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## MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting  
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room  
August 7, 2014  
6:00 PM

### Members Present

Bill Rice, Christiaan Abildso, Bill Austin, Frank Gmeindl, Roy Nutter

### Others Present

Jing Zhang-MMMPO

### I. Call to Order

Bill Rice called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

### II. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Rice noted that the Minutes of the May meeting had been included in the agenda packet. Mr. Rice called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Abildso moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Nutter. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Rice noted that he reported the attendance status of the CAC in the last Policy Board meeting and requested the board members to appoint delegates of their agency to the CAC as needed. Mr. Austin noted that Robert Moyer, who was recently appointed to the CAC to represent WVU, is absent due to the death of a family member and Ed Sneckenberger is absent because his wife's illness.

Mr. Abildso asked if the CAC is mandated by federal regulation. Mr. Austin noted that most MPOs have a committee composed of local citizens as an advisory body in their decision-making structure, but the CAC is not mandated by federal regulation.

### III. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH is proposing a TIP amendment for street light installation on Patteson Drive from Monongahela Blvd to University Ave. During the TTAC meeting on August 5, the DOH staff indicated that this project will be developed in conjunction with WVU's Evansdale Master Plan.

Mr. Gmeindl moved to recommend approval of this TIP amendment to the MPO Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Abildso. During the discussion session, Mr. Abildso encouraged using pedestrian-scale lighting for this project, and emphasized the importance of adequate street lighting at intersections. Mr. Rice concurred with Mr. Abildso's opinion and requested Mr. Austin to convey this opinion to the policy board. Without further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin then noted that information on TIP administrative adjustments has been included in this meeting's agenda package. This is an information item and requires no recommendation from the CAC. Mr. Austin noted that the adjustments are mainly moving funding from previous fiscal year to current fiscal year. He then mentioned that the Monongahela Blvd two way left turn lane project is under discussion with WV DOH and WVU. Accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists is being considered.

#### **IV. Update on Status of Proposed I-79 Access Study**

Mr. Austin introduced that the I-79 Access Study will focus on identifying a potential location of a new bridge over Monongahela River, including a purpose and need statement and an updated regional traffic model. He noted that the City of Morgantown has provided the match funding for the proposed I-79 access study, but the County declined to provide match funding for this study. Due to insufficient funding, this study is currently on hold. Mr. Austin noted that the MPO is discussing with Mountain Line Transit Authority and Chamber of Commerce to develop a strategy to provide a local match for this project.

#### **V. Status of Greenbag Road Corridor Study**

Mr. Austin noted that Jing Zhang is working on the Greenbag Rd Corridor Study, and the status report for this study and a content outline are included in the agenda package. Initial data collection for this study has been completed and accomplished items are available for review by committee members. Mr. Zhang then introduced the website of this study to the TTAC, including project information and status, public comments, and document.

Mr. Gmeindl asked when this website will be ready for the public. He then mentioned that there is attention to the downtown truck issue and it is beneficial for people to know about this study, which offers an alternative approach to deal with that issue. Mr. Austin noted that it will be released to the public after being reviewed by the steering committee in the middle of September, and it is expected that improvements on Greenbag Rd will be constructive in solving the downtown truck issue. Mr. Austin then noted that the MPO is facilitating the communication between the city and the WV DOH on the downtown truck issue.

#### **VI. MPO Operations Status Report**

Mr. Austin noted that he attended two conferences in the previous weeks. The first was the Ohio Transportation Planning Conference, focusing on developing performance measures. The other conference was the Transportation Research Board Conference for Small-medium Size MPOs featuring coordination between land-use regulation and transportation planning practice.

Mr. Austin then noted that at the end of September, he will meet with DOH senior staffs and Federal Transportation Administration staffs to discuss about potential improvements on the TIP amendments process and other administrative issues. He was also invited to the DOH Secretary's office to discuss Morgantown and WVU traffic issues this week.

## **VII. Other Business**

Mr. Gmeindl noted that more information, especially design features, should be provided to the MPO when a TIP amendment is proposed for approval, and the procedure for TIP amendment approval should be improved for a better transparency and public engagement. Mr. Austin noted that DOH staff has been asked to attend the next CAC meeting in October to discuss this issue with CAC members and it is expected to foster a mutual understanding between WV DOH and CAC members and to develop a strategy for improving the TIP amendment approval process.

Mr. Abildso noted that the CAC is capable of providing local experiential knowledge for the decision-making process and asked if it is practical to integrate the TTAC, the CAC, and the Policy Board to establish a more informative and interactive platform. Mr. Austin noted he is open to constructive changes but pointed out that the benefit of separating the three groups is to allow each group to express its unbiased opinions and to express independent judgment.

Mr. Austin noted that there is a request to review the MPO's By-laws from a County Commission member. The By-laws review committee consists of Commissioner Bloom, Mayor Selin, and Mr. Statler.

Mr. Abildso asked about the status about Van Voorhis Rd improvement project. Mr. Austin noted that the DOH design engineer has discussed the design feature for this project with him and Mr. Gmeindl. A consensus has been reached, which is to build 10 feet lane with 3 feet shoulder. Mr. Abildso noted that the accommodation for pedestrians is important as that street segment is frequently traveled by pedestrians.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.