

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**September 3, 2009**

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**Voting Members:** Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), Richard Hancock – alt. for Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Hemal Shah – alt. for Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb – alt. for 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), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel)

**Staff:** Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Hemal Shah (Cornelius), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), C.J. O’Neill (Matthews), Jim Lloyd (Monroe), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT-Div. 10), John Underwood (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jennifer Harris – via phone (NCTA), Reid Simons (NCTA), Dana Stoogenke (Rocky River RPO), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission)

**Guests:** Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Padam Singh (HNTB), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Jason Stoogenke (WSOC-TV)

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

**1. Consideration of August 2009 Minutes**

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Danny Pleasant made a motion to approve the August 2009 minutes as presented. Bill Coxe seconded the motion. The August 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

**2. Monroe Connector Bypass**

**a. TCC Alternative Recommendation**

Presenter: Nick Polimeni, Carl Gibilaro & Reid Simons

Summary/Requested Action:

Nick Polimeni stated that the process had been undertaken due to an expectation from the MPO that it would take a formal position on the project’s route. He then provided an overview of the process used to develop a recommendation for the TCC’s consideration, starting with the effort to develop ranking criteria that took place at two Wednesday staff meetings (August 5 and 12). Those meetings resulted in a decision to focus on the portion of the project from US 601 to I-485 (the Connector) since the NC Turnpike Authority’s (NCTA) recommended route for the Bypass portion of the project uses right-of-way purchased for the project by NCDOT. Following this, Mr. Polimeni reviewed the actual ranking and weighting criteria used at a meeting held on August 26 at Matthews Town Hall to which all TCC members were invited. The results of the meeting were a very slight preference for Route 18A and support for the proposed interchange at US 601. Mr. Polimeni then asked Carl Gibilaro and Reid Simons to give an overview and explanation as to why the NCTA chose alternative D.

Mr. Gibilaro and Ms. Simons walked the TCC through the NCTA's process that resulted in the selection of Alternative D as its recommended alternative, emphasizing that it followed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines and that it was a technical analysis of the project study area. The issue of the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) was discussed. Mr. Gibilaro stated that the determination of a LEDPA is a requirement of the Clean Water Act, and that the resource agencies have indicated that they view Alternative D as the LEDPA for this project.

Wayne Herron asked why the group that met on August 26 saw a need to voice support for the US 601 interchange. Mr. Gibilaro stated that some of the resource agencies view the interchange as a potential source of sprawl and have asked that the indirect and cumulative effects study to analyze the area with and without the interchange. Mr. Herron observed that 601 is a US highway and that there is an expectation that an interchange will be located there. He further stated that local land use plans do not advocate sprawl and asked for support for the interchange. Mr. Herron then thanked the TCC for its efforts, but stated that the NCTA spent many months working on the DEIS and the TCC's efforts should not trump the NCTA's work. He further noted that the difference in the scores between 18A and 2 were negligible and recommended supporting Alternative D.

Mr. Pleasant stated that the NCTA had done an excellent job and that he was reluctant to take things in a different direction. Craig Thomas observed that the Thoroughfare Plan shows an alignment that closely resembles 18A. Ralph Messera stated that the difference in the scores between 18A and 2 was negligible, and that the LEDPA issue was quite significant. Mr. Coxe stated that he believed the LEDPA matter was quite significant. Shannon Martel stated that Stallings' official position is to support 18A, but that the matter will be discussed by the town council in light of the LEDPA issue.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion stating that the TCC finds the NCTA's technical analysis to be sufficient and therefore supports Alternative D as the project's alignment and further that the TCC affirms the construction of an interchange at US 601 and recommends that the MPO endorse Alternative D and support the US 601 interchange. The motion was seconded by Jamal Alavi. Upon being put to a vote, 16 votes were cast in favor of the motion and three votes were cast in opposition (Indian Trail, Stallings and Wesley Chapel). The motion carried.

**b. Status Update**

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro & Reid Simons

Summary:

The presentation provided by Mr. Gibilaro and Ms. Simons during the discussion of the preferred alternative provided the TCC with the project's status. No further discussion was needed.

**3. I-485 Funding Options**

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe reported that no new information had been received-NCDOT's position was still to swap funds from Independence Boulevard to I-485. He noted that the MPO expressed the desire to move forward with current priorities when it met on August 19. Mr. Herron asked the TCC if there was a desire to take action. Mr. Coxe stated that the TCC had ranked three projects (I-485, Independence Boulevard and the Monroe Connector/Bypass) and came to the conclusion that the current prioritization was appropriate. No action was taken by the TCC.

#### **4. LRTP Update Status**

##### **a. Modeling Results of Initial Scenarios**

Presenter: Norm Steinman

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Steinman reviewed the results of the four scenarios that were tested based upon three funding level assumptions (no new revenue; additional 1/8 cent new revenue; 1/4 cent new revenue). All four scenarios passed under the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) proposed by NC Division of Air Quality (DAQ) for the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Mr. Steinman recommended that additional scenarios be considered to determine if a project list could be developed that produces better congestion benefits. Mr. Herron asked why additional scenarios should be considered if the ones already developed passed. Mr. Steinman replied that, due to financial constraints, the current project lists contained few projects and that MUMPO could consider a scenario that factored in additional revenue from managed lanes projects. Mr. Herron stated that he was concerned that additional scenarios could mean a lot of additional work with little return on the investment. Mr. Steinman noted that the MVEBs probably would not be approved until April and could not be officially used until that time. Leslie Rhodes stated that it was possible for the MVEBs to be approved earlier than April.

Mr. Herron recommended that Mr. Steinman raise his concerns with the MPO at its September meeting and that the discussion be continued at the Wednesday staff meetings.

##### **b. Public Involvement & Consultation**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook reported on the public meetings held on August 24 and 31 to receive public input on the LRTP's project lists. Attendance at the August 24 meeting was poor, but the August 31 meeting was well attended. Mr. Cook also noted that project list information was provided to MUMPO's resource agency partners as a part of the Consultation process. He noted that the only agency to respond to the request for comments was the NC Council of Planning.

#### **5. Fast Lanes Project Update**

Presenter: Tim Gibbs

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibbs reported that the Fast Lanes study was now complete and the final report is posted on the project website ([www.fastlanes.org](http://www.fastlanes.org)). Managed lanes are being analyzed on I-77 north and that he was looking for other opportunities to implement managed lanes in feasible corridors identified in the study.

6. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 AM.