

MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
OCTOBER 17, 2019 MINUTES

Members Present:

Chairperson Jennifer Selin, Vice Chairman Joe Statler, Treasurer Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Steven Blinco, Star City, Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover, Ron Justice-West Virginia University, Bill Kawecki-Mayor of Morgantown, Mike Kelly-Board of Education

MPO Director: Bill Austin

Members Absent:

Commissioner Sean Sikora-Monongalia County, Councilperson David Harshbarger-City of Morgantown

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairperson Jennifer Selin called the Policy Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Public Comment Period

No public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Selin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Justice moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bloom. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Rice, the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noted that the CAC did not have quorum at the last meeting. Committee members reviewed the draft Title VI plan. It was the consensus of the members present to recommend the adoption of the plan update to the Policy Board. Mr. Rice encouraged more collaboration among different entities to improve transportation infrastructure in this area.

b. Finance Report

Mayor Lewis presented the Finance Report for August and September as the following:

-- Beginning balance in August \$ 22,503.77 with expenditures of \$34,349.03 and two deposits of \$ 68,981.84, leaving a balance of \$ 57,136.58 at the beginning of September.

-- Beginning balance in September \$ 57,136.58 with expenditures of \$30,037.76 and no deposits, leaving a balance of \$27,098.82 at the beginning of October.

Commissioner Bloom moved to accept the Finance Report as presented; seconded by Mayor Kawecki. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Executive Directors Report

i. Update on Mountain Line Transit Study

Mr. Austin noted that the Consultant Selection Committee for the Mountain Line Transit Study has selected the HDR as the consulting firm for the study. The MPO worked with Mountain Line to develop a contract with the consultant. The Mountain Line Transit Authority Board has approved the draft contract and the MPO has signed off on the contract as a contracting agent.

ii. Update on Statewide Issues/WVAMPO

Mr. Austin noted that the WV Association of MPOs is working with the DOH on a wide range of issues including performance measures, groupable projects, and the State Transportation Improvement Program. The Association is also working with WVLTAP to host a conference next year. A potential theme of the conference is transportation services for aging communities in West Virginia. The Association will hold a meeting in December.

iii. Pedestrian Safety Initiative Projects

Mr. Austin noted that the Pedestrian Safety Group is moving forward to implement the initial pedestrian safety projects on city streets. Those projects include the intersection improvement on University Ave near Pizza Al's, the improvement at the University Ave and Falling Run intersection, and the improvement for pedestrian crossing on Patteson Dr near Laurel St.

Mr. Austin also noted that he and DOH has met with concerned residents and property owners of the Collins Ferry Rd/University Ave intersection project. The DOH clarified that Baldwin St will continue operating as a two-way street as it is now.

Mr. Justice noted that the West Virginia University is working with the Pedestrian Safety Initiative to improve pedestrian safety on the Patteson Dr corridor and the Richwood Ave/Willey St area. It is encouraging to work with the City on those key locations with high student pedestrian volume.

Chairperson Selin noted that the City of Morgantown has applied to the FHWA for a trial technical approval to install flashing pedestrian beacons on streets within city limits. This will help the city to expediate the process of installing the beacons on both city and state roads.

v. Upcoming travel

Mr. Austin noted that he will attend the annual conference of the National Association of MPOs next week in Baltimore. In December, he will attend a meeting of the WV Association of MPOs in Charleston.

5. MPO Title VI Plan

Mr. Austin noted that a draft of the MPO Title VI plan update was included in the agenda package for review. As a recipient of Federal funds, the MPO is required to conform to the requirements of Federal legislation including the Civil Rights Act as amended, and Executive Order 12898 as well as other legislation requiring that the MPO will not discriminate against persons because of their race, religion, sex, disability or other characteristics. The MPO is thus required to have a plan and policy in place to ensure its compliance with Federal requirements. The MPO documents its understanding of the area's

population and their requirements by analyzing readily available data from the American Community Survey as part of its Title VI Plan. The MMMPO's Title VI Policy was initially adopted in 2016. The update is identical the previously adopted plan, except for the parts relating to demographic facts and analysis.

Mr. Bruffy moved to approve the Title VI Plan as presented, seconded by Mayor Kawecki. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. Ongoing Project Update-Brian Carr

Mr. Carr provided update on the following projects:

The DOH changed the original schedule for the Greenbag Rd project. It will hold an extra public meeting for the project. The date of the meeting has not been decided.

The DOH has corrected the scope of work for the Van Voorhis Rd project and is moving this project forward to the design phase. The construction will start in the fall of next year.

The DOH has awarded the construction of WV 7 and Greenbag Rd intersection project to the Mountaineer Contractors. The drainage and right-of-way work will start in this winter. Roadway construction will begin in the next spring.

The DOH is working with property owners and utility companies on right-of-way and utility relocation issues for the Mileground improvement project. Mr. Carr noted that the right-of-way issues are often tricky and unpredictable and he does not have specific timelines for this project. Mr. Austin noted that he attended a coordination meeting on the right-of-way issues for this project. The DOH has been in the field doing ROW survey. A utility relocation plan has been developed.

Commissioner Bloom made a motion to request more information about the Mileground project from the DOH, including a potential timeline for the project; seconded by Mr. Statler. Mr. Bruffy noted that it would be helpful to know which part of the right-of-way has been secured. With no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

7. Presentation: Pedestrian and Bicycle Study Draft Recommendations-Phil Goff

Mr. Goff, the manager of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Study for Alta Planning, made a presentation on preliminary recommendations to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area. Mr. Austin expressed his appreciation to Mr. Goff for the work. He noted that the MPO is not advocating implementing this whole plan at once. It is a detailed plan with prioritizations that is to be implemented in piecemeal fashion.

8. Other Business

Mr. Bruffy noted that the Mountain Transit Authority Board agreed to move forward a plan to implement the Public Tax Bus Pass program. The program will provide annually renewable bus passes to anyone who pays property tax at no charge. Mr. Bruffy noted that it is a way to offer direct benefit for people paying taxes to support the enhanced public transit system. The Mountain Line will hold several community meetings on this matter. More details about the program operation will be decided.

9. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.