



MMMPO

Morgantown Monongalia
Metropolitan Planning Organization

NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2021

Ongoing Projects

Van Voorhis Project



The Van Voorhis Improvement Project is expected to start construction soon; this project will improve traffic operation, roadway safety, roadway drainage, and walkability. Improvements include targeted widening for turn lanes, geometric curve improvement, wider lanes, sidewalk installation, paved shoulders, and bridge replacement.

The extent of the project includes almost a mile of Van Voorhis Road between WV 705 (Chestnut Ridge Road) and West Run Road (CR 67/1) in Morgantown. Van Voorhis Road will be widened by an additional lane from Killarney Drive to WV 705 to increase capacity and reduce delay on the southbound approach.

Widening will occur to the west to minimize impact with existing structures. In addition, a raised island separating the right turn on the WV 705 Eastbound (from Evansdale Campus) approach to the intersection will be enlarged to restrict right turns to a single, continuous-flow right turn lane. The crosswalks will be modified to use the island as a pedestrian refuge. Traffic signal modifications will be implemented to stop motorists for pedestrians during an exclusive pedestrian phase. (continued on the page 5)

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in transportation in the Monongalia County area. This newsletter is the first Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO) newsletter. We hope to keep you up to date on transportation issues in the area and to inform you of opportunities to comment on proposed transportation projects.

We plan to issue these newsletters quarterly and more often as needed. Established in 2003, the MMMPO is the federally-designated transportation planning agency for Morgantown and Monongalia County, serving as a regional partnership with the West Virginia DOT, the local transit agency, local elected leadership, local government, the business community, and citizens. We welcome your feedback on our newsletter.

Morgantown Monongalia MPO

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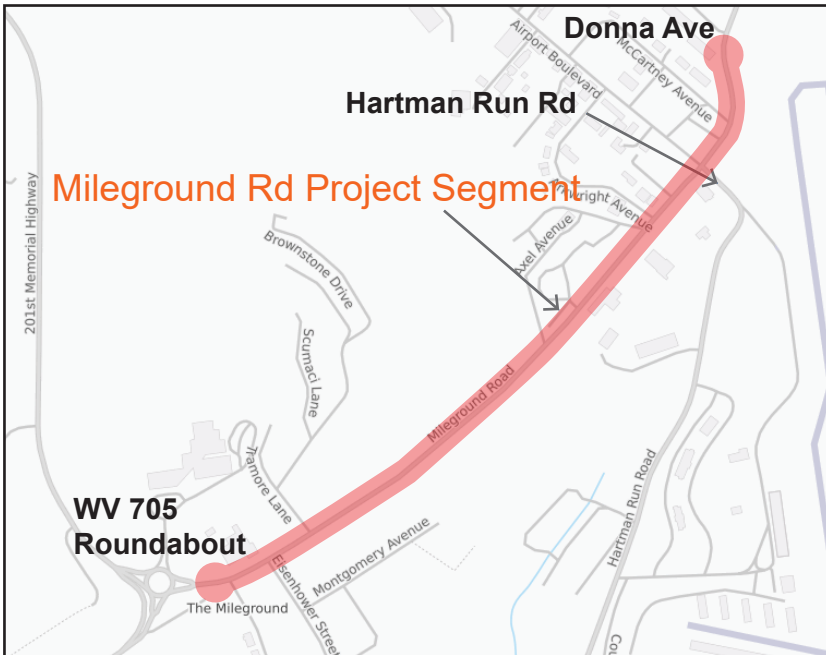
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Ongoing Projects

Mileground Road Widening



Construction on the portion of the Mileground Road Widening Project between the roundabout and Donna Ave will begin once the State has secured access to properties that they must obtain using eminent domain. The project contractor is ready to begin construction.

West Run Widening



WVDOH is scheduled to begin the widening of West Run Road and the reconstruction of the intersection with Point Marion Road in the next year to 18 months.

Planning Projects

The MMMPO has selected a consulting firm to work on updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). We are finalizing the contract for the process which will take approximately one year. The project includes making the recently adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Transit Plan integral parts of the MTP and an in depth review of the roadway portion of the plan. The Plan update process will include numerous opportunities for public involvement in the development of the plan and the identification of the MMMPO's priorities. Please watch our website for further information.

The MMMPO Policy Board will be asked to adopt Mountain Line's Short to Medium Range Transit Plan at the March meeting. The final version will be available for review on the MMMPO's website prior to the March Policy Board meeting.

You can access our website at plantogether.org for more information on particular projects.

To virtually attend Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meetings or citizens advisory committee meetings, use this link: <https://morgantownmonongaliampopo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin>

To attend a Policy Board meeting you will need to access the agenda from the MMMPO's website.

Look for us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn

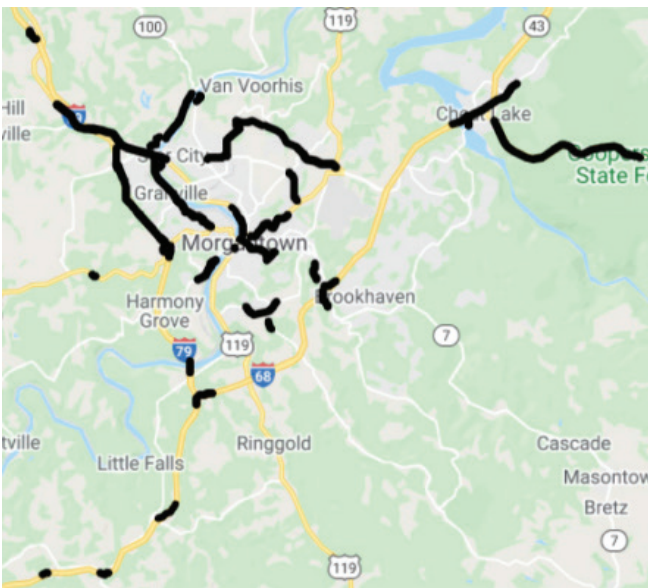
The Morgantown Monongalia MPO is committed to the value of equal opportunity, which ensures non-discrimination in the access to, the benefits of, and the opportunities to participate in the activities of our program.

Updates

TIP Amendment

In January 2021 the MMMPO amended the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In accordance with Federal regulations, the MMMPO is charged with developing the local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) documenting the expenditure of Federal Funds on regionally significant transportation projects. Two primary purposes of the TIP are to monitor the progress of implementing the area’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and to provide an opportunity for the area’s stakeholders to comment on the expenditure of Federal Funds in the area. Federal regulation requires that the TIP be prepared as part of a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process, which includes an open public involvement process.

Project tracking portal

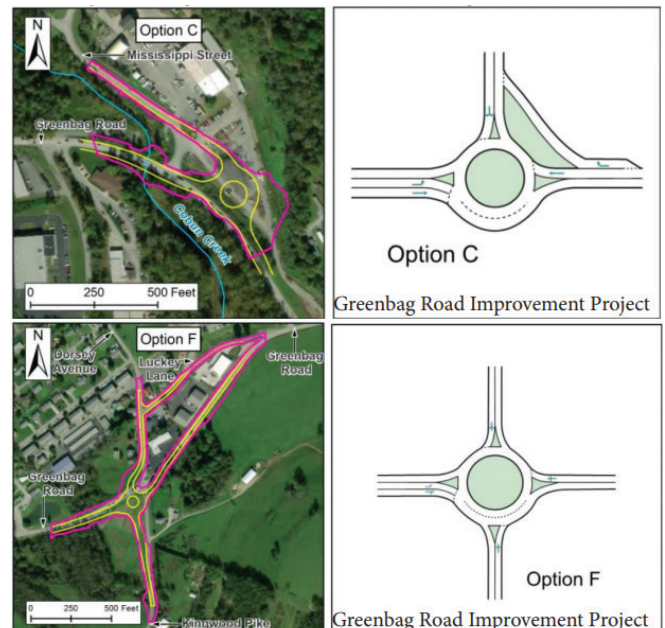


The Project tracking portal is an on-line map that was updated with the TIP amendments. Above is a snap shot of the updated map. This map shows the location of projects in the Morgantown Monongalia MPO’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It includes all projects that can be mapped in these two documents.

Greenbag Rd Improvement

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to provide operational improvements along 1.65 miles of Greenbag Road (CR 857), located southeast of the City of Morgantown in Monongalia County. This Project is being undertaken to reduce traffic congestion and address required updates. The WVDOH presented multiple options; option C/F is the WVDOH’s preferred alternative. Option C, located at the Mississippi Street (CR 857/1) intersection, includes the construction of a roundabout that provides one circulating lane on the northern portion and two circulating lanes on the southern portion. The roundabout is designed to provide a truck apron. The eastbound Greenbag Road (CR857) approach provides exclusive left turn and through lanes.

The westbound Greenbag Road (CR 857) approach provides two lanes: an exclusive through lane and an exclusive right turn bypass lane Option F, located at the Dorsey Avenue/Kingwood Pike (CR 81) intersection. It also include the construction of a roundabout that provides one circulating lane on the northern portion and two circulating lanes on the southern portion. The roundabout is designed to provide a truck apron. The northbound Kingwood Pike (CR 81) provides a single lane approach for all movements.



Committees & Meetings

Ped/Bike Data Collection Committee Meeting

February 22, 2021, 6:00 pm

The Pedestrian/Bicycle Data Collection Committee is a technical committee providing input for the development of the pedestrian and bicycle counting program appropriate for the MMMPO. The program will be an annual routine data collection effort included in the MMMPO's Unified Planning Work Program. The committee also provides input for the MMMPO's staff to develop a handbook for collecting pedestrian and bicycle traffic data in the region.

The handbook will identify standard practices for collecting pedestrian and bicycle data in the MMMPO area to be used by local municipalities, as well as planning and engineering consultants.

The February Pedestrian/Bicycle Data Collection Committee meeting will be the first meeting held by the committee; during the committee meeting, the committee will identify the April, May, and July meeting times and dates; how pedestrian and bicycle data will be used and the types of data collection that the MMMPO will perform; and how the handbook of pedestrian/bicycle data collection will be used and what data would be included in the handbook.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

March 11th, 2021, 6:00 pm

The CAC is an advisory group for the Policy Board that provides recommendations on community issues and concerns. The CAC meets prior to the Policy Board to review items on the Policy Board Agenda. The CAC is composed of citizens appointed by the Policy Board to represent the public interest in transportation decision-making.

For More Info

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Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Meeting

March 9th, 2021, 1:30 pm

The TTAC is an advisory group for the Policy Board that provides recommendations on technical issues and planning efforts. The TTAC is made up of technical staff from the various agencies and local governments that participated in the MMMPO process. The TTAC meets prior to the Policy Board. These meetings are held to make recommendations on items prior to consideration by the Policy Board.

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

March 11th, 11:00 am

Given the emphasis on freight in the FAST Act, the purpose of the MMMPO's Freight Advisory Committee is to ensure that freight interests were represented in the MMMPO's planning process. The Freight Advisory Committee consisted of representatives of the local trucking/freight industry. The meetings of the Freight Advisory Committee are held twice a year.

Policy Board Meeting

March 18th, 2021, 6:00 PM:

The Policy Board is the decision-making body of the MMMPO. The Board is made up of elected and appointed officials from member local governments and major organizations in the Greater Morgantown region.

The meeting allows the board to show the meetings live on public access television (Morgantown's Channel 15, Adelphia). Rebroadcasts of meetings are available at the City of Morgantown website.

The Policy Board is responsible for preparing and approving the area's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, (continue on the page 5)

Van Voorhis Project

continued from the page 1

This reconfiguration will improve pedestrian safety and improve traffic operation for motorists going north to Van Voorhis Road. Sidewalks on Van Voorhis Road are being renovated and extended for the length of the project.

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Policy Board Meeting

continued from the page 3

Transportation Improvement Program, and the MMMPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The MTP plans for transportation infrastructure improvements 20 to 25 years in advance. The MTP include the improvements needed to the area's roadway network, public transportation infrastructure, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The TIP is the funding schedule for implementing transportation improvements in the area. If Federal Funds are to be used for a project, they must be approved by the Policy Board and be included in the MMMPO's MTP and TIP. The UPWP is the work program for MMMPO Staff. Work included in the UPWP is funded by Federal, State, and local funds.

Event Calendar

February 22, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Pedestrian/Bicycle Data Collection Committee Meeting, MMMPO

March 4, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Bicycle Safety Board Meeting, City of Morgantown

March 8, 2021, at 4:30 pm. Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting, City of Morgantown

March 9, 2021, at 1:30 pm. Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, MMMPO

March 11, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, MMMPO

March 18, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Policy Board Meeting, MMMPO

April 1, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Bicycle Safety Board Meeting, City of Morgantown

April 12, 2021, at 4:30 pm. Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting, City of Morgantown

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