

MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267
January 19, 2011 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

David Howard (Charlotte), Sarah McAulay (Huntersville), John Quinn (Indian Trail), James Taylor (Matthews), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), John Ashcraft (Monroe), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Jerry Simpson (Union County), Joyce Blythe (Waxhaw), Nancy Anderson (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Bill Braswell (Wingate), Joel Randolph (C-M Planning Commission)

1. Call to Order

Ted Biggers called the January 2011 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Election of Officers

Chairman:

John Ashcraft nominated Mayor Ted Biggers for MPO chairman. A motion was made by Mr. Ashcraft to close the nominations, was seconded by Mayor Nancy Anderson and passed unanimously. Upon being put to a vote, Mayor Biggers was unanimously elected the MPO chairman for 2011.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. Ashcraft nominated Mayor Lynda Paxton for MPO vice-chairman. A motion was made by Mr. Ashcraft to close the nominations, was seconded by David Howard and passed unanimously. Upon being put to a vote, Mayor Paxton was unanimously elected the MPO vice-chairman for 2011.

Following the elections, Chairman Biggers announced that, earlier in the month, Bill Coxe of Huntersville had been elected TCC chairman and Danny Pleasant had been elected TCC vice-chairman. Mr. Coxe thanked outgoing TCC chairman Wayne Herron for his service and presented him with a plaque that expressed MUMPO's gratitude.

3. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

Chairman Biggers asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the November 2010 minutes. Mayor James Taylor noted that the summary for agenda item 7H referenced the motion that was made, but omitted the vote record. Mr. Cook stated that the MPO's action was to take the action referenced in the motion and that the vote was unanimous. He stated the minutes would be corrected.

Motion:

Mayor Taylor made a motion to approve the November 2010 minutes conditioned upon the above-referenced correction being made. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. The November 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Citizen Comment Period

Summary:

There were no public comments.

5. Draft Transportation Improvement Program

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

The primary purpose of this agenda item was for the MPO to endorse a project list. The list was not the final list, but was to be used for transportation and air quality modeling purposes. Three separate actions were taken by the MPO at this meeting. The actions are detailed below:

A. Issue: Rea Road Extension (U-3467)

Mayor Anderson asked that she be recused from participating in this discussion. The MPO voted unanimously to do so. Chairman Biggers recognized Jerry Simpson to discuss this project. Mr. Simpson informed the MPO that there was progress in making arrangements that would result in a donation of right-of-way that would allow a two-lane version of the project to proceed, but additional time was needed. Weddington Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Barry formally requested that the MPO grant the Town and the landowner 60 days to work out the arrangements. Mayor Paxton stated that all information on this project should be provided to the MPO.

Motion:

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion to grant the Town and landowners 60 days to work on the project. The motion was seconded by Jim Eschert. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Issue: Support Proposed Changes

Mr. Cook reviewed proposed changes to the overall list of projects to be included in the TIP. Also reviewed was a list of LRTP changes that will be needed due to project schedule changes. Projects associated with the Augustalee development in Cornelius were recommended to be moved from the LRTP's 2015 horizon year to the 2025 horizon year, with the exception of the I-77 widening (I-5126) that was proposed to be removed entirely. This was due to it being replaced by a new managed lanes project that would result in the same type of road improvement. Mr. Howard asked Andrew Grant (Cornelius' assistant town manager) if the town agreed with the proposed changes. Mr. Grant stated the town was in agreement with the proposal. Mayor Quinn and Mayor Paxton noted that there was support in their communities for shifting funds from the Indian Trail Road (U-3809) and Stallings Road (U-3825) projects to a project to improve Old Monroe Road, but noted that no formal action had been taken. Lastly, an error on the list was noted. The TCC had approved moving the Charles St. widening project (U-2547) to the LRTP's 2035 horizon year, not removing it from the LRTP entirely.

All changes were listed in a memorandum included in the agenda packet.

Motion:

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion to support the changes as noted on the lists included in the agenda packet, with the exception of the Charles St. (U-2547) project. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Issue: Endorse Project List

This action was to support the overall project list.

Motion:

Ms. McAulay made a motion to endorse the project list as submitted, with the exception of the Rea Road Extension (U-3467) project. Mayor Taylor seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Charlotte Streetcar Project: TIP & LRTP Amendments

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the City of Charlotte had received a \$25 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that will permit the construction of a 1.5 mile segment of the streetcar project. MUMPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and 2009-2015 TIP will need to be amended in order for the project to proceed. The action being requested was to release a draft LRTP amendment report, draft TIP amendment and draft air quality conformity determination report for public review and comment.

Motion:

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the release of the draft LRTP amendment, draft TIP and draft conformity determination report for public review and comment. Mayor Quinn seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. FY 12 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the UPWP is the MPO's annual listing of planning priorities and work tasks for the fiscal year. He noted that the actual funding amounts were not yet known due to the lack of action on the reauthorization of the transportation funding bill that expired in 2009. The local transportation planning projects for which funding was requested were reviewed. It was noted that the total cost of the requested projects was over 60% of what the MPO could hope to receive and therefore not all projects will be funded in full, or some projects may not be funded at all. Final approval of the UPWP will be requested at the May MPO meeting.

MPO Education Session

The regular MPO meeting was preceded by an education session at 6:00 PM. The session focused on an update on recent activity associated with the Monroe Parkway. Steve DeWitt, PE, of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority conducted the presentation.