

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Uptown Conference Room
October 1, 2009

Voting Members: Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Ken Tippet (CDOT), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb – alt. for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Lee Bailey – via phone (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel- via phone - alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Amy Helms (Union County), Jordan Cook (Weddington)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Hemal Shah (Cornelius), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Mike Bruff (NCDOT-TPB), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Jennifer Harris – via phone (NCTA), Christy Shumate – via phone (NCTA), Reid Simons (NCTA), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission)

Guests: Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J)

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

1. Consideration of September 2009 Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron asked if any changes to the draft September minutes were necessary. Jonathan Wells asked that an outdated acronym for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department be changed and that a typo in the I-485 Funding Options agenda item section be corrected. Bill Coxe made a motion to approve the September 2009 minutes with the noted corrections. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The September 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

2. November Meeting Date

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron stated that the date for the November meeting (5th) conflicts with the NC MPO Association's annual conference. He suggested that the TCC shift its meeting to November 12.

Motion:

Ralph Messera made a motion to move the November TCC meeting to Thursday, November 12. Danny Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Augustalee Update

Presenter: Andrew Grant, Town of Cornelius

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Grant reviewed the latest issues associated with the proposed Augustalee development. He stated that the developer had experienced a technical default, but that a new owner still plans to move forward with the project, including all off-site improvements. A financing plan was due by October 31, 2009, but the new owners requested an extension that is likely to be granted. Mr. Grzymiski asked if the proposed road improvements would be complete by 2015. Mr. Grant replied there has been no indication that that will change. Mr. Coxe proposed that the Augustalee road improvement projects be moved to the 2035 LRTP's 2025 horizon year in order to allow Cornelius and the developer to work on financing, adding that he was not comfortable with putting the projects in the LRTP without a financing plan. Norm Steinman asked that the issue be tabled until the LRTP Status Update is discussed.

4. Fast Lanes Project Update

Presenter: Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

This item was moved up on the agenda because of its relation to the LRTP Status Update agenda item. Mr. Steinman reviewed the Phase 1 screening results map, noting that the first priority is I-77 north where NCDOT is conducting a feasibility study up to the Lake Norman causeway. The second priority is Independence Boulevard and the third priority is I-485 between I-77 and US 74. He stated that revenues should exceed operating and maintenance costs for the lanes and that the excess could be applied to the overall road.

5. LRTP Status Update

Presenter: Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Steinman presented information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. He noted that analyzing an additional scenario incorporating the results of the Fast Lanes study had been considered, but at the September 30 Transportation Staff meeting, the FHWA indicated that what was being proposed would not be permitted under existing regulations. Mr. Steinman then reviewed the recommendations that came from the September 30 Transportation Staff meeting:

The LRTP should proceed on the original schedule with a November recommendation being made to the MPO by the TCC

Work on the next LRTP will begin immediately after adoption of the 2035 Plan

The LRTP will include a "next steps" component that addresses issues that will be more fully dealt with in the next Plan (e.g., managed lanes)

Mr. Coxe stated that this had been thoroughly discussed at the staff meeting and that all present agreed that the LRTP now being developed should be completed without delay, but that the TCC should immediately begin working collaboratively with the MPO to work on the next Plan.

The discussion then moved to air quality-related matters and the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB). Leslie Rhodes stated that the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) was in a strong position for an attainment extension to 2011 due to good air quality during the 2009 ozone season. Following the air quality discussion, Mr. Pleasant made a motion to present the four scenarios to the MPO for their consideration and selection of a scenario. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alavi. A vote was not taken at that time due to a decision to return to the Augustalee matter.

Mr. Grant stated that the Augustalee financial plan was likely to be a 100% synthetic TIF and that the project delays now being experienced will not affect transportation project delivery. He added that

putting the transportation projects in the 2025 horizon year of the LRTP would limit the developer from building them in a timely manner. Mike Bruff stated that the LRTP would not be harmed by placing the projects in the 2015 horizon year. Mr. Coxe emphasized his concern that the MPO has not seen a financing plan. Mr. Pleasant referred to past policy of looking to the local government for guidance when dealing with a local project and further noted the ability to amend the LRTP in the future. Loretta Barren stated that the FHWA does not require the immediate updating of an LRTP's financial plan if a change occurs after its adoption. There was general agreement that the Augustalee projects should stay in the 2015 horizon year.

The discussion returned to Mr. Pleasant's earlier motion to present the four scenarios to the MPO for their consideration and selection of an alternative. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed. There was one abstention (Bill Coxe).

6. NCDOT Draft 5-Year Work Program

Presenter: Jamal Alavi, NCDOT-TPB

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Alavi presented information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation focused on NCDOT's transportation reform efforts, the 5-Year Work Program that contains the projects the department is committed to building and the strategic prioritization process.

7. Strategic Prioritization Process

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary / FYI:

This item was not reached due to the meeting running late. Mr. Herron asked Mr. Polimeni to send a memorandum to the TCC that explains the issue.

8. Small Project Ranking Methodology

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

This item was not reached due to the meeting running late; it will be placed on November's agenda.

9. Monroe Connector/Bypass Status Update

Presenter:

Reid Simons, NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Simons updated the TCC on the following topics:

- Status of the recommended alternative and the final EIS
- Aesthetics Committee
- Design/build procurement
- Signing plan
- Traffic & revenue study
- TIFIA application

10. Website/Newsletter Update

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary / FYI:

This item was not reached due to the meeting running late.

11. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.