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# Planning Organization focuses on walkways

BY JANET L. METZNER

The Dominion Post

Improving walkways could become a more important part of the Morgantown-Monongalia County Transportation Planning Organization's job.

At a meeting Thursday, Greg Good of the Mon Moves organization urged the MPO to focus on improving pedestrian walkways, including sidewalks, trails, crosswalks and bicycle lanes, and to enforce laws such as not blocking crosswalks with vehicles.

He urged the city and county to consider walking as transportation. "Build better sidewalks, and more of them," he said.

Mon Moves is an organization which promotes wellness through walking.

Good's suggestions included commissioning a professional study of the city's sidewalks, coming up with a repair and construction plan, and establishing a pedestrian and bicycle advisory committee.

City Councilman Frank Scafella, a member of the MPO Policy board, said the city has focused on improving sidewalk systems during the past several years, but noted that Mon Moves fits into those goals. "It is absolutely central and pertinent to what we are doing," he said.

Parsons said during the MPO's July meeting he will recommend whether to set a separate committee to deal with pedestrian walkways, or to have Mon Moves representatives on each of the MPO's committees, which are the Technical Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committee.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. July 15 in council chambers, City Hall, Spruce Street.

### Airport future

In other business, City Manager Dan Boroff asked the board to consider planning to build a 3/4 mile road connecting Interstate 68 with a side of the airport slated for development.

The proposed road would serve as access to the eastern side of the airport, where the West Virginia National Guard is considering building a new armory, Boroff said.

"The city aspires to economic development at the eastern side of the airport," Boroff said, noting that the \$15 million-\$18 million armory would bring needed infrastructure to that part of the airport.

In addition, a three-year, \$10 million project funded by a Federal Aviation Administration grant would extend the airport by 1,100 feet and actually create 50 acres of level land ripe for industrial park development, Boroff said.

That extension is set to begin this summer.

Boroff said he will bring more information on the proposed \$2 million-\$5 million airport access road to the MPO's July meeting.

### **Lights for Westover**

Westover Councilman Mike Kelly, a member of the MPO Policy Board, urged the board to consider putting a traffic light in at the intersection of W.Va. 19 and DuPont Road in Westover.

DuPont road at W.Va. 19 is part of the school bus route to Westover Middle School. Other large vehicles will use the road once construction of the proposed Westwood Elementary School begins on the middle school site.

Groundbreaking for that school is set for August, Kelly said, and the need for the light is becoming more urgent.

"When school lets out, the bus traffic, and other big units (vehicles) are all waiting to get out in traffic," he said.

Currently, a stop sign directs traffic off DuPont Road to W.Va. 19.

The idea for the light must first be reviewed by both MPO committees, then the Policy Board and finally the state.

A new committee to look at MPO's long term plans has been formed. Those committee members include Monongalia County Commissioner Bob Bell, Morgantown Mayor Ron Justice, Joe Fisher of WVU and Scott Rotruck, president of the Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce.

### **Stop concerns**

Morgantown Resident Paul Nesselroad urged the board to put four-way stop signs at the intersection of Stewartstown and West Run roads.

"The volume of traffic has increased to the point it is a very dangerous intersection," he said.

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