

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
January 7, 2010

Voting Members: Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt. for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), John Rose (CATS/MTC), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Lee Bailey – via phone (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel - alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Village of Wesley Chapel)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (C-M Planning), Andy Grzynski (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Susan Habina (CDOT), Hemal Shah (Cornelius), Max Buchanan (Huntersville), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Anna Whalen (Marvin), Bobbie Shields (Mecklenburg County), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Lisa Oakley (Waxhaw), Loretta Barren – via phone (FHWA), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT-TPB), John Underwood (NCDOT-Division 10), Jennifer Harris – via phone (NCTA), Rebecca Yarborough (Centralina COG), Blair Israel (Centralina COG), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission),

Guests: Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Adin McCann (HNTB), Brian Piascik – via phone (URS)

TCC Chairman Wayne Herron opened the meeting at 10:05 AM. He requested that the TCC add an agenda item to discuss a potential second economic stimulus.

1. Election of Officers

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary / Requested Action:

Mr. Herron noted that the TCC's bylaws require the annual election of officers as the first action of the first meeting of the year and opened the floor to nominations for Chairman.

Chairman nominations

Wayne Herron: nominated by Shannon Martel; seconded by Ralph Messera.

No other nominations were put forth.

Bill Coxe moved that nominations be closed; Jonathan Wells seconded the motion.

Upon being put to a vote, Mr. Herron was unanimously elected TCC Chairman for 2010.

Mr. Herron then opened the floor to nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman.

Vice-Chairman nominations

Bill Coxe: nominated by Mr. Herron; seconded by Scott Kaufhold.

No other nominations were put forth.

Mr. Herron moved that nominations be closed; seconded by Mr. Wells.

Upon being put to a vote, Mr. Coxe was unanimously elected TCC Vice-Chairman for 2010.

2. Potential Second Economic Stimulus

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron reported that he spoke with Barry Moose earlier in the day and that Mr. Moose suggested this matter be placed on the agenda. There is the possibility that another stimulus package may be approved in the near future, and with a shorter turn around period for project implementation. The period may be as short as 90 days for project contracts to be executed. Loretta Barren stated that the short turnaround time means there will not be enough time to prepare environmental documents, so projects that move forward will have to be those already in the TIP. Mr. Coxe stated that a bill entitled "Jobs for Main Street" has passed in the House, but final action may be delayed until after the health care legislation is finalized. This matter will be discussed at the January 20 Transportation Staff meeting.

3. Consideration of November & December 2009 Meeting Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Herron asked if everyone had had a chance to review the November and December 2009 minutes. Mr. Messera made a motion to approve both minutes as presented. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Herron stated that there are three studies underway, or about to begin, that impact MUMPO and that he invited the leaders of the three studies to attend the meeting to make the TCC aware of what was happening. He invited Rebecca Yarbrough of the Centralina COG to discuss her agency's project.

COG Regional Transportation Planning Study

Ms. Yarbrough stated that the study had its beginning in a COG board of delegates meeting where transportation funding was discussed. She noted that the study's purpose is to consider how the region can better plan for and fund its transportation needs, particularly in light of changes likely to occur as a result of the 2010 Census and federal transportation reauthorization. She also mentioned some misconceptions that exist, namely that a single regional MPO will result in the region achieving attainment of air quality standards. Ms. Yarbrough mentioned that she attended a meeting with NCDOT Secretary Conti along with the chairman and immediate past chairman of the COG board of delegates as well as Jennifer Roberts, chair of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners. The meetings purpose was to solicit NCDOT's support for the study. Norm Steinman asked about the differences between the COG study and the study being conducted by the Charlotte Regional Partnership. Ms. Yarbrough replied that the Partnership's study is focused on the Regional Transportation Authorities bill (SB 910), whereas the COG study's focus is broader.

Charlotte Regional Partnership Study

No one from the Charlotte Regional Partnership attended the meeting. Mr. Herron stated he was concerned with an economic development agency moving into a transportation project, but that the COG is the one agency that represents the entire area and is the appropriate agency to take on a regional transportation planning study.

Lake Norman Transportation Commission (LNTC)

Carroll Gray, executive director of the LNTC, described his agency's study. A ULI study panel has been convened and will examine issues such as transportation, land use, infrastructure needs, marketing of the region, policies and procedures that might improved between jurisdictions, etc. The study area is roughly from exit 18 on I-77 (W.T. Harris Boulevard) to Mooresville. Mr. Herron stated that the study appeared to be similar to a small area plan, similar to the plan recently prepared by Marvin, Waxhaw, Weddington and Wesley Chapel.

5. Lake Norman Bike Route

Presenter: Blair Israel, Centralina COG (for Bjorn Hansen)

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Israel provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. He requested that the TCC recommend to the MPO that it endorse the MUMPO components of this project, all of which are located in the towns of Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville. It was also mentioned that all of the proposed routes are included in other projects, such as the Carolina Thread Trail and/or the Mecklenburg County greenway system.

Motion:

Ken Tippette made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the components of the project located in MUMPO's planning area. Lauren Blackburn seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Congestion Management Process

Presenter: Brian Piascik, URS

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Piascik noted that work on the congestion management process (CMP) is nearing completion and discussed the federal CMP requirements. He reviewed two matrices that were distributed to the TCC members. The appendices listed the "corridors of concern" that were identified early in the CMP's development, as well as potential strategies that could be implemented to alleviate congestion in those corridors. Questions and comments about certain aspects of the CMP were raised. It was requested that any further comments be submitted as soon as possible because the CMP needs to be incorporated into the LRTP.

7. LRTP Update

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that preparation of the LRTP is largely complete, but that there were a few outstanding chapters. The Environment chapter was delivered to the consultant formatting the document on the morning of the TCC meeting, the CMP and Environmental Justice chapters would likely be delivered on January 11. The exact delivery date of the Streets & Highways chapter was not known, but would be before January 15. Mr. Cook indicated that this meant the following was the likely schedule for LRTP action:

January 20: Authorization by MUMPO to TCC to release the plan text upon their endorsement of technical sufficiency

February 4: TCC considers approving the plan text and document for technical sufficiency

February 5: Plan released for 30-day comment period

March 8: 30-day comment period ends

March 11: TCC meets and addresses comments received

- o One week later than usual

March 24: MUMPO meets to approve the plan with comments addressed

- o One week later than usual

Mr. Cook asked Mr. Steinman or Eldewins Haynes to comment on matters related to air quality conformity. Mr. Haynes replied that he had not seen a draft conformity report. The report is being prepared by staff of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

8. Monroe Parkway Status Update

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro reported on the following:

the NCTA had determined that Alternative D was its preferred alternative

the final EIS has been completed and initial reviews are in progress

design/build-related work is continuing

work on the final aesthetic guidelines is continuing

the NCTA continues to work with Stallings and Matthews on access issues

the project name has not been determined; suggestions/comments are being solicited; the final name will be approved by the NCTA board.

9. Local Area Regional Transportation Plan

Presenter: Anna Whalen, Marvin (for Bjorn Hansen)

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Whalen provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. She indicated that the LARTP has been endorsed by the four affected towns and that endorsement by Union County is being sought. She also discussed the possibility of eventually incorporating the LARTP into the CTP and LRTP.

Comments were made by Mr. Keenan, Mr. Coxe and Mr. Steinman regarding how the conclusions of the LARTP fit into the CTP. Specifically, the comments related to road widths and connectivity, and how those issues would be addressed as the LARTP is incorporated into the CTP. It was understood that these were important issues to be addressed as the process moves forward, but no further action was requested by the TCC at the meeting.

10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Presenter: Anil Panicker

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Panicker provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. Included in the presentation was a recommendation that the TCC and MPO endorse a tentative schedule for approval of the CTP by September 2011. Mr. Grzynski suggested that #18 on the calendar, which calls for the MPO's approval of the CTP maps, also include the approval of the technical report. A discussion followed that concluded with a consensus that some type of explanation should accompany the maps and be adopted by the MPO along with the adoption of the maps.

Mr. Keenan indicated a need for a link between the adopted plan and implementation of the plan. Mr. Coxe inquired about revising the plan after it is approved, and NCDOT responded that the plan can be

changed by amendment and approval by the Board of Transportation after it is approved. Mr. Steinman asked if the timeline for compiling a project list should be longer and inquired about modeling and how it fits in. Ms. Blackburn asked about guidelines for adding projects to the CTP. These questions were all noted to be considered during the process of developing the CTP.

It was suggested that a subcommittee comprised of each MUMPO member jurisdiction be formed to work on developing the CTP. Times and locations were suggested for the subcommittee to meet. Nothing was finalized regarding the subcommittee, but Mr. Panicker and Mr. Cook were designated to organize the process. The power point and calendar were requested to be distributed.

11. MUMPO Orientation

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Polimeni reminded the TCC members about the MUMPO Orientation on January 13, 2010, and briefly stated its purpose. He also indicated which jurisdictions had not responded to the request for attendance and asked that they do so by Monday, January 11 at the latest. Mr. Coxe briefly discussed some of the points he intended to make during his presentation at the orientation in order to get feedback from the TCC.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.