

## **HAGERSTOWN/EASTERN PANHANDLE MPO REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 19, 2005**

The Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle MPO held its regular meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2005 in the Washington County Administrative Annex conference room, 80 West Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Present were: Chairman, Gregory I. Snook, President, Washington County Board of County Commissioners; Jim Corliss, Jefferson County Commissioner; Mike Nixon, MD DOT; Donald C. Bailey and Richard Warner, WV DOT-Urban Study Section; Howard Strauss, President, Berkeley County Board of County Commissioners; Kathleen A. Maher, Planning Director, City of Hagerstown; Robert Gordon, Region 9-Planning and Development Council; Jeff Blanton, WV Division, FHWA; Jim Kercheval, Washington County Board of County Commissioners; Michael C. Thompson, Planning Director for Washington County; Jill Baker, Associate Planner, Washington County Planning Commission. Lewis Grimm and Ryan Harris of Cambridge Systematics, Inc. was also present.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Howard Strauss made a motion to appoint Mr. Snook as Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Corliss. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Snook made a motion to appoint Mr. Strauss as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Kercheval. Unanimously approved.

### **MINUTES**

Mr. Kercheval made a motion to accept the minutes of October 20, 2004, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nixon. Unanimously approved.

### **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The Agenda was amended to add T.I.P. Amendments for Maryland and to delete the West Virginia Federal Functional Classifications System presentation.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **T.I.P Amendments – West Virginia**

Mr. Bailey provided an overview of the recent FY 2004-2006 Transportation Improvement Program amendments for West Virginia. The first T.I.P. amendment is for grading, draining and construction of (1) bridge (DCP-0042(068)C) along WV 9. The second project is to upgrade WV 9 to four lanes from CO 9/13 to mile south of Opeqron Creek (HUBT-0009(165)T). The third project is for surface upgrades and instillation of signage for maintenance of the Appalachian Trail. The fourth amendment is for resurfacing of US 11 from the Virginia State line to .05 mile north of CR 26 (STP-0011(26)E). The final

amendment is for the resurfacing and drainage of US 340 from 0.51 miles south of CR 32 to the Virginia State line (NH-0340(051)E).

Mr. Strauss made a motion to approve the West Virginia T.I.P. amendments, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Corliss. Unanimously approved.

- **T.I.P Amendments – Maryland**

Mr. Nixon provided an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program amendments for an increase in FY 2005 funds for three project areas in Maryland. The first project area is Congestion Management which will include projects such as signing, lighting, utility relocation, messaging, etc. The second project area is Bridge Replacement which includes additional funds for the construction of the U.S. Route 11 bridge over the Potomac River, bridge inspections, stream monitoring, and bridge engineering. The third project area is Safety and Spot Improvements which will include minor safety structures such as guardrails. Funding will also include I-70 barrier improvements, the I-70 and I-81 ramp reconfiguration, storm water management and interchange lighting.

Mr. Kercheval made a motion to approve the Maryland T.I.P. amendments, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strauss. Unanimously approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1) Maryland – Federal Functional Classification System**

Mr. Thompson presented the proposed changes to the Federal Functional Classification System for Washington County. The concept of the federal classification process is to group streets and highways into classes or systems, according to the character of service they are intended to provide. The purpose of the classification system is to develop a consistent hierarchy for all road networks in the country to help plan for improvement and funding that will provide the best result for the overall community and region that the road network serves. After each decennial census urbanized areas are reviewed and revised to update population changes over the ten year period. As a follow-up to the urban area revision, the federal highway classification network is also reviewed and revised accordingly.

Changes to the federal highway functional classification system in Washington County occurred mainly in the urbanized area around Hagerstown. In the urban areas, several routes previously listed as arterial systems were reclassified as collector and local road systems. A few roads such as Rench Road and White Hall Road have been reclassified from local roads to collectors. Changes in the rural areas were even with 3 roads being reclassified from collector status to local roads and 3 roads reclassified as collector roads from local roads. After recalculation of roads, there is the same number of miles in the federal system as in the past 10 years.

Mr. Kercheval made a motion to concur with the proposed changes to the Federal Functional Classification System, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nixon. Unanimously approved.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1) Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Grimm, Project Manager for Cambridge Systematics, Inc., presented an update on the Multimodal Long-Range Transportation Plan. The last update was provided in October 2004. Mr. Grimm distributed copies of his presentation to the members present. Once this plan is adopted by the MPO, it will need to be updated and enhanced approximately every 5 years as conditions change, as new development takes place, and as new projects are implemented. The objects of this project is to

extend the horizon to plan to the year 2030, to look at a broad range of transportation to be constructed in accordance with the TEA 21 Planning Regulations, to look at consistency with the local Comprehensive Plans, to pay close attention to implementation and funding, and to reach a consensus on the recommendations and strategies.

Funding expenditures for highways and transportation over the past 20 years in Washington, Jefferson and Berkeley Counties is approximately \$590 million in various projects for widening of roadways, rehabilitation and major maintenance projects. Estimated current funding for the three counties until the year 2030 is approximately \$419 million to \$918 million; however, if tolls would be imposed, the estimated funding would be \$665 million to \$1 billion. Projects will need to be prioritized for the needs that are identified beyond funding available.

Phase 1 projects identified would include the Halfway Boulevard activities in Washington County which is a joint County/City project. Jefferson and Berkeley Counties projects include the preliminary study around the Inwood area, the Raleigh Street extension, preliminary studies along the Route 51 corridor, a collector road system around the Ranson area, and the U.S. Route 340 area around Harpers Ferry. Phase 2 projects in Washington County would include major capacity improvements on a section of Interstate 81 from Interstate 70 to Halfway Boulevard to put in a collector/distributor road system and to improve the interchanges on I-70 near Halfway Boulevard. Funding for this project would come from the Maryland DOT. Two additional significant projects in Washington County would be joint City/County projects. The projects would include the widening of Northern/Eastern Boulevard from U.S. Route 11N east and then south around Mt. Aetna Road (near the Stadium) and Southern Boulevard and Paul Smith Boulevard (the Funkstown bypass). In Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, projects would include the U.S. Route 11 improvements to Route 45, U.S. Route 11 north of Martinsburg, widening of an existing four lane facility to a six lane facility on West Virginia Route 9 west of I-81 known as County Route 1 and construction of a new four lane facility west around the Hedgesville area. Phase 3 projects in Washington County would include U.S. Route 11 through Hagerstown from the Wilson Boulevard area to Pennsylvania Avenue and the Eastern Boulevard extension to Maryland Route 60. Projects in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties would include the new location of a two or four lane road running from Route 1 to Charles Town, potentially two interchanges on U.S. 340, and the West Virginia bypass to Shepherdstown.

**2) Future Meeting(s)**

The next regular Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting will tentatively be held on March 16, 2005 in Jefferson County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Gregory I. Snook, Chairman