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MINUTES

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Morgantown Airport Terminal Building 1st Floor
Morgantown Monongalia MPO Conference Room

March 12, 2015

6:00 PM

Members Present

Bill Rice, Rob Moyer, Christiaan Azzaro, Frank Gmeindl, Roy Nutter, Ed Sneckenberger, Jim Gaston, Bill Austin.

Others Present

Ella Belling-MRTC, Chip Wamsley-Morgantown Bicycle Board, Jing Zhang-MMMPO

1. Call to Order

Chairman Rice called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rice noted that the minutes of the January were included in the agenda packet. Regarding the comment he made on the WV 705/University Ave Intersection Improvement, Mr. Gmeindl suggested to change “widening at the bottom of hill” to “widening the northbound lane on US 119 at the intersection area”. Mr. Gmeindl then moved to approve the minutes with suggested changes, seconded by Mr. Moyer. 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. Deckers Creek Pedestrian Bridge project is funded through a grant received by the city of Morgantown. The purpose of this project is build a multi-use bridge connecting the Greenmont and South Park

to the Decker Creek trail. The project will bring opportunities for multi-modal commuting in the area. Neighborhood associations support this project and are raising funds to enhance the gateway appearance on both ends of the bridge. Mr. Austin went on to note that the Westover Park Loop project is for Westover's walking path around the park and the 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. Gmeindl moved to recommend approval of the proposed TIP Amendments to the MPO Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Gaston. 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 also shared with committee members. Mr. Zhang introduced major changes made since the last steering committee, including project prioritization and the combination of proposed segments for the multi-use path connecting adjacent neighborhoods. Mr. Austin noted that multi-use was identified as a long-term project, which requires future studies to evaluate its benefits and impacts to the corridor. Mr. Austin also noted that the intersection CR 73/US 119 and the intersection WV 7/Greenbag Rd are not included in this study. Mr. Austin commented that during the last TTAC meeting, representatives from WV DOH showed interest in implementing the recommended projects.

Mr. Gaston inquired about the status of the study on the WV 7/Greenbag Rd intersection. Mr. Austin noted that the WV DOH is in the process of evaluating four alternatives recommended by the consulting firm and selecting the most appropriate treatment to this intersection. Mr. Sneckenberger noted that the four boxes at the right side of the implementation table is redundant and suggested to remove these boxes to avoid confusion.

Mr. Sneckenberger moved to recommend adoption of the Greenbag Road Corridor Study to the MPO Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Azzaro. 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 has been initiated through close coordination among WVU, WV DOH, and the City of Morgantown. Mr. Austin 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 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. Moyer noted that this study will identify improvements that benefits both Downtown Campus and Evansdale Campus. It will also provide a set of recommendations for land-use control and access management. Mr. Austin noted that the Stantec was selected by the Consulting Firm Selection Committee to perform this study and the data collection will begin in this spring.

Mr. Moyer moved to recommend approval of the selection of the consulting firm and the proposed UPWP Amendment as presented; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 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. The Airspace technology will be used to collect the data needed for this modeling task. Mr. Austin then noted that HDR firm has been chosen to undertake this study. He also encouraged the CAC members to participate in the public involvement process for both I-79 Access Study and the University Avenue Complete Street Study. Mr. Gaston moved to recommend approval of the selection of the consulting firm to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Sneckenberger. With no 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 noted 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 DC/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 extend 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. Gaston moved to recommend adoption of the resolution as presented to the MPO's Policy Board; seconded by Mr. Moyer. With no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Other Business

Chairman Rice welcomed Mr. Wamsley's attendance at the meeting. He noted that the MPO will host a meeting with the City of Morgantown, WV DOH, and Morgantown Utility Board to discuss the Van Voorhis Rd Improvement Project. Mr. Austin noted that he was re-elected as the Chairman of the WV MPO Association. Mr. Austin also noted that the engineering design on the Mileground Rd between Airport Blvd and East Hill was delayed due to a design error. The right-of-way acquisition will begin in this year. Mr. Gaston noted that the city's land acquisition from BB&T Bank at the intersection of Van Voorhis Rd and Chestnut Ridge Rd may create more viable alternatives to improve the Van Voorhis Rd.

9. Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 7: 11 PM.