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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
May 6, 2014
1:30 PM

Members Present

Terry Hough-City of Morgantown, Richard Wood- Monongalia County, Bill Austin-MMMPO, Clement Solomon-WVU, Brian Carr-WVDOH, Chris Fletcher-City of Morgantown

Others Present

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

Call to Order

Bill Austin called the meeting to order at 1:43 PM.

Approval of the Minutes

After the introductions Mr. Austin noted that the Minutes of the March meeting had been included in the agenda packet. Mr. Austin then called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Wood moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Penn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin introduced the proposed amendments to the TIP. Mr. Austin noted that he had been working with WVHU and Mr. Carr to try and revive the Monongahela Boulevard TWTL project and that he could report that the project may be revivable. He thanked Mr. Carr for his assistance. Mr. Austin then introduced two highway projects for consideration by the TTAC. Mr. Austin noted that the first project was the WV 7/Brookhaven Road Project the TTAC had seen at the previous meeting. He noted that the location noted at the last meeting and that the correct location is in the vicinity of the I-68 interchange. Mr. Carr, noted that the project design

consisted of two through lanes with a left turn bay into Brookhaven Road. He did not anticipate that there would be a protected phase for the left turn movement into Brookhaven.

Mr. Austin then noted that the second highway TIP Project was the removal of the right of way and design phases for the Mon-Fayette Expressway Park and Ride Project. Mr. Carr explained that the reason this project is being removed from the TIP is that it had been determined that there is no need to purchase right of way and that the design work had been performed under a different project number. He also noted that the construction of the Park and Ride would be put out to bid shortly.

Mr. Austin then noted that Mountain Line had requested that the TIP be amended to reflect a request by the Federal Transit Administration that the funding be shown as being spread over a slightly different time frame. He noted that this is the third time the funds have been shifted but that there was no great change in the funds allocated to Mountain Line.

After a short discussion Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the proposed TIP amendments to the MPO Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood. The motion was unanimously approved.

Draft RFQ for I-79 Access Study

Mr. Austin then introduced the Draft RFQ for the I-79 Access Study. Mr. Austin noted that the Long Range Transportation Plan originally called for the development of a study to determine the proper location of a new bridge across the Monongahela River. Mr. Austin stated that in discussions with WVDOH it had been determined that the study should look at the purpose and need for any project to cross the Monongahela. This determination was made because the three locations identified in the LRTP as potential sites for a river crossing served very different purpose. The Eight Street location would address congestion of Monongahela Boulevard. The Patteson Drive location would address access to the institutions along WV 705 such as the hospitals and the football stadium while the West Run extension alternative would serve as an outlet valve for traffic which wishes to access I-79 but not needing to go through the congested WV 705 corridor.

Mr. Austin explained that the Draft RFQ reflected the need for an updated origin and destination information for the MPO's model to help determine the proper purpose and need statement for the project. The project would also determine if there are other courses of action that can be taken to address the purpose of the project with requiring the construction of an additional river crossing. Once the proper purpose and need statement for the project is developed the second stage of the project will be an examination of potential corridors to address the project need.

Mr. Austin asked for the TTAC to recommend a Steering committee for the consultant selection process as required by the MPO process. Mr. Fletcher stated that either he or Mr. Davis would be

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willing to serve on the Committee. Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Penn had agreed to represent the Division of Highways. Mr. Wood agreed to serve representing Monongalia County.

After further discussion Ms. Hough moved to recommend approval of the Draft RFQ to the Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion was unanimously approved.

Presentation on Draft Green Bag Road-Kingwood Pike Intersection Study

Mr. Austin then asked Mr. Zhang to make a presentation on the Green Bag Road-Kingwood Pike Intersection Study. Mr. Austin noted that this Study was the first study using the MPO's recently purchased Syncro software. He noted that this intersection was selected for analysis because it is a relatively straight forward intersection and because it is part of the larger Green Bag Road corridor which the MPO will be studying in the upcoming Fiscal year.

After Mr. Zhang's presentation Mr. Fletcher noted that he was concerned how the Study would be received by WVDOH since Mr. Zhang is not a PE. Mr. Carr said that he believed WVDOH would review the results of the Mr. Zhang's work and would verify his analysis. He stated that he thought this would be useful information. Mr. Austin noted that he had discussed the work with Mr. Shoukry and that Mr. Shoukry felt the Study was useful. After this discussion it was the consensus of the TTAC that the Study should include a statement to the affect that the purpose of the Study is to determine to be a decision making document not a final design document.

At the conclusion of the discussion the entire group thanked Mr. Zhang for his hard work.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:43 PM.