

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
September 3, 2010

Voting Members: Wayne Herron-Chair (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-Chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Tim Gibbs – alt. for Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Richard Hancock – alt. for Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Adam McLamb – alt. for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Jordan Cook (Weddington), David McDonald (CATS)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Crissy Huffstickler (Planning), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), John Rose (CATS), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Loretta Barren – via phone (FHWA)

Guests: Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Rebecca Yarbrough (CCOG), Angela Schlottman (CCOG), Blair Israel (CCOG), Arlanda Rouse (CATS), Dana Stoogenke (Rocky River RPO), Carroll Gray (Lake Norman Transportation Commission), Srinivas Pulugurtha (UNCC), Jason Stoogenke (WSOC-TV)

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

Mr. Herron announced that a request had been made to move the Centralina COG Project Updates item to the top of the agenda.

1. Centralina COG Project Updates

a) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Presenter: Rebecca Yarbrough

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Yarbrough presented the abstract for the grant and described its contents. She outlined the three major objectives of the study, which include public outreach and education, data collection and modeling, and a series of research projects to assess regional needs. Ms. Yarbrough indicated that HUD received over 1,000 applications and there is not a deadline set for announcing the grant award. It was also noted that the LRTP update that is most likely to occur next year, will be done concurrently with the regional study and will not have to wait for the study to be completed (if the grant is awarded to this region).

b) Regional Transportation Planning Study

Presenter: Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina COG

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Yarbrough stated that the benchmarking for the study is almost complete, and noted that some of the cities used for the benchmarking include Atlanta, San Diego, Austin, Tampa-St. Petersburg and Minneapolis-St. Paul. She also indicated that the advisory group is scheduled to meet on September 24. They will be thinking about next steps. Finally, Ms. Yarbrough announced that a major rollout of the study will be presented to MPOs and RPOs in October, after the advisory group has met.

2. Consideration of August Meeting Minutes

Mr. Herron noted one minor change to the August minutes and asked if there were any other changes needed to the August minutes. Mr. Wells made a motion to approve the August minutes. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. JARC & New Freedom Project Selection

Presenter: Angela Schlottman, Centralina COG

Summary/Action:

Ms. Schlottman described the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funding sources, and the selection process used by the selection committee to determine the projects to be recommended for funding. She indicated that seven applications were received, but that the selection committee determined that one of the applications did not meet the requirements of either funding source. Ms. Schlottman provided the scores for the remaining six applications, and stated that there were enough funds provided to fund all six projects (four JARC projects and two New Freedom projects). Additional funds will be left over from both funding sources after the six projects are funded. Inquiries by the TCC were made regarding the use of the left over funds. Ms. Schlottman indicated that CATS would decide what to do with the funds, whether to reallocate them in this region or return them to the federal pot of money. Mr. Messera proposed making a motion to recommend that CATS keep the money in this region.

Prior to a motion being made, Mr. Rose, of CATS, requested that he be withdrawn from the vote in order to avoid any conflict of interest. Mr. Herron stated that a vote was necessary for a voting member to be withdrawn from a vote. Mr. Messera made a motion to allow Mr. Rose to be withdrawn from the vote. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to approve the funding of the JARC and New Freedom applications as presented, based on the recommendation of the selection committee. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to allow Mr. Rose to continue the meeting as a voting participant. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Messera made a motion to have CATS look into the possibility of reallocating the remaining JARC and New Freedom funds within the region by conducting another call for projects. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Lake Norman Bike Plan

Presenter: Blair Israel, Centralina COG

Summary/Action:

Mr. Israel provided a status update on the Lake Norman Bike Plan, as well as a brochure that was recently printed. He also indicated that although the TCC had previously “endorsed” the bike plan, it is now being requested that the TCC “adopt” the Lake Norman Bike Plan. Mr. Israel announced that a MOU has been prepared that includes the creation of a task force, which MUMPO is also being asked to adopt and commit to. The task force requires no financial obligation. Mr. Gibbs stated that Ken Tippet, the CDOT Bicycle Program Manager, supports the task force and has agreed to participate.

Mr. Coxe suggested that it include involvement from NCDOT's Division 10 and 12 offices.

Motion:

Mr. Gibbs made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt the project's MUMPO components and authorize the chairman of the MPO to execute the memorandum of understanding. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Mobility Fund Comments

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/Action:

Mr. Polimeni described the origin and purpose of the Mobility Fund, and also discussed the request for comments by NCDOT regarding criteria that will be developed to help rank eligible projects. He noted that comments had been developed at a prior transportation staff meeting and that the TCC is being asked to endorse those comments to send to NCDOT.

Mr. McDonald, of CATS, stated that he had prepared his own comments, which he passed out and discussed. The comments consisted of the following:

- Criteria should not favor a Statewide project over a Regional project, but should evaluate all projects based upon merit
- The TIGER and TIGER II process model should be considered
- The Mobility Fund should encourage a local financial commitment
- Innovative project delivery and/or financing should be encouraged

A discussion followed that touched on the following issues:

- Cost/benefit and how it would factor in
- Statewide vs. Regional projects (it was noted that SPOT was contacted and no definition of statewide or regional has been determined with regard to the Mobility Fund criteria)
- What would a local commitment consist of
- The equity formula has not done a good job of funding large statewide projects so perhaps the Mobility Fund will be a starting point for accomplishing some of those larger projects

Mr. McDonald concluded his statements by indicating that CATS simply wanted the TCC to be aware of their issues, and that CATS will submit their comments separate from the TCC comments. It was also suggested that MUMPO consult with other MPOs as the process continues. Finally, it was noted that it is important to hear from all parties and that the current comments can be added to or modified in the future if necessary; however, the TCC comments should remain as they are to be submitted by the September 9 deadline, with the exception of some additional language that MUMPO will continue an ongoing discussion of the Mobility Fund and continue to provide comments to SPOT as the process to develop criteria continues.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to endorse the comments with the added language that the TCC will continue to monitor the process and provide additional feedback. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that NCDOT released the draft 2012-2018 TIP in early August and that staff and the TCC had begun its review of the document. Two of the most critical issues that will need to be addressed are the proposed project delays and accelerations, and the allocation of STP-DA funds to current and future projects. Adoption of the TIP is anticipated for spring 2011, and in addition to the adoption, three other actions will be needed: an air quality determination for the TIP; an amendment to the LRTP (if the proposed project delays and accelerations are approved); a LRTP conformity determination. Mr. Cook said that the Wednesday staff meetings would be the venue for most of the serious analysis and review. He also noted that the draft TIP would be the subject of the education session preceding the September MPO meeting and that TCC members were encouraged to attend.

7. Monroe Parkway Status Update

Presenter: Carl Gibilaro, PBS&J

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Gibilaro announced that the Record of Decision was approved, and also reported on the following:

- Three teams have been shortlisted for Design/Build
- Early right-of-way acquisitions will begin soon
- Small design changes could take place as the design is finalized

Mr. Gibilaro also thanked the TCC and MUMPO for their involvement and support of the project. Mr. Herron responded by thanking the NCTA and its consultants for all of their hard work on the project. Mr. Coxe asked if holding a spot on the TCC agenda for a standing, monthly report of the project is still necessary. The TCC had no preference and left the item open, to be determined later.

8. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Panicker announced that the next subcommittee meeting of the CTP will take place on Wednesday, September 15, and the meeting will focus on public outreach.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Mr. Steinman, of CDOT, announced that a lot of activity has taken place with respect to the Complete Streets Advisory Group. It is now working on content. Specifically, the content items include: land use, level of service, transit facilities, street classifications, intersections and signalization, and cross sections. He indicated that Tracy Newsome, of CDOT, who is co-chair of the advisory group, will be working on the intersections and signalization portion of the content, and he requested that this item be discussed regularly at the Wednesday transportation staff meetings. Mr. Coxe noted that perhaps there could be some collaboration between the complete streets work and the CTP work.

9. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.