MPO's activities as the following:

-- Beginning balance in January \$15,371.78 with expenditures of \$50,886.11 and one deposit of \$55,589.19 6, leaving a balance of \$20,074.86 at the beginning of February.

-- Beginning balance in February \$20,074.86 with expenditures of \$18,438.35 and deposits totaling \$309.08, leaving a balance of \$1,945.59 at the beginning of March.

Mr. Bruffy moved to accept the January and February Finance Report; seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Austin noted that the Westover-Granville Pedestrian Study is in the process of prioritizing proposed projects and finalizing study report. The study recommends 14 projects to improve the walkability in Westover and Granville.

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study will host a stakeholder meeting at the Airport Manager's Building on March 31. Attendees will include concerned agencies, groups, and citizens.

Mr. Austin then noted that the University Ave Complete Street Study will host a steering committee and public open house in the city council chamber on March 24. Project recommendations will be reviewed by the steering committee and the public.

5. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that there are two TIP Amendments proposed by the WV DOH. One is a resurfacing project on WV 7-Cassville Road and the other one is resurfacing project on US 119 from the junction with CR 60 (Stewartstown Road) to PA State line.

Mr. Austin noted that the newspaper did not run the advertisement for the March TIP Amendments in time as required by the MPO's Public Involvement Policy. So the Policy Board cannot proceed a normal adoption of the March TIP Amendments.

Chairman Callen suggested that the Board consider an adoption of the March TIP Amendments with a contingency that the MPO received no negative comment from the public in the next 15 days. If MPO received any negative comments concerning the March TIP Amendments during that period, the MPO's Policy Board will hold a special meeting in April to address that issue. Mr. Bruffy moved the motion as suggested by Chairman Callen; seconded by Mr. Kelly. Bruffy noted that the MPO may ask for comments from the Ethic Commission on this issue. Mr. Austin concurred and noted that the MPO will also seek any precedence in similar situation for reference. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-17

Mr. Austin noted that the MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-17 was included in the agenda package. The UPWP was reviewed by the TTAC, the CAC and the Policy Board in January and it

has been available for public review in accord with the MPO's public involvement policy. Councilperson Selin moved to approve the UPWP as presented, seconded by Mr. Bruffy. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

7. Draft Title VI Policy

Mr. Austin noted that included in the agenda package is the MPO's Title VI Plan for the review of the Policy Board. MPO staff used the Hagerstown Eastern Panhandle MPO's Title VI Plan as the model in developing this plan. MPO staff will make any necessary improvements recommended by the Board prior to release the draft to the public. Mr. Austin noted that for brevity Appendices of the Plan were not included the agenda package. The Appendices are available upon request. Mr. Austin noted that this is an informational item and requires no formal decision from the Board at this time. The plan is anticipated to be adopted at the May Policy Board meeting.

8. Mountain Line Update

Mr. Bruffy noted that the Mountain Line transit levy will be on the ballot for the May Primary Election. He noted that the levy is critical for the Mountain Line to sustain its service to the community. If the levy fails, more than 6,000 service hours and many routes will be cut, severely reducing the transit system many workers and families need to survive and the Mountain Line won't be able to replace old, inefficient buses or expand the system to meet community transportation needs. Chair Callen encouraged the Mountain Line to provide accurate and complete information to the community to ensure that people make an informed decision on the transit levy in the Primary Election. Councilperson Selin noted that transit service provides an important alternative to private vehicles and helps in alleviating traffic congestions in the area. Bill Rice noted that WVU students should be encouraged to participate in the primary.

9. Mileground Update

RJ Scites, the Director of WV DOH Engineering Department, made a presentation on the status of the project at the intersection of Mileground Rd and Cheat Rd. He presented two construction plans. One is an 8-week construction plan which will keep traffic open during the construction. The other one is a 3-week construction plan which will close the intersection entirely. Mr. Scites noted that the construction will take place in the next summer and the DOH can implement either plan according to the preference of the Policy Board. The Policy Board agreed that the 3-week plan is more preferable. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO will inform major entities in the area about the anticipated delay caused by the construction.

Mr. Scites also introduced the preliminary engineering design to reconstruct Mileground Rd between the WV 705 intersection and the Hartman Run Rd intersection. The design included a two-way four-lane thoroughfare with a TWLTL. Marked pedestrian crossings were provided at strategic locations. Mr. Scites noted that one challenge of the design is to minimize ROW purchase and the negative impact of the project to adjacent business. Chairman Callen encouraged the design team to work with the community to solve those kinds of issues they may encounter and noted that the MPO can provide assistance for the communication.

10. Other Business

Mr. Austin noted that the WV Division of Highways asked the MPO staff to apply for a TIGER Grant for Greenbag Rd. The grant will be used for the implementation of projects recommended by the Greenbag Rd Corridor Study. Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff need an authorization from the Board to undertake this task. Councilperson Selin moved to authorize the Executive Director to apply for the grant; seconded by Statler. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Statler asked the status of the TIGER grant application for University Ave improvements. Mr. Austin noted that the City of Morgantown is preparing for that grant application and the University Ave Complete Street Study will provide cost-benefit analysis on the projects intended to be funded under that grant.

Councilperson Selin expressed her appreciation to the DOH for the street lighting improvement on Patteson Dr.

Mr. Statler noted that the House Bill 4009 is under consideration of State legislators. The bill will grant WV counties more controls over local-related issues. Mr. Statler also noted that he is also working on a bill that will allow traffic lights switch to flashing yellow/flashing red in the middle of the night when traffic volume is significantly low. Chairman Callen expressed his appreciation to Mr. Statler for serving as a House delegate.

11. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.