

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**January 6, 2011**

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**Voting Members:** Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jonathan Wells – alt. for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Amy Helms (Union County), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-Public Transportation Branch)

**Staff:** Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Andy Grzynski (CDOT), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Jan Whitesell (C-M Planning), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Richard Hancock (NCDOT-Div. 10), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Jim Keenan (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Tom Tasselli (Cornelius), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Mandy Vari (Monroe), Craig Thomas (Indian Trail), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail)

**Guests:** Carroll Gray (LNTC), Jason Wager (Centralina COG), Lindsey Dunevant (Carolina Thread Trail)

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Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

**1. Election of Officers**

**Summary/Action Requested:**

Mr. Coxe stated that it is the responsibility of the TCC to annually elect new officers as the first action item of the first meeting of the year. Mr. Coxe opened the nominations for Chair of the TCC.

**Chair Nominations**

Mr. Pleasant nominated Bill Coxe for Chair of the TCC; Ms. Blackburn seconded the nomination. No other nominations were put forth.

Mr. Wells made a motion to close the nominations; Mr. Tasselli seconded the motion.

Upon being put to a vote, Mr. Bill Coxe was unanimously elected Chair of the TCC for 2011.

Mr. Coxe then opened the nominations for Vice-Chair of the TCC.

**Vice-Chair Nominations**

Ms. Helms nominated Danny Pleasant for Vice-Chair of the TCC; Mr. Messera seconded the motion. No other nominations were put forth.

Mr. Wells made a motion to close the nominations; Mr. Flaherty seconded the motion.

Upon being put to a vote, Mr. Danny Pleasant was unanimously elected Vice-Chair of the TCC for 2011.

## **2. Consideration of December Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes needed to the December minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Coxe asked if the item could be approved by consensus. The motion passed unanimously.

## **3. CMAQ Follow Up**

Presenter: Jason Wager, Centralina COG

### Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Wager summarized the CMAQ subcommittee process by reviewing a memo that was attached to the TCC agenda packet. He started by emphasizing that the local area knowledge of subcommittee members was helpful throughout the project selection procedure, and went on to highlight suggested modifications to the CMAQ process proposed by the subcommittee. Mr. Wells asked if the degree of certainty regarding an applicant's ability to fund a CMAQ project was raised by the subcommittee, and Mr. Wager responded that it had not. Mr. Steinman suggested that the emissions reductions be calculated in a more transparent manner, perhaps by having a review team assigned to evaluate them in a non-competitive manner. Mr. Wager noted that the subcommittee did discuss allowing time for a debriefing session after the selection process is complete, in order to provide more information to applicants who did not receive funding about why the project was not selected. Mr. Coxe suggested that the topic be discussed further at a staff meeting.

### Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to place the CMAQ item on the February TCC meeting agenda to allow for more time to discuss the item. Ms. Blackburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **4. Charlotte Streetcar Project**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook indicated that the Charlotte Streetcar Amendment Report that was included as part of the TCC's agenda materials required a slight revision, including adding language regarding the required LRTP amendment as well as identifying the exact amount of grant money being awarded. He briefly described the project and the action being requested by the TCC, namely that the TCC would be recommending that the MPO release for public comment the documents associated with the streetcar project. He indicated that the public review would most likely begin at the end of January and run for 30 days and that a public meeting would be scheduled for the tentative date of February 16, 2011.

### Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend that the MPO endorse, and release for public comment, the amendment to the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Plan, the amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and the conformity determination for the 2009-2015 TIP and the 2035 LRTP. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook stated that the TCC will be asked to recommend a draft project list for the 2012-2018 TIP to the MPO. He highlighted a list of changes contained in a spreadsheet that was distributed to TCC members at the January meeting. As Mr. Cook went through the changes, several comments and questions were raised

by various TCC members, which led to further modifications of the project list. The resulting project list, based on the discussion of the TCC, which incorporates the comments and suggestions made by the TCC, can be accessed by clicking [here](#). A question was asked regarding the CMAQ projects being added to the draft TIP, and Mr. Cook responded that CMAQ projects will be added. There was a question about the status of the Rea Road project in Weddington, and Jordan Cook responded that a meeting had been scheduled with NCDOT's Division 10 on January 14 to discuss that project. The TCC indicated that it would recommend that the MPO remove the project from the draft TIP unless documentation was provided that the property owner would agree to dedicate the right-of-way prior to the MPO's January 19 meeting. The TCC acknowledged that the decision would be left to the MPO based on its recommendation.

Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend that the MPO endorse the draft project list as discussed and modified by the TCC (and attached above), including the relevant CMAQ projects that need to be added. Ms. Martel seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**6. Draft 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook noted that the federal reauthorization has not yet been approved; therefore, there is uncertainty regarding the UPWP funding amount for the next fiscal year. He suggested that the MPO use the same amount of funds allocated for the current fiscal year as a conservative assumption, and stated that some of the UPWP funds have traditionally been sub-allocated to local transportation planning projects. He then briefly outlined the local projects proposed to be considered for funding in the next UPWP. It was noted that the amount of funds requested for local projects represents a large portion of the total UPWP funds available, which means some of the projects proposed may not receive the full amount requested. Mr. Cook indicated that the projects would be discussed in further detail at the January 12 transportation staff meeting, and that no action is necessary.

**7. SPOT Prioritization 2.0**

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He went through the presentation, which outlined changes proposed to SPOT's strategic prioritization process by the NCDOT workgroup at its December 2010 meeting. He also indicated that the workgroup is requesting comments based on the proposed changes by January 7, and that the item was on the transportation staff meeting agenda prior to the TCC meeting to develop comments. The comments developed at the staff meeting were presented to the TCC for its reaction. Mr. Polimeni stated that he would send the comments to NCDOT before the January 7 deadline. Mr. Coxe suggested that if there were no objections, the TCC could indicate they are okay with the comments. The TCC gave its consensus.

**8. Project Prioritization**

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni noted that MUMPO's project prioritization process and criteria would need to be evaluated

this year for various reasons, including the submittal of a top 25 to NCDOT in the summer and because development of the next LRTP would begin soon. He indicated that it would require participation of staff and TCC members. He also stated that as the process moves forward, the TCC and MPO will be updated regularly. Mr. Coxe suggested that MPO members, and possibly outside parties, could be involved. Mr. Grzymiski noted that it will be important to take the SPOT criteria into account. Mr. Wells suggested that technology could play an important role, and Ms. Cook noted that it will be important to be mindful of the public as the process is carried out.

## **9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)**

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker stated that he had two items to discuss regarding the CTP: 1) That he has begun the process of meeting with individual jurisdictions in MUMPO to make corrections to the base map, and 2) He asked what the TCC thought about using the Complete Streets guidelines as functional classifications for the CTP. He also indicated that NCDOT had released a new street cross sections document. Mr. Pleasant recommended the use of Complete Streets in the CTP. Mr. Panicker and Mr. Steinman suggested that the use of Complete Streets throughout the state will be an issue that will have to be resolved at a state level. Mr. Coxe suggested that this issue be discussed at a future transportation staff meeting.

Mr. Pleasant made the following two announcements:

- 1) There will be a Smart Growth Conference in Charlotte from Feb. 3-5, and that more information can be found at [www.newpartners.org](http://www.newpartners.org).
- 2) A ULI fellowship study panel discussion will be taking place regarding Independence Blvd, in order to discuss possible land use and transportation solutions for the corridor. Several representatives from around the country will be represented on the panel.

**10. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.