

MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267
March 19, 2008
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Anthony Foxx (Charlotte), Eddie McNeely (Cornelius), Brian Sisson (Huntersville), Lee Godwin (Indian Trail), Lee Myers (Matthews), Dumont Clarke (Mecklenburg County), Bob Smith (Monroe), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Daune Gardner (Waxhaw), Nancy Anderson (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Stephen Rosenburgh (Char-Meck Planning Commission)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Myers called the March 19, 2008 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

Chairman Myers asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the January minutes and called for a motion.

Motion:

Mr. Sisson made the motion to approve the January 2008 minutes as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The January 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Citizen Comment Period

Summary:

Martin Zimmerman of the Charlotte Area Bicycle Alliance (CABA) addressed the MPO in order to introduce his organization and its mission to MUMPO. He stated that CABA is committed to working with MUMPO to advance transportation goals. Chairman Myers invited everyone to participate in Bike Week, noting that Friday, May 2 was the Mayor's Bike Ride.

4. Grant Endorsement: Davidson Elementary School Safe Routes to School

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the MPO had endorsed other similar grant requests for the Safe Routes to Schools program at the November meeting. Grant submittal rules require projects within MPO planning areas to obtain the MPO's endorsement. Davidson Elementary School was not aware of the need to obtain the endorsement, and this was why the request was being made after the submittal deadline. The officials with NCDOT who administer the program told staff that a late endorsement would be acceptable.

Motion:

Mr. Foxx made a motion to amend the Davidson Elementary School's Safe Routes to School grant. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Draft 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program

Presenter:

Andy Grzymiski, CDOT

Summary:

Mr. Grzymiski updated the MPO on the TIP's status. He then discussed the Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) program, by reminding the members of the FY 14 and FY 15 STP-DA funds it needed to allocate. The project selection criteria endorsed by the TCC was reviewed, followed by a review of the TCC-recommended list of projects. The project list was as follows:

FY 2014 Recommended Projects

Town of Cornelius

Construct Northcross Drive Extension, from the end of Northcross Drive to Westmoreland Road

Estimated cost: \$4.5 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$3.6 million

Town of Indian Trail

Construct intersection improvements at Faith Church Road – Unionville Indian Trail Road intersection

Estimated cost: \$2 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$1.6 million

Town of Matthews

Construct grade-separated crossing of McKee Road over the CSX rail line

Estimated cost: \$2 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$1.6 million

Mecklenburg County

Construct a portion of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, from Tyvola Road to I-485

Estimated cost: \$5 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$800,000

Town of Stallings

Widen Potter Road, from Pleasant Plains Road to Old Monroe Road. This project includes intersection improvements at Potter Road and Pleasant Plains Road.

Estimated cost: \$2 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$1.6 million

FY 2015 Recommended Projects

City of Charlotte

Construct Little Rock Road relocation

Estimated cost: \$6 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$4.8 million

Town of Davidson

Construct multi-use parking deck-joint project with CATS

Estimated cost: \$7.5 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$2 million

Town of Huntersville

Construct intersection improvements at the intersection of US 21 and Gilead Road, including improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations

Estimated cost: \$3.2 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$2.5 million

Towns of Matthews & Mint Hill

Construct intersection improvements at the intersection of NC 51 and Idlewild Road

Estimated cost: \$500,000

STP-DA funds requested: \$400,000

Town of Mint Hill

Widen Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road, from NC 51 to Nelson Road

Estimated cost: \$650,000

STP-DA funds requested: \$520,000

Following the review of the list, Mr. Grzymski requested that the MPO endorse the list to allow staff to take it to the public for review and comment. This was not a formal TIP adoption. Mr. Sisson asked about the Davidson project. Mr. Grzymski replied that the TCC-endorsed project selection criteria included a goal of using at least 10% of the funds for non-roadway projects.

Motion:

Mr. Sisson made a motion to endorse the draft STP-DA project list. Mr. McNeely seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Draft 2009-2015 TIP Air Quality Conformity Determination

Presenter:

Jonathan Parker, NCDOT

Summary:

Mr. Parker informed the MPO that the draft conformity determination report was ready for public review. The report was prepared by NCDOT staff and indicates that MUMPO's draft 2009-2015 TIP conforms to the Clean Air Act and SAFETEA-LU. Approval of the requested action will permit the report to be issued for public review and comment. A 30-day public comment period will be scheduled and two public meetings will be held.

Motion:

Mr. Smith made a motion to release the draft 2009-2015 TIP air quality conformity determination report for public review. Mr. Foxx seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. County-Level Population and Employment Projections

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that staff has been working with the MPO's member jurisdictions to develop updated socioeconomic data to be used in the preparation of the long-range transportation plan (LRTP). He stated that at the May meeting, the MPO will be asked to endorse county-level estimates for the updated LRTP's horizon years: 2015; 2025; 2035.

8. Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook updated the MPO on the LRTP update's status. He reviewed the Consultation efforts with the federal, state and local environmental agencies and discussed the two public involvement kick-off meetings held in February. Also discussed was a local interagency meeting held with the regional partners on March 6, as well as an upcoming full-scale interagency meeting involving federal, state and local partners. Mr. Cook noted that the most time consuming task was the project ranking effort. He stated that staff is working with its member jurisdictions to rank approximately 360 projects for potential inclusion in the LRTP. The presentation concluded with a review of the tentative results of a survey on the public's perceptions of regional transportation needs.

9. Fast Lanes Project Update

Presenter:

Tim Gibbs, CDOT

Summary:

Mr. Gibbs updated the MPO on the status of this project, stating that Phase 1 had been completed. He reminded the MPO that the project's purpose was to identify corridors where Fast Lanes (i.e. high occupancy toll-HOT, high occupancy vehicle-HOV lanes) might be viable and/or might yield sufficient revenue to justify their installation, as well as where and how these facilities might be connected to form a system. Mr. Gibbs then reviewed the projects in MUMPO's planning area that were being recommended for moving forward to Phase 2: I-77; I-85; I-485; NC 16; US 74. Phase 2 will analyze these roadways in more depth, looking specifically at the following issues: type of lane treatment; type of operation strategy; HOV and HOT policy; truck potential; revenue potential; access; connectivity; phasing.

10. Monroe Connector Bypass Update

Presenter:

Reid Simons, NCTA

Summary:

Ms. Simons discussed recent public input events, and discussed the NCTA's receipt of resolutions and letters concerning segments 18A and 2. She then reviewed maps depicting segments 18A, 22A and 2. Most significant with segment 2 was a revision to the proposed alignment to lessen the impact on the Old Hickory business park. Ms. Simons stated that the NCTA will continue to work to minimize impacts on all segments, and will meet with those in the corridors as design work proceeds. Also addressed was the issue of the environmental agencies wanting to continue to analyze the existing US 74 corridor as a potential option. The NCTA is hopeful that it will be eliminated soon from further discussion. Ms. Simons also noted that staff is currently doing field work associated with right-of-way (ROW) issues and the indirect and cumulative effects (ICE) study.

The presentation continued with Ms. Simons stating that the project cost estimate was still \$583 million. A slight change in the project schedule was reviewed. The NCTA staff is now planning on combining public workshops with the selection of the locally preferred alternative (LPA). This will not impact the overall schedule, and the workshops may be held in November/December 2008. Mr. Rosenburgh asked where the Monroe project stands as an NCTA priority. Ms. Simons replied that the NCTA is working on five projects, but that no priority has been established; project implementation is dependent upon the completion of environmental documents. Mayor Paxton thanked the NCTA for their work on the revision to segment 2.

11. Draft FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook updated the MPO on the UPWP's status. He reminded the members of the UPWP's purpose, as well as the amount of funding available during FY 09. The five funding categories in the UPWP were reviewed, along with the tentative funding amounts for each. The three potential sub-allocations were reviewed. Mr. Cook concluded by stating that staff would request adoption in May.

12. Northwest Huntersville Transportation Study

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook reviewed the project's status. A newly prepared aerial photo overlaid with potential roadway alignments was displayed, and Mr. Cook noted that Huntersville officials had not yet seen the map. The project's history was reviewed by noting that MUMPO adopted the current alignment of the Vance Road Extension in 2004, and that in September 2007, the Huntersville town board approved the Beatties Ford Road small area plan (BFRSAP) and requested MUMPO staff to analyze some of the potential roadway changes recommended by that plan. It was noted that the project was being divided into two phases. The first phase is focusing on a potential realignment of the proposed Vance Road Extension, and the second will focus on other potential roadway changes recommended by the BFRSAP. Mr. Cook then discussed the December public workshop, and that a second workshop is being scheduled. An amendment to the Thoroughfare Plan for the Vance Road Extension will likely be requested in May.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.