

MINUTES
HEPMPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 19, 2007

The HEPMPO Technical Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. in the Library of the West Virginia University Health Sciences Building, 2500 Foundation Way, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. The following members and Staff were present:

- Bob Gordon, MPO Director
- Donald Bailey, West Virginia Dept. of Highways Planning & Research
- Mike Nixon, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
- Mike Thompson, Director of Planning, Washington County Planning Dept.
- Jill Baker, Washington County Planning Dept./HEPMPO
- Larry Smith, WV DOT/DOH EEO Division
- Jim Thompson, Maryland State Highway Administration
- Ed Rakowski, Hagerstown Regional Airport
- Lynn Walker, Pan Tran Administration
- Debra Eckard, Washington County Planning Dept.

MINUTES

Ms. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2007 meeting as presented. Seconded by Mr. M. Thompson. Unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- TIP Amendments- Maryland

Mr. J. Thompson of the Maryland State Highway Administration presented for review and recommendation the following TIP Amendments for the Maryland submission to the FY 2008-2011 TIP.

- Project #W2006-5 – Safety and Spot Improvements Areawide – Provides localized improvement to address safety issues on state roads – Increase from \$1 million to \$3,550,000
- Project #W-2006-04 – Resurface and Rehabilitation Areawide – Provides periodic resurfacing and upgrade of auxiliary features on state roads – Increase from \$1.5 million to \$8.7 million
- Project #W2007-01 – US 40 and Edgewood Drive Intersection Improvements – Upgrade intersection – Increase from \$5.8 million to \$7.8 million
- Project #2007-02 – Western MD Rail to Trail Phase IV – Construct bicycle/pedestrian trail from Big Pool to Pearre Station – Move construction phase of \$4.9 million from FY 2008 to FY 2009
- New Project - I-70 – Eisenhower Memorial Highway – Replace Bridges 213403 and 213404 over Black Road Road - \$6.5 million in FY 2008
- New Project – I-70 Thermal Impact Reduction - Replacement of 1.9 miles of concrete lining of highway ditches along I-70 beginning at MD 66 interchange - \$875,000 FY 2008

Mr. Gordon stated that an Air Quality Review Committee meeting will be required. Mr. Gordon recommended that the TIP Amendments be approved contingent upon the final outcome of the Air Quality Review Committee meeting.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to recommend approval to the Interstate Council Committee of the TIP Amendments contingent upon final approval of the Air Quality Review Committee. Seconded by Mr. Gordon. Unanimously approved.

- TIP Amendments – West Virginia

Mr. Gordon stated that West Virginia is modifying their Transportation Improvement Program. The projects in the current TIP are being amended. Mr. Bailey listed the following new projects are being added to the TIP for Berkeley County:

- Safe Routes to School – Martinsburg Middle School
- Wheatland Area – a left turn lane is being added
- West Virginia 9 and Warm Springs Road – traffic signal
- District 5 – pavement striping
- Cattle Pass Bridge

Mr. Gordon listed the following new projects are being added to the TIP for Jefferson County:

- Bloomery Road railroad crossing
- Charles Town bypass sign installation
- Safe Routes to School – Ranson Elementary School and Shepherdstown Elementary School
- WV line to Charles Town Route 9 (two projects)
 - Design
 - Right-of-way

Mr. Gordon listed the following projects for Berkeley County that are currently under construction:

- WV 45 at Woodberry Avenue - signal installation
- Beddington Railroad

Mr. Gordon listed the following projects that will be removed from the TIP for Berkeley County:

- Martinsburg Mall Entrance Road – resurfacing project
- West Virginia Route 51/Inwood Middleway Road - resurfacing project

Mr. Gordon listed the following projects that will be removed from the TIP for Jefferson County:

- Opequon Creek Middleway – resurfacing and installation of guardrail
- Charles Town/Harpers Ferry (County Route 26 to south of County Route 340 over 17) – resurfacing project

Other changes are either date changes or funding level changes.

Mr. Gordon noted that the Tabler Station road project will require a conformity determination because it is being moved from FY 2010 to FY 2011. Ms. Walker asked if the Raleigh Street extension project would be a funding or date change. Mr. Gordon stated that would be an increase in funding. Ms. Walker also questioned the removal of the Tabler Station project. Ms. Baker stated that Tabler Station has been divided into two projects: one for right-of-way and design, which has been moved from FY 2010 to FY 2008 and the second project is construction, which has been moved from FY 2010 to 2011. The construction cost for Tabler Station has increased from \$9 million to approximately \$10.5 million. Ms. Walker questioned the I-81 concrete barrier project. Mr. Gordon stated that project is a cost change from \$4 million to \$4.2 million. Mr. Bailey stated that the TIP is being changed to conform to the State's TIP and 6-year program. Every County in the State of West Virginia is addressing this issue.

Ms. Walker made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP amendments for West Virginia to the Interstate Council Committee. Seconded by Mr. Bailey. Unanimously approved.

- Recommendation for Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment

Mr. Gordon presented for review and recommendation the Long Range Transportation Plan Addendum. The consultant provided a Draft of the LRTP in June. Revisions were needed and Mr. Gordon contacted the consultant to make the changes. The revisions have been made and the Plan is ready for adoption. The document provides the GAP Analysis that reflects the changes from SAFETEA-LU transportation administration to TEA-21 and identifies the differences. Representatives from Maryland and West Virginia have reviewed the document and have no further comments.

Mr. Nixon made a motion to recommend to the Interstate Council Committee to adopt the Long Range Transportation Plan. Seconded by Ms. Walker. Unanimously approved.

- Transfer Point Relocation Study for Washington County Commuter

Mr. Gordon stated that a transfer point relocation study is being performed by KFH Group, a subcontractor for Cambridge Systematics, and is being funded through the Maryland DOT. The current transfer station is located at the underpass on Washington Street in Hagerstown. The study will be used to identify potential locations for the transfer location where the commuter buses can get off of the road. Mr. Nixon stated that the study is being funded through a task order account with Cambridge Systematics. The KFH Group has performed the transit development programs for the past several cycles for the County Commuter.

Mr. Nixon stated that specific language clarifying that the study is being done through the Task Order will be required in the Amendment to the UPWP.

Ms. Walker made a motion to recommend approval to the Interstate Council Committee for the FY 2008 UPWP Amendments. Seconded by Mr. Bailey. Unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gordon stated that he attended the I-81 Coalition meeting held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania last week. Mr. Rich Rovegno of Cumberland County, Penna. organized the conference, which was well attended by representatives from six states ranging from Tennessee to New York. Representatives from several MPOs, regional councils, the rail industry, trucking industry, the environmental profession, and special interest groups were in attendance. The Executive Director from the I-95 Coalition in Washington, DC was in attendance and made two presentations with regard to their successes and funding issues. There was a unanimous consensus to establish a formal coalition and a committee was established that was comprised of a representative from each state, two MPOs, the rail industry and the freight industry. Common problems and concerns along the I-81 corridor will be discussed. Mr. Nixon stated that the MD DOT is withholding any commitments to the coalition pending the decision of the Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. Gordon stated that he has received copies of the CMAC program proposed for West Virginia from Mr. Richard Pennington, Acting Director of the Program Planning Administration Division. CMAC funds will be distributed by a grant approval process and the MPOs will be able to apply for the funds.

- Quarterly Progress Report

Mr. Gordon noted that the Quarterly Progress Report was distributed with the Agenda packets for today's meeting. The Report covers the fourth quarter as well as an analysis for the entire year.

- RFP – PanTran Planning Services

Mr. Gordon stated that work has begun on the RFP for PanTran Planning Services that will be advertised in the near future. A consultant is needed to help establish the GIS database that will ultimately provide a geographic file format and hardcopy maps as well as documentation of compliance with the requirements

of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. PanTran will publish the maps on the web page and prepare route maps for their service areas.

- RFP – Conformity and Planning Services

Mr. Gordon stated that an RFP will be developed for advertisement to hire a consultant on retainer to help with air quality conformity issues. He also discussed the potential to hire a consultant to help with the Long Range Transportation Plan since attempts to hire personnel has been unsuccessful.

- Personnel Issues

The MPO will be moving its offices to 33 West Washington Street, 4th Floor, Hagerstown. The new space could accommodate 5 staff members.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Future Meeting

- A date will be discussed with the Interstate Council Committee and will be announced at a later time.
- Mr. Thompson stated that the Maryland Department of Transportation will be holding an access management/access control seminar in July 2008 in Baltimore. For information, contact Vaughn Lewis at 410-545-5675.
- Ms. Walker stated that PanTran will be holding its 30th Anniversary celebration on Friday, September 21st. Everyone is welcome. A representative of CPAA will be speaking on transit and transportation issues in small urban areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gordon adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Gordon, Director