

**MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267**  
**November 17, 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), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), John Ashcraft (Monroe), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Tracy Kuehler (Union County), Joyce Blythe (Waxhaw), Nancy Anderson (Weddington), Howard Brotton (Wesley Chapel), John Collett (NC BOT)

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**1. Call to Order**

MPO Chairman Ted Biggers called the November 2010 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Summary:

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

Motion:

Sarah McAulay made a motion to approve the September 2010 minutes as presented. James Taylor seconded the motion. The September 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comment Period**

Summary:

There were no public comments.

**4. CATS TIP Amendment**

Presenters:

David McDonald, CATS

Summary:

Mr. McDonald stated that the need for the amendments is related to the receipt of federal grants. The TIP must be amended in order for CATS to spend the funds. The projects awarded funding were:

- Maintenance and restoration of vehicle maintenance equipment at the Tryon Street and N. Davidson St. bus garages. Project grant amount: \$1,949,600.
- Development of asset management system to track the condition agency's fleet, facilities and equipment. Project grant amount: \$400,000.
- Solar panel purchase and installation (TIGER II). Project grant amount: \$1,000,000.
- Purchase of paratransit replacement buses. Project grant amount: \$421,580.

It was noted that the TCC had unanimously recommended approval of the amendment.

Motion:

John Ashcraft made a motion to approve the TIP amendment request as presented. Ms. McAulay seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**5. FY 11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the reason for the amendment was that the USDOT had restored Planning (PL) funds that had previously been rescinded. The total amount of funding to be programmed was \$291,642 and the task codes to which the funding was proposed to be applied were as follows:

- Task code: II-10, GIS Analysis & Mapping \$62,040
- Task code: V-4, Transportation Improvement Program \$30,000
- Task code: II-10, GIS Analysis & Mapping \$114,600
- Task code: VI-10, Corridor Protection & Special Studies \$30,000
- Task code: III-3, Travel Model Updates \$55,002

It was noted that the TCC had unanimously recommended approval of the amendment.

Motion:

Jim Bensman made a motion to amend the FY 11 UPWP as presented. Mayor Taylor seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously. At Chairman Biggers' request, Mr. Bensman confirmed that his motion included approval of the resolution included in the agenda packet.

**6. NCDOT 2011 Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that Wingate was requesting a pedestrian planning grant from NCDOT to develop a comprehensive pedestrian system of sidewalks, greenways and walking trails that connect various parts of the community. No MPO funds will be redirected for this project.

Motion:

Ms. McAulay made a motion to endorse the proposal. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**7. Draft Transportation Improvement Program**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook explained that the purpose of the presentation was to obtain guidance from the MPO on a variety of significant issues. The following lists the issues, followed by the MPO's action.

**A. Issue: Proposed Project Delays**

*Does the MPO wish to pursue restoring funding to any of the projects?*

I-4750	I-77 widening
I-3311	I-77 widening
R-211EC	I-485/Weddington Road interchange
U-209B	Independence Boulevard widening
U-2507	Sugar Creek Road Extension/Mallard Creek Road relocation
U-2547	Charles Street widening
U-3809	Indian Trail Road widening
U-3825	Stallings Road widening
U-4024	US 601 widening and US 74 interchange improvements

**Action**

Motion:

Mayor Quinn made a motion to keep TIP projects U-3825 (Stallings Road) and U-3809 (Indian Trail Road) in the TIP pending further studies, with the flexibility that the projects can be reviewed in the future. Mayor Paxton seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Bensman made a motion to accept the above list as shown and not pursue restoration of funding for any of the projects, with the exception of the U-3825 and U-3809 mentioned in the action listed above. The motion was seconded by Joyce Blythe.

**B. Issue: Proposed Project Accelerations**

*Does the MPO wish to not accelerate any of the projects?*

Schedules for the following projects have been proposed to be accelerated by NCDOT:

I-4733	I-77 Catawba Avenue interchange modification
R-2555	W. Catawba Avenue widening
R-4902	I-485 widening
U-4913	Idlewild Road widening (from I-485 to Stevens Mill Road)

**Action**

Motion:

Ms. McAulay made a motion to accept all proposed project accelerations. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**C. Issue: Unfunded Projects**

*Does the MPO wish to request that any or all of the projects remain listed in the TIP?*

NCDOT has proposed to remove Unfunded projects from the TIP. The affected projects are those having no funds attached and for which there is no legislative mandate to complete:

R-3802	NC 16 widening (Union County)
R-2706	NC 73 widening
U-213	Charlotte Avenue widening
U-2549	Monroe Northern Loop, (US 74 to Walkup Avenue)
U-3619	Secrest Avenue extension
U-5007	NC 51 widening (Matthews-Mint Hill Road to Lawyers Road)
U-2547	Charles Street widening
U-4024	US 601 widening and US 74 interchange improvements*
U-203	Airport Entrance Road (Charlotte)
U-2704	Wilkinson Boulevard (Wilkinson Blvd/BG Parkway improvements)
U-4705	Belmont-Mt. Holly Northern Loop (new bridge over Catawba River)

**Action**

Motion:

Ms. McAulay made a motion to accept the proposal to remove the above Unfunded projects from the TIP. Mr. Bensman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**D. Issue: Rea Road Extension (U-3467)**

*Does the MPO support funding this project?*

The TIP includes \$2 million in construction funds for the “A” section of the project which is a 1000 foot section of the project starting at NC 16. A developer was to construct the remaining portion of the road to NC 84, but the proposed development is defunct.

**Action**

Motion:

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion to continue to pursue implementation of this project. Mr. Bensman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**E. Issue: STP Funding to CATS (U-5210)**

*Does the MPO support providing \$1.5 million in Surface Transportation Funds to CATS?*

**Action**

Motion:

Mr. Howard made a motion to support funding of this project. Ms. McAulay seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed with one dissenting vote. The dissenting vote was cast by Mr. Bensman.

**F. Issue: Including Augustalee projects in the TIP**

*Does the TCC support including the five Augustalee projects in the TIP?*

- I-5126 I-77 widening
- I-5127 Westmoreland Road interchange
- U-5128 Statesville Road widening
- U-5130 Jim Cooke Road, construct new road, Bailey Rd to Northcross Dr Ext
- U-5131 Northcross Dr, construct new road, Jim Cooke Rd (prop) to Eagle Ridge Way Drive

**Action**

Motion:

Mr. Bensman made a motion to endorse the TCC’s recommendation on this item. The TCC’s recommendation was as follows:

- a. keep projects I-5126 (I-77 widening) and I-5127 (I-77/Westmoreland Road interchange) in the TIP as privately funded projects
- b. Drop projects U-5128 (Statesville Road widening), U-5129 (Westmoreland Road improvements), U-5130 (Jim Cooke Road construction) and U-5131 (Northcross Drive extension) because they are not regionally significant

The motion was seconded by Mr. Howard, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously.

**G. Issue: I-77 managed lanes project**

The issue addressed was support for a managed lane project on I-77 from Charlotte to northern Mecklenburg County.

**Action**

Motion:

Ms. McAulay made a motion to support establishing an I-77 managed lanes project in the TIP. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**H. Issue: Independence Boulevard**

This issue focused on the fact that there are two significant projects about to get underway on the Independence Boulevard/US 74 corridor (U-209B, widening from Albemarle Road to Conference Drive, and the Monroe Parkway), but nothing funded for the approximately 7 mile gap between the two projects.

**Action**

Motion:

Mayor Taylor made a motion instructing staff to draft a letter for the MPO chairman’s signature requesting that NCDOT explore any and all possibilities for improvements to Independence Boulevard between the U-209B and Monroe Parkway projects. Mr. Bensman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**8. Small Project Ranking**

Presenter:

Lauren Blackburn, TCC Representative, Town of Davidson

Summary:

Ms. Blackburn reported that the TCC had recommended that work on this project be stopped. Its recommendation was based upon an inability to define what constituted a “small project.” Instead, the TCC recommended that MPO representatives continue the current practice of working with their TCC members and Division 10 staff to pursue funding for small projects.

Motion:

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion to terminate work on this project. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**9. Regional Transportation Planning Study**

Presenter:

Bill Duston, Centralina COG

Summary:

Mr. Duston presented information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to present the findings of the Regional Transportation Planning Study. One recommendation was that a new regional transportation planning agency should be created that would serve as an umbrella organization responsible for projects of a regional scope. This new organization would be based upon a model used in the Tampa/St. Petersburg region (which also has multiple transportation planning bodies) but would not replace the existing MPOs and RPOs. Mr. Duston asked that MUMPO work with the COG on a "go-forward" model.

**10. Waxhaw Parkway Alignment Study Update**

Presenter:

Steve Blakley, Kimley-Horn

Summary:

MUMPO contracted with Kimley-Horn to analyze the feasibility of the Waxhaw Parkway as currently depicted on MUMPO's Thoroughfare Plan, and to examine alternatives in the event the current proposed alignment was found to be unfeasible. Mr. Blakley presented the study's preliminary findings.

**11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

**MPO Education Session**

The regular MPO meeting was preceded by an education session at 6:00 PM. The session focused on detailing the development of a roadway project from the conceptual stage to being open to traffic. TCC vice-chairman Bill Coxe and NCDOT Division 10 engineer Barry Moose conducted the presentation.