



82 Hart Field Road Suite 105
Morgantown WV, 26505
www.plantgether.org

MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee
MMMPO Conference Room
243 High St. Room 110, Morgantown, WV
January 12, 2017, 6:45 PM

Members Present

Bill Rice (Chair), Charles Renner, Christiaan Abildso, Matthew Cross, Kyle Haugh, Heather Britton, Chip Wamsley

Others Present

Heather Britton, Christopher Britton, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

With the quorum present, Chairman Rice called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Rice noted that the minutes of the November meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Haugh moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Draft 2017 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Austin noted that MPO staff has prepared a draft 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He noted that this is an opportunity comment on the draft UPWP.

Mr. Austin noted that in addition to the normal work program including the annual traffic counts, TIP processing, and other administrative tasks, Staff is proposing to perform two studies during the upcoming year. The first one is to prepare a preliminary plan for the improvements to the Beechurst Corridor from 8th Street to the Waterfront development. This Plan will be handed over to WVDOH for the Engineering phase of the project scheduled for 2019. MPO staff will use Synchro to model traffic operation for the Beechurst Ave Study. MPO staff will also work with a professor from WVU to develop a VISSIM traffic simulation for the study.

The second project is to be performed next fiscal year. It will be an update of the Pedestrian Plan prepared by the Morgantown Pedestrian Board in 2010. The updated plan will include updating the facility inventory, ensuring community and businesses connectivity needs are addressed. It will also include validating of the goals and objectives of the original plan and reprioritizing new and existing projects based on the revised inventory and projects that have been accomplished since the initial development of the plan.

Mr. Abildso asked about pedestrian counts for the pedestrian plan update. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO has budgeted to hire interns to conduct extensive pedestrian counts and to document infrastructure inventories. Mr. Austin noted that the draft 2017 UPWP will be reviewed by the committee again in March for a recommendation for adoption to the Policy Board.

4. I-79 Access Study

Mr. Austin noted that recently federal regulations have placed a strong emphasis on freight planning for metropolitan planning organizations. The MPO has established an ad hoc Freight Committee as part of the Transportation Plan Update process. The freight committee consists of representatives from local freight industry. Mr. Pally requested that the Committee consider recommending a resolution requesting the Corp to maintain or increase staffing of the West Virginia locks on the Monongahela to be passed on to the Corp of Engineers. The ad hoc Freight Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee unanimously supported the solution. It is requested that the CAC consider recommending this solution to the Policy Board. Chairmen Rice noted that the concerned locks play an important role to reduce freight traffic going through downtown. The Committee approved to recommend adoption of the solution to the Policy Board by acclamation.

5. Other Business

Chairman Rice noted that some drainage issues in the Morgantown area could be effectively addressed by Morgantown Utility Board, and he encouraged the community to report drainage problems through various channels.

6. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.