

MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
September 15, 2004
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Jim Mullis (Wesley Chapel), Bob Smith (Monroe), Sandy Moore (Indian Trail), Lucy Drake (Stallings), Mark Estep (Union Co. Planning Board), Lee Myers (Matthews), Pat Mumford (Charlotte), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), Brian Sisson (Huntersville), John Woods (Davidson), Diane Carter (Char-Meck Planning Commission)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lee Myers called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Agenda Changes

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Lucy Drake informed the body that during the July meeting, it was agreed that the I-485 interchange analysis criteria item would be discussed at the September meeting. Mrs. Drake also inquired as to why it was not on the agenda.

Bob Cook replied that during the preparation process for the agenda, staff did not recall the MPO's vote to defer the I-485 item to the September meeting and unfortunately, it was mistakenly not added to the agenda. The minutes from the July meeting were not completed until after the meeting agenda was prepared and distributed. The minutes revealed that a motion was made to defer the I-485 item to the September meeting.

Mr. Cook updated the body on staff's progress. Staff has had brief conversations with Mr. Sexton (the person who made the motion), concerning this issue however; staff has not been successful in arranging a meeting to discuss the item in detail. Staff has also been coordinating with Joe Lesch (Union County's Assistant County Manager), to obtain information and coordinate a meeting with Mr. Sexton. Mr. Lesch responded that he has been in contact with Mr. Sexton about the issue and would be happy to address the issue later.

Lucy Drake made a motion to add the I-485 interchange analysis issue to the agenda. Sandy Moore seconded the motion.

Pat Mumford replied that this appears to be where the body was at last month's meeting. The reason staff was asked to get involved was to give this body more information, so that we could act on this item. It does not look as if information is available, and when could information be provided so that the body is able to make a logical decision? Bob Cook stated that staff would like an opportunity to meet and obtain more information from Mr. Sexton to understand his thoughts. Staff is optimistic that this information could be gathered by the MPO's next meeting.

Lucy Drake commented that Mr. Sexton made the motion but has not been involved in any of the environmental meetings. Persons that have been involved in the meetings include Lucy Drake, Joe Lesch, and Sandy Moore. Mr. Sexton was the Union County representative making the motion. If there are any questions concerning this issue, Mr. Lesch is probably the best person to talk to for information. In addition, Mr. Sexton should not have made reference to any particular environmental agency in his motion.

Ted Biggers requested that the item not be placed on the agenda. Mint Hill has been involved with the Fish & Wildlife Service probably more than any other municipality and it is something that is going to affect Mint Hill tremendously. If it were known that the I-485 item was going to be on the agenda, a presentation would have prepared to discuss Mint Hill's point of view.

Lee Myers clarified that he did not see the July meeting minutes until after the agenda was completed and distributed. Mr. Cook and Mr. Myers converse on a regular basis to discuss topics that may draw a little heat. It

was discussed that Mr. Cook did not have an opportunity to talk with Mr. Sexton. It was decided later not to place anything on the agenda due to the lack of information and no recommendation from the TCC for this body to consider.

The motion failed with five voting in favor (Jim Mullis, Lucy Drake, Sandy Moore, and Bob Smith (2 votes)) and 23 opposed.

Mr. Myers stated that the item should be added to next month's agenda whether staff provides a recommendation or not.

3. Approval of Minutes

The July minutes were approved as presented.

4. Citizen Comments

No citizens signed up for comments.

5. TIP Amendments: TE-4702B, South Corridor Light Rail Project

Presenter:

David McDonald, CATS

Summary/Requested Action:

CATS sought approval of two TIP amendments related to the South Corridor light rail project to remain on schedule. The TIP amendment requests included: (1) \$108 million for the maintenance facility to allow CATS to ask for a letter of no-prejudice from the Federal Government. The document certifies that the Federal Government will pay back half of the budget cost in the future. (2) Request for \$398.7 million to fully fund the project and allow CATS to pursue a full funding grant agreement. The grant application has been submitted and is currently being reviewed.

Motion:

Pat Mumford made the motion to approve the first amendment request as presented. Ted Biggers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Pat Mumford made the motion to approve the second amendment request as presented. Lucy Drake seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. TIP Amendment: U-4754, I-277 Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)

Presenter:

Bill Finger, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

An amendment to the TIP is requested so as to provide funding for extending the Metrolina Transportation Management Center interconnect along the John Belk and Brookshire freeways. \$1.75 million was received from the federal government. A 50% local match is required. It will be provided by the City of Charlotte, and with the use of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.

Motion:

Lucy Drake made the motion to approve the TIP amendment. Brian Sisson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. MPO Self-Certification

Presenter:

Terry Arellano, NCDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

The federal government requires MPOs to conduct an annual self-certification process to certify that it is meeting basic requirements related to the transportation planning process. The process is procedural.

The request is for the MPO to certify that it meets the federal requirements for transportation planning.

Motion:

Ted Biggers made the motion. B. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Regional Transportation Planning

Presenter:

Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

The regional forecasting model is proceeding on schedule and is currently on budget.

Update of the Long Range Transportation Plan: for the first time being done concurrently with two other MPOs in North Carolina and one in South Carolina. One reason for the concurrent update is because everyone is under the same obligation to submit the LRTP and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis before June 15th, 2005. If the Air Quality Conformity Analysis is not submitted, or the EPA does not find the document acceptable by the deadline, Federal dollars for highway and transit capital project will stop. In addition Mecklenburg County has to meet the old one-hour standard by April 15th, 2005.

Mr. Steinman asked for endorsement of county level population and employment projections. The reason for the request is because the other MPOs have been asked to take action at the same time in order to complete this process and move on to the next task.

Motion:

Ted Biggers made the motion to endorse the county level population and employment projections as presented. Lucy Drake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. TIP Meeting Recap

Presenter:

Jim Humphrey, CDOT

Summary:

Mr. Humphrey provided an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) discussion held in Raleigh on September 2nd with local staff and NCDOT officials. This meeting provided an opportunity for the MPO to talk about new projects it would like to see added to the 2006-2012 TIP. The information provided to NCDOT will be used to help them make decisions on projects that will be placed in a draft TIP, scheduled to be published by the first of the year. The Board of Transportation will adopt a new seven-year TIP by October of 2005.

NCDOT officials stated that none of the various reauthorization bills being considered by Congress provide significant amounts of new funding. The biggest news was that funding for loop projects is not keeping pace with the monetary need for all the loops that are authorized. Because of this the Board is going to have to prioritize the remaining loop projects. This could affect portions of our loop north of I-85 and the project added to the budget to widen I-485 between Johnston Road and I-77.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.