

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Uptown Conference Room

November 12, 2009

Voting Members: Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt. for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Tim Gibbs – alt. for Ken Tippet (CDOT), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Jim Loyd – alt. for Wayne Herron, Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Hemal Shah – alt. for Andrew Grant (Cornelius), 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), Lori Oakley – alt. for Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail, Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Marvin), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT-Division 10), Richard Hancock (NCDOT-Division 10), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), Jennifer Harris (NCTA), Christy Shumate (NCTA)

Guests: Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Jason Stoogenke (WSOC-TV), Jamie Bowers (WSOC-TV)

TCC Chairman Wayne Herron was unable to attend this rescheduled TCC meeting due to a schedule conflict. Vice-Chairman Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM. He noted that a matter related to the completion of the I-485 project needed to be added to the agenda; all agreed to amend the agenda to include that item.

1. Consideration of October 2009 Minutes

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the draft October minutes were necessary. No changes were recommended and the October minutes were approved by acclamation.

2. PL Fund Un-obligated Fund Rescission

Presenter: Loretta Barren, FHWA

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Barren discussed the recent rescission of unobligated federal funds as required by SAFETEA-LU when it was enacted in 2005, as well as by other legislation enacted since then. She noted that this was not the first time rescissions have occurred, but that this was larger than the previous ones due to more programs being affected. Mr. Coxe asked if STP-DA funds allocated to the Independence Boulevard project (U-209B) had been obligated. No one could provide a definitive answer. Mr. Coxe stated that the MPO needed to be advised about the rescission and that more details should be provided as soon as they are available, particularly about how specific projects may be affected.

3. Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grant Endorsements

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that grant submittal requirements mandate that each submittal include an endorsement from the MPO. He then reviewed the four proposals and representatives from the municipalities also briefly described their projects:

1. Town of Cornelius-pedestrian plan
2. Town of Huntersville-pedestrian plan
3. Village of Marvin-bicycle plan
4. Town of Waxhaw-pedestrian plan

Motion:

Tim Gibbs made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse all four proposals as submitted. Lauren Blackburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Draft LRTP Recommendation

Presenter: Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Steinman presented information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. Background information that assisted in explaining the requested action was presented, followed by the formal request to take action by making the following requests of the MPO:

1. endorse the “no new revenue” scenario and the accompanying project list;
2. approve the release of the following documents:
 - a. Draft LRTP
 - b. Draft air quality conformity report
 - c. Draft model development report.

Mr. Coxe noted the I-485 matter that was added to the agenda, and that the recent announcement concerning the acceleration of that project required some LRTP projects to be shifted from the 2025 horizon year to the 2015 horizon year. He stated that the affected projects were the mainline construction (R-2248E), the modified interchange at I-485 and I-85 (R-2123CE) and the realignment of Alexanderana Road that is a part of the R-2248E project but is listed in the LRTP as a separate project.

Motion:

Mr. Steinman made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it:

1. endorse the “no new revenue” scenario and the accompanying project list, but shift the following projects from the 2025 horizon year to the 2015 horizon year:
 - a. Index #3005-R-2248E, I-485 from NC 115 to I-85
 - b. Index #3135-R-2123CE, I-485/I-85 interchange
 - c. Index #3019-R-2123E, Alexanderana Road realignment
2. approve the release of the following documents at such time they are ready for public review:
 - a. Draft LRTP
 - b. Draft air quality conformity report
 - c. Draft model development report.

Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. I-485 TIP Amendment

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe discussed the announcement by NCDOT that the completion of I-485 would be advanced using a mechanism called "Design/Build/Finance." This will permit construction of the final segment (R-2248E) and modifications to the I-485/I-85 interchange (R-2123CE) to begin in 2010, much sooner than 2015 and 2018 as is currently planned. It was also noted that the widening of I-85 (I-3803B) will begin in 2011, one year sooner than currently planned. A TIP amendment is needed due to the I-485 projects moving into the first four years of the TIP and due to scope changes associated with the I-85 project that will result in improvements in MUMPO's planning area. Previously all improvements were located in the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO's planning area. It was further noted that MUMPO's TIP cannot be amended at this time due to the air quality conformity grace period in effect, therefore it was determined that the best course of action would be to request the MPO to approve the start of a public involvement process concurrent with the one that will take place for the LRTP and the air quality conformity report. Doing so will ensure that the TIP amendment process will be as brief as possible.

Motion:

Ralph Messera made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it permit the start of a public review process for the following projects, concurrent with the LRTP public review process, so that the TIP amendment process can be advanced:

1. R-2248E, I-485 from NC 115 to I-85
2. R-2123CE, I-485/I-85 interchange
3. I-3803B, I-85 widening.

Shannon Martel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Small Project Ranking Methodology

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that at its September meeting, the MPO requested that the TCC pursue the development of a ranking methodology to analyze and prioritize small projects, and that he wanted to address this issue with the MPO at its November meeting and therefore needed the TCC's feedback. He added that, if the TCC decides to pursue this project, that it not do so until after the LRTP is completed. Ms. Blackburn recommended that the development of information on funding issues and sources be undertaken as a part of the preparation of a methodology. Mr. Cook noted that Mr. Polimeni had already prepared information on funding sources. Mary Jo Gollnitz asked if non-voting members would be permitted to take part in the process, noting Marvin's recent experience with preparation of a regional transportation plan.

Motion: No formal action was taken on this agenda item, but the TCC supported pursuing the project after work on the LRTP is complete.

7. Monroe Parkway Status Update

Presenter: Jennifer Harris, NCTA

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris reported that the NCTA planned to announce later in the day that Alternative D was its preferred alternative. Also discussed was that the aesthetic design guidelines were scheduled for

release in December. It was further noted that a meeting would take place after the conclusion of the TCC meeting to discuss signage along the project's route.

8. Website/Newsletter Update

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Polimeni stated that MUMPO has been attempting to improve its outreach efforts by publishing its first newsletter, and by making improvements to its website. He described some of recent website updates and showed the TCC where important information could be found. In addition, he asked for comments and story suggestions for the newsletter. Mr. Cook noted that the website had not been substantially updated during the nine months MUMPO was short-staffed and thanked Mr. Polimeni for his hard work to improve the website.

9. MUMPO Orientation

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook discussed the orientation planned for MPO and TCC members on Thursday, January 13, 2010. The orientation will be a high-level overview of the roles and responsibilities of the MPO, and speakers will include representatives of the FHWA and NCDOT, former MPO chairmen, etc. Also, the agenda of the January 20 MPO meeting will be reviewed. Mr. Cook stated that he wants TCC members to attend along with their community's MPO representative to help them understand the role of their TCC representative in the MPO process. Carol Graham of Charlotte's Human Resources department will facilitate the orientation. Mr. Cook concluded with a request to provide feedback on the draft agenda that was included in the agenda packet.

11. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.