

MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267
May 19, 2010 Meeting
Summary Minutes

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), John Ashcraft (Monroe), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Daune Gardner (Waxhaw), Nancy Anderson (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel)

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

1. Call to Order

MPO Chairman Ted Biggers called the May 2010 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:15 PM and noted that an item related to the Rea Road Extension project would be added to the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

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

Motion:

John Ashcraft made a motion to approve the March 2010 minutes as presented. Sarah McAulay seconded the motion. The March 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Citizen Comment Period

Summary:

There were no public comments.

4. Monroe Parkway

a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modification

Presenter:

Reid Simons, NCTA

Summary:

Ms. Simons stated the reason for the TIP modification to bring the TIP in line with the project schedule and the LRTP. The action will place all project funds in fiscal years 2011 through 2014 and clarify the funding sources. She noted that the TCC unanimously recommended that the TIP be modified as presented.

Motion:

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion to modify the TIP as presented. Jim Bensman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Project Status Update

Presenter:

Reid Simons, NCTA

Summary:

Ms. Simons reviewed the following topics:

- Trans Core was awarded a contract to provide transponder services to the NCTA. The transponder can be used in different states.
- The final EIS is scheduled to be released shortly.
- The record of decision (ROD) is scheduled to be signed in July.

- A final draft of aesthetic guidelines will be available soon.
- A meeting was held with the Stallings business community; a similar meeting in Indian Trail is being organized.

Mayor Paxton stated that Stallings had approved a resolution supporting the proposed wall design for the elevated portion of the road. Chairman Biggers asked Ms. Simons to discuss this matter at the MPO's July meeting. Mayor Taylor asked about the McKee Road issue. Ms. Simons replied that it was still in design.

5. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Presenter:

Julie Clark, Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation

Summary:

Ms. Clark provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. She explained that the request was for the MPO to amend the TIP by shifting funds from five previously approved projects to two new projects. The affected projects are listed below:

Projects from which funds are proposed to be removed:

- Old Concord Road bike lanes
- Iverson Way-Marion Place bike/pedestrian connection
- McAlpine Creek Greenway
- Mallard Creek Greenway-connection to park & ride
- Sugar Creek/Rumple Road intersection improvements

It was stated that the above five projects cannot move forward due to a combination of funding and logistical problems. One example is that the Sugar Creek/Rumple Road intersection project is being funded entirely by City of Charlotte funds.

Projects proposed to be funded:

- A one mile extension of the Toby Creek greenway from University City Boulevard to Rockland Drive.
- A new sidewalk along the north side of University City Boulevard (NC 49) between Mallard Creek Church Road and the new main entrance to UNCC.

Funding the above two projects with CMAQ funds from the other five projects will result in the funds staying within MUMPO's planning area. The approximate amount of funds to be shifted is \$1,848,800. Ms. Clark concluded by stating the TCC unanimously recommended that the MPO amend the TIP as presented.

Following the presentation, the MPO members asked a series of questions and commented on the proposal.

Motion:

Ms. McAulay made a motion to amend the TIP as presented. David Howard seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed with 33 yea votes and 2 nay votes. The nay votes were cast by Cornelius and Weddington.

b. 2010 Project Selection

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that NCDOT issued a call for CMAQ projects and that funding was available for fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Included in the agenda packet was a list of 47 potential projects nominated by a variety of agencies. It was not expected that all 47 projects would result in a formal application. May 26 was the deadline for submitting proposals to MUMPO. A recommendation from the TCC is scheduled to be presented to the MPO in July.

6. FY 11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the requested action was for the MPO to adopt the FY 11 UPWP. He noted that the pertinent details were included in a memorandum included in the agenda packet. In addition, it was noted that staff did not receive the final Planning (PL) fund amount until the day before the TCC meeting, thereby not allowing for adequate time to program all funds. The result is that approximately \$56,000 needs to be programmed. Mr. Cook stated that the TCC will work to program the funds in a specific task code and request a UPWP amendment in July or September. Lastly, it was noted that the TCC unanimously recommended that the MPO adopt the UPWP as presented.

Motion:

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion to adopt the FY 11 UPWP as presented. Ms. McAulay seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. MPO Self-Certification

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that MPOs are required to certify annually that they adhere to all federal statutes, regulations, etc. that pertain to the metropolitan planning process. He stated that the TCC unanimously recommended that the MPO adopt the resolution.

Motion:

Mr. Howard made a motion to adopt the self-certification resolution as presented. Mayor Taylor seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. I-485 & NC 24 Functional Classification Changes

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook reviewed the changes to the functional classification system requested by NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch:

- I-485, from I-85 to Brookshire Blvd: change from Freeway/Expressway to Interstate
- I-485, from Brookshire Blvd to I-77: change from Future Freeway/Expressway to Interstate
- NC 24 (W.T. Harris Blvd), from I-77 to I-485: change from Major Collector to Principal Arterial

It was noted that the TCC unanimously recommended that the MPO approve the changes.

Motion:

Mr. Howard made a motion to adopt the changes as presented. Mayor Taylor seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. I-77 HOV-to-HOT Lanes Conversion and Extension

Presenter:

Lynn Purnell, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Summary:

Mr. Purnell provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation updated the MPO on the I-77 North feasibility study, the purpose of which was threefold: a) examine the feasibility of extending the existing HOV lane; b) determine the feasibility

of converting the HOV lane to a high occupancy toll (HOT) lane and extending it; and c) determining the feasibility of allowing general purpose traffic on the right shoulders. Mr. Purnell reported that the study's findings were that HOT lanes would provide travel benefits and improve traffic flow until I-77 is widened. The estimated cost of the project is \$50 million (2009 dollars).

Following Mr. Purnell's presentation, Brian Jenest stated that the Lake Norman Transportation Commission was very supportive of the conversion and extension project. Ms. McAulay stated that the MPO needed to position itself in the event a method emerges that will allow the project to advance.

Motion:

Ms. McAulay made a motion to endorse the concept of converting the existing HOV lanes on I-77 to HOT lanes and extending them to at least exit 28. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Regional Transportation Planning Study & Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Presenter:

Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina COG

Summary:

Ms. Yarbrough provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. Centralina COG is leading a study to examine alternative organizational/decision-making structures and processes for the region's MPOs and RPOs that would potentially "better position the greater Charlotte Bi-State Region to plan, develop, and implement an effective regional multi-modal transportation system." A draft report is expected in August. Ms. Yarbrough reminded the MPO members of the invitation to participate in a focus group on Thursday, May 27 at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center.

Following the regional presentation study, Ms. Yarbrough briefly mentioned the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. This is a grant program coming out of the Livability Partnership of USHUD, USEPA and USDOT based on six "Livability Principles" developed by the agencies to promote sustainability. It is designed to link housing, transportation, economic development, and environment. Final information on grant details is expected to be released soon. It is expected that applications will be due by mid to late July. Ms. Yarbrough noted that outputs of the program will provide information crucial to the development of MUMPO's next LRTP.

11. Rea Road Extension

Presenter: Nancy Anderson

Summary:

Mayor Anderson reviewed the history of the Rea Road extension project and how it ranked in the various LRTPs adopted by the MPO since 1995. Her concern was that it was an important project but had lost ground over the years. Mayor Paxton stated that the project has been controversial in the past.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.