

**HAGERSTOWN/EASTERN PANHANDLE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
INTERSTATE COUNCIL
October 19, 2022**

The Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization Interstate Council held a meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. both in person [at the Eastern Panhandle Regional Airport in Martinsburg, WV] and via tele-conference call. MD and WV Open Governmental Meetings Acts and HEPMPO Bylaws permit virtual only meetings of our committees and boards provided members can hear and be heard by each other and by any media or members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following were in attendance: Kevin Cerrone, Chairman, Washington County Transit; Elaine Bartoldson, Vice-Chair, EPTA; Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO Executive Director; Tyson Byrne, MDOT; Jill Baker, Washington County Dept. of Planning & Zoning; Pam Mohn, Washington County Division of Engineering; Brian Carr, WV DOH; Rachel Snavelly, Region IX; Jim Barnhart, Berkeley County Council; Steve Stolipher, Jefferson County Commission; and Mark Baldwin, City of Martinsburg;

Also present were: Michaela McDonough, HEPMPO; Deb Eckard, Washington County Planning & Zoning Dept.; Rashad Pinckney, MDOT; Kevin Sullivan, WV DOH; Chris Strovel; Alissa Meeks, Dan Neff, Keith McIntosh and Elizabeth Ricketts.

MINUTES

Motion and Vote: Ms. Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bartoldson and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

-TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FY 2023-2026 Maryland Transportation Improvement Program Amendments [Resolution 2023-04]

Mr. Mullenax stated this amendment was advertised for public comment from October 5 to 18, 2022; no public comments were received. Ms. McDonough presented the following amendment for the MD TIP.

Amendments – Maryland State Highway Administration

- I-81 Interchange Improvements at Showalter Road: ENG – FY 2022 \$160,000 (State); FY 2023 \$160,000 (Federal); FY 2024 \$160,000 (Federal)

Motion and Vote: Mr. Barnhart made a motion to approve the FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment [Resolution 2023-04] as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mohn and unanimously approved.

Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority Asset Management Performance Measures

Ms. McDonough gave a brief report on the asset management performance measures. She reported growth was seen in the 10 year and 7 year classes and a decline in the 12 and 5 year classes as well as the maintenance equipment class. New targets have been set for 2023 and were presented on a spreadsheet for members to review.

-LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Regional Freight Plan

Mr. Mullenax noted that staff and our consultants are nearing completion of the regional freight profile and baseline assessment. Ms. McDonough reported there are 23 warehouse projects currently in Washington County which will provide approximately 19 million square feet of warehouse space. Most of these projects are along Wesel Boulevard, National Highway, Hopewell Road, West Oak Ridge Drive, and Downsville Pike. She also noted there is an additional 9 million square feet of warehouses proposed in Berkeley County. All of these warehouses are expected to provide an influx of truck traffic along the I-81 and I-70 corridors. Ms. Baker stated that approximately 4 million square feet are currently under roof and being used in Washington County.

Mr. Mullenax added that the consultants are analyzing national datasets to estimate the value of freight activity to the economy and the tax revenue generated. A meeting with the study advisory committee will be held soon. A regional freight forum is being planned for this coming winter, possibly in January 2023. MDOT has submitted their Freight Plan for federal approval and WVDOT will begin their update in the near future.

Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Mullenax explained that our current Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was completed in 2016. As part of the IJJA requirements, State DOTs and MPOs are required to expend 2.5% of their annual budgets on Complete Streets initiatives. He reported that staff is continuing to build and update the bicycle and pedestrian datasets. In addition to mapping sidewalks and bicycle rack locations, Ms. McDonough has been updating the City of Hagerstown's bicycle and pedestrian crash dataset through July 2022. Ms. McDonough showed a map of crashes in the City of Hagerstown from 2015 to 2022. The majority of crashes were clustered in downtown Hagerstown. From 2021 to 2022 there were 15 bicycle crashes and 40 pedestrian crashes; no fatalities were reported. Ms. McDonough also noted that West Virginia reported 8 bicycle crashes and 22 pedestrian crashes in 2020.

Mr. Mullenax stated that this information has been shared with the City of Hagerstown's Engineering Department as well as the City Police Department. He announced that MD SHA has accepted a design request for countdown signals to be installed in five locations in downtown Hagerstown along US Route 40. Staff is finalizing the public outreach survey which our consultants will be presenting to the study advisory committee in the near future.

I-81 Transportation Systems Management & Operations Plan

Mr. Mullenax reported that staff has been collecting GIS corridor data and coordinating with the WVDOT on the collection of 2022 traffic and truck counts along I-81 including ramps and rest areas. We are waiting on a draft MOA from WVDOT to begin the project. The MPO will be the project manager on this project that is being funded by the WVDOT.

HEPMPO Website Upgrade

Mr. Mullenax noted that our current website was designed in 2017. Staff held a meeting with our consultants to review the current website layout, format and content. The new website will meet web content accessibility guidelines. Mr. Mullenax presented an example of the initial concepts, including a better categorization of webpages. Staff is reviewing both the desktop and mobile versions of the designs. The new website launch is expected in early 2023.

MARC Strategic Ridership Plan

Mr. Mullenax explained that late in 2018, WVDOT programmed CMAQ funding for the MARC Strategic Ridership Plan which is aimed at understanding commuting patterns and reaching new riders. This project was programmed in FY 2022 and could now be at risk of programmed funding being canceled with the new STIP. A letter has been drafted to Secretary Wriston requesting work on this important project to be initiated. Staff is requesting approval from the Interstate Council to send this letter to Secretary Wriston; the Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval at its morning meeting.

Motion and Vote: Ms. Bartoldson made a motion to send this letter to Secretary Wriston as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baker and unanimously approved.

-ORGANIZATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Financial Status Update

Ms. Baker stated that we have spent approximately \$67,600 during the FY 2023 first quarter. Most of these expenditures were staff salaries and administrative costs. We are currently on task and on budget.

2020 Census Urbanized Area Update

Mr. Mullenax reported that since our last meeting, staff has learned that the 2020 urbanized area boundaries and population numbers will be released by the Census in December. New Transportation Management Areas will be designated in the following months and PL funding formulas will be updated by the State DOTs before October 1, 2023. Once the boundaries are released by the Census, FHWA and FTA will be following up appropriately. Staff will consider the most current information available when preparing the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. Any major funding increases in PL funding may not be budgeted in total until FY 2025 as it may be too difficult to revise local government budgets.

Director's Report

Mr. Mullenax gave a brief update on the following:

- The draft WVDOT FY 2023-2028 STIP includes funding for a second commuter bus for EPTA. Discussions with WVDOT on programming operating funds, including Carbon Reduction Program funds are continuing. The Silver Line extension in Ashburn should be open by Thanksgiving.
- Staff continues to support EPTA in the development of the new Transit Center in Martinsburg. Thirty percent plans have been completed and submission to the City of Martinsburg is expected next week.
- The WVDOT draft FY 2023-2028 STIP public comment period closed on October 14th. There are no projects programmed in FY 2026, 2027 or 2028 due in part to delays in reporting bridge and pavement systems data and confirming cost estimates. Staff expects to see a large number of proposed amendments to the TIP in January 2023.
- The MDOT tour meeting will be held on November 3rd at the Washington County Public Safety Training Facility on Sharpsburg Pike. Staff has been invited to present our TSMO, freight, and bicycle/pedestrian efforts. We are currently waiting on word for the I-81 Phase 2 widening rural grant application; we did not get an INFRA grant.
- US Bicycle Route 11 has been signed in Jefferson County.
- Ms. McDonough is working on getting EPTA's GTFS feed into Google Transit and other common mapping services.
- During the next several months, staff will be considering how to share ways we will be working with the State DOTs on programming the new sub-allocated Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

funds. Staff is also expecting details from the State DOTs coordinating an equitable process for the distribution of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding among smaller MPOs per direction of the IJA.

- The Election of Officers will be held at the January meeting per the HEPMPO By-laws.

Public Comment

There were no citizens present.

Future Meetings

The next scheduled meeting of the Interstate Council is Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in person, with a call-in option, at the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport in Martinsburg, WV.

-ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baldwin and so ordered by the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Cerrone, Chairman