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MINUTES

MPO Transportation Technical Advisory Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room
March 10, 2015
1:30 PM

Members Present

Fouad Shoukry-WV DOH, Tim Ball-MUB, Brian Carr-WV DOH, Chris Fletcher-City of Morgantown, Rich Wood-Monongalia County, Damien Davis-City of Morgantown, Bill Austin-MMMPO,

Others Present

Ella Belling-MRTC, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

Mr. Austin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the January were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

3. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that three projects are included in the TIP Amendments of this meeting. Mrs. Belling introduced the Deckers Creek Pedestrian Bridge project. She noted that this project is funded through a grant received by the city of Morgantown. The purpose of this project is to build a multi-use bridge connecting the Greenmont and the South Park to the Decker Creek Trail. The project will bring opportunities for multi-modal commuting in the area. She also noted that neighborhood associations in that area support this project and are raising funds to enhance the gateway appearance on both ends of the bridge. Mr. Fletcher noted that in the coming fiscal year, the city is to provide CDBG funds to improve the connection between the proposed bridge and adjacent neighborhoods. Such improvements may include sidewalks and lighting.

Mr. Austin then introduced the Westover Park Loop project for Westover's walking path around the Westover Park and the West Run Widening project. Mr. Austin noted that the amendment to West Run Widening project is to increase the funding for right-of-way acquisition, which is needed for roadway widening on West Run Rd between Van Voorhis Rd and Riddle Ave. Mr. Wood moved to recommend approval of the proposed TIP Amendments to the MPO Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Fletcher. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Greenbag Road Study Report

Mr. Austin noted that the executive summary of the Greenbag Rd Corridor Study was included in the agenda package for this meeting and a link to download the full report was shared with committee members. Mr. Zhang introduced the major changes since the last steering committee: 1) project prioritization; 2) the combination of proposed segments of multi-use path connecting adjacent neighborhoods; 3) locations of potential bus shelter suggested by Mountain Line Transit; and 4) MPO operational programs, which are safety monitoring program and access management program. Mr. Austin commended Mr. Zhang for his work on this project.

Mr. Fletcher noted that the City of Morgantown received a rezoning application on parcels abutting the intersection of Luckey Ln. and Greenbag Rd. area, and the city council has passed the first reading on that rezoning request. The second reading will take place in the April or May time frame. He noted that the MPO should be aware of that zoning change. Mr. Shoukry noted that he will look into some short-term high priority projects after the adoption of the study. Mr. Wood commented that the study has gone through an effective planning process and the report is well prepared. Mr. Wood then moved to recommend adoption of the Greenbag Road Corridor Study to the MPO Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Davis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

5. University Avenue Complete Streets Study Consultant Selection and UPWP Amendment

Mr. Austin noted that the University Avenue Complete Streets Study was initiated through close collaboration among WVU, WV DOH, and the City of Morgantown. He then noted that the segment of University Ave under this study is owned by the City of Morgantown and is a key link in the regional transportation network. The study will adopt a holistic approach to identify improvements needed to serve the increasing growth in the University corridor. The major components in the scope of work of this study include developing multimodal transportation alternatives along the corridor, Grumbein's Island treatment, land-use modeling, current and future trip generation and distribution analysis, and micro-simulation of traffic flow.

Mr. Austin noted that Stantec was selected by the Consulting Selection Committee to perform this study and the total proposed cost for this study is approximately \$225,000. He went on to note that the proposed UPWP amendment is to add the works of this study to the MPO's UPWP of this fiscal year. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approve of the selection of the consulting firm and the proposed UPWP Amendment as presented; seconded by Mr. Wood. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

6. I-79 Access Study Consultant Selection

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study is to document the purpose and need for additional access to I-79 over the Monongahela River, as a part of the environmental evaluation process

stipulated by the National Environment Protection Act. The primary work in this study is system-wide traffic modeling, which identifies the origin and destination of traffic in the regional network. The study will also upgrade the traffic model for the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan update. Airsage technology will be used to collect the data needed for this modeling task. Mr. Austin then noted that HDR has been chosen to undertake this study and staff from the MPO and WV DOH will undertake part of the data collection work in this project. Mr. Carr noted that data collection should be coordinated with the MPO's annual traffic count and other concurrent traffic count efforts. Mr. Fletcher moved to recommend approval of the selection of the consulting firm to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Wood. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Resolution Supporting the Rails to Trails Conservancy

Mr. Austin noted that Mrs. Belling from the Mon River Trail Conservancy is present to request a resolution supporting a regional trails network. Mrs. Belling stated that the resolution will demonstrate the support from local government entities for completing a long distance trail corridor connecting WV to the greater Pittsburgh area and ultimately to the Washington DR/Northern Virginia area. In West Virginia, the proposed trail network will connect Ohio River, Parkesburg, Marion County, Harrison County, and Monongahela County. The network will be extended to the greater Pittsburgh area, connecting the Allegheny passage to Washington DC area. Most missing links in the network are challenging and many require negotiation for private easement. Mr. Ball asked if the adoption of this resolution will be consistent with MPO mission. Mr. Austin noted that it is consistent with MPO mission in that it contributes to the multi-modal transportation network in this area. Mr. Ball then moved to recommend adoption of the resolution to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Davis. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Other Business

Mr. Shoukry updated the TTAC on the status of major projects underway by WV DOH in this area. The Van Voorhis Rd Drainage Improvement project is undergoing a negotiation process among its stakeholders, including MUB, City of Morgantown, WV DOH, and the MPO. The West Run project is in the right-of-way acquisition phase. The Campus Dr/Beechurst Ave intersection improvement and Beechurst Ave pavement project are to be built in the coming construction season. These two projects will coordinate with sidewalk improvement proposed by the City of Morgantown and the University Avenue Complete Street Study.

For the Mon Blvd Center Turning Lane project, the WV DOH is working with WVU to identify the most appropriate parking arrangement along the road. The Mileground project is experiencing delay due to an error in the engineering design phase. Mr. Austin noted that update the status from the traffic operation division of WV DOH may provide updates for the status of the project on improving the Van Voorhis Rd and Burroughs St intersection

9. Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.