Thank you for the opportunity to comment of the Morgantown Bicycle Plan. It is apparent an extensive amount of work has been done for this plan and we appreciate the Board’s desire to improve bicycling in the City of Morgantown including the achievement of Gold Status for the LAB. Below is the conglomeration of comments from several reviewers from the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

General Comments

* This appears to be a policy and project hybrid plan;
* Would be good to see an overall map of the area with current and proposed bicycle facilities;
* Significant statements are made in this document that assumes Council is in agreement with recommendations. It is assumed Council is in agreement;
* Document presumes there is a significant appetite for bicycling by the City – did this come from public involvement?; and
* Some inconsistencies in the use of City and city, State and state and Greater Morgantown Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Specific Comments

Page 1

* Goal – Does this plan get the City to this goal?
* Objectives – What about policies addressing land use in the City or surrounding area.
* Are there any metrics that could be used to measure progress in meeting objectives?

Page 5

* More Prosperous Local Economy – Any new census information that would identify specific characteristics to Greater Morgantown area i.e. younger population that might be more prone to be a distracted driver using smart phones, etc.

Page 6

* The sixth paragraph states that “no consideration” is made when doing improvements which seems too strong.
* It is unclear what is meant by WV has allocated less that ½ of 1%. Do you mean the DOH? What numbers were used? To complete the perspective, it would be nice to see what amount the City or County has allocated?

Page 8

* Sixth paragraph says WVDOT has been reluctant to support cycling yet next paragraph states our support of the bicycle education grant. It is suggested the statement be more reflective of challenges WVDOT faces with funding and unmet needs, not just a lack of support for cycling. How about City or County support?

Page 9

* In first paragraph, the approval of the climbing lane is waiting for a maintenance of traffic plan for basketball games from the City and WVU. The City agreed to pay for the subsequent striping and other amenities included for the project. Reference is made to pending grant funding. It is unclear what grant is referred to as WVDOT does not have any grant pending with the City for this project.

Page 10

* First sentence, WV *Department* of Transportation
* Should residents, visitors and WVU be included as stakeholders?

Page 11

* Public Officials – were these stakeholders interviewed relative to the plan?

Page 12

* To be effective, plan and its needs should be part of everyone’s responsibilities.
* Stakeholder input from WVU, County Commissioners and DOT Secretary does not appear under their headings. Were these stakeholders interviewed?

Page 14

* Maybe adding a #9 “*Have biking on front screen of City’s website,* if the City’s goal is indeed to become a BFC.

Page 15

* #6 Where are published data sets to be published?

Page 16

* Engineering – Does the City Council agree with this objective?
* Are the bullets at the bottom of the page specific issue areas or general statements?

Page 18

* Are there specific areas where issues in the third and sixth paragraphs are located that could be place on the radar screen for improvements?

Page 19

* #2 This is for City/County facilities and not WVDOT, correct?
* #5 Too much signage? May become overlooked if too saturated.
* # 6 WVDOT has not adopted the use of the shared land markings (Sharrows). This may be confusing to motorist and bicyclists if on City Streets and not WVDOH routes.
* #7 This is not consistent with our signage directives.
* #11 Include drainage evaluations with change in grates.
* Are project specific items part of the MPO’s, City’s or County’s plans?

Page 20

* #3 Not sure why the CM would be leading the statewide planning efforts.
* #4 Not sure why this is part of the Plan?

Page 21

* Many of these may be outside the CM jurisdiction.
* Where are these items to be published? Monthly may be difficult to manage. Quarterly or semiannually maybe more appropriate.

Page 22

* #1 Which ones exist?
* Funding strategies – This is a critical area for the implementation of the Plan and consideration should be given to much more detail including local options.