

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Conference Room 267
April 2, 2009

Voting Members: Wayne Herron - Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippette (CDOT), Jonathan Wells-alt. for Debra Campbell (CMPC), David McDonald (MTC), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb-alt. for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill (Matthews), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Shannon Martel-alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordan Cook (Weddington)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPC), Andy Grzynski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Richard Hancock (NCDOT), John Underwood (NCDOT), Anthony Roberts (Cornelius), Hemal Shah (Cornelius), 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), Carroll Gray (LNRTC), Jennifer Harris (NCTA), David Joyner (NCTA), Reid Simons (NCTA), Christy Shumate (NCTA-GEC)

Guests: Than Austin (MAB), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Jonathan Guy (Kimley-Horn), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Lynn Purnell (PB Americas), Allen Tate, Jim Bensman (Commissioner, Town of Cornelius), Lynda Paxton (Mayor, Town of Stallings), Natalie English (Charlotte Chamber)

Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

1. Consideration of February & March 2009 Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron asked for any changes to the February 2009 minutes. None were suggested. Jonathan Wells made a motion to approve the February minutes. Bill Coxe seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Herron asked for any changes to the March 2009 minutes. None were suggested. Mr. Coxe made a motion to approve the March minutes. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. 2009-2015 TIP Amendments

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that all projects presented were statewide projects with the exception of C-4956B. A question was asked if the projects were subject to the equity formula. Barry Moose responded stating that ER-5100 was subject to it.

Motion:

Danny Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it amend the TIP as presented. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2035 LRTP Revenue Assumptions

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Grzymiski gave an over view of the financial plan for the 2035 LRTP showing how the LRTP can be implemented. He presented the following assumptions for the TCC's consideration:

2009-2015: Revenues are based on average annual costs of projects (\$45 million) reflected in the 2009-2015 TIP.

2016-2025: Revenues are based on the average annual amounts reflected in the 2009-2015 TIP. State revenue sources are assumed to grow at 2.5% annually.

2026-2035: A 2.0% annual growth rate is assumed throughout the remainder of the period. The annual transfer of Highway Trust funds to the General Fund will fill the funding gap on future Turnpike Authority projects.

North Carolina's donor state status regarding return of federal highway dollars increases from 90.5 cents to 95 cents by 2015.

The Monroe Bypass/Connector project (STIP #'s R-2559/R-3329) will be built as a toll facility. The Garden Parkway from I-485 across the Catawba River into Gaston County (STIP # U-3321) will be built as a toll facility

Urban Loops funds will be made available for retrofitting I-485.

The level of maintenance of the transportation system will remain constant through the Plan lifespan.

Local municipalities will continue to contribute funding towards LRTP projects based on information from staff.

Assumes that loop retrofit projects are eligible for loop funding

Assumes all toll projects to be completed by 2015 (as per NCTA funding plan)

Assumes the level of maintenance of the transportation system will remain constant through the Plan lifespan.

Escalated current allocation for state maintenance (\$11 million) at annual rate of 2%.

Assumes the level of Powell Bill funding will remain constant through the Plan lifespan.

Escalated current allocation for Powell Bill funding (\$25 million) at annual rate of 2%.

Regarding the equity formula, the average annual funding in the current TIP (\$45 million/year) was used to develop the following assumptions:

Escalated avg. funding level 2.5% annually for years 2016-2025

Escalated avg. funding level 2.0% annually for years 2026-2035

A discussion began after the presentation. Mr. Coxe asked Mr. Moose about maintenance-related assumptions in Mr. Grzymiski's presentation considering recent statements by the Governor that maintenance funds would be reduced. Mr. Moose replied that assumptions for the early years may be optimistic. Norm Steinman asked that any motion to recommend that the MPO endorse the assumptions note that information from the managed lanes study will be incorporated at a later date.

Motion:

Andrew Grant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the financial assumptions, pending receipt of information from the ongoing managed lanes study. Greg Mahar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Augustalee Update

Presenter: Andrew Grant, Town of Cornelius

Summary/ FYI:

Mr. Grant gave an overview of the Augustalee area and its transportation components:

1. Construct a new interchange on I-77 at Westmoreland Road
2. Widen I-77 from south of exit 23 (Gilead Road) to exit 28 (Catawba Avenue)
3. Widen US 21
4. Extend Bailey Road across I-77 to Northcross Drive
5. Improvements to Westmoreland Road
6. Extend Northcross Drive

Also discussed were project financing, the public involvement process (including a public workshop scheduled for April 8th at Town Hall in Cornelius), the NC 73 plan and Cornelius' transportation plan. Mr. Grant a special meeting on April 23rd was being requested to allow for the TCC to make a recommendation on this project to the MPO. David McDonald stated that adding the new I-77 lanes as HOV lanes is a better option than adding them as general purpose lanes. Mr. McDonald also asked about financing the I-77 improvements. Mr. Grant stated that one option is county participation.

5. Set Special Meeting Date

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Herron stated that this would be a special meeting to make a recommendation on the Augustalee project to the MPO. Mr. Herron asked if April 23rd would be OK with everyone.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to hold a special TCC meeting on Thursday, April 23 at 10:00 AM. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Local Area Regional Transportation Plan

Presenter: Than Austin, MAB Associates

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Austin gave an overview of this project. It involves the creation of a local transportation plan for the western Union County communities of Marvin, Waxhaw, Weddington and Wesley Chapel. The project is partially funded with Planning (PL) funds allocated as part of the FY 09 UPWP process. The project began early fall of last year and should be complete by the end of June 2009.

7. Fast Lanes Update

Presenter: Lynn Purnell, PB Americas

Summary / FYI:

Tim Gibbs gave an overview of the status of the Fast Lanes study and then introduced Lynn Purnell. Mr. Purnell's presentation focused on the results of Phase II of the study.

8. Stimulus Update

Presenter: Barry Moose, NCDOT

Mr. Moose asked for time to update the TCC on an economic stimulus project. He stated that the proposed rehab of Old Highway 51 in Matthews is not eligible for stimulus funds because it is a locally-maintained facility. Matthews took responsibility for the road several years ago. An unfunded project from MUMPO's list equal in value to the Old Highway 51 project will be funded instead.

9. Monroe Connector / Bypass Update

Presenter: Jennifer Harris, NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris stated that draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) had been signed by the NCTA, FHWA and NCDOT. She thanked everyone for their assistance in achieving this milestone. The NCTA's recommended alternative for the western end of the project includes segment 2. At the eastern end, ROW purchased for the Bypass by NCDOT several years ago is part of the recommended alternative. Ms. Harris emphasized that the recommended alternative is not a final decision and that the NCTA needs to hear from citizens and local officials, stating that public meetings and hearings would be held in May and that copies of the DEIS would soon be distributed. The NCTA's executive director, David Joyner, thanked everyone for their support, including the local chambers of commerce and the Regional Roads Committee. Copies of a citizens summary were passed out.

10. Lake Norman Regional Bicycle Plan

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Hansen provided the TCC with an overview of this project, noting that it is the first regional bicycle plan in the state. This is a follow up to the Lake Norman Bike Route that was adopted in 2006-2007. NCDOT has asked that, to the greatest extent possible, off-road sections be identified and that the final product provide genuine alternatives to vehicular travel. Public meetings are planned to gather public input.

10. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 PM.