

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Uptown Conference Room, 8th Floor

March 5, 2009

Voting Members: Wayne Herron - Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT), Dana Etherton – alt. for Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (MTC), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill (Matthews), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel - alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Andy Grzyski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Loretta Barren – via phone (FHWA), Richard Hancock (NCDOT), John Underwood (NCDOT), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Marvin), C.J. O'Neill (Matthews), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Julie Clark (Meck Park & Recreation), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Reid Simons (NCTA), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Regional Transportation Commission)

Guests: Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Jonathan Guy (Kimley-Horn), Tim Padgett (Kimley-Horn), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Adin McCann (HNTB), Todd Steiss (Parsons Brinckerhoff), Ken Lucas (Commissioner-Huntersville), Mike Schrutrum, David Naylor, Dick Brolin

Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and asked if there were any items that needed to be added to the agenda. Andrew Grant requested that an item related to the proposed Augustalee development in Cornelius be added. Mr. Coxe asked for what purpose was the request being made. Mr. Grant replied that it was being made in order to update the TCC on the project's status and to begin a discussion related to future action. David McDonald requested that an action item be added related to designating the City of Charlotte as the recipient of transit funds. Both items were added to the agenda.

1. Consideration of February 2009 Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the minutes were not available and would be presented at the April meeting.

2. American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Action

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook discussed the three actions being requested:

1. Amend the TIP to include all projects submitted by MUMPO's member jurisdictions as well as those proposed by NCDOT
2. Endorse Scenario 1 as the project priority list for the \$20.1 million in STP-DA funds allocated to MUMPO
3. Endorse the bicycle and pedestrian project list as the priority list for project funding

Regarding #1, the TCC's discussion was focused on what projects could truly be implemented in a timely manner and therefore be a true economic stimulus. It was noted that ARRA funds coming to the region were insufficient to construct all projects, but that it was important to include all of them in

the event some projects are not able to get underway as quickly as originally believed. It was acknowledged that capacity-adding road projects not already in the TIP will not be able to advance since MUMPO's LRTP is not SAFETEA-LU compliant.

Mr. Cook explained how the three scenarios associated with #2 were developed, and that they were developed at a meeting held on February 27. Much of the discussion focused on the ability to use the STP-DA funds on the last segment of I-485. Bill Coxe asked Danny Pleasant about Charlotte's view on using the STP-DA funds on I-485. Mr. Pleasant discussed the City's frustration with the lack of progress on the project, and observed that \$20 million is a small portion of what is needed to finish the project. Mr. Coxe noted that under Scenario 1, \$5 million programmed for NC 73 in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 can be reallocated to another project.

There was little discussion of the bicycle and pedestrian project list (#3).

Motion-TIP Amendments:

Danny Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it amend the TIP as presented in the project list attached to the agenda packet. Andrew Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion-STP-DA Project List:

Bill Coxe made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse Scenario 1 as the list of projects to be funded with MUMPO's allocation of STP-DA funds. Andrew Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion-Bicycle & Pedestrian Project List:

Ken Tippette made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the bicycle and pedestrian project list as presented in the list attached to the agenda packet. Lauren Blackburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Regional Travel Demand Model Memorandum of Agreement

Presenter: Anna Gallup

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Gallup stated that the purpose of the Memorandum of Agreement was to layout the roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in the on-going development, maintenance, use, etc. of the regional travel demand model. She noted that one of the more significant changes was providing the rural planning organizations with a greater role in travel demand model matters.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it adopt the MOA and instruct the MPO chairman to sign it. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/ FYI:

Mr. Cook explained that at the TCC's February meeting, action was taken to "endorse" the projects to be submitted to the MPO, and that the same list was being brought before the TCC this time in order to take the more formal action of recommending to the MPO that it amend the TIP to include the projects. Questions were asked by several members about details of the GRADE project. Dana Etherton of LUESA provided details on GRADE. In particular, there were questions about what

would prevent a contractor from relocating equipment refurbished with GRADE funds to areas outside the Metrolina non-attainment area. Ms. Etherton stated that contractors are contractually required to operate the equipment at least 75% of the time within the non-attainment area. Mr. Grant suggested 90% of the time would be better. David McDonald recommended keeping the standard at 75%, and Mr. Herron stated that a 90% threshold might discourage contractors from participating.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it amend the TIP to include the CMAQ projects as presented. Jim Keenan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Prosperity Church Road Realignment at NC 73

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Coxe provided the TCC with an overview of the project, including a discussion of recent events involving a small area plan worked on jointly by Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville. He also reviewed the proposal by a developer to shift the alignment to the location that was the subject of the need to modify the Thoroughfare Plan. Lauren Blackburn raised concerns with how the proposed alignment shift will affect the roadway's location on the north side of NC 73 and its possible affect on the small area plan. Stuart Basham raised similar concerns. David Naylor discussed the project from the developer's perspective.

Motion:

Mr. Keenan made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it amend the Thoroughfare Plan with the alignment as presented, subject to the three reviewing agencies (NCDOT, Town of Davidson, Town of Huntersville) are satisfied that any design changes do not change what the TCC approved. Amy Helms seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 2035 LRTP Development Schedule/Conformity

Presenter: Norm Steinman

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Steinman discussed the schedule to develop an updated LRTP and to make a conformity determination on that document and stated that it now appears that MUMPO should be in a position to have a completed LRTP by March 2010.

7. 2035 LRTP Financial Plan

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Grzymiski passed out draft revenue assumptions and reviewed them with the TCC. He noted that in order for the LRTP development to stay on schedule, it was important for the MPO to take action on the assumptions as soon as possible. Mr. Grzymiski stated that it was his intent to obtain the TCC's endorsement at its April meeting, and that there would be additional opportunities to provide feedback to him on this subject, including Wednesday staff meetings.

8. FY 10 Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that a draft UPWP had been presented to the TCC at its February meeting, and that it had been the subject of a public involvement effort with a 30-day public comment period and a February 26 public meeting, both were advertised in local papers and posted on MUMPO's website. No comments were received. Mr. Cook then reviewed the particulars of the UPWP, noting that the FY 10 Planning (PL) fund annual allocation was 10% less than the FY 09 amount due to an FHWA rescission. (Mr. Cook noted that MUMPO receives additional PL funds through the TIP.) It was also mentioned that the amount of Section 5303 funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was only 5/12ths of the actual amount, and that staff would be requesting an amendment once the FTA announces the MPO's full FY 10 amount. He reminded the TCC that PL funds are the MPO's primary funding source, and are what allows the MPO to fulfill its obligations. For that reason, he requested that the TCC make its approval recommendation to the MPO with the following caveat: *The primary purpose of PL funds is to support the activities of the MPO so that it is able to meet all federal metropolitan planning requirements. Municipalities receiving PL funds in FY 10 for transportation planning tasks do so with the knowledge that, if PL fund reductions occur, they may not receive the full amount of reimbursement being requested.* Mr. Cook noted that it was his hope that such a scenario would not unfold.

Motion:

Mr. Steinman made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it adopt the FY 10 UPWP as presented. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. MPO Self-Certification

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that this was an annual requirement. MPOs must certify that they adhere to all laws, regulations, etc. in the implementation of the metropolitan planning process.

Motion:

David McDonald made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it certify that MUMPO adheres to all laws, statutes, regulations etc. in the carrying out of the metropolitan planning process. Kevin Icard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Public Involvement Plan Revision

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that a draft Public Involvement Plan (PIP) had been presented to the TCC at its February meeting, and that it had been the subject of a public involvement effort with a public comment period and a February 26 public meeting, both were advertised in local papers and posted on MUMPO's website. It was noted that the public comment period (45 days) was still in effect and would end on March 16, but as of the date of the TCC meeting, no comments were received. If any comments were received before the MPO meeting, they would be placed on the March 18 Transportation Staff meeting for discussion and that if necessary, a recommendation would be made to the MPO.

A change from what was presented at the February TCC meeting was then discussed. Mr. Cook stated that he was recommending including text in the Thoroughfare Plan amendment chapter of the PIP that would

allow the TCC to waive public involvement requirements if a project proposed for inclusion (or revision) on the Thoroughfare Plan had been the subject of reasonable public outreach effort by another party. This would avoid redundant public involvement efforts. A discussion of this ensued, with TCC members expressing agreement with the proposal, provided that reasonable limits were placed on waiving public involvement requirements. Mr. Cook emphasized that the default position would be that an MPO-lead effort would be required.

Motion:

Greg Mahar made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it adopt revised PIP as presented. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. 2011-2017 Candidate Projects List

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that a draft Candidate Projects List had been presented to the TCC at its February meeting, and that it had been the subject of a public involvement effort with a 30-day public comment period and a February 26 public meeting, both were advertised in local papers and posted on MUMPO's website. Mr. Cook reminded the TCC of the work that went into the Candidate Projects List at several Transportation Staff meetings.

Motion:

Mr. Steinman made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it adopt the 2011-2017 Candidate Projects List as presented. Shannon Martel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Monroe Connector/Bypass Update

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro provided the following information to the TCC:

The draft EIS was submitted to FHWA and is now under review in the Atlanta Regional Office. Comments are due back very soon; an announcement of the Recommended Alternative will be made after comments are resolved.

Copies of the complete DEIS will be provided to each of the localities for review and comment.

The document will be available on the NCTA website for public review.

A 10-page citizen's summary will be available.

Once the DEIS is signed, workshops and formal public hearings will be scheduled, most likely 3 or 4 workshops and hearings. Based on the current schedule, May is a likely date for the workshops.

A local officials meeting will be held.

13. Designate City of Charlotte as Transit Funds Recipient

Presenter: David McDonald

Summary / FYI:

Mr. McDonald stated that federal regulations require that one agency in an urbanized area be designated as the recipient of federal transit funds, and that that designation must be made by the MPO. Since Charlotte is the only city in the urbanized area with a transit system, the logical choice is to designate Charlotte as the recipient.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it designate the City of Charlotte as the recipient of federal transit funds. Mr. Moose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Augustalee

Presenter: Andrew Grant

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Grant provided an overview of the proposed Augustalee development, including information on its location and the total amount of office, hotel and retail space, as well as the number of residential units. He discussed the transportation projects the developer is proposing to construct:

1. Widen I-77 by one lane in each direction from south of exit 23 to exit 28.
2. Construct a new interchange at Westmoreland Road.
3. Widen US 21 from north of NC 73 to north of Westmoreland Road.
4. Construct a portion of the proposed Northcross Drive extension from Westmoreland Road south to where it will intersect with the Bailey Road Extension.
5. Construct an extension of Bailey Road across I-77 to tie into the portion of Northcross Drive mentioned above.

Mr. Grant stated that with the exception of the interchange, all projects are included in MUMPO's LRTP. He also noted that no TIP dollars are being used, but that in order for the project to advance in a timely manner, the following actions were necessary:

1. A TIP amendment.
2. An LRTP amendment (for the interchange).
3. An air quality conformity determination on the TIP and LRTP.

It was stated that the above three actions must occur before MUMPO's LRTP expires on May 3, 2009.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it permit the start of a public involvement process, subject to the following conditions:

1. Information must be provided that details the financing plan for the project, including Cornelius' role and Mecklenburg County's role, as well as what guarantees are in place.
2. The FHWA must indicate that what the Town proposes is permissible.
3. Charlotte staff must provide input on work that it will be required to perform.

Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.