



POLICY BOARD MEETING

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV
January 16, 2025, 6 PM

Members Present:

Chairman Joe Statler - Blacksville, Board Vice-Chairman Maria Smith- Mountain Line Transit Authority, Mike Kelly – Board of Education, Bill Kawecky – City of Morgantown, Sean Sikora – Monongalia County, Russ Rogerson - Morgantown Area Partnership, Brian Carr, WVDOT - DOH, Tom Bloom - Monongalia County
Online: Ron Justice – West Virginia University, Steve Blinco – Star City, Jenny Selin, City of Morgantown

Others Present: Jing Zhang, Jackie Peate, Christiaan Abildso

MPO Director: Bill Austin, AICP

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Statler called the meeting of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) Policy Board to order at 6:01 PM.

2. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

3. Executive Directors Review

Chairman Statler thanked the Board for sending comments in. Seeing that comments were positive, the Chair asked the Board if they wanted an Executive Session or if they just wanted to move to accept the Executive Directors Review.

Mr. Kelly moved to accept this motion; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. Commissioner Sikora added he was thankful of Mr. Ausin’s help with communication with WVDOH. Mr. Austin expressed thanks to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Election of Officers

Mr. Austin thanked Chairman Statler for his service as Chair. The nominating committee nominated Russ Rogerson for Chair, Maria Smith as Vice Chair, and Mayor Lewis to continue as Treasurer. Mr. Austin asked if there were any other nominations. Chair Statler moved to accept the nominations; seconded by Commissioner Bloom. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rogerson took over the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mayor Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Committee Reports

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Abildso provided the CAC update. He stated they had a quorum at their most recent meeting. They recommended approval for all items, but had reservations about the Safety Performance Measures. There have been improvements in many places, but the Non-Motorized Fatal and Serious Injury goal/target was increased instead of decreased. The CAC wanted to point this out as they want to make sure there are still adequate resources for this area.

b. Finance

Mayor Lewis was absent, so Mr. Austin provided the Finance Committee Update on her behalf. She provided the financial report for the month of November and December. The beginning balance in November was \$37,011.80, there were 2 deposits totaling \$36,101.72, 24 disbursements totaling \$52,283.97, leaving the ending balance at \$20,829.55. This carried over into December with 2 deposits totaling \$35,963.60, 19 disbursements totaling \$27,597.96, leaving the ending balance at \$29,195.19. He noted there was a small \$0.20 error in one check, and this will be adjusted as soon as possible. Meaning the ending balance for December should be \$29,195.39. Mr. Austin also noted that Check #9699 dated 10/28/24 to the WV State Auditor's Office for \$320.00 was inadvertently omitted from the October 2024 report. Therefore, the ending balance for October 2024 should have been \$37,011.80.

Commissioner Sikora moved to approve the Financial Report; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Executive Director

Mr. Austin provided the board with his report. He thanked the board for the positive review and said he was excited about the upcoming year. Mr. Austin recently attended the Smithtown Road Design meeting, and this is moving forward. Design should be completed this year, with construction beginning in the next two years. The Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study for Don Knotts had their kickoff meeting. There has been a great deal of progress on the Downtown Microsimulation Study, and they will meet January 28th. Some projects expected to get underway in 2025 include the Greenbag Rd project, the University Ave. / Collins Ferry roundabout, and the Van Voorhis and West Run Road construction. The AMPO Board of Directors will have a meeting in Denver in June, and Mr. Austin is planning on attending.

7. 2025 TIP Adoption and Amendments

Chairman Rogerson asked Mr. Austin to discuss the 2025 TIP. Mr. Austin stated the TIP was included with the agenda a draft of the MPO's updated TIP for the period FY 2025-30. This document was advertised to the public in October in accordance with the MPO's Public Involvement Policy (PIP). Since that advertisement the MPO has amended and adjusted the current TIP in accordance with the PIP at the request of various agencies. A memorandum identifying the changes to the advertised updated TIP is also included in the agenda packet. Since the TIP document's initial release in October, several amendments and adjustments have been made to highway projects. These changes will be incorporated into the MPO's TIP. It is

respectfully requested that the Policy Board adopt the updated TIP and the associated amendments and adjustments identified in the attached memorandum to the Policy Board. The TTAC and CAC have recommended approval of the document. The Amendments are listed below.

2024 November Amendment

Add New Project

I-79 EXIT 155 RAMPS TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL. FFY: 2025. Federal ID: CARB1924001D.

Phase: Construction. Type of Work: traffic signal. Funding Source: CRP 50-200K POP. Federal Funding: \$750,000. Total Funding: \$750,000. Location: The intersections of the I-79 Exit 155 ramps and Chaplin Hill Road.

Split Funding Source

CAPERTRON TRAIL LIGHTING. FFY: 2026. Federal ID: NRT2018218D. Phase: Construction. Type of Work: install lighting. Location: N/A. Funding Source: NRT. Federal funding: \$239,280. Total funding: \$299,100. Funding Source: CRP 50-200k POP. Federal funding: \$320,000. Total funding: \$400,000.

Mr. Austin asked the Board to adopt the updated document, then have a motion to amend the document with the November Amendments. Commissioner Bloom suggested putting the adoption on the floor and amending while on the floor to simplify the motion.

Commissioner Sikora moved to approve the 2025 TIP; seconded by Mr. Statler. Commissioner Bloom then moved to amend the motion to adopt the 2025 TIP with the two projects added in November; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The board unanimously moved to amend the original motion. The board unanimously moved to approve the motion adopting the 2025 TIP.

8. Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Austin stated that the Safety Performance Management Measures regulation supports the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and requires State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to set HSIP targets for 5 safety performance measures (Fatalities, Fatality Rate, Serious Injuries, Serious Injuries, and Non-Motorist Combined Fatalities and Serious Injuries). According to 23 CFR § 490.209, MPOs must establish safety performance targets within 180 days of the State DOT establishing and reporting targets in the State HSIP annual report. Part of the MPOs federal funds are utilized for these targets. The Safety Performance Measures include Fatalities, Fatality Rate, Serious Injuries, Serious Injuries, and Non-Motorist Combined Fatalities and Serious Injuries for both annual and five-year target goals. They are shown below in individual tables in the agenda. The last adopted values were from 2019-2023. The current adopted values for 2020-2024 are shown in the tables below, and are adjusted to reflect the actual performance. The TTAC has recommended adoption to the MPO Policy Board. The CAC recommended adoption of the goals with reservations about the increase in the goal for non-motorized accidents and fatalities.

Mr. Austin stated the states Highway Safety Program has been very active the past year. He stated he sits on the Pedestrian and Intersection Safety Boards for the state, and will voice concerns.

Commissioner Bloom moved to accept the motion; seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bloom asked that within the approval, to make sure the concerns are listed clearly. Ms. Selin asked if there was anything else the board could do to encourage a lower goal and target for non-motorized accidents and fatalities. Mr. Austin stated that the Federal Highway Administration monitors these goals, and if they are not met, the FHWA can make the state spend more money on meeting these goals. Mr. Kawecky asked how the board could properly display dissatisfaction with this particular goal. Mr. Austin stated he can make a stronger statement. Mr. Carr stated if the WVDOH was not making significant process on at least 4/5 goals, there would be consequences. He also stated these numbers are statewide, and sometimes drastic outliers can affect the rates. Mr. Carr said MPOs can create their own goals, but it really does not change how the resources are distributed. Chairman Rogerson pointed out many of the MMMPO's studies have a safety focus, and continuing these efforts locally is a way the board can improve these goals.

9. Authorization to reactivate line of credit

On Agenda, but did not need to discuss or take action on.

10. Draft 2025 Budget Review

Mr. Austin stated the draft of the FY 2025-26 UPWP was included in the agenda. The draft UPWP proposes a 3% COLA for MPO staff. The primary large projects included in the draft UPWP are the completion of a minor update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and a planning study looking at the feasibility of the Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition's conceptual Greenbelt. The MTP update will be built on the regional travel demand model modifications made for the ongoing Downtown Microsimulation Study and public involvement and corridor evaluations to be made by MPO Staff. Corridors to be evaluated include a portion of Brookhaven Road in the vicinity of WV 7. The Greenbelt Feasibility Study will examine the corridors identified in the Greenbelt Conceptual map and as adopted in the MTP. The Study will focus on evaluating the complete street improvements for the on-road portions of the Conceptual Map. The Study will develop planning level cost estimates and prioritization of preferred on road corridors for implementation. It will also identify the preferred locations for proposed off-road facilities to intersect with on-road segments. Additional studies will be needed to determine the feasibility and alignments for off-road facilities. This Study's Complete Street emphasis should make it eligible for 100% Federal funding.

Mr. Austin asked the board to please review the enclosed documentation and let us know of any changes to the proposed UPWP you would like to see. This item will be presented to the MPO Policy Board for adoption in March.

11. Other Business

Commissioner Bloom stated he talked with WVDOH about clearing snow near exit 152 and the roundabout. WVDOH will be taking charge of clearing this area. Commissioner Bloom wanted to express his thanks to District 4 manager Mr. Gaskins.

Ms. Selin asked about the sidewalks along Patteson Drive opposite of WVU's side. She was wondering who is responsible for clearing those sidewalks. Mr. Kawecky stated the City of Morgantown says it is the property owner's responsibility to clear sidewalks. Mr. Carr stated WVDOH does not maintain sidewalks and they do not have equipment for clearing the sidewalks. Mr. Kelly expressed praise for Westover and how they cleared their sidewalks.

Mr. Carr congratulated the City of Morgantown on getting the Dorsey Ave RAISE Grant for Planning and Design for \$8 million.

12. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.