

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 266**  
**March 11, 2010**

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**Voting Members:** Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt. for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Tim Gibbs – alt. for Ken Tippette (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), David McDonald (CATS-MTC), Barry Moose – via phone (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Adam McLamb – alt. for 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), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel)

**Staff:** Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nicholas Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (C-M Planning), Alysia Osborne (C-M Planning), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Andy Grzyski (CDOT), Brian Horton (CDOT), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Marvin), Doug Britt (Monroe), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Loretta Barren – via phone (FHWA), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission)

**Guests:** Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), David Wasserman (NCDOT), Mike Shumsky (NCDOT-Rail), Jason Orthner (NCDOT-Rail), Jahmal Pullen (NCDOT-Rail), Marc Hamel (NCDOT-Rail), Sandra Stepney (NCDOT-Rail)

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TCC Chairman Wayne Herron opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. The agenda was adjusted to shift the Charlotte Railroad Corridor Improvements agenda item to be heard after action on the February minutes. A discussion of the Equity Formula was added to the agenda.

**1. Consideration of February Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Herron asked if there were any changes needed on the February minutes. Bill Coxe made a motion to approve the February minutes as presented. Ralph Messera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Charlotte Railroad Corridor Improvements**

Presenter: Michael Shumsky, NCDOT Rail Division

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Shumsky, Jason Orthner and Jahmal Pullen, representing NCDOT's Rail Division, provided information on a number of ARRA (economic stimulus) rail improvements planned for the Charlotte area, including double tracking and grade separations in northeast Charlotte as well as a grade separation between the Norfolk Southern and CSX railroads in uptown Charlotte. The projects are expected to be complete by 2014 and 2015. The objectives of the ARRA projects are to improve railroad capacity and operations, make safety improvements and to modernize the line to help reach NCDOT's goal of creating a high speed, high volume, efficient and safe multi-use corridor. The Power Point presentation used is made a part of the minutes.

### **3. LRTP & Conformity Determination Report Recommendations**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the TCC needed to make two recommendations to the MPO in order to finalize work on the LRTP and the conformity determination report. The two requested recommendations were:

- Find the conformity determination report to be in compliance with the Clean Air Act and SAFETEA-LU (conformity determination)
- Adopt the long range transportation plan

The public comment period for both documents ended on March 8. Mr. Cook stated that no comments had been received by the MPO before the end of the comment period that would affect the adoption of the plan or making the conformity determination. Most comments were related to the need to improve the clarity of the text or to correct inconsistencies. It was noted that the agenda packet included draft resolutions that the MPO will need to adopt.

Motion-Conformity Determination:

Ralph Messera made a motion to send the draft resolution to the MPO and recommended that the MPO adopt the resolution. Shannon Martel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion-LRTP adoption:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to send the draft resolution to the MPO and recommended that the MPO adopt the resolution. Shannon Martel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the requested action was for the TCC to recommend to the MPO that it amend the TIP for the following two projects:

- R-2123CE, I-85/I-485 interchange modifications
- R-2248E, I-485 construction from NC 115 to I-85

A public comment period for the TIP amendment was held concurrent with the LRTP and conformity determination report public outreach effort. No comments were received.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it amend the TIP. Anil Panicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization Results**

Presenter: David Wasserman, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Wasserman presented the initial results of NCDOT's new project prioritization process. The process is part of NCDOT's transportation reform efforts. The overall process was reviewed, and information on the initial results was provided. Several local projects, including proposed improvements to Independence Boulevard and I-77, were among the highest ranking projects in the state. Mr. Wasserman stated that three regional summits will be held on April 8 and that NCDOT is inviting MPO chairs, TCC

chairs and one MPO staff person to attend. Mr. Cook thanked Nick Polimeni for his efforts to provide NCDOT with the necessary information. The Power Point presentation used by Mr. Wasserman is made a part of the minutes.

## **6. FY 11 Unified Planning Work Program**

### **a. UPWP Update**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook presented the latest version of the draft UPWP. A spreadsheet was presented that showed proposed allocations for the FY 11 PL allocation and for the TIP PL supplement. Figures for the Section 5303 allocation were not final. Four communities have proposed transportation planning projects: Cornelius; Davidson; Huntersville; Indian Trail. Final adoption of the UPWP will take place in May.

### **b. Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model**

Presenter: Anna Gallup, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Gallup requested that the TCC endorse a funding schedule and budget for the regional travel demand model. The proposed allocations presented by Ms. Gallup will be included in the FY 11 UPWP.

Motion:

Norm Steinman made a motion to endorse the proposed allocations, with the condition that the issue of updating the regional totals be analyzed more closely. Lauren Blackburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Old Monroe Road Interim Improvements Study**

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro, PBS&J

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro stated that the study's purpose was to determine what can be done to improve traffic flow in advance of a TIP project to widen the road. The study limits were from Trade St. to Wesley Chapel-Stouts Road. Twelve intersections were reviewed during the presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The study's final report is expected to be complete soon.

## **8. Independence Boulevard Joint Task Force**

Presenter: Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary / FYI:

The presentation's purpose was to review the work and findings of a task force convened by Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx and NCDOT Secretary Gene Conti to determine if the current design for the Independence Boulevard project (U-209B) was adequate. The task force was also charged with determining if future segments of Independence Boulevard might benefit from design changes. Mr. Steinman reviewed some of the issues associated with the corridor and discussed some possible future MUMPO-related actions, including a corridor feasibility study and that the next LRTP update could contain more definition for the next segments of Independence Boulevard. The presentation is incorporated into the minutes.

Mr. Coxe asked if a fundamental change to the U-209B project was proposed. Mr. Steinman replied that no fundamental changes were proposed. Mr. Messera asked if U-209B would proceed on schedule. Mr. Steinman replied that it would proceed on schedule.

## **9. Monroe Parkway Status Update**

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro, PBS&J

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro reported on the following:

The final EIS has been submitted to federal officials in Atlanta for review

The final project name is still undetermined-suggestions are being taken by the NCTA

Aesthetics guidelines will be available soon

It has been determined that the project will be constructed as a single design/build project

The NCTA is requesting information on planned bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on roads that cross the project

A letter of intent for a TIFIA loan has been submitted to the federal government

Staff continues to meet with Stallings and Matthews staff concerning the McKee Road extension

Mary Jo Gollnitz stated that Union County is working with the Carolina Thread Trail on a north-south corridor but that the corridor has not yet been fully identified.

## **10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Presenter: Anil Panicker

### Summary / FYI:

Mr. Panicker reported that the CTP's first subcommittee meeting will take place on March 17. He also requested information on planned new roads and bike routes.

## **11. Equity Formula**

This item was not discussed due to the meeting running long. Chairman Herron asked that it be discussed at a future Transportation Staff meeting.

**12. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 AM.