

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Innovation Station, 8th Floor

June 5, 2008

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 – via phone-alt. for Debra Campbell (CMPD), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA), Desmond Cole (LUESA), David McDonald (MTC), Barry Moose – via phone (NCDOT-Division 10), Jason Prescott – alt. for Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Shelley DeHart (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Weddington)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Barry Mosley (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Andrea Lytle (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Doug Britt (Monroe), Fairy Boyce (Monroe), Ann Rushing (Monroe), Anna Whalen (Marvin), Jennifer Harris – via phone (NCTA), Christy Shumate – via phone (NCTA-GEC), Loretta Barren – via phone (FHWA), Van Argabright – via phone (NCDOT TIP Unit), Jason Mann (Indian Trail), Dennis LaCaria (CMS)

Guests: Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Brian Piascik (URS), Kathy Dennis (URS), Danielle Gray (URS)

Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:05 AM and asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Cook noted that two items needed to be added. The regular update on the Monroe Connector/Bypass was omitted from the agenda and needed to be added. This was added as agenda item #8. Also, a request had been made to add the Prosperity Church Road Thoroughfare Plan amendment to the agenda. This was added as agenda item #9.

1. Consideration of May Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Danny Pleasant made a motion to approve the May minutes as presented. Bill Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. July TCC Meeting Date

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron stated that, since the regular July meeting date is the day before the 4th of July holiday, it may be necessary to shift the meeting date by one week. Most agreed that doing so would be a good idea.

Motion:

Ken Tippet made a motion to shift the July TCC meeting date to Thursday, July 10. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion.

Mr. Herron asked Mr. Coxe to chair the July meeting due to his being on vacation.

3. NC 218 Funding

Presenter: Barry Moose, NCDOT-Division 10 Engineer

Summary/Requested Action:

This item was focused on efforts to fund improvements to NC 218 between I-485 in Mecklenburg County and Polkton in Anson County. Mr. Moose discussed the U-2507A project, noting that funds for that project have actually increased. He also stated that a verified cost estimate in the amount of \$22.6 million had been developed for U-2507A. This part of the discussion related to the concern that funds from U-2507A were to be used to fund the NC 218 project. Also discussed was work between NCDOT and Charlotte to incorporate city concepts into the design in order to reduce the project's footprint. Mr. Herron asked Mr. Pleasant if Charlotte is comfortable with what NCDOT is proposing, noting that it is important for the affected community to support a project. Mr. Pleasant replied that CDOT has been working with NCDOT, but he had not seen a revised (verified) cost estimate and could not state it was for a project the city could live with. He added that, based upon changes requested by the city, the overall project cost should be lower. Mr. Herron stated that it will be important for the project to be one that Charlotte wants.

Amy Helms made a motion to fund the NC 218 project. Mr. Herron seconded the motion. Mr. Coxe asked to make a friendly amendment to the motion by adding the TCC's recommendation should be contingent upon Charlotte stating that it accepts the proposed design.

Following some discussion about the scope of the project, Mr. Coxe offered the following substitute motion: Recommend to the MPO that it accept the funding strategy for NC 218, provided that Charlotte staff assures the TCC that it is confident the U-2507A cost estimate is sufficient to build the project as it desires and the Charlotte City Council accepts the design. Bill Sherrill seconded the substitute motion. After additional discussion, the following amendment to the motion was made: No other project can be delayed as a result of the NC 218 funding. Ms. Helms removed her original motion.

Motion:

The following states the final motion acted upon by the TCC:

- Recommend to the MPO that it accept the funding strategy for NC 218, provided that:
- a. Charlotte assures the TCC that it is confident that the U-2507A verified cost estimate is sufficient to build the project as the city wishes to see it constructed;
 - b. the Charlotte City Council accepts the design; and
 - c. no other project is delayed as a result of the funding of NC 218 improvements.

The motion was made by Mr. Coxe and seconded by Mr. Sherrill. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Air Quality Issues Update

Presenter: Eldewins Haynes, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Haynes discussed three air quality-related issues

- a) Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) update
 - b) Ozone attainment update
 - c) Revised air quality standard for ozone
- a) Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) update

Mr. Haynes reviewed the recent history of this issue, noting the Division of Air Quality's (DAQ) recommendation to develop motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) at the county level. He discussed Charlotte and MUMPO's attempts to convince DAQ to consider basing the budgets on the ozone non-attainment geography. Mr. Haynes announced that the DAQ has refused to revise their recommendation, and that the MVEBs will be county-based. The impact of DAQ's decision will be the strong likelihood that MUMPO will not be able to adopt a conforming LRTP in the required timeframe (May 2009). It was noted that there is a 12-month grace period after May 2009 to show that MUMPO can develop a conforming plan.

b) Ozone attainment update

This part of the presentation focused on recent readings at air quality monitors in the region and the trends the region is experiencing with ozone levels relative to our ability to demonstrate attainment by 2010. Last year's high ozone levels may make it difficult for the region to show compliance with air quality standards.

c) Revised air quality standard for ozone

Information was provided about the new, more stringent standard for ozone. The old standard was 84 parts per billion (ppb). The new standard is 75 ppb, and was approved by the EPA in March. The exact attainment date for the new standard is not known.

5. Congestion Management Process

Presenter: Brian Piascik, URS

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Piascik was present to update the TCC on the status of congestion management process (CMP) project. He reviewed the congested corridors that have been identified, and the roadways contained within those corridors. Also reviewed were the top 50 congestion hot spots in the planning area. The issue of congestion-related criteria was discussed with four criteria mentioned: population and employment/lane mile; percent of truck traffic; travel time increase; location in a Fast Lanes study corridor. Regarding the next steps in the project, Mr. Piascik discussed the need to incorporate the CMP into the LRTP project ranking process and to implement improvements to data collection methods.

6. Davidson-Concord Road Small Area Plan

Presenter: Lauren Blackburn, Davidson

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Blackburn provided an overview of the progress of this project, which was the recipient of a PL fund sub-allocation in FY 08. Davidson, Cornelius and Huntersville are conducting the study, which is focused on the area where Davidson-Concord Road and NC 73 intersect.

7. Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Presenter: Barry Mosley

Summary / FYI:

Due to the length of the meeting, this item was delayed to the July meeting.

8. Monroe Connector/Bypass

Presenter: Jennifer Harris, NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting that followed the May TCC meeting focused on functional designs for project alternatives. The functional design effort should be completed by August. She also noted that a draft indirect and cumulative effects (ICE) report is expected in July with discussions with the resource agencies to take place in August. Also, the NCTA is on target for releasing the DEIS by the end of the year, and it will include the preferred alternative.

Reid Simons also addressed the TCC, discussing the issue of gap financing. She indicated that the NCTA is looking for \$24 million in gap funds that may result from the legislature ending the transfer of funds from the Highway Trust Fund to the general fund.

9. Prosperity Church Road Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

Presenter: Steve Blakley, Kimley-Horn

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Blakley requested that the TCC recommend to the MPO that it approve the start of a public involvement process to amend the Thoroughfare Plan to adjust the Prosperity Church Road Extension alignment in the vicinity of Eastfield Road. This effort will be lead by Mr. Blakley's staff at Kimley-Horn with oversight and participation by Huntersville and MUMPO staff.

Motion:

Mary Jo Gollnitz made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it approve the start of a public involvement effort. Greg Mahar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Committee of 21

Presenter: Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

Due to the length of the meeting, this item was delayed to the July meeting.

11. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.