

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Innovation Station, 8th Floor

August 7, 2008

Voting Members: Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Norm Steinman-alt. for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT-Bike Coordinator), David McDonald (MTC), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Jonathan Parker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill (Matthews), Dana Goins – alt. for Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Barry Mosley (MUMPO), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Jason Prescott (Cornelius), Anna Whalen (Marvin), C.J. O'Neill (Matthews), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Lynne Hair (Stallings), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Dennis LaCaria (CMS), Jennifer Harris (NCTA), Jeff Dayton (NCTA), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

Guests: Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Jill Gurak (PBS&J)

Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:05 AM and stated that agenda item #4 (Job Access-Reverse Commute & New Freedom Project Selection) would not be addressed. Mr. Herron advised the TCC that he would appoint a subcommittee to address this issue and that it would be led by Ken Tippet.

1. Consideration of July Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron asked if there were any changes needed to the July minutes. Bill Coxe made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mary Jo Gollnitz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Committee of 21

Presenter: Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Steinman stated that the Committee of 21 was formed by the Charlotte Chamber, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for three purposes: prioritize road needs; identify potential revenues; advocate for legislative changes at the NC General Assembly. He discussed a July 21, 2008 meeting where the Mecklenburg County municipalities discussed their local needs with the committee, and stated that the next meeting (August 18) would be devoted to discussing the dollar amounts of the municipalities' needs, benchmark cities and next steps in their process. It is expected that the committee will make recommendations on revenue sources by mid-September. An October meeting with the NC 21st Century Transportation Committee will be held. Mr. Steinman reminded the Mecklenburg representatives of the request for complete lists of capital and maintenance needs, along with revenue sources, at the local, state and federal levels.

Barry Moose noted that NCDOT will likely look to municipalities maintaining those roads identified as sub-regional. Mr. Coxe mentioned that this topic should be addressed at the September MPO meeting.

3. Mayors' Transportation Task Force

Presenter: Andrew Grant, Cornelius

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Grant stated that the task force was created in response to growing transportation problems in northern Mecklenburg and southern Iredell counties, and is made up of the mayors of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville and Mooresville. The "hot button" topics for the committee were: interstate and state system congestion; I-77 accidents; North Corridor commuter line; high public demand for greenways, bikeways and sidewalks; local system congestion; increasing demands on NCDOT funds; growth. Recommendations coming out of the committee's process were to form an organization; examine potential revenues and mandates such as advocating for improvements to I-77 and other regionally significant corridors, evaluating the North Corridor commuter line and other mass transit matters, studying and recommending an inter-town system of roads, developing a plan for transportation-related public safety issues and commenting on proposed major land developments in each town. At present, an interlocal agreement is being drafted. If an organization is formed, its focus will be on I-77 and the North Corridor.

4. Job Access-Reverse Commute & New Freedom Project Selection

This item was not discussed.

5. Chestnut Connector

Presenter: Barry Moose, NCDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Moose began his presentation by discussing the status of the Indian Trail Road and Stallings Road TIP projects. He explained that his proposal was to fold the two existing TIP projects into a new project to construct the Chestnut Connector. The Chestnut Connector links Old Monroe Road to US 74 and runs parallel to Indian Trail and Stallings roads. Mr. Moose stated that constructing this project instead of the two existing TIP projects will allow for a grade-separation with the CSX rail line. If the other two projects were completed, they would both likely require construction of grade-separations. Doing so would have a significant impact on the land use plans the two towns have approved for the surrounding areas. A presentation on this issue has been made to the Stallings town council and one is scheduled to be made to the Indian Trail council. Mr. Moose went on to say that he wants to complete a feasibility study that could be conducted by NCDOT, MUMPO or Indian Trail (the Town is currently working on a Chestnut Connector project). He stated that he would prefer that NCDOT not be the responsible party because of the time it would take to get the project started. NCDOT will pay for the study.

Mr. Herron commended Mr. Moose on the process and noted that the two towns' input is crucial. Scott Kaufhold noted Indian Trail's concern with a grade-separation on Indian Trail Road. Shannon Martel stated that Stallings town council had agreed to move forward.

6. LRTP Update

Presenter: Robert Cook, MUMPO

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook discussed the following topics:

Cost estimates: HNTB has been hired to complete cost estimates for all projects; Phase I (data collection) is substantially complete; Phase 2 should be complete by mid-September

Consultation: staff held a meeting on July 31 with the EPA, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission; a meeting is scheduled for August 21 with staff from the Ecosystem Enhancement Program

Project ranking: the project is approximately 90% complete; tasks left to complete include reconciling conflicting scores for projects located in more than one sphere and a detailed project description review to ensure accuracy

Title VI Analysis: this project was the result of a recommendation of the 2007 certification review and will result in an analysis of how low-income and minority populations are impacted by the L RTP

Norm Steinman then discussed air quality conformity-related matters. The draft state implementation plan (SIP) was to have been implemented by October 2008, but a court case vacating the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) may delay doing so. The impact on MUMPO and its conformity process is not clear. Mr. Steinman stated that an interagency consultation meeting was scheduled for August 12 to discuss the implications of the CAIR matter.

7. NC Turnpike Authority Projects Update

Presenter: Jennifer Harris, NCTA & Jill Gurak, PBS&J

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris reported on the Monroe Connector/Bypass:

functional designs are now with NCDOT for review and comment; the maps will be posted on the NCTA website

the DEIS is still on track for completion by the end of the year and will include the NCTA's recommended alternative; public workshops are planned for early 2009

work is underway on updated right-of-way (ROW) and construction cost estimates

the NC General Assembly approved \$24 million in gap financing for the project for 39 years, beginning in FY 2010; it is unclear if there will be an equity formula impact

workshops for the Garden Parkway project will be held on August 6, 7 and 11, with the August 6 meeting being held in Mecklenburg County at Olympic High School

Ms. Gurak reported on the Garden Parkway/Gaston East-West Connector:

an overview of the project was provided, describing the route between I-485 and I-85 between Gastonia and Bessemer City; the purpose and need for the project is to improve east-west mobility and growing congestion on I-85

work is currently underway on a draft EIS which should be complete by January 2009

the preferred alternative is scheduled to be selected in July 2009

the current schedule is for the project to be open to traffic by December 2015

it was noted that one alternative had been removed from further study due to its conflicts with a fly ash containment site at the Allen steam plant in Belmont

Mr. Steinman asked about how the project is proposed to tie into I-485, and its relation to the Garrison Road interchange and the West Boulevard project the airport is working on. Ms. Gurak replied that the NCTA is working with the airport, and acknowledged that the Garrison Road interchange would have to be rebuilt when the Garden Parkway is constructed.

9. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.