

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

Voting Members: Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Ken Tippette (CDOT), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Alan Giles – alt. for Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS/MTC), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill – alt. for Ralph Messera (Matthews), Lee Bailey – via phone (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel - alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Marvin), Julie Clark (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), John Underwood (NCDOT-Division 10), Jennifer Harris – via phone (NCTA), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission)

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

TCC Chairman Wayne Herron opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

1. Consideration of November 2009 Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the November minutes were not finalized and would be presented for action at the January meeting.

2. I-485 Status Update

Presenter: Jamal Alavi, NCDOT-TPB

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Alavi stated that NCDOT was proceeding as planned with the project.

3. ARRA Projects Update

Presenter: Barry Moose, NCDOT Division 10

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Moose distributed a status report document to the TCC members and reviewed its contents. The document is incorporated into the minutes. He noted that the list includes projects from throughout Division 10; therefore some projects are not in MUMPO's planning area. Also, there are still some projects that need to be let.

4. Un-obligated Funds Rescission

Presenter: Jamal Alavi, NCDOT-TPB

Mr. Alavi reported that he has been working with NCDOT's TIP Unit to determine the rescission's impact. Indications are at this point that projects on the 60 month let list, meaning any project scheduled for construction up to July 2014, should not be affected by the rescission, including STP-DA funded projects. Beyond July 2014, there is less certitude about individual projects. More should be known in early 2010.

Summary / FYI:

5. Draft LRTP

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook reported that at its November meeting, the MPO supported the TCC's recommendation to endorse the "no new revenue" scenario and the accompanying project list, as well as the release of the draft LRTP, draft air quality conformity determination report and the model development report when they are ready for release. He added that the project list endorsed by the MPO included I-485 projects being moved from the 2025 horizon year to the 2015 horizon year in recognition of NCDOT's announcement concerning advancing construction of I-485. Also discussed were comments from the FHWA, EPA and the NC Division of Air Quality (DAQ) concerning the project list. The comments were reviewed at a Transportation Staff meeting held the previous day. Most comments from the agencies related to relatively minor issues.

The subject of the I-85 widening (U-3803B) project's status in the LRTP was then raised. Mr. Cook stated that MUMPO's project list did not include the project because all future work was to take place outside MUMPO's planning area; however, the scope of I-85 was recently expanded to include a northbound through lane beginning at the Mallard Creek Church Road interchange, thereby bringing the project into MUMPO's planning area. It was determined that the project therefore needed to be added to the project list. Details on the motion are provided below.

Norm Steinman reported on matters related to air quality conformity. He discussed the draft motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs), stating that it was crucial that the EPA approve them. If they do not, then "interim tests" would have to be used to determine conformity, and it will be difficult to pass those tests. He then discussed a letter to NC DAQ from the Southern Environmental Law Center stating that the EPA does not have the authority to grant an extension requested by NC DAQ, and added that it was unclear as to how the EPA would respond.

Mr. Alavi stated that the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO TCC objected to the model development report being released for public review because its release is not required and that it is too detailed for the public to understand. Mr. Alavi said he had been asked by the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO TCC to bring this to the TCC for its consideration. After considerable discussion, the TCC determined that, while the model development report did not need to be released in the same manner as the draft LRTP and the draft air quality conformity determination report, it was important that it be made available to the public, and therefore will be posted on MUMPO's website.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it add TIP project I-3803B, I-85 widening, to the 2015 horizon year of MUMPO's LRTP project list. Jonathan Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Monroe Parkway Status Update

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro, PBS&J

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro reported on the following:

the NCTA had determined that Alternative D was its preferred alternative
development of the final EIS was underway
design/build-related work continued
comments on the signage plan were being evaluated
the NCTA is working with Stallings and Matthews on access issues.

7. Complete Streets Guidelines Development Advisory Group

Presenter: Tracy Newsome, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Newsome reported that she is serving on an advisory group formed to develop implementation guidelines for NCDOT's complete streets policy adopted in July 2009. She stated that the group's work was in its early stages and that there would be frequent opportunities for input. The TCC raised various issues, such as how the guidelines would approach integrating transportation and land use and how they would fit together with comprehensive transportation plan (CTP) requirements. Mr. Wells asked about the most appropriate forum for TCC members to exchange information about the guidelines' development. Ms. Newsome responded that she was willing to provide the TCC with regular updates. She also mentioned that a webinar entitled "Retrofitting for Complete Streets" was scheduled for December 16 at the CMGC and invited TCC members to participate.

8. MUMPO Orientation

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook reported that preparations for the orientation were underway and that while it is focused on educating MPO members, TCC participation was important because it is hoped the orientation will reinforce the relationship between each municipality's MPO and TCC representatives. He stated that some 2010 appointments had been received and it was important for all member jurisdictions to name their MPO representatives and alternates as soon as possible so that the event can be scheduled on their calendars.

9. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.