

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center – Room 280
September 9, 2004

Voting Members: David McDonald (CATS), Terry Arellano (NCDOT/TPB), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-Transit), Jason Mayo (Stallings), Shelley DeHart (Indian Trail), Jim Humphrey (CDOT), Jonathan Wells (CMPC), Joe Lesch (Union County), Heidi McNulty (Meck. Co. Air Quality), Josh Watkins (Cornelius), Bill Finger (CDOT),

Other Staff: Barry Mosley (MUMPO/CMPC), Bob Cook (MUMPO), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Anna Brigman (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Liz Babson (CDOT), Bill Dillard (CDOT), Jamison Fair (Monroe), Katherine English (NCDOT-TPB), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), David McDonald (CATS)

Guests: Wade Carroll (PBS&J), Anne Morris (PBS&J), Dave Dickel (URS), Adelee Le Grand (URS),

Chairman Jim Humphrey called the TCC meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

1. Consideration of August 2004 Minutes

The minutes were approved with modifications

2. LRTP Freight Planning

Presenter:

Adelee Le Grand, URS Corporation

Summary:

MUMPO has contracted with the URS Corporation to develop a freight-planning component for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update. Federal law requires that MPO's develop mechanisms to support freight and include it in their LRTP. Staff is currently updating the freight component of the LRTP. Through the process three areas were evaluated that included creating a vision for the freight planning process, accessing existing data and future projections, and implementation approach.

The goal is to "Provide a transportation system which incorporates improving City infrastructure supporting the movement of goods." Objectives for streets and highs, public transportation, air and rail, and the environment were developed to support the goal.

Staff has discussed the idea of creating a freight advisory committee and stakeholders committee whose responsibilities would be to work regionally. The freight advisory committee would be made up of people from the varying regional entities, organizations, and agencies with the ability to lead the process. The stakeholder should represent both the private and public sector.

3. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Involvement

Presenter:

Wade Carroll, PBS&J

Summary:

MUMPO has contracted with PBS&J to conduct public involvement activities for the LRTP update. The purpose of the LRTP is to program for future long-range transportation improvements. The LRTP is required in order to receive Federal funding and it is updated every three years.

The public involvement component of the LRTP is designed to involve people. This provides an opportunity of the community to become stakeholders and share in the development of the transportation system for the future. The law requires that a public involvement process be in place to allow citizen participation.

The components used to create the LRTP public involvement program include: (1) developing a data base of contacts, (2) creating a MPO brochure, (3) holding general public meetings, (4) creation of a survey for public comment, (5) small group meetings, and finally (6) the creation of a public involvement chapter of the LRTP.

4. TIP Amendment: TE-4702B, South Corridor Light Rail Project

Presenter:

David McDonald, CATS

Summary/Requested Action:

The TCC approved an amendment during its previous meeting for 108 million to begin the next phase of construction to the south corridor. To stay on schedule CATS has requested letters of no prejudice from the Federal Transit Administration. In addition, CATS has coordinated with NCDOT and FTA to ensure that all of the TIP amendments are in the correct order to proceed.

CATS is requesting an additional amendment to increase the previous amendment of 108 million to 398.7 million, which will allow CATS to submit a full funding agreement request.

Motion:

Joe Lesch made to motion to approve the amendment to the TIP as presented. Jonathan Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Involvement MPO Self-Certification

Presenter:

Terry Arellano, NCDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Each year the Federal Government requires that NCDOT conduct self-certifications for every MPO in the State. The process is procedural. The MPO is required to answer several question related to federal law.

The requested action is for the TCC verify that MPO meets the requirements for self-certification and recommend that the MPO approve this request.

Motion:

Joe Lesch made the motion that the TCC recommend that the MPO approve this request. David McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Regional Transportation Planning

Presenter:

Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

The regional forecasting model is proceeding on schedule and it is currently on budget.

Update of the Long Range Transportation Plan for the first time is being done concurrently with three other MPO's in North Carolina and one in South Carolina. One reason for the concurrent update is that everyone is under the same obligation to submit the LRTP and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis before June 15, 2005. If the Air Quality Conformity Analysis is not submitted or the EPA does not find the document acceptable by the deadline, Federal dollars for highway and transit capital projects will discontinue. In addition, Mecklenburg County has to meet the one-hour standards by April 15, 2005.

Mr. Steinman asked for endorsement of the county level population and employment projections for the LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The reason for the special request is that the other MPO's have been asked to take action at the same time in order to complete this process and move on to the next task.

Motion:

Bill Finger made the motion to endorse the county level population and employment projections as presented. Joe Lesch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presenter:

Tm Gibbs, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

The Regional Partners met and recommended that the MPO's and RPO's in the Charlotte region support the funding strategies.

A consultant for MUMPO has provided project cost estimates for 250 projects using a model that staff received from NCDOT. Additional projects will be nominated after the review of the travel forecast. An ongoing process of evaluating MUMPO projects is continuing and will not be completed until the end of September.

All chapter drafts for the LRTP and Air Quality report are underway.

The regional partners have been asked to concur on how testing will be conducted. The deadline for comments is due September 9.

Funding Strategies: The request is for the TCC to concur with the Regional Partners endorsement of revising the equity formula and add a five-cent gas increase to the revised formula distribution. This will not be presented to the MPO, however it will be presented to CRAFT Executive Committee.

Motion:

Joe Lesch made the motion to endorse the request as presented. David McDonald seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. TIP Meeting Recap

Presenter:

Jim Humphrey, CDOT

Summary:

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) discussion was held in Raleigh on September 2, with local staff and NCDOT officials. This meeting provides an opportunity for the MPO to talk about new projects that the local party would like to see added to the updated TIP. The information provided to NCDOT will be used to help them make decision on projects that will be placed in a draft TIP, scheduled to be published by the first of the year. The public review process will showcase the draft TIP, and once completed the board will adopt a new seven-year TIP by October of 2005.

NCDOT relayed, that each MPO is receiving their share of the equity money, and that there is not additional funding beyond what has been earmarked and extended for the additional two-years in the new TIP. Because of this, MPO's should not expect to have large projects added to the TIP.

There are some new transportation funding scheme proposals that have been offered at the Federal level for additional money, however, projects are already associated with this funding. Any new money received by the State through reauthorization will not translate into any new money for the TIP.

Funding for loop projects is not keeping pace with the monetary need for all loop projects currently authorized. Because of this, the Board will have to prioritize the remaining loop projects. This could affect portions of our loop north of I-85 and the project added to the budget to widen I-485 between Johnston Road and I-77.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am