

# MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

## Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Conference Room 267

August 6, 2009

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**Voting Members:** Bill Coxe -Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT), Jonathan Wells - alt. for Debra Campbell (CMPC), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA), John Rose (MTC-CATS), Richard Hancock – alt. for Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Kris Krider (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Jordan Cook (Weddington)

**Staff:** Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPC), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Andy Grzyski (CDOT), Scott Putnam (CDOT), Charles Abel (CDOT), Hemal Shah (Cornelius), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jason Pauling (Meck Park & Recreation), Maya Agarwal (Meck Park & Recreation), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Jason Wager (Centralina COG), Richie Hearn (NCDOT-Div. 10), John Underwood (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jennifer Harris – via phone (NCTA), Reid Simons (NCTA), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission), Saxby Chaplin (Trust for Public Land)

**Guests:** Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Adin McCann (HNTB), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Jamie Bowers (WSOC-TV), Jason Stoogenke (WSOC-TV), Melissa Hankins (WBTV)

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Mr. Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM in Wayne Herron's absence. Mr. Coxe stated that Mr. Herron had contacted him to request that he chair the meeting due his need to be in Monroe as a result of severe storms the previous evening.

### **1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

Presenter: Bill Coxe, TCC Vice-Chairman

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe asked for a motion approving the July 9, 2009 meeting minutes. Ralph Messera made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented. Jonathan Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Economic Stimulus Project List Endorsement**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the request before the TCC was to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the project list as presented. He reminded the TCC that this project list was intended to serve as the MPO's priorities for projects to be implemented with stimulus funds made available by project bids coming in under estimate. He further reminded the TCC that it had acted on a project list in July, but between the time of the TCC's action and when it was presented to the MPO, it was learned that additional projects might be eligible due to an FHWA decision permitting the NC Board of Transportation (BOT) to amend the state TIP to include projects that MUMPO had amended its TIP for in April, but which the BOT failed to include in the state TIP. In light of the FHWA decision, the MPO instructed staff to work with the TCC to determine if additional projects could be added to the list and decide if any reprioritization was in order. Mr. Cook then walked the TCC through the decision-making process that resulted in the list before them.

Andrew Grant proposed moving item #4 (NC 115 sidewalks and bike lanes) to the bottom of the list because it may not be shovel-ready and also requested that US 21/Catawba Avenue intersection improvements be added to the list after the NC 115 project.

Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion that item #4 be moved to #16 and that the US 21/Catawba Avenue intersection improvement be added as item #17 and to recommend endorsement by the MPO. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. LRTP Update Status**

**a. Draft Financially Constrained Projects List**

Presenter: Andy Grzyski, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

*Mr. Grzyski used a Power Point presentation that is included by reference in these meeting minutes.* Mr. Grzyski stated that the only action being requested was to recommend to the MPO that it approve the release of the draft lists for comment. He then went through the three draft lists: No New Revenue; 1/8 of a cent of new revenue; 1/4 cent of new revenue. He stated that these were the future revenue scenarios approved by the MPO at its July meeting. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Grzyski responded to questions from TCC members.

Motion:

Danny Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it permit the release of the draft lists for public review and that it include a glossary of terms and FAQs. Jamal Alavi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Public Involvement & Consultation**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that two public meetings had been tentatively scheduled to hear the public's comments on the draft lists: August 24 at the CMGC and August 31 at the Indian Trail Town Hall. He noted that the dates should be confirmed very shortly.

**4. I-485 Funding Options**

Presenter: Bill Coxe, TCC Vice-Chairman

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Coxe stated that there is little new information on this item. He reviewed the proposal submitted by NCDOT to the MPO at its July meeting to transfer funds from the Independence Boulevard widening project (U-209B) to I-485 (R-2248E). Mr. Coxe then discussed a letter sent by MPO Chairman Lee Myers to Governor Perdue that outlined possible sources of funds for I-485 that would result in it being implemented on the Governor's schedule, without delaying Independence Boulevard.

Mr. Pleasant stated that the issue was one of confidence. Accepting the Governor's proposal would bring more certainty to the completion of I-485, but could result in less certainty regarding improvements to Independence Boulevard. Concerns were expressed that the proposal submitted to the MPO in July has never been presented in writing. The TCC requested Mr. Alavi to work with NCDOT management to provide a written proposal to MUMPO.

## **5. Monroe Connector/Bypass**

### **a. Status Update**

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro, PBS&J & Jennifer Harris (via telephone), NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro provided the following information:

Over 500 comments on the draft EIS had been received, including approximately 300 from the Bonterra neighborhood.

Nothing contained in the comments is likely to change the NCTA's recommended alternative recommendation.

The NCTA is moving forward on the final EIS, and it will likely result in the following changes from the draft:

- An entrance to the Forest Park subdivision will be added.
- A bridge on Beverly Drive will be eliminated.
- The Unionville-Indian Trail Road interchange footprint will be reduced and Secret Shortcut Road will be kept on its current alignment.
- The Austin Chaney Road interchange will be modified and McIntyre Road will not be severed.

The quantitative indirect and cumulative effects (ICE) study will be starting soon.

Coordination with the US Fish & Wildlife Service is continuing.

The NCTA is beginning design/build procurement.

### **b. TCC Preferred Alternative Recommendation**

Presenter: Robert Cook / Nick Polimeni

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook opened the presentation by reminding the TCC that the development of a recommendation was requested by the MPO. Mr. Polimeni then reviewed suggested criteria that could be used to assist in the development of a recommendation. He noted that staff had reviewed existing ranking methodologies to determine if components or processes associated with them could be applied to this process. The methodologies included MUMPO's LRTP ranking methodology, Huntersville's Prosperity Church Road ranking process, and the bicycle and pedestrian ranking criteria developed for the economic stimulus. Mr. Polimeni stated that the TCC's efforts should focus on the western end of the project since the NCTA's recommended alternative for the eastern end is the same as that which was originally selected for the Monroe Bypass when it was a stand-alone project. He noted that the August 12 Transportation Staff Meeting will be used to refine the alternative recommendation process. August 26 was selected as the date for the ranking meeting.

## **6. Chestnut Connector**

Presenter: Jamal Alavi, NCDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Alavi updated the TCC on this subject. He stated that the Stalling town council had rejected the idea of shifting funds from the Indian Trail Road and Stallings Road TIP projects to the Chestnut Connector. Scott Kaufhold indicated that the Indian Trail town council would discuss the issue at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Coxe asked if the two current projects would move forward. Mr. Alavi replied that they would.

7. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.