

MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267
January 20, 2010 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Susan Burgess (Charlotte), Jim Bensman (Cornelius), Brian Jenest (Davidson), Sarah McAulay (Huntersville), John Quinn (Indian Trail), James Taylor (Matthews), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), John Ashcraft (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 (Board of Transportation)

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ted Biggers stated that since the MPO lacked a chairman and vice-chairman, as the senior member of the MPO he would run the meeting until a new chairman is elected and called the January 2010 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Election of Officers

Presenter: Ted Biggers

Before nominations were put forth, Mr. Cook noted that the agenda packet contained incorrect information. Specifically, the position of vice-chairman is not subject to the same eligibility requirements as the position of chairman. Mayor Biggers then opened the floor to nominations.

Chairman

The following names were placed in nomination: Mayor Ted Biggers and Mayor Pro Tem Susan Burgess. Upon being put to a vote, 19 votes were cast in favor of Mayor Biggers and 16 votes were cast in favor of Mayor Pro Tem Burgess. Mayor Biggers was elected chairman of the MPO for 2010.

Vice-Chairman

Mayor Lynda Paxton was nominated for the position of vice-chairman. No other names were put forth. Upon being put to a vote, Mayor Paxton was unanimously elected vice-chairman of the MPO for 2010.

3. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

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

Motion:

Jim Bensman made a motion to approve the November 2009 minutes as presented. Bill Braswell seconded the motion. The November 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Citizen Comment Period

Summary:

Ron Esser addressed the MPO regarding concerns he had about the Monroe Parkway's impact on his business, Carolina Courts located in Indian Trail. The project will require that Carolina Courts be relocated and he was seeking clear and consistent information from the NC Turnpike Authority. Reid Simons of the NCTA responded to Mr. Esser's concerns and offered to meet with him to address those concerns further.

5. Federal Funds Rescission

Presenter:

Calvin Leggett, NCDOT Program Development Branch Manager

Summary:

Mr. Leggett was present to respond to questions raised at the November meeting concerning why North Carolina did not obligate federal funds and avoid having funds rescinded. He noted that the primary reason was the state

lacked the contract authority to obligate the funds for projects. Mr. Leggett stated that the rescission should not adversely affect any MUMPO projects from this point forward.

6. **Lake Norman Bike Route**

Presenter:

Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG

Summary:

Mr. Hansen reviewed the project's details via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. He requested that the MPO endorse the project. A question was posed about the cost of the project and Mr. Hansen responded that the overall cost could be \$100 million, but that the estimate factored in inflation and was for a 20 year implementation period. Chairman Biggers asked if the affected towns had endorsed the proposal. Ms. McAulay stated Huntersville had done so; Mr. Bensman indicated Cornelius had not yet done so. Ms. Burgess stated that endorsement does not obligate the MPO to put projects into the LRTP.

Motion:

Sarah McAulay made a motion to endorse the Lake Norman Bike Route. Mayor Paxton seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Long-Range Transportation Plan Update**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook reminded the MPO that in November 2009 it took the following action:

- a. Endorsed the "No New Revenue" scenario and accompanying project list*
- b. Approved the release of a draft LRTP for public review*
- c. Approved the release of a draft air quality conformity report for public review*

He stated that final work in the LRTP and conformity determination report was being done. LRTP was being done in-house with the assistance of the Centralina COG and that the conformity report was being prepared by staff of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

The following schedule was then reviewed:

- February 4-TCC finds the text of both documents to be technically sufficient and approves them being released for public comment
- February 5-public comment period begins
- February 24-public meeting in Charlotte
- February 25-public meeting in Indian Trail
- March 8-public comment period ends
- March 11-TCC meets to make recommendation to the MPO
- March 24-MPO meets to take final action on the LRTP and conformity report

Mr. Cook stated that the date of the March MPO meeting was one week later than usual and formal action by the MPO would be needed to change the date. He noted that there was no need for a meeting in February.

Motion:

Sarah McAulay made a motion to move the March meeting date to March 24. James Taylor seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. **Monroe Parkway Project Status Update**

Presenter:

Reid Simons

Summary:

Ms. Simons reviewed the project's details via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation covered the following topics:

Alternative "D" is the NCTA's preferred alternative

The tolling concept was discussed. An "open road" system will be used, thereby eliminating the need for toll plazas as are found on older toll facilities. The NCTA is now considering what type of tag system to use.

The Aesthetics Committee has been meeting and has prepared design guidelines.

A review of overall project development was provided. Contracts are expected to be awarded in December, 2010 and road should be open to traffic by 2014.

9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter:

Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary:

Mr. Panicker reviewed the project's details via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The objective of the presentation was to kick-off the preparation of the CTP.

10. Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that three transportation planning initiatives were underway or about to begin and provided a brief overview of the three.

1. Centralina COG Regional Transportation Planning Study. The study's purpose is to examine alternative organizational/decision-making structures and processes that would better position the region relative to funding and influence, organizational efficiencies and planning to develop a truly regional multi-modal transportation system.
2. Charlotte Regional Partnership. This study is being undertaken within the context of a bill introduced in the NC General Assembly by Sen. Daniel Clodfelter that would permit the establishment of regional transportation funding agencies. (SB 910)
3. Lake Norman Transportation Commission. The Commission is hosting an Urban Land Institute (ULI) panel to examine land use and transportation issues in northern Mecklenburg County and southern Iredell County.

It was suggested that Sen. Clodfelter and the leader of the COG study be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposed legislation and COG study.

11. Orientation Follow-Up

Presenter:

Nicholas Polimeni

Summary:

Mr. Polimeni discussed what happened at the MPO Orientation on January 13. He stated that the orientation was well attended and that most of the feedback provided in the surveys was positive. He showed a table that indicated what the survey results were. Mr. Polimeni concluded by indicating there seemed to be a desire among MPO members, based on the survey results, to conduct further learning sessions. It was suggested that a list of topics be emailed to each MPO member so they could rank the topics, in order for staff to determine which items were of most interest. Mr. Polimeni agreed to do that.

12. Other Business

Summary:

Nancy Anderson recommended that the MPO set a policy for future elections and on earmarks. She also recommended that MPO members begin attending Board of Transportation meetings. Ms. Burgess stated that Jim Trogdon, NCDOT's chief operating officer, had indicated that he is open to relocating some of Division 10's functions closer to MUMPO's planning area, and that NCDOT is seeking input on new approaches to how it conducts its business.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.