

**HAGERSTOWN/EASTERN PANHANDLE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
INTERSTATE COUNCIL
April 11, 2018**

The Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization Interstate Council held a meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hagerstown Regional Airport, Fire Station Conference Room, 18434 Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland

The following were in attendance: Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO Executive Director; Mark Baldwin, City of Martinsburg; Tyson Byrne and Ian Beam, MDOT; Merle Saville, Washington County Division of Engineering & Construction Management; Doug Pixler, EPTA; Elaine Mauck and Jim Barnhart, Berkeley County Council; Mayor Bill Green, Town of Williamsport; Andy Blake, City of Ranson; Jim Bender and Austin Heffernan, City of Hagerstown; Bill Clark, Region IX; Steve Thomas, HEPMPO; Jill Baker and Debra Eckard, Washington County Planning Department/MPO; and Jim Frazier, Michael Baker International. Joining the meeting via conference call: Perry Keller, WV DOH and Patsy Noland, Jefferson County Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Motion and Vote: Ms. Noland made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved by all members present.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2017-2020 West Virginia Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Mullenax noted there were no formal amendments [only adjustments] for both the WV TIP and the MD TIP. No Board action is required for these adjustments.

Mr. Thomas presented the adjustments for the West Virginia TIP as follows:

Berkeley County

Adjustments:

- Add \$800,000 (\$720,000 Federal; \$80,000 State) in CON funding to FY 2018 using NHPP funding for the project "N Martinsburg – Spring Mills (I-81)" resurfacing and to add \$900,000 (\$810,000 Federal; \$90,000 State) in CON funding in FY 2018 for the "I-81 Shoulder Seal" project using NHPP funding.
- Remove \$895,000 (\$716,000 Federal; \$179,000 State) in CON funding in FY 2017 for the "I-81 Fog Seal VA Line to MD Line" project

Jefferson County

Adjustments

- Move the ROW funding from FY 2019 to FY 2021 for the US 340 Rock Slide Investigation project; funding amount will remain at \$40,000 (\$32,000 Federal; \$8,000 State)

FY 2017-2020 Maryland Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Thomas presented the following adjustments for the Maryland TIP:

Adjustments:

- Crayton Boulevard Extended – Move \$1,000,000 in CON funding (ARC Grant) from FY 2016 to FY 2018.
- Col HK Douglas Drive Extended Phase 1 – Move \$1,000,000 in CON funding (ARC Grant) from FY 2017 to FY 2018.
- Halfway Boulevard Bridge – Add \$400,000 in ENG from local Federal aid.

Draft FY-2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program [Resolution 2018-12]

Mr. Mullenax reported that the public comment period ran from January 30th to March 1st. The DRAFT TIP was presented at the January meeting.

Mr. Thomas briefly reviewed the proposed changes to the TIP as follows:

- Groupable project numbers have been updated from FY 2018 to FY 2019 for both West Virginia and Maryland
- Obligated projects have been included for both Maryland and West Virginia
- Transit project numbers have been updated and new funding amounts were added
- Two public comments were received and will be added in the Public Participation section of the new TIP. These comments were also added to the LRTP public participation section. Both comments were area-specific.
- A comment from the SHA regarding the Crayton Boulevard Extended project alerted staff to a software error and has been corrected.
- All Federal Highway Administration performance measures have been addressed. PM2 and PM3 measures will be included as well. Transit performance measures for both EPTA and WCT will be addressed. Air Quality conformity information has been preserved; however, it is not applicable in our area at this time.

Motion and Vote: Mr. Clark made a motion to approved Resolution 2018-12 to adopt the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mauck and unanimously approved.

-LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Novak Drive Connector Study

Mr. Mullenax reported that this study is complete. The objective of the Study was to identify planning considerations and environmental features prior to entering any preliminary design or NEPA phase. The study investigated a possible connection between Novak Drive and WV 9 in eastern Berkeley County. The Study recommends continued monitoring of future growth beyond predictions to see if the project would need to move forward. This project was completed in partnership with the WV DOH.

US Bicycle Route 11 Development

Mr. Mullenax stated that this project is being performed in partnership with the WV DOH. US Bicycle Route 11 passes through Jefferson County, WV into Washington County, Maryland. No official route has been designated or signed in Jefferson County. The scope of work is being developed and a notice to proceed is expected soon.

Draft Long Range Transportation Plan Update [Resolution 2018-13]

Mr. Mullenax reported that the public comment period ran from January 30th to March 1st. Copies of the Draft were placed in libraries, with transit providers, city halls and MPO offices as well as posted on-line. Three public meetings were held in February, one in each of the three counties. Positive feedback was received on the Plan.

Mr. Jim Frazier of Michael Baker International gave a brief presentation of the Draft Long Range Transportation Improvement Plan. He discussed the Goals and Objectives that were updated to meet the requirements of the FAST Act and detailed strategies to meet Performance standards. This Plan incorporates new planning factors to comply with FAST Act requirements. Two land use scenario strategies were developed to assess commuting patterns in and out of the area. An origin and destination analysis was completed.

Mr. Frazier reported that four surveys were performed throughout the process to gather public input. Over 800 map markers were identified during the first survey. An intercept survey was performed with over 180 responses and 200 map markers. A travel and tourism survey was completed to assist in identifying ways to improve travel and tourism in the area. Finally, a freight survey was conducted. Mr. Frazier also reviewed information gathered during the public meetings.

Of utmost concern to citizens were safety and security, economic prosperity and land use. Common themes throughout the surveys were: the Route 9 interstate/interchange safety issues; the 340 bottleneck; Novak Drive connector; bike lanes; MARC services; and tourism and new transit connections.

The Plan addresses freight planning, which emphasizes the significance of freight and industry in this region focusing on some of the priority funding areas. Urban and rural freight corridors have been identified in the Plan.

The Plan also incorporates recommendations for the transit agencies. Transit agency strengths and deficiencies were also identified.

Motion and Vote: Ms. Mauck made a motion to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan Update [Resolution 2018-13]. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bender and unanimously approved.

Maryland Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Byrne noted that Maryland is required to develop a Long Range Transportation Plan. A target date for completion has been set for January 2019 as part of the Federal and State law requirements. The annual LRTP along with the annual attainment report and CTP develop the State Transportation Report which must be submitted to the Legislature.

Mr. Beam presented a brief overview of the Maryland Transportation Plan prepared by the Maryland Department of Transportation. This is a five year plan establishing a 20 year vision for multi-modal transportation in Maryland. The Plan outlines the State's transportation policies and priorities and helps guide Statewide investment decisions. The overview included requirements of State and Federal laws. Discussed in the Plan are the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the multi-modal transportation network, Maryland's transportation system, population, economy, travel trends, and transportation trends. Maryland is faced with numerous transportation challenges such as safety, congestion, electric vehicles, climate change, etc. A survey was conducted from November 17, 2017 through January 31, 2018. There were approximately 5,927 total participants which yielded 4,341 total comments. The top three priorities were travel reliability, system maintenance and safety and security. Mr. Beam discussed the Goals and Objectives of the MTP and the schedule for obtaining these goals.

-ORGANIZATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mullenax explained that the UPWP contains the proposed budget and work program for the next fiscal year. Maryland allocation figures have been received; however, we have not received allocation numbers from West Virginia. For the purposes of this Draft, allocations from West Virginia were based upon last year's figures. The comment period for the Draft UPWP will run from April 14th through May 15th; final approval should occur at the May 16th meeting of the MPO.

Ms. Baker noted that most of the funds during the coming fiscal year will be dedicated to special studies that were identified in the LRTP. During the upcoming year, we will be focusing on special studies as identified in the LRTP such as a regional traffic and safety improvement studies, a bicycle improvement study at the Weverton railroad crossing, and updating the Title VI program. Other minor adjustments were made to the UPWP.

Financial Status Update

Ms. Baker briefly reviewed the expenditures for the third quarter of FY 2018. Based upon invoices received, we have expended approximately 76% of our total funds for FY 2018. The majority funds to be expended in the fourth quarter will be for general operating expenses.

HEPMPO Complete Streets Policy [Resolution 2018-14]

Mr. Mullenax reported that during the last ISC meeting, there was a lengthy discussion regarding complete streets policies in West Virginia and Maryland. At that time, staff was directed to draft a resolution of support for complete streets planning.

Motion and Vote: Ms. Noland made a motion to adopt the Complete Streets Policy [Resolution 2018-14] as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mauck and unanimously approved by all members present.

Director's Report

Mr. Mullenax reported on the following items:

- The Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (EPTA) received \$4.5 million from the 5339 Grant award. EPTA was in the top five recipients.
- The State of West Virginia has reached an agreement with MDOT to continue MARC train services into West Virginia through FY 2019. As part of that on-going work, the MPO is partnering with WVDOH on a MARC ridership promotion program.
- The EPTA contract with MARC is set to expire and the funding secured for continued service does not include funding for EPTA. The MPO will continue to partner with EPTA in trying to find reasonable solutions to insure that service can be maintained in the area.
- Washington County Transit is in the process of updating its Transit Development Plan and held a kick-off meeting with MTA and local partners.
- The DC District Court has upheld the 1997 Ozone NAAQS standard, that the EPA is in violation of revoking the ozone standard. The EPA has until April 16th to appeal that decision. Currently, the areas covered by the HEPMPO are in compliance, including 1997 PM2.5 requirements.
- Mr. Mullenax announced that Councilman Heffernan from the City of Hagerstown will be replacing Councilman Don Munson and Mayor Green from the Town of Williamsport will be replacing Megan Clark from the Town of Boonsboro on the Interstate Council.

Mr. Thomas reported on the following items:

- The new TIP software should be on-line by early May. This software will include the new performance measures.
- The MPO is assisting the City of Hagerstown's Bike Advisory Committee in preparation of the application for bicycle/pedestrian priority area designation. This is a non-capital grant program run by the State Highway Administration. The program identifies core areas for bicycle/pedestrian emphasis study implementation. The study will focus on the downtown area where there is a prevalence of pedestrians and cyclists.
- The MPO will also be assisting the City of Hagerstown in the Bikeways Grant applications.

-OTHER BUSINESS

Citizen Comment

There were no citizens present at the meeting.

Future Meetings

The next ISC meeting will be held on May 16, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

-ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mauck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and so ordered by the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Baldwin
Chairman