

**MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room CH-14**  
**March 24, 2010 Meeting**  
**Summary Minutes**

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**Members Attending:**

David Howard (Charlotte), Jim Bensman (Cornelius), Brian Jenest (Davidson), Sarah McAulay (Huntersville), John Quinn (Indian Trail), James Taylor (Matthews), Dumont Clarke (Mecklenburg County), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Tracy Kuehler (Union County), Daune Gardner (Waxhaw), Werner Thomisser (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), John Collett (Board of Transportation)

**Non-Voting Members:** Greg Phipps (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission)

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**1. Call to Order**

MPO Chairman Ted Biggers called the March 2010 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Summary:

Chairman Biggers asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the January 2010 minutes and called for a motion.

Motion:

Jim Bensman made a motion to approve the January 2010 minutes as presented. John Collett seconded the motion. The January 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comment Period**

Summary:

There were no public comments.

**4. LRTP & Conformity Determination Report Recommendations**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

The contents of Mr. Cook's Power Point presentation are incorporated into the minutes. He stated that the request before the MPO was to, a) find that the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program are in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) amendments of 1990 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and, b) adopt the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Cook explained that it was important to take the requested action at this time because MUMPO would go into a conformity lapse as of May 3, the effects of which would be a cutoff of federal transportation funds and further delays to I-485 and the Monroe Parkway. It was noted that no substantial public comments were received and that at its March meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the MPO take the requested action. Mr. Cook advised that adoption of the LRTP should be conditioned upon necessary text changes. The changes were not of the variety that would affect content, rather, they will correct inconsistencies and improve clarity.

Mr. Bensman raised a concern that too much funding was being applied to the Independence Boulevard project and that perhaps the adoption of the LRTP should be delayed to reconsider this issue. Mr. Cook advised against delaying adoption because doing so would result in a conformity lapse. TCC Vice-Chairman Bill Coxe provided information on how GARVEE bonds are being used to finance the Independence project.

Motion-Find the LRTP and TIP to be in compliance with the CAA and SAFETEA-LU:

Dumont Clarke made a motion to adopt the conformity determination resolution as presented. David Howard seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

Motion-Adopt the 2035 LRTP:

Mr. Clarke made a motion to adopt the LRTP as presented. James Taylor seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously adopted.

**5. 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook explained that a plan to accelerate the construction of the remaining portion of the I-485 loop (TIP #R-2248E) and the I-85/I-485 Interchange (TIP #R-2123CE) had been proposed by NCDOT. Currently, the TIP shows the construction funding for these projects after FY 2015. TIP amendments are required in order for the funding to correspond with NCDOT's new construction schedule. He stated that at its March 11 meeting, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) unanimously recommended that the MPO approve the TIP amendments.

Motion:

Mr. Clarke made a motion to approve the TIP amendments. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

**6. Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization Results**

Presenter:

David Wasserman, NCDOT

Summary:

The contents of Mr. Wasserman's Power Point presentation are incorporated into the minutes. He explained that the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) prioritization process is a part of NCDOT's reform efforts. A part of the reform is the development of a five year work program, and NCDOT requested the state's MPOs, RPOs and Division Engineers to submit projects for the 2015-2020 time period. Over 1,100 highway projects were submitted for evaluation, including those submitted by MUMPO. The total estimated cost of the projects was \$45 billion, yet NCDOT estimates its revenue will be just \$9 billion during that five year period. In addition, over 900 non-highway projects were submitted for prioritization at a total estimated cost of \$9 billion, whereas only \$1.5 billion is estimated to be available to fund non-highway projects. Mr. Wasserman then reviewed the prioritization's results. He stated that the next step in the process is to apply financial and scheduling constraints. The resulting list will become the draft TIP.

**7. Charlotte Railroad Corridor Improvements**

Presenter:

Patrick Simmons

Summary:

No presentation was made. Mr. Simmons was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

**8. Resolution Supporting the Fast Lanes Study**

Presenter:

Tim Gibbs, CDOT

Summary:

The contents of Mr. Gibbs' Power Point presentation are incorporated into the minutes. Mr. Gibbs provided an overview of the Fast Lanes study, the purpose of which was to identify corridors where managed lanes could be implemented. He requested that the MPO adopt the resolution that was presented in order to incorporate study recommendations into future LRTPs, to conduct corridor engineering and usage studies and to identify potential policy and institutional questions. Mr. Gibbs indicated that the Gaston MPO and Lake Norman RPO have already adopted the resolution.

Motion:

Sarah McAulay made a motion to adopt the Fast Lanes resolution but that NC 16 (Brookshire Boulevard) should be added to the list of projects to be studied further. Mr. Bensman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

**9. Lake Norman Transportation Commission ULI Panel Findings**

Presenter:

Carroll Gray, Lake Norman Transportation Commission

Summary:

The contents of Mr. Gray's Power Point presentation are incorporated into the minutes. Mr. Gray's presentation began with an overview of the ULI panel and why the Lake Norman Transportation Commission decided to use its services. He identified the three key outcomes of the process: roads; rail; rebranding. The most significant road challenges were I-77, NC 73, NC 150 and the need for a new road to parallel NC 115 to the east from I-485 to north of Lake Norman. The presentation also emphasized the need for implementation of CATS' North Corridor commuter line. Mr. Clarke stated that many workers at the Lowe's corporate offices are making reverse commutes from Charlotte to Mooresville.

**10. FY 11 Unified Planning Work Program**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

The contents of Mr. Cook's Power Point presentation are incorporated into the minutes. He reviewed the draft FY 11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He explained that the UPWP lays out the tasks the MPO needs to work on during a given year. The funding sources are Planning (PL) funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Section 5303 funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and a PL fund supplement in the form of Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) funds. It was explained that due to the lack of a transportation reauthorization bill, the exact amount of funding for FY 11 is not known, therefore staff is assuming funding levels equal to the current fiscal year. Three key activities were highlighted: updating and maintenance of the travel demand model; continued work on the Congestion Management Process; starting work on the next LRTP. Mr. Cook noted that four towns are seeking PL funds to undertake local transportation planning projects: Cornelius; Davidson; Huntersville; Indian Trail. Final adoption is expected in May.

**11. Monroe Parkway Project Status Update**

Presenter: Reid Simons, NCTA

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

A description of typical sections and frontage roads was provided

Work on the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) is underway, with the record of decision (ROD) expected to be signed in June, 2010

Geotechnical investigations are underway

A design/build pre-bid meeting is scheduled for March 31 in Wingate

Contracts are expected to be awarded in December, 2010

The NCTA is applying for a TIFIA loan from the USDOT

**12. Rea Road Extension/NC 84 Improvements**

Presenter:

Werner Thomisser

Summary:

Mr. Thomisser provided background on this matter. He explained that Mayor Nancy Anderson originally requested that this matter be placed on the agenda due to her concerns about how the project has moved up and down in the LRTP project lists over the years. Mr. Thomisser stated that Mayor Anderson was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. Mayor Gardner requested that the item be placed on the May agenda.

**13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.