

Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization to present
Transportation Fair 2011: Commuter Choice at the Marilla Park

The Morgantown Monongalia MPO working with the BOPARC Junior Employee Development (JED) program will hold their first annual Transportation Fair at Marilla Park on Friday, July 1, 2011. The Commuter Choice fair will begin at 11:30am and end at 2:30pm. Various organizations including Mountain Line, transit authority and Positive Spin, a local bike restoration shop will be represented and demonstrating their services.

The BOPARC JED are a group of local middle school students volunteering with many different community organizations during the summer to learn about civic and social needs within the community while gaining skills needed to enter the workforce. The MPO and the BOPARC JED Program will be teaching the youth about different modes of transportation and the environmental impact of these modes throughout the week. The JED youth will demonstrate what they have learned as they assist with the fair.

The Morgantown Monongalia MPO works to create a community consensus about transportation issues and communicates that consensus to the West Virginia Department of Transportation. This work includes evaluating alternatives to be included in the area's long range transportation plan and developing a transportation improvement program to implement the transportation plan. You can read about these functions in more detail at www.plantgether.org.

One strategy the MPO has adopted to improve transportation in our area is creating many choices for commuters in our area. This strategy known as transportation demand management (TDM) uses many forms of transportation to reduce traffic congestion and commuting time while also using resources more efficiently. Understanding TDM will help make us "smart travelers" who are informed about commuting options and their effect on the environment. See the "Commuter Choices" page on the MPO's website or their Facebook and Twitter pages for more information.