

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Conference Room 267**  
**June 4, 2009**

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**Voting Members:** Wayne Herron - Chairman (Monroe), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Bill Coxe -Vice-chair (Huntersville), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT), Jonathan Wells - alt. for Debra Campbell (CMPC), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA), David McDonald - alt. for John Muth (MTC/CATS), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), Kris Krider (Davidson), Hemal Shah - alt. for Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Travis Morgan – alt. for Kevin Icard (Pineville), Brian Matthews (Stallings), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Amy Helms (Union County)

**Staff:** Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPC), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), C.J. O’Neill (Matthews), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Richard Hancock (NCDOT), John Underwood (NCDOT), Jennifer Harris (NCTA), Reid Simons (NCTA), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Yolanda Morris (FHWA), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission)

**Guests:** Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Adin McCann (PBS&J), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Todd Steiss (PB Americas), Eric Gorman (PB Americas), Mayor Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Councilmember Wyatt Dunn (Stallings)

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Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

**1. July Meeting Date**

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron stated that the July meeting date was the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the day before the start of a three-day weekend. The TCC agreed to shift the July meeting date to July 9.

**2. I-485 Funding Options**

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron opened the discussion by noting Secretary Conti’s comments to the MPO at its May meeting where he acknowledged that no new funds for I-485 were available, therefore an existing project would have to be delayed in order for I-485 to proceed on the Governor’s schedule. He stated that the Secretary had identified three projects as a potential funding source: Independence Boulevard widening (U-209B); Monroe Connector/Bypass; I-85 widening in Cabarrus County. Mr. Herron asked Barry Moose if he had any comments. Mr. Moose reminded the TCC that the I85 project is outside MUMPO’s planning area. He further stated that since air quality is a major issue, MUMPO should not focus on a single project, but should focus on making sure that whatever is done is something that does not affect conformity. Kris Krider asked if it was known which project had the biggest impact on air quality. Norm Steinman replied that one-page summaries of each project being analyzed as a part of the LRTP development process are being produced, and projected total emissions are a part of each summary.

Mr. Coxe asked if an assessment of the loop program has been conducted, including how funds were being spent. Mr. Moose stated that the loop program is broke, and added that there is no funding

methodology for the program. Mr. Herron directed staff to bring this issue to the Wednesday Transportation Staff Meeting and to develop information to be presented to the MPO at its July meeting.

### **3. Economic Stimulus Status Report**

Presenter: Barry Moose, Division 10 Engineer

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Moose stated that the first round of stimulus projects have been advanced, including the NC 51 and NC 218 projects. He also noted that NCDOT is working with CDOT on the ITS project and that NCDOT is on schedule for the stimulus program.

Mr. Moose noted that stimulus projects have been averaging 18-22% below estimate, resulting in \$8.5 million in uncommitted funds. Some of these funds have already been allocated to projects, leaving \$5.5 million to fund additional projects in Division 10. He then requested the TCC to recommend projects for funding with the \$5.5 million, but emphasized that the funds are not STP-DA funds, and therefore must be spread across the Division. Mr. Moose noted that the “shovel-ready” concept still applies, and that he had received a request from Matthews for funding for a greenway project. Mr. Herron directed the TCC to use the Wednesday Transportation Staff Meeting as the venue for developing a project list that should be presented to the TCC in July.

### **4. Monroe Connector/Bypass**

#### **a. Project Updates**

Presenter: Jennifer Harris, NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris reported on participation at the elected officials meeting, open houses and public hearings held during the week of May 18. She also mentioned that the NCTA had received a resolution from the City of Monroe requesting that the project be named the “Monroe Parkway.” Mr. Herron thanked the NCTA staff for its hard work on the project.

#### **b. Impact on Indian Trail**

Presenter: Craig Thomas, Indian Trail

Summary / FYI:

The Indian Trail town council has gone on record supporting alternative B. Mr. Thomas’ presentation focused on the reasons for that support. He discussed Indian Trail’s concerns with the recommended alternative, and compared the impacts of the recommended alternative with other alternatives. Also discussed were impacts on the Old Hickory Industrial Park, Scott Long Road, and Bonterra, as well as concerns with the realignment of Secret Shortcut Road and the proposed elevation of the highway.

#### **c. Impact on Stallings**

Presenter: Brian Matthews, Stallings

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Matthews stated the town council voted to support 18A in October 2008, and that they recently discussed alternative D, but had not taken a position. He stated that it was his opinion that the council may not simply oppose D, but would look at ways to mitigate its impacts. Mr. Matthews also discussed impacts on businesses and that they could be mitigated by shifting the alignment, and that the project's design should not preclude an eventual connection.

## **5. Stimulus Funding for GRADE**

Presenter: Leslie Rhodes, Mecklenburg County Air Quality

### Summary / FYI:

Ms. Rhodes thanked the TCC for its support of GRADE: Grants to Reduce Aging Diesel Engines when considering the CMAQ applications earlier in the year. She stated she wanted the TCC to know that GRADE was selected for \$1 million in stimulus funds. These funds will be in addition to the CMAQ funds. All jurisdictions will be able to apply for funding.

## **6. TCC Meeting Telephone Participation**

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Polimeni discussed a request to permit full participation in TCC meetings by telephone. The request came up to allow TCC members who couldn't physically make it to a meeting an opportunity to be included in the voting, such as Raleigh-based staff. Telephone participation is currently provided, but voting by telephone is not permitted because it is not included in the TCC bylaws. Robert's Rules of Order, on which the bylaws are based, would allow full telephone participation if the bylaws are amended, which would require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the MPO. A brief emphasis on some of the implications related to telephone participation was outlined. Some considerations mentioned included, technology and cost and availability of materials presented the day of the meeting for those not physically. It was also suggested that, if permitted, telephone participation should be utilized out of necessity and not convenience.

Mr. Herron stated that he had no opposition to TCC members phoning into meetings to listen to the proceedings, but believed that a member should be present to count against the quorum. Mr. Matthews stated he agreed with Mr. Herron, as did other TCC representatives. Jim Keenan discussed the problems with teleconferencing. Others suggested that staff look into technologies that make remote participation easier. Mr. Coxe noted that improved technologies cost money, and that Charlotte should not have to bear the full cost of implementing them. He added that participating in a meeting is one thing, but actually voting on an issue is something different. The agenda item concluded with no action being taken and with staff committing to pursuing different technologies that would allow for better remote participation.

## **7. Chestnut Connector**

Presenter: Jamal Alavi, NCDOT

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Alavi stated that a feasibility study is being prepared for this project, the intent of which is to combine two existing TIP projects on Indian Trail and Stallings roads into a single, new project. Traffic projection data were distributed which Mr. Alavi reviewed. Scott Kaufold asked about the next steps in the process. Mr. Alavi replied that support letters from Indian Trail and Stallings were needed and the project needed to be added back to the Thoroughfare Plan. Mr. Matthews stated that there needed to be assurances that funds for the two current TIP projects will be applied to the Chestnut Connector.

## **8. LRTP Update Status**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook reminded the TCC that the MPO was now in a conformity grace period, and added that a February/March 2010 time period was likely for an adoption of an updated LRTP. He reviewed several items now being worked on:

1. Project rankings: the July TCC meeting is the target date for providing a draft list with rankings.
2. Cost estimates: estimates are largely complete and year of expenditure estimates will be applied after the ranking process is finalized.
3. The COG is managing the LRTP development process related to document preparation.

**9. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.