MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD

JANUARY 21, 2016 MINUTES

Members Present:

Chairman Wesley Nugent-City of Morgantown, Commissioner Eldon Callen-Monongalia County, Mayor Marti Shamberger-City of Morgantown, Councilperson Jennifer Selin-City of Morgantown, Mike Kelly-Board of Education, Dave Bruffy-Mountain Line, Mayor Patricia Lewis-Granville, Commissioner Edward Hawkins-Monongalia County

Members Absent: Commissioner Tom Bloom-Monongalia County, Joe Statler-Blacksville, Randy Hudak-WVU, Mayor Herman Reid -Star City, Brian Carr-WVDOH, Councilperson Janice Goodwin-City of Westover

MPO Director: Bill Austin

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Executive Session-per WV 6-9A-4-2a Personnel Matters

Chairman Nugent called for a motion to go into the executive session for a personnel matter under WV Code 6-9A-4. Mr. Kelly moved the motion; seconded by Mayor Lewis. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Callen moved to go out of the executive session.

Chairman Nugent expressed his appreciation to Mr. Austin for his service to the Board and the community, and he noted that the Board reviewed the budgeting as outlined in the draft MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-17 and will finalize the process upon the availability of funds. The UPWP will be considered in March and will be in effect in July.

3. Election of Officers

Mr. Austin noted that according to the MPO's bylaws, the MPO Policy Board elects new officers at the first MPO meeting of a calendar year. As the Secretary to the Board, Mr. Austin noted he is charged with running the election. Mr. Bruffy, the chairman of Officer Nominating Committee, noted that the committee had recommended Commissioner Callen as the new Chairman for the MPO Policy Board, Mayor Herman Reid as the Vice-Chairman for the MPO Policy Board, and Mayor Lewis as the Treasurer for the MPO. Mr. Kelly expressed his appreciation to Chairman Nugent for his leadership and service to the Policy Board in 2015.

Councilperson Nugent moved to accept the nomination by acclamation; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed. Councilperson Selin expressed her appreciation for the nominating committee members for their work. Chairman Callen expressed his gratitude to former Chairman Nugent for his service.

4. Public Comment

No public comment

5. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Callen introduced the approval of the Minutes for the December Meeting. Mr. Kelly moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Mayor Lewis. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

6. Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Austin noted that Bill Rice, the Chairmen of the Citizens Advisory Committee, was not able to attend the CAC January meeting due to health condition. Mr. Austin noted that the January CAC meeting was well attended with 8 of 9 members present and the committee unanimously recommended approval of proposed TIP and TIP Amendments to the MPO's Policy Board.

b. Finance Report

Chairman Callen asked Mayor Lewis to present the finance report. Mayor Lewis presented the MPO's activities as the following:

-- Beginning balance in December $64,084.76 with expenditures of $64393.13 and deposits totaling $15,680.15, leaving a balance of $15,371.78 at the beginning of January. Councilperson Selin moved to accept the December Finance Report; seconded by Mayor Shamberger. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

c. Executive Directors Report

i. Ongoing Studies

Mr. Austin noted that the University Ave Complete Street Study is in the process of finalizing recommendations to improve the University Ave corridor. A draft recommendation document is expected to available for the steering committee review by February 8.

Mr. Austin noted that the I-79 Access Study is at the stage of refining the purpose and need statement and identifying potential alternatives for detailed evaluation. Mr. Austin noted that the current focus is at the northern portion of the Morgantown area. In terms of potential bridges crossing the Monongahela River, the consultant will evaluate all three options recommended in the MPO's LRTP and two additional options recommended by the study steering committee.

Mr. Austin noted that the Westover-Granville Pedestrian Study is in the process of developing recommendations based public inputs, steering committee's opinion, and technique analysis. The recommendations are expected to be available for public review in the middle of February.

ii. Federal Legislation

Mr. Austin noted that the Congress had recently passed a five-year transportation bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). The bill will increase funding for surface transportation, including transit. It did not, however, address the short comings of highway trust funds.

Mr. Bruffy noted that the Bill will provide steady funding for at least three years for transit operation and the MLTA will make plan based on the anticipated funding level. Some capital investments were reinstated in this bill. He noted that ridership plays a critical role in justifying the transit investment.

7. Draft TIP

Mr. Austin noted that the draft 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program was included in the agenda package. In addition to the standard highway and transit project lists, staff identified low income and non-English speaking communities with in the MPO's area and how the TIP project affect them. The project table added a new column describe goals and objectives associated with each project. Mr. Austin noted that the draft TIP was duly advertised under the the MPO's Public Involvement Policy. Mr. Austin then noted that there are four projects added to this draft TIP. They are: Greenbag Rd Improvement Project, Van Voorhis Widening Project, Beechurst Ave Widening and Spot Improvement Project, and West Run Widening Project. He noted that these are high priority projects in the MPO's LRTP. Mr. Austin noted that CAC and TAC have unanimously recommended adoption of the TIP.

Councilperson Nugent moved to adopt the TIP as presented, seconded by Mr. Kelly. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

8. TIP Amendments

Mr. Austin noted that WV DOH has requested two projects for the TIP Amendments. They are two resurfacing projects. One is an I-79 project; and the other is on CO 73 Smithtown Road. The TTAC and CAC have unanimously recommended approval of these projects. Mr. Austin further noted that the construction time for these two projects will be coordinated to minimize their negative impact to the traffic.

Councilperson Nugent moved to adopt the TIP as presented, seconded by Councilperson Selin. With no discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

9. Draft MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-17

Mr. Austin noted that the the draft MPO Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016-17 is included in the agenda package. Mr. Austin noted that the major task for the MPO staff during FY 2016-17 is to update the MPO's LRTP. He also noted that a significant increase of salary for the MPO's Transportation Planner II, Jing Zhang, is proposed in the work program. Mr. Zhang has acquired credentials in four areas: AICP from the American Planning Association, LEED AP ND from U.S. Green Building Council,

LCI from the League of American Bicyclists, and PTP from the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Mr. Austin noted that under the new Policy Involvement Policy the draft UPWP would be considered for adoption at the March Policy Board Meeting.

10. MPO staff Demonstration-Beechurst Avenue Restriping

Mr. Austin noted that due to inclement weather, the demonstration presentation is postponed to the March Policy Board Meeting.

11. Other Business

Chairmen Callen noted that due to the extreme weather expected tomorrow, the Courthouse will be closed by 12:00 PM tomorrow. Mr. Kelly noted that the university and schools in the County will be closed whole day. Mr. Bruffy noted that Mountain line will operate as long as it is safe to do so.

11. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.