

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Conference Room 267
July 9, 2009

Voting Members: Wayne Herron - Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe -Vice-chair (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt. for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippette (CDOT), Jonathan Wells - alt. for Debra Campbell (CMPC), Alan Giles – alt. for Leslie Rhodes (LUESA), David McDonald - alt. for John Muth (MTC/CATS), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), Kris Krider – via phone (Davidson), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Dana Clukey – alt. for Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPC), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Hemal Shah (Cornelius), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Jason Pauling (Meck Park & Recreation), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Jason Wager (Centralina COG), 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 (PBS&J), Padam Singh (HNTB), Jamie Bowers (WSOC-TV), Jason Stoogenke (WSOC-TV)

Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. Bill Coxe requested that he be permitted to update the TCC on Huntersville's interchange modification report (IMR) for I-77's exit 25. All agreed to add this to the agenda.

1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron asked for a motion on the following minutes: March 23 special meeting; April 23 special meeting; May meeting; June meeting. Bill Coxe made a motion to approve the four meeting minutes as presented. Jonathan Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Economic Stimulus

a. 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. The list consisted of ten projects that could be funded with economic stimulus funds available due to project bids on other economic stimulus projects coming in under estimate. The process used to develop the list was reviewed, and Mr. Cook noted NCDOT would ultimately decide which projects would be implemented.

Motion:

Norm Steinman made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the project list as presented. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. NCDOT TIP Amendment

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe described the process MUMPO used to develop its original economic stimulus list that resulted in the MPO taking action in March to amend the TIP for approximately 41 road projects. He stated that the effort was conducted in cooperation with NCDOT and that their direction had been to develop a long list of projects so that if some projects cannot advance, NCDOT will have enough projects in MUMPO's planning area and the benefits of the stimulus can be realized. He then discussed the recently learned information that NCDOT had decided to amend its TIP for only four of the 41 projects (Verhoeff Drive, Charlotte Avenue, Little Rock Road and Indian Trail Road/Faith Church Road intersection), and that this information was learned only in the past two weeks. The result of this is that some potential economic stimulus projects may not be able to move forward because MUMPO is in an air quality conformity grace period, and TIP amendments in MUMPO's planning area cannot be executed. Mr. Coxe concluded his remarks by recommending that the chairman write a letter to both NCDOT and the FHWA that includes a request for an administrative action that will allow viable projects to proceed.

After considerable discussion, all agreed that it was appropriated for the chairman to prepare a letter.

3. I-485 Funding Options

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook provided background on this issue, noting that NCDOT Secretary Conti made a presentation to the MPO in May and recommended that three projects be considered as funding sources to advance construction of the last segment of I-485 in order to fulfill Governor Perdue's promise to begin construction of the highway before the end of 2009. The three projects were: I-85 widening (I-3803B) in Cabarrus County; Independence Boulevard widening (U-209B); Monroe Connector/Bypass (R-2559 and R-3329).

The process used to assess Mr. Conti's recommendation was then reviewed. Mr. Cook noted the key decisions made at the June 10, 2009 Transportation Staff Meeting:

- The adopted roadway ranking methodology would be used to analyze the projects.
- I-85 would not be analyzed since it is outside MUMPO's planning area.
- The analysis process would be similar to that which was used to rank projects for the LRTP.

Mr. Cook then discussed the July 8, 2009 Transportation Staff Meeting where the projects were ranked. He reviewed the rankings and discussed differences between them and scores assigned during the LRTP project ranking process. Mr. Wells asked if the scores assigned at the July 8 meeting were intended to supersede the scores assigned during the LRTP process. Mr. Cook replied that they were not.

Motion:

Following this there was considerable discussion regarding how to present the information to the MPO. Ralph Messera made a motion to present the information to the MPO without a recommendation. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. Jim Keenan then made a substitute motion to present the information to the MPO with a statement that the TCC does not recommend changes in project prioritization in order to fund I-485. Mr. Keenan's motion was put to vote and two votes were cast in favor (Mr. Keenan and Mr. McDonald) and 14 votes were cast in opposition. The motion failed. Mr. Messera's original motion was then considered. The motion passed unanimously.

4. LRTP Update Status

a. Ranked Project List

Presenter: Tim Gibbs, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibbs presented the draft ranked project list to the TCC. He stated that it was the full list of projects nominated by TCC members and that all scores had been applied. Ten of the categories' scores were assigned through the project ranking process and one category's score (Reduces Congestion) was assigned by the travel demand model. He further discussed the process by stating that once the criteria received individual scores and those scores had been totaled, the projects were ranked in priority order (the higher the score, the higher the priority). If total project scores were tied, then staff reviewed which of the tied projects has the highest number of criterion with scores of five, then scores of four. If a tie persisted, then the scores for reducing congestion and then improving safety were used.

Mr. Gibbs emphasized that this was a draft list and that concerns about individual project scoring and the ranked project listing would be addressed at upcoming Wednesday staff meetings. He added that the list will be used to develop the financially-constrained project list using future revenue assumptions.

b. Upcoming Project Milestones

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Grzymiski reviewed upcoming milestones for the project:

July

- Receive ranked list of roadway and transit projects
- Receive descriptions of possible additional revenue sources
- Discuss and endorse initial four modal and financing scenarios

August

- Receive draft list of financially-constrained roadway and transit projects, by horizon years

September

- Receive results of transportation and air quality analysis for initial four scenarios
- Recommend additional revenue sources (if necessary)
- Endorse additional scenarios to be tested

October

- Receive results of transportation and air quality analysis for additional scenarios
- Endorse a scenario as "The Plan" or request any other final scenarios

Mr. Coxe reminded the TCC members that there will be new MPO members in 2010 when the LRTP is actually adopted, and emphasized the importance of TCC members working with their new representatives to get them comfortable with the process.

c. Revenue Sources

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Grzymiski reviewed the potential future revenue sources for the LRTP. A Power Point presentation was used and is included in these minutes by reference. (Contact the MUMPO secretary if you wish to obtain a copy of the presentation.)

d. Modal & Financing Scenarios

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Grzynski stated that four initial scenarios had been defined by staff and that they will be used to test congestion and air quality impacts. Each scenario is a combination of “financially- constrained” projects and “new revenue” projects. New revenue assumptions used first for transportation and air quality modeling. He then described the four scenarios:

Scenario 1

- Assumes no additional revenues beyond those in existing Revenue Assumptions
- Highway projects financially-constrained by horizon year based on Existing Revenue Assumptions
- Transit projects financially-constrained by horizon year based on Existing Revenue Assumptions

Scenario 2

- Assumes additional ½ cent sales tax in Mecklenburg County for non-transit projects
- Financially-constrained highway projects **PLUS** approx. \$1.75 billion* for highway projects in Mecklenburg County
- Financially-constrained transit projects (same as Scenario #1)

*- \$65 million per year escalated at 3% over twenty years (2016-2035)

Scenario 3

- Assumes additional ½ cent sales tax in Mecklenburg County for transit
- Highway projects financially-constrained by horizon year based on Existing Revenue Assumptions (same as Scenario #1)
- Transit projects based on MTC’s 2030 Transit Systems Plan

Scenario 4

- Assumes additional 1 cent sales tax in Mecklenburg County for transportation
- Financially-constrained highway projects **PLUS** approx. \$1.75 billion* for highway projects in Mecklenburg County (same as Scenario #2)
- Projects based on MTC’s 2030 Transit Systems Plan (same as Scenario #3)

*- \$65 million per year escalated at 3% over twenty years (2016-2035)

Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the modal and financing scenarios as presented. Mr. Steinman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Public Involvement & Consultation

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook reviewed past public involvement efforts regarding the LRTP update. He also discussed efforts to fulfill the Consultation requirements of the metropolitan planning regulations. Finally, he discussed future efforts, including upcoming meetings to receive public input on the draft fiscally-constrained project lists that will be presented to the TCC and MPO in August. These meetings had not yet been scheduled.

5. Statewide CMAQ Project Endorsement

Presenter: Anne Tazewell, NC State University

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Tazewell conducted a presentation that provided an overview of the North Carolina Solar Center clean fuel advanced technology (CFAT) II project. NCDOT approved CMAQ funding for the project, and CMAQ program rules require that the state’s MPOs endorse the project.

Motion:

Greg Mahar made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the CMAQ project as presented. Jamal Alavi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Monroe Connector/Bypass

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro, PBS&J and Reid Simons, NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro reported on the following:

- The next environmental agency meeting will be held on July 21 to begin the process to identify the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA). An additional meeting on this topic will be held on August 12.
- A letter was distributed that is being sent to all property owners in the corridor announcing the beginning of surveying and geotechnical investigations.
- The Design Build procurement process was beginning
- A service road studies is getting underway. The study will identify parcels that may be landlocked because of the project and will determine if providing a new service road connection will be more cost beneficial than purchasing the entire parcel.

Mr. Gibilaro asked when the MPO might make a decision on its preferred alternative. Mr. Cook replied that it would likely be September.

Ms. Simons reported on the following:

- The preliminary process to apply for TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) loans is underway and that an application will be submitted on September 15.
- A stated preference survey is underway as part of the traffic and revenue study. Online participation is available.
- Letters have gone out to invite participation in the Aesthetics Committee meeting on July 28.

7. Chestnut Connector

Presenter: Jamal Alavi, NCDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Alavi stated that he wanted to follow up on the discussion of this item from the June meeting. Scott Kaufhold indicated that the Indian Trail town council requested a cost estimate and assurance that the funds associated with the Indian Trail Road and Stallings Road TIP projects would be shifted to the Chestnut Connector. Shannon Martel stated that she would provide updated information to Mr. Alavi.

8. I-77 Exit 25 Interchange Modification Report (IMR)

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Huntersville

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Coxe stated that the study was started because the interchange's current design does not serve the town's land use goals, and that this IMR is different from most because of its land use component. The project's Alternatives Evaluation Criteria was reviewed, along with two design alternatives that had been developed. Mr. Coxe stated that a public meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 29 to receive the public's input on the project.

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