

**MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267**  
**September 16, 2009 Meeting**  
**Summary Minutes**

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**Members Attending:**

Susan Burgess – alt. for Anthony Foxx (Charlotte), Jim Bensman (Cornelius), Brian Jenest (Davidson), Brian Sisson (Huntersville), John Quinn (Indian Trail), Lee Myers (Matthews), Dumont Clarke (Mecklenburg County), Carl Ellington – alt. for Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), Bob Smith (Monroe), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Tracy Kuehler (Union County), Daune Gardner (Waxhaw), Nancy Anderson (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Bill Braswell (Wingate), John Collett (NC Board of Transportation) **Non-Voting Members:** Mark DiBiasio (UC Planning Board)

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Myers called the September 2009 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Summary:

Chairman Myers asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the August 2009 minutes and called for a motion.

Motion:

Bob Smith made a motion to approve the August 2009 minutes as presented. Carl Ellington seconded the motion. The August 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comment Period**

Summary: Reese Untz advocated the construction of the final segment of I-485.

**4. Monroe Connector/Bypass**

**a. TCC Alternative Recommendation**

Presenter:

Nicholas Polimeni, Carl Gibilaro, PBS&J and Reid Simons, NCTA

Summary:

Mr. Polimeni began the presentation by reviewing the process the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) used to make its recommendation to the MPO, the details of which were included in a memorandum to the MPO dated September 9, 2009 and are included by reference in the minutes. The result of the TCC ranking meeting held on August 26 was that Segment 18A was favored by a very small margin; however, when the full TCC met on September 3, 2009, it determined that the NCTA's technical analysis was sufficient and elected to support Alternative D and to recommend that the MPO do the same. A motion to recommend Alternative D passed with 16 votes cast in favor and three votes cast in opposition (Indian Trail, Stallings, Wesley Chapel). The TCC also affirmed its support for an interchange at US 601 and recommended the MPO do the same.

Ms. Simons and Mr. Gibilaro then began their presentation to the MPO via Power Point, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. One part of the presentation focused on the "least environmentally damaging practicable alternative" (LEDPA). Establishment of a LEDPA is required by the Clean Water Act and requires that an agency prove no other practicable alternatives exist. The presentation also provided details on how Alternative D was selected. Lastly, the presentation covered design refinements, the Aesthetics Committee, project financing and "next steps" in the project development process. (This presentation served as the Project Status Update that was also on the agenda.)

Following the NCTA presentation, the MPO members offered questions and comments. John Quinn thanked the NCTA for some of the design refinements but also noted that Alternative D is one of the more expensive

alternatives. He also noted that he would be voting against supporting Alternative D. Susan Burgess stated that since the project is one of the state's first toll roads it needs to be well designed. Mayor Linda Paxton stated that she was directed by the Stallings town board to not support segment #2. Nancy Anderson stated support for the interchange at US 601. Chairman Myers stated his support for Alternative D.

Motion:

Mr. Sisson made a motion to endorse Alternative D as the recommended alternative for the Monroe Connector/Bypass and to support the inclusion of an interchange at US 601. 35 votes were cast in favor of the motion and three votes were cast in opposition (Indian Trail, Stallings, Wesley Chapel). The motion passed.

**b. Project Status Update**

Presenter:

Carl Gibilaro and Reid Simons

Summary:

The project status update was provided as a part of the alternative recommendation presentation.

**5. LRTP Update-Modeling Results of Initial Scenarios**

Presenter:

Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary:

Mr. Steinman presented information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The purpose of the presentation was to present the results of the four scenarios that were modeled for possible inclusion in the LRTP. The modeling results found that all four scenarios pass the air quality conformity test if based upon motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) proposed by the NC Division of Air Quality. Mr. Steinman noted that the differences between the four scenarios were small relative to air quality and congestion impacts: NOx emissions drop and congestion increases under all four scenarios. TCC Vice-Chairman Bill Coxe addressed the MPO, stating that while the results provide MUMPO with the ability to create a plan that achieves conformity, the plan will not be a good one due to a lack of funding to construct needed projects. Mr. Coxe and Mr. Steinman raised the possibility of incorporating the results of the managed lanes study into a scenario to be tested because revenue raised by managed lanes could free up funds to construct other projects. After a discussion of transportation funding problems, the MPO directed staff to pursue an additional scenario based upon managed lanes.

**6. Small Project Ranking Methodology**

Presenter:

Jim Bensman, MPO Representative, Town of Cornelius

Summary:

Mr. Bensman stated that the intent of this proposal was to develop a method to establish priorities for small projects that could be implemented faster than the expensive projects because small projects can have an impact on congestion and provide some relief to communities. He requested the MPO to ask the TCC to investigate the pros and cons of a small project ranking methodology. NCDOT Division 10 Engineer Barry Moose addressed the MPO and stated that considerable thought will need to go into the development of such a methodology. Mayor Anderson stated that the TCC will need to be provided with more direction regarding the MPO's goals for this project.

Motion:

Mr. Bensman made a motion to request the TCC to pursue the development of a small project ranking methodology. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.