

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 280
September 4, 2008

Voting Members: Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Leon Howe – alt. for Jim Keenan (E&PM), Tim Gibbs – alt. for Ken Tippet (CDOT Bike Coordinator), Jonathan Wells (Char-Meck Planning), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), John Rose (MTC), Louis Mitchell – alt. for Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Jonathan Parker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Adam Lamb – alt. for Shelley DeHart (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill (Matthews), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Barry Mosley (MUMPO), Andy Grzynski (CDOT), Mike Davis (CDOT), Vida Covington (CATS), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Jason Abernethy (Cornelius), Anna Whalen (Marvin), C.J. O'Neill (Matthews), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Jennifer Harris (NCTA)

Guests: Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn)

Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were proposed.

1. Consideration of August Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron asked if there were any changes needed to the August minutes. Mr. Cook noted that the NCTA staff had requested two changes: Jill Gurak was the presenter on the Garden Parkway project; the Monroe Connector/Bypass DEIS will include the NCTA's recommended (as opposed to preferred) alternative. Mary Jo Gollnitz made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes stated by Mr. Cook. Bill Coxe seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Chestnut Connector

Presenter: Aldie Whitmore, NCDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Whitmore represented Barry Moose who could not attend the meeting. He stated that NCDOT is requesting an endorsement of the pursuit of a feasibility study of the Chestnut Connector project that Mr. Moose discussed at the August meeting. Mr. Coxe asked if the request was just for the endorsement of the study, and not for a specific alignment. Mr. Whitmore replied that the request was to endorse only a feasibility study.

Motion:

A motion was made by Greg Mahar and seconded by Tim Gibbs to endorse the pursuit of a feasibility study for the Chestnut Connector. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. JARC & New Freedom Project Selection

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron asked Vida Covington of CATS to provide the TCC with an overview of the two programs and of CATS' request of the TCC. Ms. Covington provided the details of the two programs, noted that CATS is the designated recipient of their funds, and that CATS requested the TCC's assistance in selecting projects for funding. Mr. Herron then asked Jonathan Wells to review what had occurred to develop a recommended project list.

Mr. Wells stated that a subcommittee consisting of Kevin Icard, Tim Gibbs, Wayne Herron and himself reviewed the six submittals as well as the recommendations of a peer review panel that CATS assembled to analyze the projects. He stated that the subcommittee agreed with the review panel's findings and recommended that the following projects be funded:

- The Housing Authority of the City of Charlotte
- Metrolina Association of the Blind
- Mainstreaming/Disability Rights
- United Family Services, Inc.

Mr. Wells further noted that a fund balance existed, and stated that the subcommittee recommended allocating the balance of funds to the four projects in an amount proportional to the amount of funding requested by each project from the funding program. For example, if a project request was for 60% of the funds from the JARC program, that project should receive 60% of the JARC surplus. In addition, he stated the subcommittee recommended that the funds must be spent on the projects and not some other activity associated with the agencies' mission.

Mr. Coxe asked about the Red Cross proposal (not recommended for funding) and questioned if it was serious about providing transportation exclusively to Wal-Mart stores. Mr. Icard responded that that issue was discussed at the subcommittee meeting and that all agreed it was inappropriate to focus on one retailer. Mr. Coxe also asked about what would happen to the funds if all were not used. Ms. Covington replied that the funds would be lost.

Motion:

Mr. Wells made a motion to recommend funding the four projects mentioned above and to further recommend that any fund balance be allocated to the four projects in an amount proportional to the amount of funding requested by each project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coxe. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. CMAQ Project Selection Subcommittee Update

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG

Mr. Hansen stated that a subcommittee put together to develop a CMAQ project selection process had completed its work and was now ready to request a recommendation from the TCC to be forwarded to the MPO. He then reviewed the draft proposal, noting each of the eight areas in which points are possible, and stated that a total of 100 points is possible. The highest number of points in any a category is 25 and relates to NoX and/or Particulate Matter (PM) reduction. The TCC then asked a series of questions about components of the eight categories.

Motion:

Andrew Grant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it adopt the CMAQ project selection process as presented. The motion was seconded by Leslie Rhodes. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. NC Turnpike Authority Projects Update

Presenter: Jennifer Harris, NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris reported on the Monroe Connector/Bypass:

Functional designs will soon be posted on the NCTA website; public meetings to review the functional designs will be held later in September.

NCTA is still analyzing the gap funding relative to if it is subject to the equity formula.

The Monroe Enquirer-Journal erroneously stated that segment 18 was under consideration. It is not under consideration, and the paper was scheduled to print a retraction in the September 4th edition.

Ms. Harris also noted an upcoming meeting with officials of CDOT and Charlotte-Douglas Airport regarding the Garrison Boulevard/I-485 interchange. This meeting relates to the NCTA's Garden Parkway project.

Mr. Herron noted a recent Charlotte Observer article concerning the gap financing and its approval freeing up \$180 million in Connector/Bypass funds for other projects, and asked if the NCTA still needs the \$180 million. Ms. Harris replied that that issue was being discussed internally. Mr. Herron expressed concern with reassigning the \$180 million without detailed information. Mr. Coxe expressed a similar concern.

6. NC 73 Widening Project Update

Presenter: Bill Coxe, TCC Vice-Chairman

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Coxe provided an update on the status of this project. The Town is working with NCDOT to advance this project by using local funds that will be paid back in the future. An overview of the substantial land use changes since 1993 was provided. The Town is considering an innovative approach to alleviating congestion at the US 21/NC 73 intersection by constructing a "quadrant-left" intersection, along with converting an internal roadway in an adjacent shopping center into a public street. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for November, with the environmental document completion scheduled for early 2009.

7. I-277 Lighting Update

Presenter: Bill Coxe, TCC Vice-Chairman

Due to Barry Moose not being able to attend, Mr. Coxe elected not to discuss this item.

8. LRTP Update

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook discussed the following topics:

Cost estimates: HNTB has substantially completed Phase 1; Phase 2 should be complete by late September

Consultation: staff held a meeting on August 21 with staff from the Ecosystem Enhancement Program

Project ranking: the project is approximately 90% complete; staff is working on comparing the project lists to what is currently accounted for in the regional travel demand model; the complexity of this task will result in the project ranking process not being complete for several months due to the congestion component of the ranking process being a model output

9. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.