

# MMMPO QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## WINTER EDITION 2022



### MMMPO Policy Board Members:

Ron Justice, *Chairman*  
Michael Kelly, *Vice-Chairman*  
Patricia Lewis, *Treasurer*  
Steve Solomon, *Westover*  
Steve Blinco, *Star City*  
Joe Statler, *Blacksville*  
Dave Bruffy, *Mountain Line*  
Brian Carr, *WVDOH*

### County Commissioners:

Jefferey Arnett  
Tom Bloom  
Sean Sikora

### Morgantown City Council Members:

Jenny Selin  
Bill Kawecki  
Dave Harshbarger

### Introduction, What is the MMMPO?

The Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) was established in 2003 to be the transportation planning agency responsible for the Morgantown, West Virginia urban area. Any urban area with a population that is greater than 50,000 citizens is federally required to form a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The two main functions of an MPO are developing a Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP) and the direction of federal funds to align with the goals of the MTP. Metropolitan Transportation Plans are developed with a minimum of twenty-year planning time frame.

### Greenbag Road Update

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) with the concurrence of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has proposed to construct operational improvements along approximately 1.65 miles of Greenbag Road, also known as County Route 857. The route is located southeast of the City of Morgantown in Monongalia County. The scope of the project is to address traffic congestion, safety, and lack of non-vehicle connections (bicycle/pedestrian/wheelchair) throughout the Greenbag corridor.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted for this project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, commonly known as NEPA. The consortium of the WVDOH and the FHWA took multiple alternatives into consideration while analyzing potential impacts from those projects. The Environmental Assessment was approved by the FHWA in January of 2021. The report known as Finding Of No Significant Impact or "FONSI" can be found [here](#). The report determined that the project has no significant impact to the human environment as identified by criteria established in NEPA.

### NOTICE:

The City of Morgantown is looking for additional volunteer members for the 15-person **Pedestrian Safety Board**. Positions are available for City of Morgantown and Monongalia County residents. This is an opportunity to help make our community more walkable and healthier. You can make a difference!

<https://www.morgantownwv.gov/297/Pedestrian-Safety-Board>

## Van Voorhis Road Update

This project includes upgrades to approximately one mile of Van Voorhis Road between WV 705 (Chestnut Ridge Road) and West Run Road (CR 67/1) in Morgantown, West Virginia. The proposed improvements include widening of Van Voorhis Road throughout the project study area in order to create wider lanes, widening for the addition of a southbound lane from Killarney Drive to WV 705, shoulder widening and paving, improvement of the roadway alignment near the intersection of Wedgewood Drive, construction of a northbound left turn lane to Wedgewood Drive and replacement of the bridge over West Run. Construction of curbs, gutters, retaining walls and drainage improvements will be added along various sections of the roadway project. The roadway alignment enhancements near Wedgewood Drive include improvement of the horizontal and vertical alignment of Van Voorhis Road between Clearview Avenue and the Morgantown Health and Rehabilitation Center (Golden Living) driveway. There will also be the addition of sidewalk for the length of the project. The NEPA Categorical Exclusion Report for this project can be found [here](#).

## Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Every MPO is required to develop a TIP, a list of upcoming transportation projects, that covers a minimum period of four years. The TIP includes capital and non-capital surface transportation projects, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other transportation enhancements. The TIP for fiscal year 2022-2026 was adopted in January of 2022. The program targets an efficient and safe multimodal transportation system in which the various modes are highly integrated, reducing collisions and enhancing the movement of goods. The MMMPO seeks to increase effective collaboration between the state and local agencies as well as area stakeholders. The 2022-2026 TIP can be viewed [here](#).

Upcoming projects include road resurfacing, sidewalk construction, design and build of ADA compliant ramps, road widening, bridge repairs and replacement, vanpool investment, and trail construction.

**The MMMPO Policy Board will meet on March 17, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the City of Morgantown Council Chambers, unless there is a need to change the location due to the pandemic. Please check the MPO's website prior to the meeting.**

## Mountain Line Update

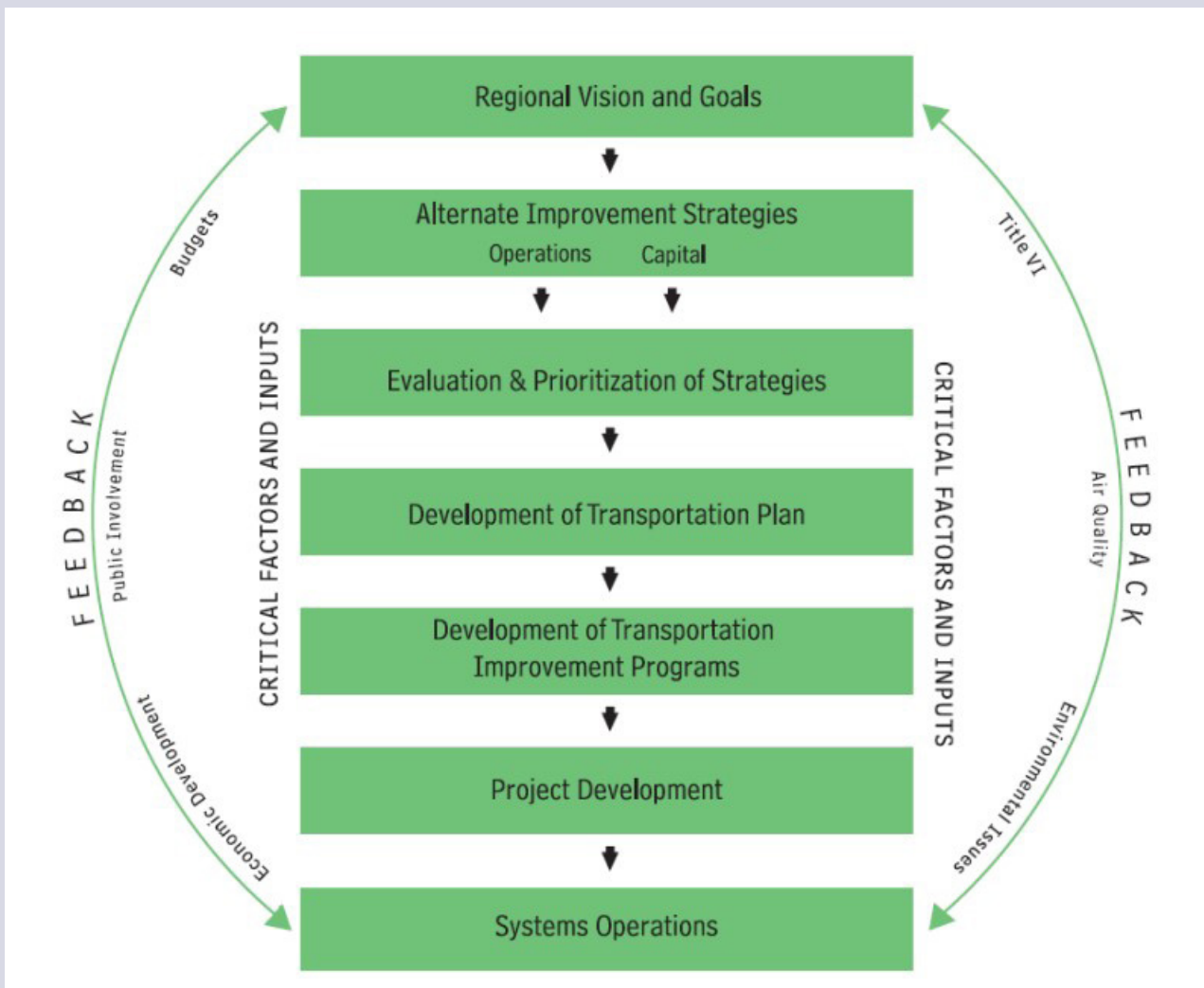
The Mountain Line Transit system received six new smaller buses within the last year in order to accommodate pandemic travel. The new vehicles will serve the community for their typical lifespan of up to 12 years. Mountain Line is in the process of budgeting amendments due to incoming of federal funds along with the Economic Recovery Act and other special funding opportunities.

## Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update 2050

The Morgantown Monongalia MPO is working with the engineering firm Stantec to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Federal regulations require that the plan be updated every five years. Stantec is a trusted international leader in engineering and transportation design, providing their services for over sixty years.

The project scope includes incorporating the 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the 2020 Transit Plan set forth as part of the MTP. Stantec is conducting an in-depth review of the current roadway network for the plan update. A Virtual Public Symposium was held on August 26th, 2021 as part of the public involvement in the development of the plan and to support identifying current MMMPO priorities.

In addition to the public outreach efforts Stantec has been reviewing existing transportation plans and projecting future needs of our region. At this stage, Stantec has developed a draft map of recommended projects to be included in the MTP update. The MPO is also coordinating with the City of Morgantown, Monongalia County, and various other regional entities to enable better integration of their comprehensive plans into the transportation plan. Look for the upcoming special edition of our newsletter in spring with more details about the forthcoming updates.



## Policy Board Officeholder Election

The *Officer Nominating Committee* for the **Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board** nominated Mr. Ron Justice (WVU) for the Chairman vacancy, Mr. Michael Kelly (Board of Education) for the Vice Chairman seat, and Mrs. Patricia Lewis (Mayor of Granville) for the position as Treasurer. The Policy Board unanimously confirmed the appointment of the new officers at the public meeting held on January 27, 2022. Thank you to the outgoing Chairman, Commissioner Tom Bloom, for his leadership of the Policy Board.

## Congratulations Jing

We would like to congratulate our Planner II, Jing Zhang for his various recent accomplishments. Jing is continuously working towards gaining valuable planning skills, Jing recently received his United States Permanent Resident Card, also known as a “Green Card.”

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) recently appointed Jing as a member of the Standing Committee on Public Engagement and Communications. Jing also serves as the Vice-Chairman for Communications of the American Planning Association’s International Division. In addition to these roles Jing is also a husband, father, and a musician.

## Welcome Jessica

In January of 2022 the MPO welcomed a new addition to the team, Ms. Moberly, will work to build a more robust community outreach for the MPO and MCPC. Prior to moving to West Virginia, Jessica served as a transportation planning intern for the regional MPO in her hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. Jessica has a background in Environmental Studies in addition to experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

### MORGANTOWN MONONGALIA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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## INTERACT

Thank you for your interest in transportation in the Monongalia County area. The aim of this newsletter is to inform the public about transportation issues in our region, and provide the opportunity to comment on proposed transportation projects.

[www.planttogether.org](http://www.planttogether.org)

*We welcome your feedback on this publication!*

***Help us plan the future of  
Monongalia County!***