

# MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

## Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Innovation Station, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

March 6, 2008

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**Voting Members:** Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT-Bike Coordinator), Jonathan Wells-alt. for Debra Campbell (CMPD), David McDonald (MTC), Richard Hancock (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Jonathan Parker (NCDOT-TPB), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill (Matthews), Karen Dunn – alt. for Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Weddington), Justin Krieg (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

**Staff:** Robert Cook (MUMPO), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Jennifer Harris-via phone (NCTA), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Dana Stoogenke (Rocky River RPO), Vida Covington (CATS)

**Guests:** Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Brian Piascik (URS), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Jason Wager (Centralina COG)

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Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:05 AM and asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

### **1. Consideration of January Minutes**

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Jonathan Wells made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jonathan Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Draft 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program**

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Grzymiski reviewed the STP-DA issue, noting that the TCC needed to endorse projects to be funded with STP-DA funds available in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. He reviewed the project selection guidelines that the TCC endorsed at its February meeting. The following list of projects, developed through a series of Wednesday Transportation Staff meetings, was presented to the TCC:

#### **FY 2014 Recommended Projects**

Town of Cornelius

Construct Northcross Drive Extension, from the end of Northcross Drive to Westmoreland Road

Estimated cost: \$4.5 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$3.6 million

Town of Indian Trail

Construct intersection improvements at Faith Church Road – Unionville Indian Trail Road intersection

Estimated cost: \$2 million

STP-DA funds requested: \$1.6 million

Town of Matthews  
Construct grade-separated crossing of McKee Road over the CSX rail line  
Estimated cost: \$2 million  
STP-DA funds requested: \$1.6 million

Mecklenburg County  
Construct a portion of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, from Tyvola Road to I-485  
Estimated cost: \$5 million  
STP-DA funds requested: \$800,000

Town of Stallings  
Widen Potter Road, from Pleasant Plains Road to Old Monroe Road. This project includes intersection improvements at Potter Road and Pleasant Plains Road.  
Estimated cost: \$2 million  
STP-DA funds requested: \$1.6 million

### **FY 2015 Recommended Projects**

City of Charlotte  
Construct Little Rock Road relocation  
Estimated cost: \$6 million  
STP-DA funds requested: \$4.8 million

Town of Davidson  
Construct multi-use parking deck-joint project with CATS  
Estimated cost: \$7.5 million  
STP-DA funds requested: \$2 million

Town of Huntersville  
Construct intersection improvements at the intersection of US 21 and Gilead Road, including improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations  
Estimated cost: \$3.2 million  
STP-DA funds requested: \$2.5 million

Towns of Matthews & Mint Hill  
Construct intersection improvements at the intersection of NC 51 and Idlewild Road  
Estimated cost: \$500,000  
STP-DA funds requested: \$400,000

Mr. Cook then discussed at project that had been submitted by the Town of Mint Hill:

*Widen Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road, from NC 51 to Nelson Road*

*Estimated cost: \$650,000*

*STP-DA funds requested: \$520,000*

He noted that it was not included in the list developed through the staff meeting process, but that it did meet the established guidelines and that a sufficient amount of money remained to fund the project. Karen Dunn of Mint Hill provided the TCC with the project's details.

Bill Coxe asked Loretta Barren of the FHWA about Cornelius' Northcross Drive Extension project and the fact that it was not on the Functional Classification map and therefore ineligible to receive federal funding. Ms. Barren stated that the map could be updated.

### Motion:

A motion was made by Karen Dunn to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the STP-DA project list as presented, with the addition of the Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road project in Mint Hill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coxe and passed unanimously.

### **3. Draft 2009-2015 TIP Air Quality Conformity Determination**

Presenter: Jonathan Parker

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Parker requested that the TCC recommend to the MPO that it approve the release of the draft conformity determination report for public review. He noted that the Board of Transportation is expected to adopt the TIP in June.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Pleasant to recommend to the MPO that it approve the release of the draft 2009-2015 TIP air quality conformity determination report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keenan and passed unanimously.

### **4. County-Level Population & Employment Projections**

Presenter: Anna Gallup

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Gallup noted the significant amount of TCC involvement and cooperation in this effort and thanked everyone for the time put into this. She also reviewed some changes to the Union County sphere of influence map. Mr. Coxe asked about a project associated with Cornelius' Village of Lake Norman project that is analyzing the shift of population and employment among transportation analysis zones (TAZ) in the north Mecklenburg area. Ms. Gallup stated that decisions on that would need to be made soon, but since the current task is related to county-level totals and not TAZ allocations, there was still time to work on the Cornelius project.

### **5. Congestion Management Process**

Presenter: Brian Piascik

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Piascik discussed the URS' work with MUMPO to develop a congestion management process (CMP). He noted that an assumption was being made that the tolerance level for congestion is higher in urban areas than in suburban areas, and identified inbound and crosstown corridors of concern. "Hot spots" (non-corridors) will also be analyzed. Ms. Barren stated that the interstate system should be included in the CMP. Mr. Piascik stated that information gathered in the Fast Lanes study can be used in the CMP.

### **6. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan**

Presenter: Vida Covington

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Covington stated that SAFETEA-LU requires the preparation of a "locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan" and that metropolitan planning regulations require that it be "coordinated and consistent with the metropolitan planning process." She noted that CATS has invited more than 30 human service non-profit agencies, private citizens, transportation providers and government officials into the process. Ms. Covington also noted that CATS is seeking funding from the New Freedom Program, and that any project selected for funding from this program must be derived from a coordinated human services transportation plan. Mr. Cook asked how Union County is involved. Ms. Covington replied that the Union County transportation director has been invited to attend upcoming meetings.

## **7. Fast Lanes Project Update**

Presenter: Tim Gibbs

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibbs provided the TCC with an update on this project. He discussed the corridors in MUMPO's planning area that are moving into Phase II: I-77; I-85; I-485; NC 16; US 74, but added that projects not continuing into Phase II still need attention using other congestion management strategies. Mr. Gibbs also discussed the issues Phase 2 will address: type of lane treatment; type of operation strategy; HOV and HOT policy; truck potential; revenue potential; access; connectivity; phasing.

## **8. NC 218 Rehabilitation**

Presenter: Richard Hancock

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Hancock updated the TCC on the problems associated with this roadway, and provided photos that demonstrated the serious deterioration it has experienced. He stated that a funding source for the needed improvements had not yet been identified. The current cost estimate to improve the road is \$15 million.

## **9. Monroe Connector / Bypass Update**

Presenter: Jennifer Harris

### Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris discussed the indirect and cumulative impacts (ICI) study that is now underway. The consulting firm hired by the NCTA does not anticipate substantial differences in land use changes among the 16 alternatives due to their proximity to one another. Interviews with local officials will take place during March. Regarding cost estimate updates, Ms. Harris stated that the NCTA is working on a better estimate for the Connector portion of the project, and that there would likely be a substantial difference in right-of-way (ROW) costs between alternative 18A and alternative 2 due to the larger number of business relocations in the vicinity of alternative 2. Also discussed were the ongoing detailed engineering and environmental studies, with biologists now working in the corridors.

Regarding the project's schedule, Ms. Harris stated that a decision has been made to identify a preferred alternative in the draft EIS. This will result in the draft EIS being delayed from the summer of 2008 to the fall, but will provide the public with more information since the draft EIS will now include the preferred alternative.

## **10. Draft FY 09 Unified Planning Work Program**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook updated the TCC on the FY 09 UPWP. He stated that the UPWP will be discussed at the upcoming MPO meeting, and that final approval is expected in May.

## **11. Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Program**

Presenter: Jason Wager

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Wager provided an overview of the program, noting that \$2.6 million is available over a three-year period for outreach and education, and that funds are also available for emissions-related projects: alternative fuels; diesel retrofits; idle reductions; truck stop electrification; etc. He told the TCC that a conference call Q&A session was scheduled for March 13 and that anyone interested in obtaining funding could participate. Andrew Grant stated that Cornelius had taken advantage of this program with the purchase of three vehicles for the town.

**12. Northwest Huntersville Transportation Study**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook reviewed the progress of this effort. He reminded the TCC that MUMPO had been asked by Huntersville to take on this study as a result of a recommendation from the town's Beatties Ford Road small area plan to realign the future Vance Road Extension, along with a pending rezoning petition that impacted the Vance Road Extension's proposed alignment. Also being considered are additional changes to the roadway network, but they will not be looked at in depth until Phase 2. At this point, an alternative alignment for Vance Road has been developed, but still needs to be reviewed by town staff. A public meeting will likely take place in April, and the TCC will be asked in May to make a recommendation to the MPO to amend the Thoroughfare Plan.

**13. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.